

Trinity Learning Volunteer Newsletter

July 2022

It's almost the start of the school holidays but it's been an extremely busy summer term. We've welcomed work experience students and just finished a week at Larkmead school working with students on our Toolkit for Happiness project.



Make a Difference with the Toolkit for Happiness – Nicola our Education Development Officer and Taz our Workshop Co-ordinator spent a week at Larkmead school as part of their Make A Difference week. They worked with Year 12s (6th formers) on our Toolkit for Happiness project and the Year 12s then worked in turn with the school's Year 7s. We had good feedback from Year 12 and Year 7s and it was a great week. Look out for photos and more detail in our September newsletter.

Experience Easter Update – in the last newsletter we were just putting the finishing touches to our 2022 online Experience Easter event which we're delighted to report proved to be popular, with 384 children's resource packs delivered to six schools across Abingdon. We also had some lovely feedback including: "As a teacher with a Christian faith, I find the way you present the gospel uplifting and the reflection activities are accessible and spiritually valuable to children of no faith, or a non-Christian faith or who do have a Christian faith."

It's really encouraging to know that despite being online for a second year, Experience Easter was still a meaningful project for schools to be involved with. Thank you once again to all our volunteers who worked so hard with us to make this year's event happen.

Welcoming work experience students - this term, Trinity Learning has provided supported work experience to students from local secondary schools. From one or two days with us to more regular part-time placements, we're delighted to offer students valuable opportunities to build their confidence and learn new skills, as well as learning ourselves with the new ideas and ways of doing things students bring! The hard work and design skills of our two Fitzharrys School work experience students this month means our Trinity Learning display in Trinity Church is up to date and looking terrific. Do have a look next time you are there.



Could you be our new Chair of Trustees? Sadly, our current Chair is planning to step down in September 2022, which means we are now seeking a new Chair of Trustees who can support us in our aim of helping to improve the quality of life among students and staff in local schools. This is a great opportunity to work with us as we look to build on our popular and trusted existing projects, as well as identify and obtain sustainable funding so we can continue to support school communities in the Abingdon area. The Chair's role is supported by a strong Board of

Trustees as well as a small team of dedicated staff. Find out more about the role at <https://bit.ly/3xAzZyl> and do please spread the word.

Ongoing volunteering opportunities

We are now looking for additional volunteers for our School-based volunteer activities, such as the Kingfisher Singing Group and Thinking Books, our book-based mentoring programme which helps children to understand their own and other people's feelings better. Having restarted this year both projects are being met with huge



enthusiasm and appreciation from both children and staff. We also have volunteering opportunities that are more socially distanced, such as helping to tidy up school gardens, or can be done from home, such as knitting tiny rabbits to include in our Thinking Book packs.

If you are interested in volunteering for TrinityLearning, either in a socially distanced capacity or in a school-based role, such as through the Kingfisher Singing Group or Thinking Books, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support for volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

Training dates for your diary: to book a place, email nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Safeguarding training - all volunteers working with children must refresh their Safeguarding Training annually. Our next dates for training are:

- 8th September 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- 15th September 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Thinking Books Training will be held over two mornings this year. Volunteers should aim to attend both sessions where possible.

- Tuesday 13th September 9-12 pm Thinking Books Overview by Nicola Williams
- Wednesday 14th September 9-1 pm Thinking Books Theory and Strategies by Lisa Lloyd

Stay in the know: Our TrinityLearning Facebook page has new posts added regularly, so it's a great place to keep up to date with news in between our volunteer newsletters. Join us at www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/

This will be the last volunteer newsletter before the summer break so we hope you have a wonderful summer and we thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S