



## **Frequently asked questions – Year 7 Parent/Carers**

Well done to our Year 7 students who have settled in so quickly at Trinity Academy Halifax. We really value student and parent voice and, as a result, we have put together a Frequently Asked Questions page especially for Year 7 students and their families. Simply scroll down to the question you would like to know more about and click on the hyperlink.

### **What is ‘Graduation’?**

Graduation is an initiative that we have put in place to motivate and engage our students in Phase 1. Phase 1 refers to students in Years 7 and 8. There is a set of criteria that students have to meet and if successful, they will be rewarded at the end of Year 8 celebration. We believe that the criteria we have put together represent what a well-rounded Trinity student should be. We want to encourage every student to meet the criteria and graduate.

### **What does my child have to do to ‘graduate’?**

The criteria are as follows:

- 96% attendance
- 250 net points a year (achievement points minus behaviour points)
- 75% attendance at Graduation clubs
- Take part in 6 Talk4Life events a year
- A good or better rating for their ‘Attitude to Learning’ in English, Maths and Science
- A good or better rating for their ‘Attitude to Learning’ in two other subjects

### **If my child doesn’t pass ‘Graduation’ will they move up into Year 9?**

Yes, they will still progress into Year 9. They will however not be involved in the celebration event and will be assessed for mentoring and intervention in Year 9.

### **What are the different levels of ‘Graduation’?**

We have created tiers of ‘Graduation’ to try and motivate students at all stages. We have named these after the levels of graduation used at university.

6 criteria met = 1<sup>st</sup> class graduation

5 criteria met = 2.1 graduation

4 criteria met = 2.2 graduation

3 criteria met = 3<sup>rd</sup> class graduation

2 or less criteria met = fail to graduate

### **What are ‘Graduation’ Clubs?**

‘Graduation’ clubs are the extra-curricular clubs that count towards graduation. We have chosen high quality clubs that we believe offer students useful skills and experiences that will support them in future life. These, for the most part, take place on a Wednesday after school. Please note that there will always be a handful of exceptions. Students who take part in either the Netball or Rugby Academy programme do not need to attend one of these clubs, however they can if they wish. These clubs rotate on a termly basis between Year 7 and Year 8.

### **Do all involve clubs count towards ‘Graduation’?**

No, there are a number of clubs that do not count towards graduation. This is for a variety of reasons. Clubs that **do not count** are:

Homework Club  
Handwriting Club  
Gymnastics

Film Club  
Trampolining



### **Can my child change clubs half way through the term?**

Preferably not. We would like all students to stick with their clubs for the full term, getting the opportunity to pick a different club next time. However if there is a real issue then please do let us know and we can see what we can do.

### **What is Platinum?**

Platinum is our very successful reading based intervention programme which ensures that all students in Phase 1 have the opportunity to read to the best of their ability and keep on track with their peers. It focusses on comprehension skills and students work in small groups accessing fiction and non-fiction texts. Students are removed from Humanities lessons for 1 lesson a day for a short period of time in order to offer this bespoke intervention. We believe that the long term benefits of a student improving their reading at this stage in their education outweigh any potential lost lesson time.

### **What is Bungee?**

When gaps in students' writing skills (punctuation and grammar) appear during Phase One, this is addressed through Bungee intervention. The Bungee intervention team are highly skilled in providing small group support to address misconceptions and misunderstanding. Students are selected for this on a dynamic basis throughout the year, and may be temporarily withdrawn from some other lessons to address and focus on core skills. Once students have developed understanding and confidence, they will then re-join their usual lessons

### **What is Talk4Life?**

Talk4Life is an initiative that aims to develop and improve students' speaking skills across the curriculum. Students will be encouraged to speak clearly, correctly and confidently in all lessons, and they will be rewarded with Talk4Life Achievement Points for doing so. In addition to this, students will take part in at least one public speaking activity in each curriculum area over the course of the year. This will give them the opportunity to practice speaking on a range of different topics in front of an audience so that they start to build their confidence as early as possible. These will contribute towards the public speaking element of their graduation.

### **What is VT?**

This is form time. We use a vertical tutoring system at Trinity meaning that students are in a group with students from each year group. VT groups meet once a day and each group has two tutors. This offers a valuable slot in each day for students to check in with their 'academy family' and to ask any questions they have. Each day in VT has a different focus such as news, literacy, behaviour data and much more. We also have 'theme weeks' in VT such as 'anti bullying week', 'French week', and 'mental health week' as part of our Curriculum for Life programme.

### **Who are VT tutors?**

Each group is led by two members of academy staff. These staff are either teaching, support or administration staff. This ensures that all members of staff in the academy feel personally involved in the development of students. It also ensures that students come into contact with a variety of different adults with different experiences. Talking to a variety of adults from the different areas of school will enhance their cultural capital.

### **Who are College Managers and what do they do?**

College Managers are non – teaching members of the pastoral team who are there to offer support for both students and teachers. College Managers are the first point of contact for you if you have any problems or concerns, either within the academy or at home.



### **What is a PCE?**

A PCE is a Parental Consultation Evening and is your opportunity to meet the key members of staff involved in your child's education. In Year 7 these take place with VT tutors. There is an additional Year 7 Settling in Evening on the 9 November October this year where you can learn more about how things work at Trinity. It is vital that parents come into the academy to discuss their child's education whenever there is the chance to do so.

### **Who are student leaders?**

Student leaders are students who have been selected to be representatives of their peers. They have to apply for the role and then three students are selected from each year group to act as student leaders. Being a student leader is a real honour and students are given the opportunity to take part in student voice activities to voice their suggestions about all things good at Trinity and anything that they would change.

### **Who do I speak to if I have a concern?**

Your first point of call for any pastoral, behaviour or wellbeing concerns is your child's College Manager. They can be reached by ringing the main academy line. For concerns regarding your child's curriculum or academic progress then please contact Nicola Underhill, Phase 1 Leader. She has a teaching timetable but will contact you as soon as possible.

### **Who can my child speak to if they have a concern?**

Their first point of call should be their VT tutor during VT time, which takes place daily at 10.30am – 10.50am. If something needs dealing with urgently and it can't wait until VT time, they should speak to one of the College Manager team. We ask students to do this outside of lesson time where possible, but they can access them at any time if it is a real emergency. We also have a dedicated Student Wellbeing Team who work with students specifically to help resolve matters that are linked to mental health, child protection and safeguarding. We also have a Medical Welfare officer for any medical needs. Again, we ask that, unless it is a real emergency, students visit her outside of lesson times.

### **How can I track my child's behaviour and achievement points?**

You can access information on your child's attendance and behaviour/achievement points through the School Gateway app/website. Please [click here](#) for further information about the app and how you access the information. To enable you to have full access it is essential that the academy has an accurate email address for you. Please contact the academy office if you would like to update your details.

**Do you have any other questions that you feel could be included in this list? If so, please [click here](#) to contact us.**