



Headteacher's Introduction:

Welcome to the February edition of The Swan. As usual, we are packed with news from the past half term and information about up and coming events.

I have been working with the CHSA to agree a project where parents and carers can raise money to support the school. We originally agreed to raise money for covered outdoor seating areas but the costs are very prohibitive. We may return to this project in the future but have decided to focus our current efforts on an area where we need urgent help - raising £20,000 towards the refurbishment of two Chemistry laboratories. The school successfully bid for £100,000 of funding from the Wolfson Foundation to refurbish the laboratories but part of the agreement is that we raise £20,000 to support the project.

As you will see from the photograph, the laboratories are very old and in urgent need refurbishment. Our CHSA volunteers work very hard to fundraise at events and support the school throughout the year.

Science room ready for renovation:

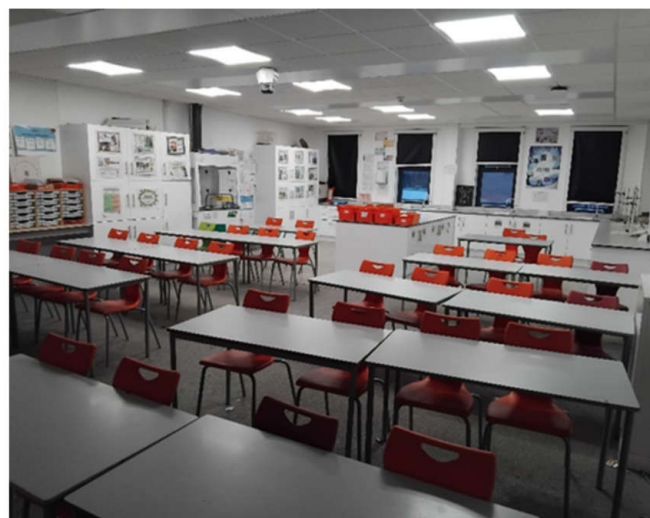


The Wolfson*
Foundation

Our aim is to raise the £20,000 required, for the upgrades to go ahead, by September this year. In partnership with the CHSA we will be running a whole host of fundraising events to try to meet the target but to increase the success of our fundraising, we'd be really interested to hear from any local companies or employers who offer match-funding opportunities. If you are able to support in any way, please contact the CHSA at chairofchsa@christletonhigh.co.uk

The CHSA are always looking for new members and many of the current team have children in Year 13, so if you are able to give any time please contact the CHSA.

Science room that was renovated in 2018.



I have been working with Christleton Parish Council to address some of the traffic issues faced around school and the local area. A new banner is being erected at the Plough Lane entrance to remind parents and carers of our expectations to keep everyone safe.

Please remember not to drop off students in the school car park or around the school entrances; doing this makes the area dangerous for our students and staff who are entering the site. Please be aware that due to the closure of the Northgate Arena, the site is much busier than usual. If you are using the site in the evening then additional car parking is available on the senior yard.



This year's school production will be Billy Elliot and rehearsals well underway. We first performed Billy Elliot at Christleton nine years ago and Ben Rackham, who was in Year 7 at the time, played Billy in that production. Ben is now in his final year of a Musical Theatre degree at Chichester.



Christleton
HIGH SCHOOL

The Christleton High School production of

BILLY ELLIOT 
THE MUSICAL

© 2014 Billy Elliot Ltd.

26th - 29th March 2025

Book and lyrics by
LEE HALL

Originally directed by
STEPHEN DALDRY

Music by
ELTON JOHN

Originally choreographed by
PETER DARLING

Orchestrations by **MARTIN KOCH**

Executive Producers (Original London Production) - ANGELA MORRISON & DAVID FURNISH
Producers (Original London Production) - TIM DEWAN, ERIC FELLNER, JON FENN & SALLY GREENE
Originally presented in London by Universal Pictures Stage Productions, Working Title Films and Old Vid Productions, in association with Tiger Aspect. Based on the Universal Pictures / Studio Canal Film.

Scan for Tickets
Available from October 2024




This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI, mtishows.co.uk

The 2025 production will feature just over 100 cast members and two boys have been cast as Billy, Nye Egan-Simon in Year 8 and Charlie Lewis in Year 7. Grace Monaghan has been cast as Mrs Wilkinson, the ballet teacher.

