



The Swan



December 2024

www.christletonhigh.co.uk

Est 1982

Merry
Christmas



'Pink Sky'
'Millie Webb (7BY2)'

Headteacher's Introduction:

As we come to the end of 2024 I wanted to provide a reflective update on a year of changes, fun and success.

Back in September, we welcomed our new Year 7 and 12 cohorts. In Year 12, it was great to see the return of so many familiar faces and brilliant to welcome a large number of new students from other local schools. Over the last term, it's been lovely to see how well both year groups have settled and adapted to their new learning environments.



In 2024, my two main areas of focus have been to improve the Sixth Form facilities that Christleton has to offer and to improve the school's IT systems. The building work that took place over the summer term and throughout the summer holidays has allowed the creation of a brand new, secure common room and silent study facilities for Sixth Form students. Both of these have been a great addition to the school and are making a real positive difference to the students.



The transition to a new IT system is now also complete, and we hope that you are finding School Synergy an improvement on the previous application. Parents now have the ability to message school and track homework, amongst many other things, which many have reported as a huge improvement. It is worth mentioning that there are still a large number of parents who have not yet registered for the app. It is vital that you do this in order to gain the most up-to-date information and communications regarding your child. Going forward, this will also be the only way to access your child's KASH reports which are essential for monitoring their progress. If you are yet to register for the app and are unsure how, please contact our Data Officer, Mrs Sherburn.



As you know, road safety in and around Christleton is of huge importance to the whole school community. I receive emails of concern, regarding local roads, on a daily basis and appreciate every single one. I am in regular contact with the local and Parish Councils and pass all requests and ideas onto them regularly and I hope to see some physical improvements in the spring. In the meantime, please be mindful when travelling throughout Christleton and on other local roads and, where possible, try your best to reduce traffic around school by dropping off and collecting a little further away from the school gates and village centre.

In a bid to increase student input in day to day school events, we have recently appointed a Student Leadership Team of Head Students, Deputy Head Students and Prefects. Their first meeting will be held this week which will allow them to plan their work for the year ahead. Special mentions must go to Scarlett Kinmont and Ruth Evans, who both became Head Students, and also Abigail Maclaren and Amy Catton who were appointed Deputy Head Students.

A big focus for the next year will be to further improve our already impressive fundraising activities. Just last week Miss Anderson sent 57 shoe boxes as part of our Christmas appeal and back in July, Year 12 raised a fantastic £5,496.04 through the last day student activities. This money has been divided between CATH (Chester Aid to the Homeless) and Cancer Research UK. Based on this year's success, I can't wait to see what ideas the time have for 2025.



During the past term we have organised a series of parent and carer engagement events, including a Meet the Headteacher evening, Year 10, Year 7 and Year 8 and 9 information evenings – with a Year 11 information evening to follow in the New Year.



The aim of these events is to invite parents and carers in to school for the opportunity to find out what is happening, refresh their knowledge on e-safety and provide them with the opportunity to ask questions of key members of staff. The feedback from these events has been very positive and it's something we plan to continue each school year.

We had a record number of visitors to our Post-16 Open Evening in November. It was fantastic to show off our new Sixth Form facilities for the first time and for our students to demonstrate the amazing things they do in their 360 Futures sessions and the enrichment curriculum. Applications to join Sixth Form in September 2025 close in January and if you would like further information please contact Mrs Brown.

Finally, some hugely positive news is that we have no staff leaving Christleton this Christmas which gives the school great stability. As you can see, 2024 as a whole has been a very busy year with many changes that are already bringing huge school improvement and we can't wait to see how things evolve in 2025.

Thank you to all parents and carers for the support that you have given your children and the school this year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a restful break.

Mr Smith
Headteacher



Christmas Photography Competition: A Festive Showcase of Talent

This half term, the Art and Design Department hosted a Christmas Photography Competition, inviting students to capture the magic of the festive season through their lenses. The competition featured five exciting categories: Winter Landscapes, Festive Decorations, Christmas Lights & Illuminations, Pets in Christmas Spirit, and The True Meaning of Christmas.

We were thrilled to see such a high level of creativity and skill in all the entries. After careful consideration, we selected four students whose work truly stood out. Their photographs captured the spirit of Christmas in unique and beautiful ways.

The winners are:

Winter Landscapes

Winner: Millie Webb (7BY2)

Title: 'Pink Sky' (Front cover and opposite)

Millie's stunning photograph captured a serene winter landscape with a soft pink sky, beautifully conveying the peaceful beauty of the season.

Festive Decorations

Winner: Amelia Buckley (10BA2)

Title: 'Christmas Lights'

Amelia's vibrant photograph showcased the magical beauty of Christmas lights, bringing the festive spirit to life through her creative composition and use of color.

Christmas Lights & Illuminations

Winner: Lily Cotterill (7KE2)

Title: 'Bauble and Tree'

Lily's photograph focused on an artistic display of lights and decorations, capturing a stunning arrangement of all lights, rather than a traditional tree, creating a beautiful and festive atmosphere.

Pets in Christmas Spirit

Winner: Lucy Fletcher (7BY1)

Title: 'Festive Phoebe!'

Lucy's heartwarming photograph of her pet Phoebe, dressed in festive attire, perfectly captured the joy and excitement of Christmas spirit in animals.

We are excited to announce that Millie Webb is also the overall winner of the competition! Millie's photograph was chosen for its creativity, technical skill, and festive spirit, making it the standout entry in all categories.

