



25 March 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the spring term, I would like to confirm our arrangements for the end of this term and the start of the summer term:

**Friday 27 March** - End of term, school closes at 15.00

**Monday 13 April** - Start of term, all students to attend at 08.50

As we start the new term we welcome the warmer weather and students look forward to wearing their summer uniform! As is our tradition when Easter is early in the summer term, we change to our summer uniform the day after May Day bank holiday, which means the TSS polo shirt can be worn from **Tuesday 5 May**. On the subject of uniform, may I remind parents/carers that suitable footwear for school does not allow for trainers or canvas lace up pumps. We are currently reviewing the appropriateness of certain trouser designs due to their "tight fit" and it may be that I write to you again in due course if this becomes a problem across the school. We are a school that prides itself on the achievements of our students, underpinned by strong values and standards and uniform is one way of showing that students are part of the Titus Salt School community; thank you for your continued support with this.

**Calendar:** The following gives an indication of additional key events in the summer term:

- AS/A2 Art and Photography exam, 27 April to 1 May
- May Day Bank Holiday, 4 May
- Year 10 Parents' Evening, 7 May
- Year 9 Assessment Week, 5 to 8 May inclusive
- Year 11 Prom, 22 May
- Post-16 Prom, 22 May
- Year 13 Leavers' Assembly and lunch, 22 May
- Spring Bank half-term holiday, 25 to 29 May inclusive
- Year 8 Germany trip, 3 to 7 June inclusive
- Bronze D of E residential, 5 to 6 June
- Year 8 History/Geography trip to York, 15 and 16 June
- Bronze D of E expedition, 19 and 20 June
- DSP Nell Bank residential, w/c 22 June
- Post-16 Taster Days, 22 to 24 June
- Year 7 Parents' Evening, 23 June
- Gold D of E expedition, 25 to 27 June inclusive
- Year 11 Leavers' lunch, 26 June
- Year 6 Induction Day, 1 July
- New Parents' Evening, 2 July
- PD Day, 7 July
- Gold D of E Assessment, 7 to 11 July
- Year 7 Geography trip, 9 July
- Sports Day, 10 July
- Sports Awards Evening, 13 July
- Bronze D of E expeditions, 14 to 17 July

As you can see, we look forward to yet another very busy and productive term. This is always a good time to look back on the events and achievements of the previous term with staff, students and parents/carers involved in a host of events. The following are a few of the academic achievements of our students:

**Prestigious Achievement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)** Emily Nar, Year 11 has won Talent 2030, a nationwide engineering competition with her design for a medically equipped portable isolation unit that could be used in the fight against Ebola and other highly contagious diseases. Emily said: "This competition was a lot of hard work but I honestly don't know why more girls don't get involved with engineering or science, it's such a fun way to make a really good living and it's the most important work going on in the world right now." The brief for the competition was to try and solve one of the big problems facing the 21st century. Her design for an easy to transport unit could make it easier to stop the spread of disease, which can be passed on by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. Engineering is one of Emily's favourite subjects and she made the most of our CAD/CAM facilities to design her pop-up isolation unit. Emily was invited to exhibit her work at The Big Bang fair in Birmingham, 14 March 2015, when she was awarded her top prize.

**BBC News Report** On 19 March, 120 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 participated in the BBC News Report Day. The two week project that led up to the day, gave students invaluable opportunities to develop their journalistic skills. The students worked in teams to select and pursue current affairs stories that inspired their curiosity. In the course of their research, the students chose to: skype the BBC Newsroom in London; speak to a Greek student on the island of Rhodes about the impact of the economic crisis; interview a West End Theatre Manager, about the prospects for theatre; consult a producer for the Discovery Channel, on his views about life on Mars; and question the founder of Challenge Africa, on how the World Health Organisation's introduction of a single-use syringe will impact disease in rural Kenya. The day itself was a celebration of talent. The English Faculty staged a number of scenarios, using Drama students, in order for the students to showcase the writing and interview skills developed throughout the project. We ended the event with a prize giving, in recognition of the students' hard work.

Visit: <http://www.titussaltschool.co.uk/bbcschoolreport> to see the work produced.