The whole cast is working hard on learning lines, songs and movement, all ready for the opening night. The show will feature a purpose-built stage set with a video wall, and the music will be played live by a nine-piece band. There will be three days of sound and lighting installation to get the set ready. We have more than thirty students helping in technical, backstage and front of house roles, working with over three hundred props and one thousand separate costume items.

We have already sold more than 25% of the tickets so don't hang around if you fancy coming to see it. Tickets are available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/chester/christleton-high-school/billy-elliott/e-pqllbx>

The production runs from 26th – 29th March 2025 and we hope to see you there.

Finally, later this week, our Geography students are visiting Iceland where they get the exciting opportunity to look at the impact of the recent Reykjanes Peninsula eruptions. I am very envious and I hope they have a fantastic time.

As always, thank you for all of your support – I hope you enjoy your half term break.

Mr Smith

Mr Smith.



Deputy Headteacher Update Curriculum & Achievement

Curriculum Information Evenings

This half-term, we've had the pleasure of welcoming many families into school through a variety of curriculum-related events. We kicked off with the Year 9 Options Afternoon, where Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Blackwell guided students and families as they explored potential course options for Key Stage 4. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging with new subjects and thoughtfully considering their next steps. A big thank you to all teaching staff, students, and families who contributed to making this event such a success!

Later in January, we launched our inaugural Year 11 Information and Wellbeing Evening, led by Mrs. Dennan and Mrs. Blackwell. The evening focused on supporting students in staying happy, healthy, and calm as they prepare for their upcoming exams. Parents had the opportunity to attend a range of informative sessions, including mindfulness practices, strategies for supporting children in developing effective study habits at home, yoga sessions, and much more!



Here is just some of the feedback that we received following the events:

Well organised, informative, welcoming atmosphere ...I think the example revision timetables and revision tips were really helpful. I also thought Mrs O'Hares mindfulness talk was fantastic....Learning habits very interesting and helpful....The presentation regarding revision techniques was excellent, very informative and really useful for me as a parent to understand.

Thank you to Mrs Dennan and Mrs Blackwell for organizing the event and to all staff who delivered sessions. It certainly was an interesting and insightful evening.

Homework

Homework continues to be a priority across all areas of the school. This half term I have really enjoyed meeting with students across all year groups to further explore and improve the use of homework to support student progress and learning habits.

We highly value student feedback, and recently, students shared insightful suggestions regarding homework. Their feedback focused on making it easier to access homework tasks, better managing workloads over a fortnight, the duration of tasks, and the regularity of assignments. This valuable input has been shared with staff as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that homework is effective and manageable for all students.

To serve as a reminder, 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. For more information, please see our new [Homework page](#) on the Christleton High School Webpage.

Teaching and Learning

Following the Christmas break, staff in school have used dedicated CPD sessions to explore the use of disciplinary literacy. Led by Literacy Lead, Mrs Allan, and Head of English, Miss Wimbush, this work complements the use of Sparx Reader to work towards our whole school Literacy and Reading priority.

Mrs Roberts



Key Curriculum Dates coming up:

Year 9 Parents' Evening Tuesday 11th February
Year 9 Options Deadline Friday 14th February
Year 13 Parents' Evening Thursday 27th February
Year 8 Parents' Evening Thursday 13th March

Deputy Headteacher Update Pastoral

Celebrating Success

This academic year we've sought to increase opportunities to celebrate success. You may have noticed a greater presence on social media which is a deliberate move to shout about the wonderful achievements and opportunities that happen day to day in school. It's so lovely to be able to wish students well as they head off to the latest netball or football match and to see a hall full of students engaging in a literacy session. One of the nicest sounds is hearing the piano coming from the Hall after a student has requested to bob in there and practice. I realise that I have the luxury of seeing your children in situations you don't; it's a real highlight of my role.

Enrichment Passports

This term we will be introducing enrichment passports for the students. Mrs Stoker will be rolling these out in through Form groups. These passports will stay with students as they progress through school and will be used to record achievements and milestones. These will encourage the students to engage with extra-curricular activities, sporting and musical events and promote the importance of being a good citizen both inside and outside school.