Congratulations to Millie, Amelia, Lily, and Lucy for their fantastic contributions to the competition.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and special thanks to the Art and Design Department for organizing such a festive and inspiring event!





Christmas Lights & Illuminations

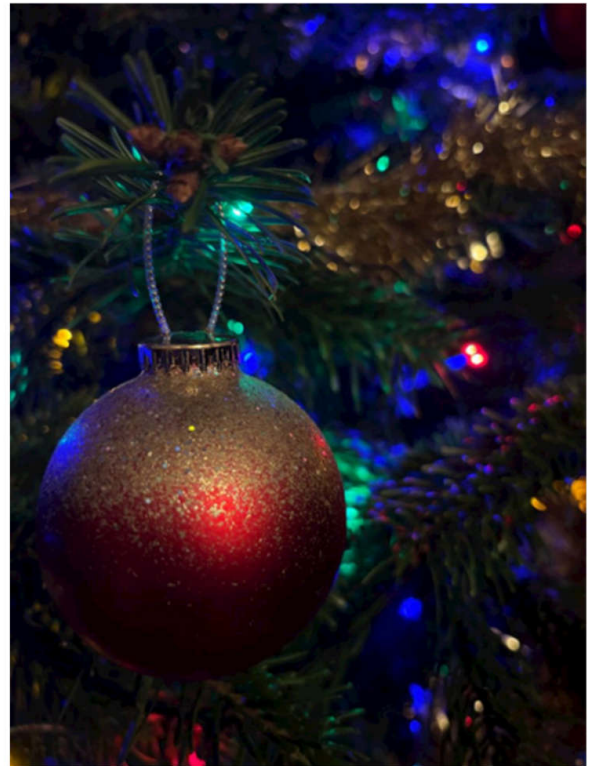
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Title: 'Christmas Lights'



Pets in Christmas Spirit

Winner: Lucy Fletcher (7BY1)

Title: 'Festive Phoebe!'



Deputy Headteacher Update Pastoral



Year 7

Parents of our Year 7 students will no doubt find it hard to believe that their children hadn't started High School 4 months ago; what a difference a few weeks can make! The students have settled in so well, with some students even getting involved in showcasing the school during the Open Evening. The transition from Primary School to Secondary, shouldn't be underestimated. Moving from one or two Class Teachers, in the same room with a regular TA, to a huge building with multiple teaching rooms and at least 10-12 different teachers is a huge change. Not only this but switching from one Subject to another 5 times each day, with the same expectations during period 5 as for period 1 it's not easy! I have seen the cohort grow from confusion; 'Miss I don't know where I'm going' and 'Miss I don't know which lesson I have next' to confident and independent individuals. This is one of the things that makes teaching so special; seeing our young people grow and develop.

We say a temporary goodbye to Mrs Barlow as she starts maternity leave this December and wish her all the best; Mr Lewis has now stepped in as Head of Year 7. Mr Lewis has had years of experience as Head of Year, so the students are in good hands as they head towards their second term.

Well done for getting through your first term at Christleton Year 7, we love that you are part of our school community!



Christmas Celebrations

Our Heads of Year are busy planning Celebration Assemblies for all students at the end of term. Form Tutors will nominate students to receive certificates for those who embody our 5Cs. Getting top marks in a class assessment is fabulous but we also greatly value students who are caring, cheerful, creative, collaborative and committed to high standards.

Alongside this, our Subject departments are currently choosing Department Stars, recognising those who have been of great attitude and have demonstrated excellent habits such as resilience and perseverance. You may have also spotted on Social Media that the school Christmas Tree was decorated this year by the students in Year 7 who had been awarded the most achievement points since September; great job Martha, Jemima, Ted and Lyra.

This is a time of year when we encourage our students to think about others less fortunate than themselves and to give to charities. Well done and thankyou to those who supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal; over 50 boxes were filled and multiple additional items donated and passed on to Operation Christmas Child. We have a Christmas Jumper Day coming up on Thursday 12th December. This year we are supporting a local charity called Share. This Chester based charity seeks to help both those who find themselves homeless and Refugees. We will also have a non-uniform day on the last day of term. Please support our charities by donating £1 for each day via the ParentPay system. Please do not feel under pressure to purchase clothing for these days; if your child doesn't have a Christmas jumper a bit of tinsel or sparkle is enough to bring some festive cheer!

Talking of Christmas.... as the students' countdown their 'sleeps til Santa' and are reminded about the Nativity story..... I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Mrs Lister

shareaid.co.uk



Deputy Headteacher Update Curriculum & Achievement

Curriculum Information Evenings



It has been a pleasure to welcome students and families to school this term to attend our series of Key Stage 3 and 4 Curriculum Information Evenings. Covering all areas from school updates, key curriculum information, reporting timelines, KASH, e-safety and Head of Year presentations, the evenings are a part of our plan to help further improve communication between school and families. Thank you to the families who were able to attend. Here is just some of the feedback that we received following the events:

All very informative. The session was a great idea

The curriculum and online safety presentations were so useful.

Love the enthusiasm and drive of the staff at Christleton that we have met so far.

Particularly impressed with the safeguarding online talk, thank you

It was great to have the opportunity to see staff in person

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Ben McGrath, Head of Monitor at Smoothwall, who presented at the Key Stage 3 Information Evening. Ben presented information on the current threats to young people online (including apps), how we can digitally safeguard students and the risks of the dreaded 'doomscrolling'. It was a fantastic session and extremely informative. If you were unable to attend the event, the slide deck and Ben's e-Safety resources can be found on the school website, in the parent's area.

