

**Good evening and welcome to Trinity Academy's annual Prize Evening.**

**I am Susan Cook, the acting Head Teacher. Normally it would be Mr Paterson up here welcoming you all to tonight's proceedings but as you all know he has been unwell this term. The good news is that he is getting better day upon day and hopes to return to Trinity Academy early next term. He wanted me to personally pass on his thanks for everyone's good wishes and to tell you all to enjoy this evening's event.**

**I would now like to introduce The School Captain's – Peter Beckett and Madeline Millar – who will offer their reflections on their time at Trinity Academy.**

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**Tonight's event presents us with an opportunity to reflect on the academic year that has just passed and to celebrate the talents and achievements of our pupils. Each one of them recognised this evening has achieved something special.**

**There is a wide range of awards tonight, not only recognising academic success but also in areas such as sport, the arts, community service and enterprise.**

**I do not want to take up too much time this evening in reflecting on all of our events this year but I would, however, want to highlight some of the school's successes.**

**Our exam results for S4, S5 and S6 have been improving over the last few years and this was highlighted in our recent HMI visit. The school has made very good or good progress across a number of areas and our continued focus on improving our approaches to self-evaluation and, the consistency of learning and teaching across the school, will be two of the main aspects we will be addressing in our School Improvement Plan next session,**

along with revising our National 5 courses, in line with the new guidance from SQA. Revisions to Higher and Advanced Higher courses will take place one and two years later.

I would like to take the opportunity this evening to thank all of Trinity Academy's staff for their continuing hard work and commitment to our young people to ensure that they achieve the best learning experiences they can offer, both curricular and extra-curricular, so we meet their needs and aspirations. Thank you also to parents for your support with your child's learning at home, whether this be through encouraging them to complete home learning or through other wider educational activities you do as a family.

In terms of learning and success – I would want to pay tribute to our young people who have displayed a commitment and effort to their learning which, be it Nationals or Highers, which have proved a source of stress for many with their numerous assessments.

Our whole approach, whether in terms of the ethos of learning & teaching in the classroom or the structure of the curriculum, is intended to reward pupils who work hard, who see more clearly the value of being aspirational and who are prepared to put in the effort and commitment to achieve. Prizewinners this evening are those who have made that effort and commitment, within and outwith the classroom, and who benefit from their achievements.

We work very hard as a school to offer a range of opportunities for wider-achievement and leadership and, although I could speak for hours on our achievements, I will offer a whistle stop tour of some from each faculty.

In English pupils have enjoyed trips to the Book Festival; they have had opportunities to listen to –and question- authors about their novels and have written perceptive reviews which have been published in the magazine 'Teen Titles.' Pupils have also shown their

enthusiasm for reading by gaining certificates at all levels – many attaining Gold - in the Reading for Gold personal reading programme. When offered free books to celebrate 'World Book Day', our keen readers snapped up 500 books within hours!

Three S1 pupils were successful in the annual Christmas Poetry Competition (Beth Dickson, Sandy Boyd & Gurveer Singh); Ben Liddall (S2) & Stewart McConnell (S3) took part in the COPFS Public Speaking competition.

Morven Stead and Anna McPhail, both S5, will take part in the RLS Writing Masterclass at Napier on the 15th June, with a prize-giving event afterwards. Good luck to them.

In Maths we had four pupils in S3/4 who entered the Enterprising Maths Competition and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lothian. They got through to the National Finals which were held in Glasgow.

Some of our S1 and S2 pupils took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge and Patrick Hayes, and Hannah Prince, S2, and Michael Baxendale, S1 have got through to the next round – The Junior Mathematical Kangaroo.

Some S3 students entered the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, Jude Moroney-Smith achieved the best in school and has been asked to complete another round.

S1 and S2 pupils entered the Scottish Maths Challenge and we got 10 bronze awards, 6 silver awards and 2 gold awards.