Behaviour and Intervention

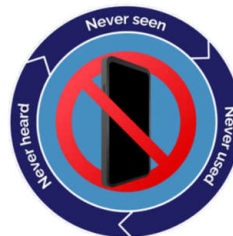
Another area in the planning as we head towards Easter is drop down days for Years 7-10. We are fortunate to have Behaviour support staff with a wealth of experience in writing programmes of intervention including the Respect Programme which was rolled out nationally. Utilising resources provided by organisations such as Show Racism the Red Card, Mrs Baxter and Mr Turner are creating new programmes to help our students navigate their way through peer relationships. Areas of focus will be acceptable use of language and antibullying. These sessions will complement our PSHCE and Form Time lessons.



Mobile Phones

I can't end without once again mentioning mobile phones! I was astounded to hear on the BBC news that a study had concluded that taking phones away from children at school does not positively impact their results. I cannot disagree more. What are we seeing? Young people talking, young people playing, young people not being distracted in lessons, a reduction in online incidents, a reduction in peer on peer issues that previously escalated due to messaging at school. Will results improve? It's too early to tell – but I can wholeheartedly say that focus in the classroom and overall behaviour has improved. Maybe we should let the BBC know!

Mrs Lister



Year 8 Create Models of the Earth's Structure

Year 8 students have been learning about the structure of the Earth in their Science lessons. As part of their homework, they were asked to create a labelled model to show the different layers, from the crust to the inner core. The results were impressive, with a great mix of detailed and creative designs.

The models are now on display in the Science lab, making the space look fantastic. Well done to all the students for their effort and enthusiasm!





focus on **HOMework**

Where to find student homework

Full information regarding our changes to homework for 2024-25 was shared in October's Deputies Update. However, with the swift roll out of Synergy, we are pleased to announce a change to where students can access all assigned homework tasks.

From November 4th, all student homework will be set on Synergy only. Therefore please ensure your child has access to the Synergy portal or app.

Google Classroom will still be used for homework online submissions but lists of tasks and assignments will be found only on Synergy.

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

Mrs Roberts



Introducing our Student Senior Leadership Team

At Christleton High School, we believe in fostering a positive and supportive environment where every student can thrive. A vital part of this ethos is our Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT), a group of dedicated students who serve as role models, advocates for their peers, and active participants in shaping our school culture.

What is the SSLT?