A Year 11 Wellbeing and Information Evening will take place on 30th January.

Autumn Term Assemblies

This month I have really enjoyed delivering assemblies to Years 7-13. I chose the theme 'Marginal Gains'. This was inspired by the book 'Atomic Habits', by James Clear, the work of Dave Brailsford (Team Sky), and by our school focus on helping students to be better learners.

Some studies show that to develop a level of proficiency (e.g. mastering how to play the guitar or learning how to perform a move on the trampoline, or whatever your preferred skill might be!), it can take up to 10000 hours of practice! However, the quality of our practice is what counts. I shared with students the idea of 'perfect practice'... if practice makes permanent, then we need to form habits that mean we are practising perfectly! The idea of critically analysing our practice led us to the 'Aggregation of Marginal Gains Theory'. That is, small yet significant improvements can lead to monumental results. I asked students to think about how they can apply this theory to their learning. Here are just some examples we looked at in the assembly:

- Stop using your phone half an hour before bedtime and read instead.
- Go to bed half an hour earlier.
- Replace less healthy snacks with fruit when you can.
- Create a quiet space for revision (or revise in a quiet space in school).
- Write down a couple of targets arising from revision or learning in class to focus on at home or ask for help with.
- Have a daily routine for revision using effective techniques (e.g. 5 minute flashcard test followed by 10 minutes of self-quizzing).
- Finish homework two nights before the deadline to allow time for checking.

When considering small changes that can lead to monumental results, I reminded students of our expectations in relation to Homework (more below). Minor adjustments to our approach, completion levels or engagement can lead to truly remarkable results!

For more on 'The Aggregation of Marginal Gains Theory', the short video below is very informative.
<https://youtu.be/DWSuHPQld4c>

Homework

I seized the opportunity in assembly to remind students of the changes we have made to homework, and its purpose; to reinforce classroom learning and to develop learning habits for future academic success. Please have a look at the following page for our homework expectations.

To serve as a reminder, Year 7 students currently follow a structured homework timetable to support task distribution and prepare for future studies. After Christmas, students in Year 7 will start to receive regular homework across all subject areas, in addition to revision tasks. More information regarding this will be shared with Year 7 families before the end of term.

Key Stage 3 students should expect to complete 30-45 minutes of homework daily, while Key Stage 4 students will spend 60-75 minutes completing homework. Sixth Form students will adhere to our '60 for 60' learning approach. Further details will be available shortly via our updated Homework website page.

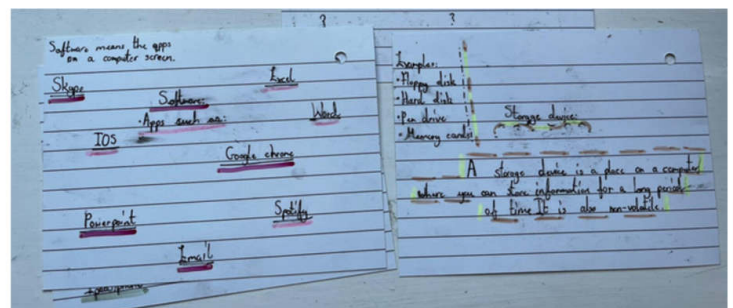
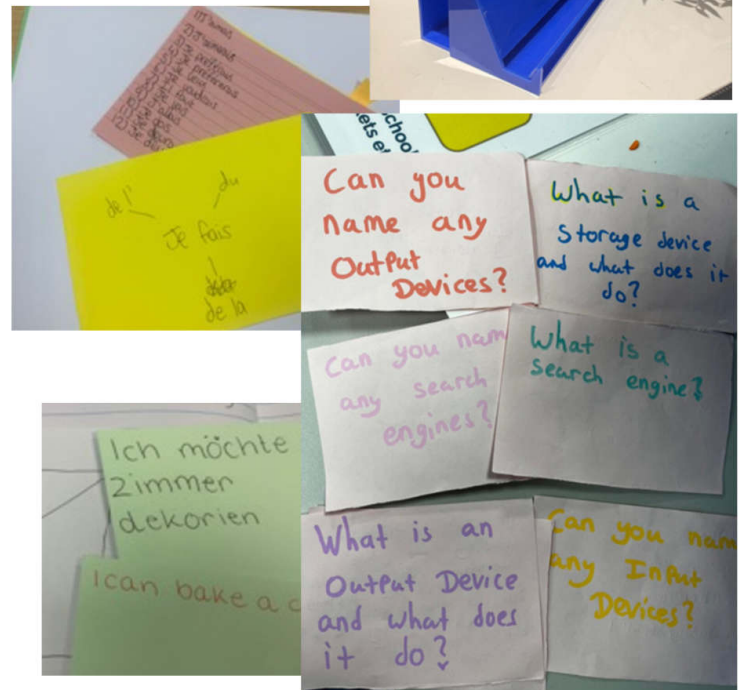
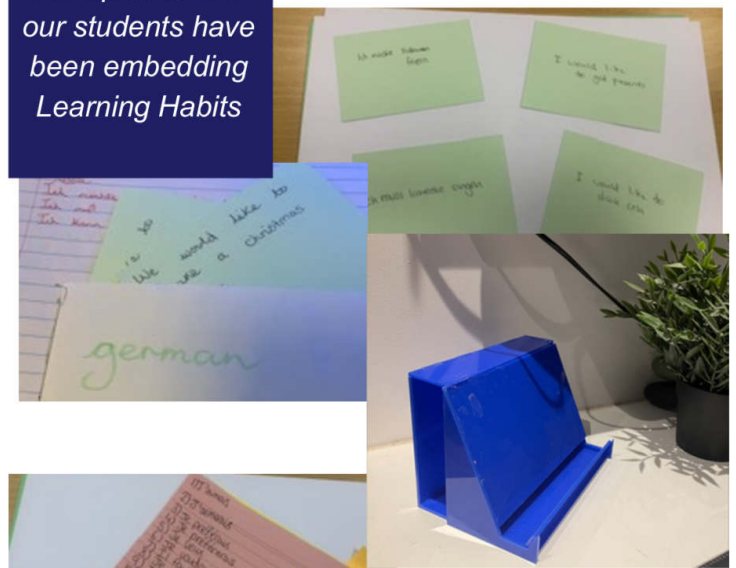
Learning Habits