In Languages pupils who are speakers of a second language had the chance to show case their language and culture to the whole of S1 and S2, with input from outside Embassies and Consulates

Higher pupils attended a French immersion afternoon to develop their speaking skills

**In the Word Wizard Spelling competition Ben Liddall represented the school and performed very well in the first round.**

**The Languages faculty offered Italian for Work Purposes as a new course this year.**

**It has also been a busy year in Music and Art**

**In August our Musicians were involved in the Bangholm Rugby Fundraiser –a Community event supported by our S4 and S5 musicians**

**We also held an Autumn Vocal Concert – involving contributions from Wardie, Victoria and Trinity Primaries as well as our own soloists and choirs.**

**This year saw a two night Christmas concert, with items from our string and guitar groups, wind and jazz bands, cello group, choirs, and soloists as well as the soul band and groups from S4, S5 and S6. There was also an Art Exhibition on these evenings showcasing work from across the year groups.**

**Our student led Spring Fling/ Ceilidh was also a great success.**

**In the Festival Fringe Poster Competition Celeste Mcleod-Brown was commended by the Edinburgh festival fringe poster competition for her stunning submission.**

**Palozzi Prize – Eilish Adair has been entered for this prestigious competition in the talent and creativity category – we await the result.**

**In Social Subjects Jack Liddall met and interviewed the First Minister as part of his role as a UNICEF blogger (I think he was vying for her job – Mr Paterson and Jack also managed to get a selfie with her)!. Ruairdh Gilchrist, Hope Gardner and Jack met with a**

**group of education experts looking at Scottish education.**

**The Faculty is also taking 40 pupils to New York and Washington on a history and politics trip next week – we wish them, well (and I am little envious that I am not going with them)!**

### **In Technologies**

**A group of S3 pupils has been shortlisted for the Digi Inventor and will attend a Boot camp where they will develop their product and market it. If they win they will attend a ceremony at the Hydro and be presented with their prize by Andy Murray. Wow! Good luck to them...**

**My School is an Island – pupils again were successful in this competition and won a site visit to Inchcolm island where they planned to locate a school and were involved in a construct and build challenge**

**We also hosted our first STEM parents/pupils evening wherein they worked together to design and make objects – all seemed to have great fun and we look forward to hosting more of these type of evenings.**

### **RE/Computing Faculty**

**In December, a group of S4/S5 pupils helped out at a Christmas Party for 50 senior citizens, organised by a charity called Contact The Elderly. The money we raised at a non-uniform day paid for the hall hire, food and provided a Christmas present for each guest.**

**We continued to support the North East Edinburgh Foodbank with our annual appeal and collected over 30 food parcels which were distributed to people in the locality. We**

have also supported The Edinburgh Sick Kids Friends Foundation and LGBTI Youth Scotland at our non-uniform days.

Highlights for RME were the visit of S5/S6 pupils to Sammy Ling and a visit to Trinity by hairdresser Charlie Millar who talked to S5/6 pupils about spirituality and belief.

## Science

In Science 40 S3 pupils found out about STEM careers at the Royal Museum, organised by the Science Festival. Afterwards pupils got to tour the new Science and Technology galleries.

12 of our S2 pupils took part in the IET Faraday Challenge at Heriot-Watt in the spring. While they didn't win they were commended for their efforts.

Our Advanced Higher Physics students went to Edinburgh University to carry out their Physics projects, a very valuable experience which gave them an insight into what life as a student would be like and also gave them the opportunity to carry out sophisticated practical work far beyond what is set out in the curriculum.

The PE Department has had a very busy year in 2016/17 with notable success in Rugby, Hockey and a number of sporting achievements outside of school.

In May, the PE staff, sports coaches and parents organised our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hockey and Rugby festival. The festival was an end of season finale for the hockey and rugby players. It was also used as a fundraiser for sports club funds and for the Sri Lanka Tour 2019.

## Hockey

**This year the 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey girls reached the Final of the Aspire Cup playing St Margaret's School at the National Hockey centre in Glasgow.**

**The S3 hockey squad had a very successful season winning the Plate Final in their S3 tournament beating St George's. They also won the school's Sports Personality Of The Year 'team of the year' due to such a successful season. The overall Sports Personality of the Year individual award was won by Eartha Cummings.**

**S1 / S2 Boys Hockey was introduced this year to Trinity Academy.**

### **Touring teams**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> XI senior squad were invited to play against San Meguiel School's hockey squad whilst touring Europe from Argentina.**

## Rugby

**Trinity Academy had a tough season following promotion to the Green conference. Despite the challenges presented, the coaching team have been incredibly satisfied that the efforts put in by the boys will stand them in good stead for the 2017/18 season. Notable performances include marginal defeats in the cup for both the U18 and U16 teams who played Gala and Earlston respectively. In addition, the U18 team won the Edinburgh Schools 7s tournament for the fourth year in a row. Trinity would also like to pass on huge congratulations to Struan Whittaker who was selected to play for Scotland U16.**

**We also won U18 Edinburgh Sevens Series**

## Athletics

Congratulations to Esther Watson who won the 100m, LJ and HJ at the Edinburgh Schools last week.