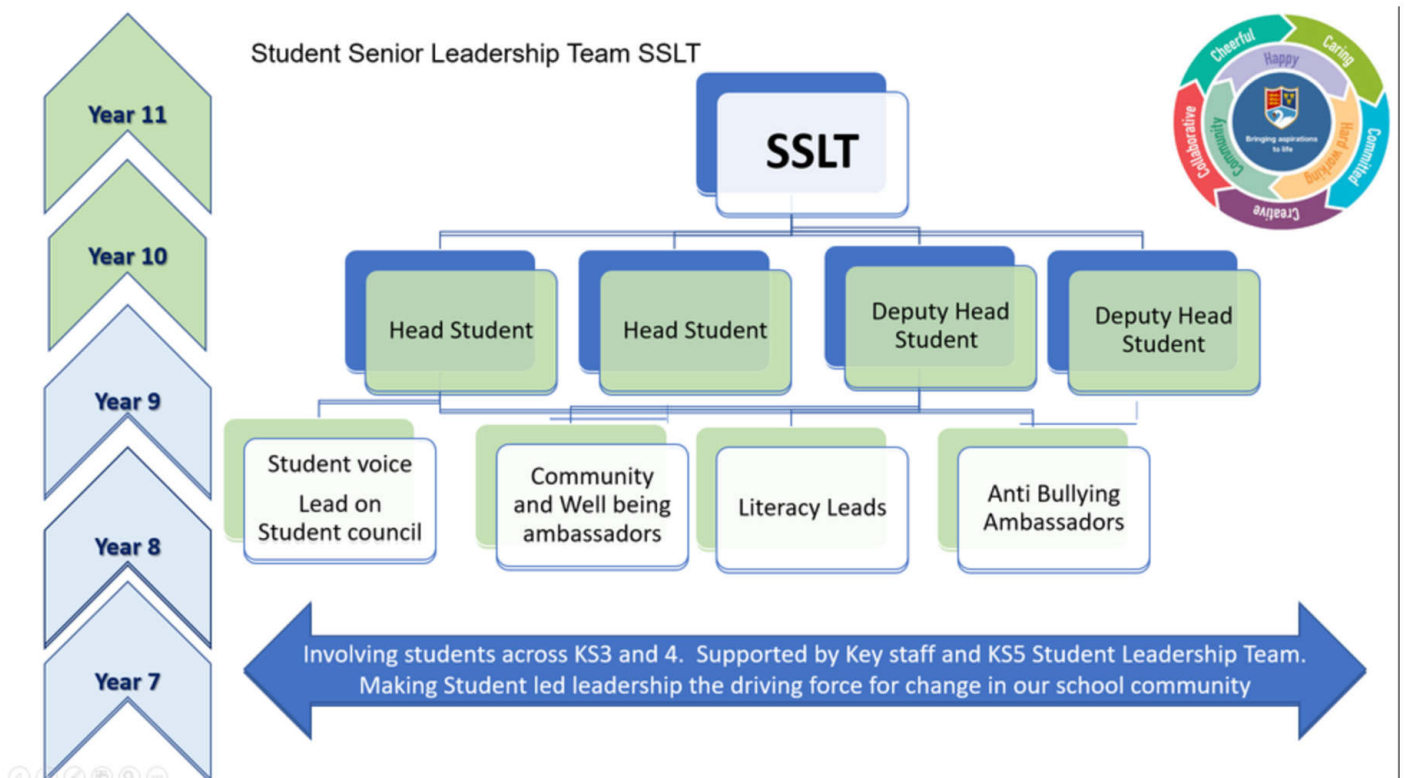
The SSLT plays an essential role in bridging the gap between students, staff, and the wider school community. Members are chosen for their commitment to the school's core values, the 5 Cs (Caring, Committed, Collaborative, Cheerful, Creative), and their passion for creating a welcoming school atmosphere.



Key responsibilities for the team include:

- **Representing the Student Body:** Acting as a liaison between students and the school administration.
- **Organizing Events:** Planning and executing school-wide activities, fundraisers, and celebrations.
- **Promoting School Spirit:** Building a sense of community and pride through whole-school events.
- **Advocating for Change:** Bringing forward student suggestions to improve the overall school experience.
- **Supporting Peers:** Leading by example and providing guidance to fellow students.
- **Encouraging Literacy:** Creating events to increase student engagement with literacy.
- **Anti-Bullying Advocacy:** Helping to create a safe and supportive environment where every student feels included.

Student Senior Leadership Team SSLT



Meet the Student Leadership Team (SSLT)

At Christleton High School, we are proud to introduce our Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT), a group of dedicated students who are committed to fostering a positive school environment, advocating for their peers, and driving meaningful change. These student leaders play a vital role in promoting school spirit, organizing events, and shaping our school culture.

Here's an introduction to the team members who are leading this year's efforts:



Head Student: Ruth Evans (Student Voice)

"My name is Ruth Evans, and I am honoured to be the Head Student for the lower school. I have been at Christleton since Year 7, and I am passionate about making positive changes. As Head Student, my goal is to help build a stronger, supportive community where every student feels safe, cared for, and valued. I am excited to bring about positive change and ensure that everyone's voice is heard."



Head Student: Scarlett Kinmont (Anti-Bullying)

"Hi, I'm Scarlett, and I joined Christleton at the start of Year 9. From the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed, and I'm proud to be part of the first-ever Year 7-11 leadership team. As Head Student for Anti-Bullying, I want to make sure all students feel included and supported. I'm excited to work alongside Ruth to create a positive, safe environment for everyone, and to make Christleton an even better place for all students."



Deputy Head Student: Amy Catton (Wellbeing and Community)

"Hi, I'm Amy, and I am a Deputy Head Student at Christleton. Outside of school, I've had the opportunity to represent young people locally and nationally as a youth parliament member and youth councillor. I'm passionate about making a difference within the school, especially when it comes to raising awareness and support for disabilities. As Deputy Head Student for Wellbeing and Community, I aim to create a more inclusive environment where every student can thrive, regardless of any challenges they may face."