This term I have worked with our new school Learning Habits Lead, Mrs Brown, to continue to lead a school Revision Revolution! Working with the author of Revision Revolution, Helen Howell, we are making good progress in this area. Here are just some examples of the impact of our work

- Year 13 Learning Habits lessons featured a modelled Pomodoro Technique approach. All students applied their brain dump, self-quizzing and flashcard skills during a timed pomodoro!
- Year 11 Mock Exams – it was phenomenal to see how Year 11 approached their mock exams and to see the practical implementation of the use of flashcards in their preparations. The Year 11 canteen was filled with the buzz of revision prior to afternoon exams!

- Year 10 Design Technology students sharing their use of homework to develop flashcards, enhance their recall and production of a flashcard holder in lessons!
- Key Stage 3 students have been developing their recall of key terms and words in MFL
- Maths students in Year 12 have been using Cornell Notes to consolidate their knowledge of statistical key terms.
- Year 7 students have used revision jotters and flashcards to revise for their upcoming ICT assessment on 'Outputs/Inputs'.

Examples of how our students have been embedding Learning Habits





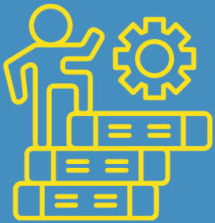
focus on

HOMework

Purpose:

To reinforce classroom learning and to develop learning habits for future academic success. Homework is designed to be relevant, purposeful, and monitored regularly.

What can I expect?



Homework will be used to help students to get better at using revision aids such as making flash cards and brain dumps

Homework will be used to support retrieval of prior knowledge



All students are encouraged to read for pleasure (20 minutes a day)

All homework tasks can be accessed via the Synergy app or portal.



Details of how to help your child can be found below.

Via the app:

- Download the free School Synergy Student app
- Log in via Microsoft 365 using school email address
- and password

Via the portal:

- Portal link:
- <https://christletonhigh.schoolsynergy.co.uk>
- Log in via Microsoft 365

Google classroom will still be used for homework online submissions.



Teaching and Learning

This half term we have continued to focus on the implementation of our updated Teaching, Learning, and Assessment expectations to maintain high standards for all students. Wednesday afternoon staff development sessions have been led by CHS staff covering Kagan Methods, Questioning, Retrieval, Implementing Learning Habits in lessons and Low Stakes Quizzing. We look forward to sharing more of this work in the next full Deputies Update next term.

Finally, a huge thank you for your support this term as we have navigated students through academic year transitions, new timings of the school day, new MIS systems and much more! May the Christmas season bring happiness and joy to you and your families!

Wishing you a safe and relaxing holiday.

Mrs Roberts

Amplifying Youth Voices: Amy Catton's Inspiring Journey at the Labour Party Conference

On 22nd September, I got the opportunity to speak at the annual Labour Party conference held in Liverpool with over 22,000 attendees over the three days, making it the largest political conference in Europe. Over the last few months I have been helping to build an app that helps alleviate climate anxiety in a fun and engaging way that shows the impact that young people can make regarding climate change.



The For Planet app gives you small eco-friendly tasks to complete that earn you points to use to build a virtual forest and then shows you the CO2, water and energy you have saved over a year. Getting to talk about the impact that the For Planet team has already had on young people and hopes for the future was really impactful.

I sat on a 45 minute panel interview with Kate Green (Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester and ex-shadow minister), Luciana Berger (Ex-shadow minister) and James Robertson (CEO of Bee Well) talking about young people's mental and physical health. I got to share my work in the sector, what I believe needs to be done within the new government and as the only young person on the panel, share key insights of what I have experienced in the education system. I was also invited to speak on a podcast by the Walton youth and community project about the importance of youth voice.

Connecting with MPs, councillors and organisations was such an amazing opportunity as well as seeing the publicity of other issues affecting young people. So excited to see where my activism journey takes me next

Amy Catton 11K2



History Hot Scholar's Remembrance Day Wow Wall

As part of our Remembrance Day commemoration, we put together a mural to remember fallen soldiers who fought in various wars from our local community.

Working alongside the Art Hot Scholars, we designed a wow wall of poppies and uncovered the names of some of the fallen heroes amongst the poppies and told their stories alongside this.

As part of the mural, we also worked with the English Hot Scholars and ran a poetry competition. The winner of the competition was Lily Cotterill in 7KE2 and her poem is opposite:

Through this poem and our memorial, we hope you too can remember our local fallen soldiers and respect as well as honour their memory.