## S1 Dance Club

S1 dance club was introduced this year at Trinity Academy. The dance squad participated in the North Edinburgh Active Schools dance competition and also performed at the school's annual Spring Fling concert.

## Junior Awards Leaders

Over 80 S3 Sports Option pupils completed their Junior Sports Leader Award in May. A huge thanks must go to the Primary 4/5 classes of Wardie and Trinity Primary Schools for bringing their pupils up to Bangholm for the sessions

## Cricket

S1-S3 won the Regional Cricket Factory and have qualified for the National competition in Perth - (here not Australia) - in two days' time – let's hope for a win.

A final few general highlights across the school were our S1 Dalguise Trip, with nearly all our S1 pupils going on this and having fun in the outdoors and problem-solving. Our Bring Your Parents to School Day for S1 Parents was a great success and they enjoyed taking part in lessons and seeing what and how we teach at the school.

Young people can be the responsible citizens, confident individuals, effective contributors that Curriculum for Excellence encourages. The young people here tonight

also represent successful learners in a wide range of areas and activities and they set a positive role model for their peers to seek to emulate. I commend them for their achievement, commitment and effort and hope that they, and their parents, carers and family, can take pride in that and appreciate the recognition being given to them for their achievements.

This evening's event is yet one more in a long history of such events but is no less important for that. So sit back and enjoy the rest of this amazing evening.

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### **End of Event**

I hope that you all enjoyed the evening. Tonight has been another very special occasion in the life of the school and I'd like to thank a number of people for their contribution:

To our music staff for their work with our pupils and also to the pupils whose talent shone in the playing and singing of these musical pieces and to the artists whose work was on display in the foyer. Thanks to our office team and janitors for their hard work behind the scenes, and particularly to Frances Mitchell for taking on the administration of the awards. Thank you also to Florence Donaldson, our STEM coordinator and design technology extraordinaire for producing our new style certificates. Thank you also goes to all the staff and pupils who helped with the hospitality and sound and lighting this evening.

Our associated Primary Head teachers are also a key link to our successful school, not only at key times, such as P7 transition but, in the strategic direction of us as a cluster, throughout the year. A special thank you to them and their staff for making this Cluster such an effective one. My final staff 'thank you' this evening is to Liz Gray, our Quality

**Improvement Manager, who has worked with Bryan, the Senior Leadership team, and staff, guiding us through our recent HMI visit and helping support us in the direction in which to lead the school. Her support throughout the year has been invaluable.**

**I should like to take this opportunity to publicly thank those on the Parent Council for their support throughout the year. Liz Blair and the Parent Council bring a structure and enthusiasm to the Council and are great at encouraging a number of parents to attend meetings across the year, ensuring a wide representation of the parent body in general. They also work closely with the school in supporting our leadership of change and improvement along with various fundraising ventures. They would welcome more parents on board – so please come along to join in their discussions.**

**This year we also have a number of staff leaving us or retiring. Alvine Swanson in English, Elaine Johnston, PE, Marion Cameron in Maths, Neil Wright in Geography, Stephen McLaren in Music, David Bayne in Technologies, Alex Kuryluk – Business Education, Barry Burton, English, David Russell, our Curriculum Leader of Expressive Arts leaves us for a year's sabbatical at an International School and Lorna Chamberlain in the office. Good luck to you all for the future. All the best to our Probationer teachers, Tom MacColl and Lesley Smart who leave us for pastures new.**

**A final 'well done' to all the pupils here who can be really proud of your achievements this year. We have had a good evening together, with staff, family and friends coming together to celebrate your achievements. Whether you're coming back to Trinity Academy or moving on, keep up the high standards that you have set and attained thus far - that way you will continue to enjoy success in life!**

**Please enjoy some hospitality now - time to take some photographs and to admire the Art work - and to talk to others. Enjoy the rest of your evening.**