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**Powerful Performance** I always knew that we have very talented students here at TSS, especially in the area of Performing Arts however, I was incredibly impressed by the passion and power of the performance of Macbeth as part of the Shakespeare in Schools Festival. The whole production kept the audience on the edge of their seats with everyone working together as a team and each part clearly of value. Special mention has to go to leading cast members who together made the performance compelling – amazing!

**Bewerley Park** December saw the launch of our new outdoor residential experience which has taken over from Coniston Camp. Year 9 students had a breath-taking time at Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre in Pateley Bridge. With the assistance of fully qualified and trained staff they had the opportunity to develop their teamwork and leadership skills via a host of activities, such as caving, rock climbing, canoeing and gorge walking. Year 8 students then gave it their seal of approval in January. Instead of tents, the groups stayed in warm, dry dormitories and were well fed in the canteen instead of a draughty kitchen tent! In 2016, students and staff will enjoy the centre for their summer residential.

**Ludus Captains** On a sporting note, each extra-curricular sport represented in our LUDUS programme now has a Captain. The job of each Captain is to keep moral high and manage fixtures and training sessions for their team. The Captains are easily identifiable in school by their Captain's badge and are taking their leadership roles very seriously.

**U16 Netball** Congratulations are due to the players who made it through to the West Yorkshire round, vying against schools from across the county. The girls stood their ground and played well in torrential weather conditions and although they did not make it through to the next round, they achieved a respectable 8<sup>th</sup> place.

**Literacy Champions** The love of reading and passion for writing and talking were the main criteria for choosing our student Literacy Champions. The new Champions' role will be to act as ambassadors to promote literacy in school and for the wider community and also to speak on behalf of students in relation to our strategies to improve literacy.

**Ambassador Training** We are just steps away from securing the nationally recognised BIG Award Certificate. Student and staff volunteers have worked hard to gain recognition that we take a firm stand against bullying, including mentor volunteers from Years 7 to 10 attending an Anti-Bullying Ambassador training day in Bradford and creating a high profile anti-bullying noticeboard with student contact details.

**Downing Street Visit** Alisha Moore, Year 10, visited Downing Street to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister containing a list of proposed sustainable development goals to be put forward at a United Nations conference. She met with MPs Nick Clegg, the Deputy Prime Minister and Ed Milliband, the leader of the Labour Party as part of the Action 2015 campaign. Alisha was selected by local charity HALE because of her work in her community and Save the Children.

**Rugby Development** Congratulations to rugby players Oliver Murphy and Josh Brockhouse of Year 9 who were nominated by Baildon Rugby Club to attend the England Regional Development Player Programme trials.

**Business Leaders of the Future** James Slater and Megan Carson, Year 12, have been recognised for the second year running at an awards event. Their magazine, The Local Leader was highly recommended for the Business in Schools category at the Bradford Telegraph & Argus School Awards.

**Young Dancers** Nine students from KS3, 4 and 5 have been formally selected to audition for the Yorkshire Young Dancers scheme. There are only 30 places available for Yorkshire so we are immensely proud. If successful, they will be able to train with Northern Ballet and Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

**Badminton** Beth Speechley, Abbie Speechley, Lydia Williams and Amy Illingworth are celebrating after bringing home a Badminton tournament trophy which sees them now progressing to the Northeast round of the competition; just one round away from the finals in Nottingham. Our boys' team narrowly missed out but played well.

**Amazing Achievement** Rebecca Weir, Year 7, travels to Switzerland this weekend to compete in the Switzerland Open Championship for Taekwondo. Rebecca recently competed in Manchester in the British National Championships, coming second in the minus 34 kg category which is a fantastic achievement. Rebecca's success record is impressive having achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2013 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2014 in the British Nationals. Rebecca is a member of Team GB for Taekwondo and her ambition is to get into the World Cadet Championships (11-14 age group) being held in Korea later this year. We wish her every success.

This newsletter showcases some of the vast range of opportunities and achievements that have taken place in just one term; only going to show what an active and forward thinking school we are. It has been another very enjoyable term as Headteacher and my thanks go to the overwhelming support of all the staff. On their behalf, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout what has been another successful term for Titus Salt School.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Morrel**  
Headteacher