

The academy curriculum

In the first of a new series we give you an insight into the academy curriculum. The first provides you with an overview and explains more about what you will find within each area.

Trinity Academy offers an enriching and varied curriculum. As parents, you will be familiar with many of the traditional subjects such as Maths and English. These do of course appear in our curriculum, but subjects are divided into 'curriculum areas.' You will find out more about these below in our special introductory article.

As an academy we have the freedom to design a curriculum that reflects the needs of students, whilst providing core knowledge and skills. Remember, if you have any questions about our curriculum, you can find out more at our consultation evenings.

Our teaching staff provide a fun and stimulating foreign language learning environment

Communications

Effective language skills are vital, whether in the world or work or when applying to undertake further learning. With English as a core subject for all learners, the Communications curriculum area also includes Foreign Languages.

Students are guided through an exciting journey in English language and literature that helps them understand how language is a tool that can be used to achieve more. Within this, the academy also offers French or German language study. Our teaching staff provide a fun and stimulating foreign language learning environment.

Maths & Enterprise

With an innovative approach to help students develop vital life skills, subjects including Maths, Business & Enterprise and Information Communication Technology (ICT) are part of the Maths & Enterprise curriculum area.

As a specialist subject area, our students are fully supported to achieve the very best results. A vibrant and exciting curriculum, coupled with support from dedicated teaching staff, helped the academy achieve its best ever results in 2011 in this area with 69% of students attaining a A* - C Maths grade at GCSE. This curriculum area makes sure students leave with critical skills for succeeding in the outside world.



In the next edition we will take a closer look at the Maths and Enterprise curriculum area. If you have a question about this that you have always wanted answering, please email h.wilson@trinityacademyhalifax.org

Design & Performance

Trinity Academy understands the value and importance of enabling students to express creativity and develop their individual talents.

Our Design and Performance curriculum area provides opportunities for students to explore their unique abilities with subjects including Art and Design, Food Technology, Textiles Technology, Product Design, Music, Drama and Performing Arts. Our students are encouraged to build confidence through these subjects and to take advantage of opportunities such as school performances.



Workshop run by Wild Things Drama Group

Integrated Learning

Integrated Learning supports our students to discover more about the world around them, in both the past and present. Integrated Learning includes History, Geography, Religious Studies and Citizenship. During Phase One (which includes a student's first year at the academy) teachers offer a themed curriculum so that these subjects engage students and provide excellent learning opportunities. All these subjects are GCSE options, allowing students to pursue areas of interest.

Science & Health

As another specialism, this curriculum area encourages students to explore and question. Combining the traditional Science subjects of Physics, Biology and Chemistry with Physical Education and Social Sciences, well-designed teaching helps students participate with enthusiasm.

Alongside scientific experiments, students of all abilities are encouraged to understand the value of a healthy lifestyle by taking part in the academy's sporting programme. As students progress and choose their own areas of interest, this curriculum area offers the 'Social Sciences' of Psychology and Sociology as options.





Focus on... Design & Performance

Trinity Academy offers a thriving and varied programme of extra-curricular activities with something for every student. Here we take a look at the fantastic range of options available under the Design and Performance curriculum area.

Cooking over a hot stove to create that special dish or playing music that creates a fantastic jazz club feel may not sound like something you expect to be happening at Trinity Academy. However, these are the sort of great opportunities students can access under the extra-curricular offer available from the Design and Performance team.

The programme of activities which take place before and after school, and during the lunch period, encourages student's individual talents. For the majority, no special skill or talent is required, with the focus very much on encouraging creativity and enabling young people to build confidence through exploring areas such as drama, cookery and music.

In 2011, staff have put together an imaginative programme including a Masterchef style competition where students will take on staff in the academy restaurant, a 'Rock School' plus opportunities for students to explore their artistic side in creative art clubs.

All students will receive a full programme of the activities available to them, but as a taster Design and Performance are offering:

- **Masterchef style cook off** – who will please the panel of judges with the tastiest offering?
- **Swingband** – students will explore the jazz era and create their own fantastic sounds
- **Chat and create** – come along to a club which develops textile and sewing skills
- **Choir** – come together to sing as a group with a chance to perform to a wider audience
- **Plus** – specific clubs for students who want to improve their exam grades or catch up with special projects!

All students are encouraged to try the clubs on offer, and as they take part at varied times, the academy hopes that everyone will be able to join in. The majority attract no cost at all and help may be available.

Mrs Marsh, Curriculum Leader of Design and Performance says: "There is a really exciting programme of clubs, workshops and activities on offer and students really should have a look and just give it a try! You don't have to have any particular talent, so we would encourage everyone to come along and see what the activities are all about. These sort of activities really help to build confidence, as well as important skills, and on top of all this are really enjoyable! We can't wait to welcome our students along."



Exploring talents with Wild Things Drama Group

Further information

All students will be supplied with a booklet which shows them the entire range of options available to them. Any student or parent who wishes to speak about a particular activity can do so by contacting us. You can also view an extra-curricular timetable at www.trinityacademyhalifax.org

Next time we'll share more about some of the other exciting options under the academy's extra-curricular offer.



Getting creative



You don't have to have any particular talent to join in, so we would encourage everyone to come along