*Red blood, red bodies,
Gun bullets, sniper shots,
Lots lives, lost homes,
Remembrance day is to remember it all.*

*Flanders Fields forever in my heart,
The streets filled with poppies,
The sacred thoughts of people,
Never to be spoken about.*

*Lost friends, lost families,
Waving goodbye at the station,
Saying final goodbyes,
Maybe never to be seen again.*

*An endless day in history,
Etched on headstones and hearts,
A book left open,
Never to be closed.*

Lily Cotterill 7KE2



CHS Shines at the Chester Residents' Associations Group Conference: A First-Time Experience to Remember

On behalf of Gabriela and me, I'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome we received at the CRAG Conference. From registration to the closing moments, we felt genuinely included, and we both thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This was our first event of this kind—at least in Chester—and CRAG made a lasting impression on us. Representing Christleton High School was an honour, and we hope to participate in similar events in the future.

We were especially impressed by the panellists' dedication to addressing young people's perspectives. Even when a question was answered just as it came to mind, it was clear that youth voices were valued throughout the discussions.

The presentations about the One City Plan, the River Dee, Chester's Art & Culture sector, and the preservation of Chester's historic structures were incredibly insightful. Having recently moved to Chester, it was inspiring to learn about the city's dynamic progress and exciting plans. I look forward to seeing these ideas take shape.

We also appreciated the opportunity to engage with other community members—not just through the lunchtime quiz, but also in conversations about our experiences at Christleton High and local initiatives. It was a pleasure to learn about the newly formed "Friends of Sandy Lane Park" group and their efforts.

Finally, interacting with students from other local schools was a highlight, and we're grateful for this chance to connect and collaborate. We're already looking forward to attending the next CRAG Conference in 2025!

Ryder Kaye-Drummond and Gabriela Wilson



Local Business Insight: Ollie Foster from Number 47 Barbers Visits Y10 BTEC Enterprise Students

In October, Ollie Foster, past CHS student and owner of Number 47 Barbers, visited our school to speak to the Year 10 BTEC Enterprise students. His visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the success of a local business and gain valuable insights for their coursework.

Ollie shared the story of how Number 47 Barbers has grown and continues to thrive, emphasising the importance of building strong relationships with customers and delivering high-quality service. He discussed the key factors that have contributed to the barbershop's success, including effective marketing strategies such as word-of-mouth referrals and a strong social media presence.

The visit gave students a real-world perspective on how businesses operate and the strategies that drive growth. It also helped students connect classroom lessons with the practical challenges of running a local business.

We would like to thank Ollie Foster for taking the time to share his expertise with us. The Y10 BTEC Enterprise students left the session inspired and better equipped to apply their knowledge to their coursework and future careers.



✨ Celebrating the Festival of Lights! ✨

Before half term, our Diversity Group came together to celebrate Diwali by creating a beautiful rangoli, a traditional Indian art form symbolizing joy, prosperity, and community. Rangoli designs are often used to decorate homes during Diwali, inviting positivity and good fortune.

The event allowed students to learn about the significance of Diwali, which celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. We are proud of our students' creativity and the opportunity to honour this vibrant tradition.



Last Day of Term Charity Event Raises £5,496.04 for Good Causes

We are thrilled to announce that the charity event held on the last day of the summer term has raised a fantastic total of £5,496.04! This incredible amount will be split equally between two very deserving causes: Chester Aid to the Homeless (CATH) and Cancer Research UK.

Each charity will receive £2,748.02, which will go towards supporting their vital work in the community and beyond.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the event, whether through donations, participating in fundraising activities, or helping to organise the day.



Year 10 BTEC Business Students Visit The Ice Cream Farm

Year 10 BTEC Business students enjoyed a trip to The Ice Cream Farm. The visit began with an informative presentation about the farm's development since its acquisition by the Fell family in 1986. Students learned how the introduction of Milk Quotas led the Fells to add value to excess milk produced by their dairy cows, identifying a gap in the market for 'Real Dairy Ice Cream.'

A chance visitor, the boss of Air2000, loved the ice cream so much that he placed a £2 million order for his employees. This investment enabled the business to expand its production facilities and secure contracts with major supermarkets, including Iceland.

Students toured the farm's attractions, including Europe's largest indoor sand play area and the new Escape Rooms, even trying to break out of the prison escape room. The visit ended with a trip to the ice cream parlour, where students picked from over 50 flavours of award-winning Cheshire Farm ice cream. (Toffee fudge is highly recommended!)

Thank you to Jane and the team at Cheshire Ice Cream Farm for a fantastic day!

Mrs John



Careers - Year 11 Post 16 Morning

As part of our careers programme at Christleton High School, a Post-16 Morning ran on the 6th November. This was a day designed to help pupils make important decisions about their next step following GCSEs. The day involved a number of presentations from outside Post 16 providers including:

- Cheshire College
- ASK Apprenticeships
- BTEC in Protective Services based at QPHS
- Reaseheath College

Students were given information about options available to them following their GCSE's and gained an understanding of what each pathway offers. This also gave them an opportunity to ask important questions about their future.

This was an invaluable experience for all involved and students were mature in their response to the presentations they were involved in.

Science Bronze CREST Award - My Experience Kaniha Sathiskumar 9BY1

In small groups, we were investigating "Making Perfect Bath Bombs" for the Science Bronze CREST Award.

My aim was to investigate how the amount of fizz changes while using a specific ratio for the ingredients.

First, we had to do careful planning: researching how to make a bath bomb, choosing the ingredients, and any extras (such as scents, rose petals, and coloured dyes). We were given essential chemicals and equipment to use, but we could bring in any extras.



After all the preparation, we set off to create and use bath bombs. These sessions took place every week after school in Mrs Woolley's Science lab.

