



17 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on a range of areas and to wish you all the best for the festive season. I include some practical information for the remainder of the academic year and updates on a wide range of activities which have occurred during the Autumn term.

I would like to begin by paying tribute to Martyn Redhead (Director of the Denys Salt Sixth Form) who retires this week after 34 years of service to the school. 'Redders' has contributed so much to the development of the 'best Sixth Form in Bradford' and the sheer volume of well-wishers in recent days attest to how much he will be missed by everyone in the school community. We can only hope that his taste in Football teams improves with age.

Term dates

As already shared, this autumn term ends on Friday 19 December 2025 at the **earlier time of 12:45pm**. School buses B68, S67 and S65 will run at this time. Services S64 and S66 have not confirmed but have been requested at this time. Any pupils needing to stay in school till 3pm will be supervised in the LRC please let the relevant Year team know if this is the case.

The following list details the term dates and other school closure dates for the remainder of this academic year:

- **Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026** – Christmas Break
- **Monday 5 January 2026** – Staff training day
- **Tuesday 6 December 2026** – School reopens to all pupils and students
- **Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February 2026** – Half Term break
- **Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April 2026** – Easter Break
- **Monday 4 May 2026** – Bank Holiday
- **Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2026** – Half Term break
- **Friday 17 July 2026** – End of academic year

School bus services – September 2026

You may remember I shared with you in September the West Yorkshire Combined Authority consultation on school bus services for September. I was informed last week that WYCA approved the withdrawal of services S64 and S66 on the basis of introducing service S69. It is my understanding that the S69 route will combine the other routes with a double decker service and ensure that safe and regular transport to and from school will be maintained.



I would like to thank those parents and carers who shared their concerns with both myself and WYCA. I passed on all information along with my own concerns about the safety and wellbeing of pupils as well as issues of congestion on Coach road. Particular thanks to Councillor Davies for her helpful intervention and support in suggesting the alternative route and provision.

Christmas Jumper Day – Community Support and House Competition

On Friday 12 December 2025 pupils in Years 7 to 11 were able to come to school in a Christmas Jumper as part of the national Christmas Jumper day. Pupils were asked, where possible, to donate an item or items that can be passed to the Bradford North Foodbank <https://bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk/>. For the third year running we made the single biggest donation in the last 12 months. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this collective effort and particularly to Miss Moon (PD Faculty Leader) for organising the collection.

Christmas Showcase

Our annual Christmas Showcase took place on Tuesday 16 December. This was a fabulous opportunity to see many of our talented pupils singing, dancing and performing and bringing some festive cheer to everyone. It was wonderful to see pupils from Year 7 all the way up to Sixth Form performing in front of a full house and receiving a well-deserved ovation.

Attendance

Good attendance at school remains one of the key factors in the success of pupils and students. I am pleased to report that our whole school attendance has once again improved significantly since this time last year, but this remains an important target area, and I thank you for your support in encouraging your child to attend school every day. Research shows that attendance greater than 95% has a huge influence on successful outcomes at school and in later life.

School Strategic Planning

Over recent months I have been working with Leaders across the school to develop the whole school three-year action plan. This identifies areas for development within TSS and crucially plans the actions and milestones which will continue our improvement journey. The new action plan is linked to our whole school values of Together, Resilient, Ambitious, Caring and builds on earlier work to ensure that all pupil, students and parents get the most from their time at 'Salts'. The plan is available to view on the school website.

Year 11 Mock Exams

We recently completed two weeks of "Mock Exams" for Year 11 which aimed to support our pupils in experiencing what it will be like in the external Key Stage 4 exams in summer 2026. The outcomes from these "mocks" will give an indication of the progress each pupil has made for each subject and help identify what needs to be done to achieve even more in the summer. It is a challenging time but one that helps individuals reflect on their ability and understand what they know and the things they do not know as well as they thought they did. I would like to thank all

Year 11 pupils for the excellent way in which they approached the exams. I am confident that this mature attitude and all their hard work will pay off in the coming months.

Senior Student Leaders

On Monday 15 December interviews took place for Year 10 Senior Student Leaders. After a robust process I am delighted that four students were appointed and will join the Senior team in January. The successful Candidates were Hannah Arkell, Casey Davey, Will Frost, Amelia Lightstead and Sophie Myers-Hamilton.

News and Events: July – November 2025

Bradford University

Health and Social Care pupils visited the University of Bradford, where they explored the wide variety of careers available within the NHS. They had the valuable opportunity to engage with a range of state-of-the-art technology used in the university's teaching.

Poetry Winners!

A group of very talented Year 7-10 pupils took part in a poetry workshop to enter the Rhubarb Writers' Wandering Words poetry competition. Out of 30 poems in the poetry trail, four of our pupil poems were picked! We are so proud of Leia, Eiprila and Emily, plus all the pupils from the workshop who contributed to our group poem.

Cambridge

We took a group of Year 9 pupils for an experience day at Cambridge University. The pupils were given a tour of Queens College and the central library, they had a lecture by the Head of English Literature, and our very own Ivy won a prize for her essay! It was an excellent day in the beautiful sunshine. Let's hope we see some of these pupils at Cambridge in the coming years!

