



The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School

Buckwood Drive, Gossops Green, Crawley, West Sussex. RH11 8JE
Tel: 01293 423690 Fax: 01293 344578
E-Mail: office@holytrinity.w-sussex.sch.uk
Website: www.holytrinity.w-sussex.sch.uk
Rev. C Millwood MA NPQH.
Headteacher



A report for the Parish of Horsham - April 2019

It is with pleasure that I write to tell you something of the work that has been taking place at Holy Trinity over the past 12 months.

One of the highlights of the school year at HTS is always the Remembrance Day Service, and this year it seemed all the more poignant with the 100th Anniversary. Two of our Year 11 students had been on a special trip to Ypres and shared their thoughts following this with staff through a Friday morning reflection. They also prepared superb resources which were used across the Tutor Groups in preparation for the Remembrance Service itself. I was incredibly proud of our students as they gathered in Beith Court – they showed immense respect and the silence was almost palpable. We were joined in this by a number of visitors who were in school and by our roofing contractors, who lined up along the edge of the roof, listening to the words and then sharing in the silence.

The end of the autumn term was marked by several special events to mark Christmas. The annual Carol Service was quite different to previous years, with students taking a more significant role in the service. 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the Children's Society and we decided to use this as the basis for the evening with the opening carol being sung by the choir with just candlelight for the first verse. This provided a very atmospheric beginning to what was a lovely occasion and I was delighted



to receive several emails from those attending commenting on the students and the strength of their contributions. £179.68 was raised that evening for the work of the Children's Society. We also decided that, as a reward to students for the excellent term, we would make the last day of term a non-uniform day, with the money collected (£889.83) being shared equally between the Children's Society and Crawley Open House. The majority of the music and drama from the Carol Service being repeated so that all our students had the opportunity to hear and see it.

Our basketballers continue to enjoy great success and wonderful opportunities. In January they were invited to London to participate in the Junior NBA event with students meeting two current WNBA players, one of whom is widely regarded as one of the greatest of all times and 3 former NBA legends. Also our U16 girls team won the Sussex County Cup with a squad which included a number of KS3 players playing up a few age groups. This is the first HTS basketball team in six years to qualify for the National Schools competition. And the U16 boys won the Sussex Cup a couple of days later!





Another highlight of the year at HTS is Charities Week - a yearly event which all our students absolutely love. This year the Head Team led a very successful week of events in the hall at lunchtime including 'The Chase', 'Man O' Man' and the students 'I'm a teacher, get me' also a Charity Fair the week before. In total the students raised £2,427.13 which is being split between Dementia UK, St Catherine's Hospice and S

In January I was delighted to welcome Mrs Kate Bramley to my senior leadership team as Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral and Inclusion). This is a new post and demonstrates the developmental work we are seeking to undertake with regards to our provision to support students, especially our disadvantaged students who form nearly 25% of our community. Under her leadership we are expanding the team of Learning Support Staff which will allow us to increase the interventions we can run, including extending the school day through provision of homework clubs and study studio.

You will no doubt have read of the increasing concerns about mental health amongst young people, and we have seen the impact of this across all years within the school. For example, year on year we find we need greater provision for vulnerable students during the exam period, with increasing numbers struggling with the demands of the reintroduction of terminal examinations and the virtual removal of course work which has taken place since both GCSEs and A levels have been reformed.

I hope that this short report gives you a flavour of some of the things that have been happening in the school. This of course is all in addition to the day to day work of education. I would like to close by paying tribute to the dedication and commitment of all the staff at HTS. I truly believe that working in education is not just a job but a vocation. The demands on education continue to rise and we are not unique in raising wellbeing for both staff and students as a key area of concern. Recruitment of teachers is extremely difficult due to national shortages and all too many teachers are leaving the profession, often within the first 6 years, due to the enormous workload and expectations placed on them. I would ask that you hold in your thoughts and prayers

all those who work at HTS and in all schools across West Sussex.

I would like to ask for your prayers as we undertake the development work on our inclusion team, that we would have wisdom in how we use the scarce resources that we have in order to make a difference to the lives of some of our most vulnerable young people.

Another group of people who are key to the life of the school are our Governors who give of their time and energy with enormous generosity and whose support of the school is essential. Governors offer their time freely and we very much appreciate the level of commitment that they give to us. We do currently have a couple of vacancies within the Governing body so if you felt you would be interested in helping HTS in a practical way then we would be delighted to explain what being a Governor involves.

Finally, I want to say how very grateful we are to you for the financial support you continue to show to us, and for your keeping us in your thoughts and prayers - thank you.

Christine A Millwood

Rev Chrissie Millwood
Headteacher