

# TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter, July 2024

**We can't believe we're at the end of another school year! We have just finished running our Toolkit for Happiness project training with 6<sup>th</sup> formers from Larkmead as part of their Make a Difference week and earlier this term we held our second Volunteer Celebration and it was great to see so many of you in person!**

**Make a Difference week** – We worked with 20 sixth formers at Larkmead to support them in delivering our Toolkit for Happiness wellbeing workshops to around 180 year 7 pupils. This is always a busy week for us but it's really rewarding to see the 6th form students really develop. We'll have a full write up and photos in our autumn newsletter.



**Volunteer Celebration** - We thoroughly enjoyed meeting with lots of our volunteers and supporters at our TrinityLearning Volunteer Celebration in June. As well as volunteers, we were also joined by staff from some of the local schools we work in, Ministers from one of our major funders – the Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit – as well as friends and supporters from local church communities.

Our Trustees put on a super spread of snacks and cakes and it was great to have everyone together in one place and for volunteers to have a chance to connect with others they hadn't met before. Thank you to everyone who came and everyone who spent time setting up and tidying away! If you weren't able to make it you can find more details and photos in our [TrinityLearning's 2024 Volunteer Celebration](#) blog.



**Work Experience** – At the end of April, we welcomed three secondary school students who came to do their work experience with us. They did a great job of stocktaking, sorting resources and updating the TrinityLearning display in Trinity Church. You can find out what they got up to in their brilliant '[Farewell TrinityLearning](#)' blog on our website.

We have also been supporting students from Kingfisher School as they come to experience and help out with the Trinity Toddler Group on Thursdays.

**Call for Volunteers** - Please email Nicola if you are interested in the opportunities below [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

**Make a difference with Thinking Books:** We are still looking for additional volunteers to join our Thinking Books project from September. This volunteer mentoring project involves trained volunteers meeting children for ten weekly in-school sessions to discuss characters' emotions using carefully chosen books. The project requires a commitment of around an hour a week in term time. We know from teacher feedback that Thinking Books volunteers are greatly appreciated by the schools they support.

TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks. We are now recruiting for volunteers to start the project this September.

**Help us to 'grow' our volunteer gardeners' team:** We are in the very early stages of planning a refurbishment to the Carswell School Sensory Garden. The garden was originally designed by Rosemary Perrow in 2012 and has been used by many pupils as well as being appreciated by the local community. Now however, many of the original features have become overgrown and some features are in need of replacement.

Refurbishing the garden to reflect the schools changing needs will be a major project and will require both short term and long-term volunteer support. If you have experience in garden design or would be interested in volunteering for one off gardening sessions or regular maintenance of the completed garden get in touch.

**Knitters and crocheters-** Could you create a tiny bereavement bear or Thinking Books bunny for one of our projects? All patterns and materials are provided.

**Upcoming Volunteer Training** - dates for your diary. Email Nicola to book your place [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding training-** all volunteers working with children must refresh their Safeguarding Training by attending **one** of these sessions annually

- Wednesday 11th September 9:30am – 12:30, Conduit Centre Hall
- Thursday 19th September 12 – 3pm, Conduit Centre Hall

**Thinking Books training** - volunteers should aim to attend both sessions where possible

- Tuesday 24th September 9:15am – 1 pm, Trinity Church
- Wednesday 25th September 9:15am- 1pm, Trinity Church

**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.

Things will be a bit quieter over August so whilst we will still be checking emails, response times might be a little slower. We wish you a happy (and hopefully sunnier!) summer and we thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S