Work Experience Week

We ran a work experience week for our Year 10 pupils. Pupils went out into the big wide world to find placements that interested them or was linked to what they might want to do in the future. This is all part of our wider in-school careers programme (MyFuture) which is not just about preparing young people for the world of work but getting them to believe in themselves and to be ambitious. The feedback we had from employers, parents/carers, and the pupils themselves was fantastic.

First Story Success – Tiny Poem Competition

We were ecstatic to hear another of our First Story writers has had success in a national competition. This was the first time First Story have run their 'Tiny Poems' competition for poems of five lines or less and we're so pleased we could get involved. Braydon was speechless when he heard he had won second place out of the 230 entries and we are proud of how much effort Braydon has put into the First Story group this year and how enthusiastic he has been. The judges feedback was 'All the winning poems have a reveal at the end, and this one really spends the time to be playful at the beginning, to pull the rug from under you when introducing human intervention into that playful and innocent world.'

Titus Salt School celebrates another fantastic year of A-Level results with learners securing places at top University

Results Day was a joyous occasion with proud students, parents/carers and teachers all joining in the celebrations. It is always a pleasure to see our Year 13 learners return for their A Level and Vocational Level results, but this year was the most positive yet. Over 29% of our A Level entries were awarded grades A* to A and over 87% of students gained between an A* and C grade. Over 90% of our students gained a place at their first-choice university and we have other students who have secured Higher Apprenticeship positions with nationally recognised Apprenticeship providers. Congratulations to Sam C and Finn M on securing places to study Veterinary Medicine and Engineering at Cambridge University. Sam achieved A* A* A A A and Finn achieved A* A* A* A* A* at A Level.

Yorkshire Water

Our Year 11 Chemists visited the Yorkshire Water plant in Headingley. Pupils learnt about how water is moved around the county and made potable, as well as ways to save water and what not to flush. We were informed about potential future careers at Yorkshire Water and some of the fantastic apprenticeship and graduate programs they have to offer. The morning then finished off with a tour of the water treatment plant wearing some very fashionable PPE!

Year 8 Geography

Pupils were out exploring their local geography, focusing on Rivers, British Woodland Ecosystems and popping into Hirst Wood Nature Reserve.

National Taekwondo champion!

Congratulations to Max who is now a National Taekwondo champion having competed in the National Championships in Sheffield. We are super proud of his achievement.

Summer Book Club Rewards

The English Department was delighted to award nearly 30 of our entrants to the Summer Book Club competition in recognition of their incredible efforts to prepare themselves for Year 7. Pupils were asked to read *Relic Hunter*, an exciting new fantasy adventure novel from Joseph Coelho. As usual, our upcoming Year 6 pupils were asked to read sections of the text and complete accompanying 'Missions' to help deepen their understanding of the book and the ideas around it. Pupils submitted a record of their accomplished missions and the best of these submissions were rewarded; the top prize being a place on the Year 7 rewards trip to Leeds.

Poetry Anthology Launch

We were proud to host the book launch of this year's First Story poetry anthology; '*Rubbing Heads Together to Share Evil Plans*' we had an enthusiastic crowd of parents and carers who had all gathered to see the authors deliver superb readings from the anthology. Accompanied by video and visual records of the hard work contributed by the illustrators, Andy Craven Griffiths, who had led on the project

echoed the sentiments of the whole department when he alluded to how impressed he was by the journey the writing team had gone on. Mr Temple presented the certificates of recognition and the session finished with a fantastic poem, which had been edited on the spot by members of the writing team, created through contributions from various attendees on the evening.

We are among the top 10 per cent of Sixth Form providers nationally!

Titus Salt School's Denys Salt Sixth Form Centre has received the Alps Platinum Award. Achieving the prestigious Alps Platinum Award reflects the dedication and commitment of staff and students and celebrates a culture of excellence and ambition. Our Sixth Form offers a wide array of academic, vocational and technical qualifications, enabling every student to pursue their individual aspirations and pathways to success and we are very proud of our achievements.

Future Chef Winners

Year 10 pupils took part in a food tech competition. Winning pupils were Jorgia D, who made her own pasta by hand (didn't want to use the pasta machine!!) with a spicy tomato sauce and James G, produced some amazing fish tacos. A big well done to Toby I, Max T and Keira O who also took part, making more delicious dishes which were enjoyed by lucky members of staff.

We Will Sing

We were offered the exciting opportunity to be involved in a two-day art and textile workshop, 'We Will Sing' with a visiting artist. The two days were based around the We Will Sing exhibition at Salts Mill. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to work with a professional artist to develop new skills and a piece of work based on the Ann Hamilton exhibition at Salts Mill.

In addition to all of the above, I urge you to watch out for the first edition of 'Titus Talks', our newly launched school newspaper written and produced by pupils and students. This will be shared on Friday 19 December and showcases the talents of so many of the Titus Salt School community.

I wish to end by thanking all parents and carers for your continued support. We remain committed to our school values of Together, Resilient, Ambitious, Caring and I remain incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of our fantastic school.

Yours sincerely



Phil Temple
Headteacher