My partner and I learned one of the most important things in science: mistakes are okay and help us learn. We came across things like adding too much citric acid in the making process, which can make the bath bomb fizz too early. For example, one time the bath bomb mixture started bubbling and rising in the beaker before even being dropped into water! This is why we learned to measure our ingredients carefully and think about ratios of the chemicals.

We were very successful, and we did make a perfect bath bomb. When you drop a bath bomb into water, it dissolves nicely (it was very satisfying). There is a neutralisation reaction between the sodium hydrogen carbonate and the citric acid. Carbon dioxide is produced in the reaction, and the carbon dioxide forms bubbles in the water, rushing to the surface with a very satisfying fizz.

Throughout this project, we had to keep a record of our research, our results, and our conclusion. Plus, in an evaluation, we discussed how the project could be improved further. These write-ups were then marked to assess if we had passed the Science Bronze CREST Award, and I am very pleased to say that all of the students were successful and passed. We received our certificates in assembly.

Overall, I enjoyed doing this experiment as I learned some new things and had fun collaborating with others.

Kaniha Sathiskumar 9BY1

Year 9 Options Morning

On Wednesday 4th December, Year 9 students started their GCSE Options process. Students had the opportunity to work with employers from Sykes Cottages and start the thinking process about the options they may choose for their GCSEs. Students were encouraged to ask questions to the experts they were working with; they were also given more information about the difference between GCSE's and BTEC courses by Mrs Stewart.

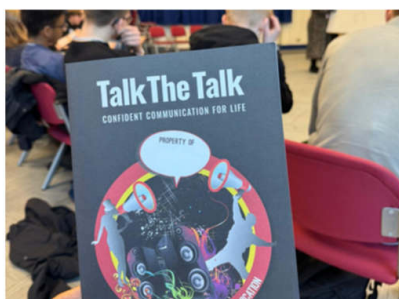
Sixth Form students Hattie Polley and Erin Davis gave a presentation about the choices they made when they went through the options process and how these choices have helped them with the pathway they now follow in the Sixth Form.

Students have been very positive about the session and are grateful for the help they received in starting to make important decisions about the subjects they will choose to study in Years 10 and 11.



Year 12 Students Participate in Confidence Communications Workshop

On Friday 6th December, 40 Year 12 students took part in a confidence communications workshop run by Talk-The-Talk. The workshop aimed to help students step outside their comfort zones, speak with confidence, and engage their audience.



Through interactive activities and discussions, the workshop explored the key skills necessary for success, supporting students to become confident communicators in all areas of life. The session provided valuable tools and techniques to enhance both personal and professional communication, empowering students for the future.

It was an inspiring and practical experience that will help students continue building their communication skills as they move forward in their studies and beyond.



Year 13 Students at Chester Mock Assessment Centre



Year 13 students recently took part in a day at the Chester Mock Assessment Centre, an event aimed at helping them plan for their future careers. During the day, students had the opportunity to meet with local employers and take part in mock interviews for roles spanning a range of industries, from cyber security to civil engineering.

The event provided a great opportunity for students to network with employers and gain a better understanding of the professional world. It was an inspiring and educational day, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed as they move closer to the next stage in their careers.

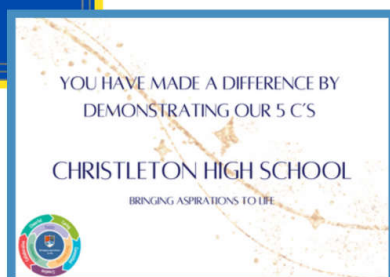
Celebrating Success: Happy, Hardworking, and Caring

At CHS we believe it's important to celebrate not just academic achievements but also how our students demonstrate our 5Cs (Cheerful, Caring, Committed, Creative and Collaborative) on a daily basis.

This term, we've awarded a total of 26,361 achievement points, celebrated Year 7s with a tasty breakfast for completing their extracurricular passport, and witnessed countless students going the extra mile to support our school community. Congratulations to 7BY1 for earning the highest amount of achievement points as a form in the whole school—a fantastic start to your journey at Christleton!

Our school motto, "Happy, Hardworking, and Caring," reflects the values that underpin our ethos, and we believe these values are vital. Many of our students make excellent contributions to the school and show fantastic progress throughout the year. In response to feedback from students, staff, and parents, we have reviewed and updated our rewards system. Some students expressed a desire for more recognition both in and outside of the classroom. With this in mind, we're excited to introduce new initiatives!

This term, we've launched the Department Stars and Heads of Year Awards to recognise students who consistently make the right choices and embody the 5Cs. We're also introducing a new postcard to highlight students who go above and beyond expectations. These will be handed out by teachers and support staff. In addition, we have created a Wall of Fame to showcase achievements, featured each week in our bulletin.



All achievement points are logged on Synergy, and you can track them on the Synergy app. If you haven't logged in yet and need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the school—we'll be happy to help you set it up. Achievement points will contribute to key milestones, with students able to earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold certificates. We're also excited to introduce a new extracurricular passport.

We love hearing about our students' achievements, both in and out of school, so please feel free to contact your form tutor if you have any successes to share!

One such success story comes from Year 8 student James Skinner, who recently competed in the Para Badminton UK Open Championships in Sheffield. James continues to impress us with his dedication and sportsmanship as he competes at a national level.

Mrs Dennan

Sixth Form Charity Football Match Supports Movember

Movember is a charity that supports men's mental health and raises awareness for testicular and prostate cancer. While growing a moustache is the usual way to show support, this year the charity's focus was on being active. To help raise awareness, the Sixth Form organised an internal charity football match.

The 80-minute, 11-a-side game took place on Friday, 29th November, welcoming players of all genders and abilities. Alongside raising awareness for men's health, the event encouraged a £1 donation via ParentPay, either to play or watch, with all proceeds going directly to the Movember charity.

The match had a fantastic atmosphere, both on and off the pitch, with players cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd—some even attempting a Mexican wave!

Thank you to everyone who attended and donated. We hope to organise more charity-focused activities in the future!

Elsie Nield (Head Girl)



Christmas Shoe Boxes: A Heartfelt Contribution from CHS

This year, our school has been proud to participate in Teams4u charity's shoe box collection, a global initiative that brings joy and hope to children in need around the world. Organised by Miss Anderson, the initiative saw the generosity of our students, staff, and families, who helped us collect 57 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children who may otherwise not receive anything this Christmas.

Each box was carefully packed with toys, clothing, and other essentials, along with a personal note of encouragement. These boxes will be sent to children in countries where poverty and hardship are widespread, bringing them not only a gift but also a message of love and hope.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this heartwarming initiative. Your contributions will make a lasting impact, brightening the holiday season for children across the globe.

P.S. Don't worry if you can't see your box in the photo – there was a last-minute rush after the picture was taken!



James Skinner Competes in Para Badminton UK Open Championships

James Skinner, a Year 8 student, recently took part in the Para Badminton UK Open Championships in Sheffield for the second time. The competition was fierce, with nearly all of the UK's professional para players attending, including two-time Paralympian Dan Bethell, who won a silver medal in the SL3 category at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

The UK Para Badminton Championships were held as an open competition, mixing different categories of players, and this year saw the highest number of children and young players participating. Athletes from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland were all represented.

James, who has cerebral palsy, previously competed in the Junior Para-Badminton England tournament in Sheffield, where he represented the North West regional squad. After some closely contested matches, his team emerged victorious, securing a gold medal.

The level of competition at both tournaments is inspiring, especially meeting professional para players from Wales and England. The atmosphere at the events is always welcoming and supportive, which makes the experience even more rewarding. Along with playing for the North West regional para team, James also competes for Cheshire County in their junior team and continues his training at his local club in Christleton.



We are always looking for ways to celebrate our students' achievements. If you have accomplished something outside of school, we'd love to hear about it!

Please share your success by emailing our new mailbox at celebration@christletonhigh.co.uk.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



Anti-Bullying Team Organises Donations for West Cheshire Food Bank

Over the past two weeks, our Anti-Bullying Team has organised a donation drive for the West Cheshire Food Bank. With Christmas approaching, the team encouraged students, staff, and families to donate non-perishable food items and essentials to help those in need.

All donations will be taken to the food bank before Christmas, ensuring local families receive support during the holiday season. The school community has shown great generosity, and we want to thank everyone who contributed.

A big thank you to the Anti-Bullying Team for their leadership and to all who donated—your kindness is making a real difference this Christmas.



Former Christleton High School Student, Chumisa Dornford-May, Wins UK Theatre Award 2024!

Huge congratulations to former Christleton High School student, Chumisa Dornford-May, who has won the UK Theatre Award 2024 for her outstanding supporting role in *Evita* at The Curve, Leicester.

Chumisa, who previously showcased her talent in the school production of *Sister Act*, continues to shine on the professional stage. Her dedication and skill have earned her this prestigious award, and she is now set to take on a leading role in the UK premiere of *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*.

“We are so proud of Chumisa and everything she has achieved,” said Mr. Phillips, Head of Performing Arts at Christleton High School. “Her success is a true reflection of the hard work and talent she demonstrated here, and we look forward to seeing her continue to excel.”

Chumisa’s incredible journey is an inspiration to all our students, showing that with passion and perseverance, dreams really can come true. We wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting new chapter of her career.

Congratulations once again, Chumisa! We’re incredibly proud of you!

To read more about the UK Theatre Awards 2024 and the full list of winners, visit [Whatsonstage.com](https://www.whatsonstage.com).



Last week, our talented RE Hot Scholars delivered 100 beautifully crafted Christmas cards to Lesley from the pastoral team at St Joseph's Church. Each card, designed by our students, featured heartfelt messages and festive images, capturing the true spirit of Christmas.

Special thanks to Matilda and Carlota (8L2), who worked tirelessly to perfect the cards and proudly handed them over.

These cards will bring joy to local care homes, the elderly in our community, and families supported by a local charity, spreading love and kindness this festive season.



Rehearsals Underway for Billy Elliot!

Excitement is building as rehearsals begin for Christleton High School’s highly anticipated production of *Billy Elliot!* The cast and crew are hard at work, bringing this iconic musical to life with talented students taking on the beloved roles.

From Billy’s emotional journey to the powerful dance routines, the production will showcase our performers’ exceptional skills. Under the direction of Mr. Phillips, Head of Performing Arts, the team is ensuring a show-stopping performance.

Stay tuned for updates and mark your calendars – this is one performance you won’t want to miss!



Celebrating Achievement in Year 7: A Festive Reward for Top Students

This December, we're proud to highlight the outstanding achievement of our top Year 7 students, who have earned the most achievement points this term. These dedicated students have not only excelled in their studies but also been recognised for their commitment to making the most of their time at Christleton High School.

The top achievers were:

- **Ted Spauls (7By2)**
- **Martha Gray (7BA1)**
- **Lyra Woodward Hughes (7By1)**
- **Jemima Forsey (7BY1)**

As a special reward for their hard work, the students were invited to decorate the school Christmas tree, bringing a festive touch to the school environment for the holiday season. Their contribution to the school's Christmas spirit was appreciated by both staff and students alike.

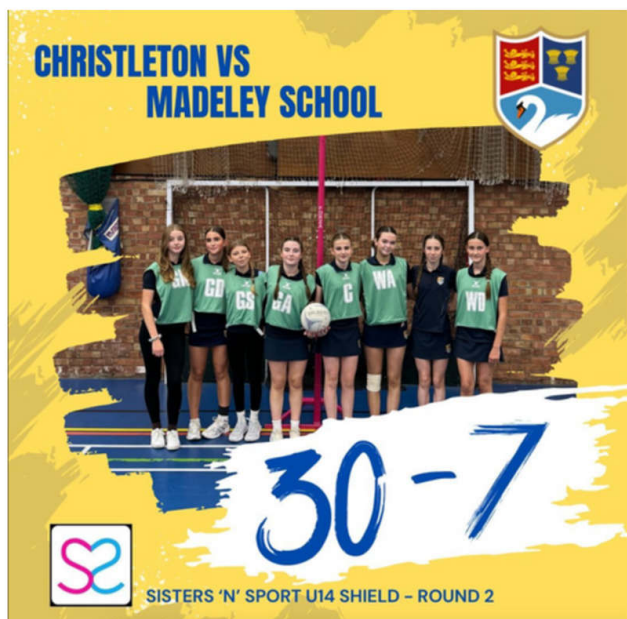
In addition to the tree decorating, the students also received a sweet treat: reindeer chocolates, adding to the festive cheer. It's clear that their efforts have not only earned them academic recognition but also a place in the school's holiday celebrations. Well done to these fantastic students for their hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing more of their achievements in the months ahead.

Keep up the great work, Year 7! 🎄☀️



SPORTS NEWS

Netball News



A huge well done to our U14 netball squad for a brilliant game against Madeley School in the second round of the SnS Shield competition!

♥ The girls played their own game moving ball the around the court beautifully. Lots of interceptions and brilliant feeds into the circle to finish the game 30-7! An excellent performance to take them into round 3, well done girls!

♥ POM - Gabby

♥ CPOM - Charlotte



An absolutely incredible performance from our U13 netball squad in their game against Hulme Grammar in Round 2 of the SnS Shield competition.

♥ The girls played some outstanding netball to get the 29-18 win! Pure determination, hard work and conviction in everything they did, a performance they should all be so proud of.

♥ POM - Ciara (Incredible shooting and movement around the circle)

♥ CPOM - Belle (Countless interceptions and perseverance in defence)

Chester & District cross country competition

Earlier this term, we hosted the Chester & District cross-country competition and saw some amazing performances.

♥ Our junior girls team put on a strong performance finishing 1st out of 8 school in the district! An excellent performance from absolutely everyone who ran, well done girls!



♥ Our boys teams also put on an impressive performance with our junior team finishing 1st and our minor team finishing 2nd! Special mention to Dylan G (1st in the juniors race), Ben N (1st in the inters race) and William H (3rd in the minors race), who have all qualified to represent Cheshire in the Inter-County Cross Country Championships next month! Well done boys!

SPORTS NEWS



U13 Girls Football Squad Triumphs in Round 3

On November 12th, our U13 girls football squad secured an impressive 4-0 victory against Wade Deacon High School in Round 3 of the competition. This fantastic result highlights their determination and teamwork as they continue to impress on the pitch. The squad's hard work and commitment paid off as they dominated the game, setting them up for an exciting progression in the competition. Congratulations to all the players on this outstanding achievement!



Year 7 6-A-Side Squad Victorious in Chester and District Competition

Congratulations to our Year 7 6-a-side squad on their fantastic victory in the Chester and District competition! The boys triumphed with a hard-fought 1-0 win against Bishops Heber in the final. Their teamwork, skill, and determination were evident throughout the competition, culminating in this well-deserved victory. Well done, boys, and thank you to the coaching staff for their support! Let me know if everything looks good!

Follow CHS PE on Instagram!
Stay up to date with all the latest sports news, achievements, and events by following us on Instagram! 🏆🎉
Follow us at: [@christletonhighpe](https://www.instagram.com/christletonhighpe)



QUIZ NIGHT

Sixth Form Social Event

Wednesday 22nd JANUARY 5-7PM



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ NIGHT

Attendees: For all Y12 and Y13 CHS
students
Location: School Hall

Term dates and dates for your diary:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 20.12.24 | School closes 12:25pm |
| 06.01.25 | INSET day for Staff |
| 07.01.25 | School reopens all students |
| 08.01.25 | Year 11 Parents Evening |
| 17.01.25 | CHS 6th Form Enrolment Deadline |
| 22.01.25 | Sixth Form Quiz Night |
| 30.01.25 | Year 11 Wellbeing & Information Evening |
| 11.02.25 | Year 9 Parents Evening |
| 14.02.25 | Year 9 Options Deadline |
| 14.02.25 | School closes for February Half Term |

Please visit our [website](#) for further information.
Follow us on [@ChristletonHS](#) and [christletonhighpe](#)
on Instagram for all our sporting news.

We welcome articles from students! If you have something to share, whether it's celebrating an achievement, school news, an opinion piece, or creative writing, we'd love to hear from you. To submit your articles, please email them to theswan@christletonhigh.co.uk
We look forward to your contributions!



£685.20 Raised for Share!