Deputy Head Student – Abigail Maclaren (Literacy Leaders)

"My name is Abigail Maclaren, and I'm thrilled to serve as a Deputy Head Student at Christleton. I've been here since Year 7, and I have a love for English, Art, and History. As a student with a keen interest in literacy, I want to inspire my peers to engage with a wide range of literary works. I'm excited to explore opportunities for students to interact with authors, attend book events, and expand their reading horizons, ensuring that everyone can find something they are passionate about."



Happy Lunar New Year 2025!

This year, Lunar New Year began on January 29, marking the start of the 16-day Spring Festival. As we transition from the vibrant and dynamic Year of the Dragon, 2025 brings in the Snake's wise energy. The Snake, symbolising wisdom and transformation, offers a time for personal growth and positive change.

In our RE department, we welcomed the Year of the Snake with a fun and creative activity: students made their own snakes to take home and display, embracing the spirit of the season.

A special thank you to our RE Hot Scholars, Matilda and Carlota (8LA2), for their fantastic help with organising and leading this celebration.



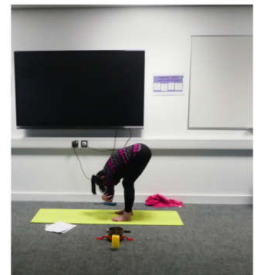
UCAS News: A Fantastic Achievement for Our Year 13 Students!

We are excited to share that 126 UCAS applications have been submitted by our Year 13 students, and 118 of them are already holding offers from a range of prestigious universities!

This is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication. Some of the universities offering places include Oxford University, University of Manchester, University of Bristol, and University of Leeds, among many others. Congratulations to all our students, and we wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the next exciting chapter of their academic journey!

Year 11 Support and Wellbeing Evening: Preparing for Success

On January 30th, Christleton High School hosted a Year 11 Support and Wellbeing Evening to help students and parents navigate the challenges leading up to GCSE exams. The event provided valuable insights into exam preparation, mental health, and study techniques, offering practical strategies to manage stress and stay motivated. Parents were also informed about the support services available within the school, ensuring they feel equipped to support their children during this crucial time.



The evening was a success, with both students and parents walking away with helpful tools to approach the months ahead with confidence/



First Sixth Form Social Event: Quiz Night Success!

On Wednesday, 22nd January, we hosted our first Sixth Form social event, and it was a huge success! Year 12 and Year 13 students gathered for an exciting quiz night, where they tested their knowledge across a range of categories.

The event was made even more enjoyable with Mr. Cossick taking on the role of Quiz Master, keeping everyone engaged with his energetic questions and humorous commentary. The quiz sparked plenty of friendly competition, laughter, and camaraderie among students.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in making the event a great evening! Stay tuned for details on our next Sixth Form social event—there's more fun to come!



History Hot Scholars

The month of January has been incredibly busy for the History Hot Scholars. On the 27th January we remembered the Holocaust and eighty years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. As a team we prepared a form-time information presentation, looking at the theme 'for a better future'. We explored the ways that the Holocaust is remembered around the world as well as remembering people's stories. We placed lots of emphasis on the importance of sharing untold stories of those who didn't get to share their own.



Alongside this, we celebrated the Chinese New Year, with this year being the year of the snake. Verity created a Chinese New Year information pack which dived into the history behind the celebration and the ways the cultural traditions are recognised around the world.



In Year 7 lessons we also launched a local history poster competition. Students were tasked with researching a local castle such as Chester or Chirk and to sell it in poster form. The creativity we have seen in the posters is wonderful and the level of research is very impressive! Our winner will be announced in the week leading up to half term – this will be really hard to choose as they are fantastic!



Next term we are launching another competition linked to Women's History Month, something we are really excited to celebrate as Hot Scholars.

Year 12 Literacy Workshop with the Royal Literary Fund

On Wednesday, 5th February, Year 12 students had the fantastic opportunity to spend the day off timetable, working with a team of professional writers to enhance their literacy skills. Following the positive feedback from previous visits, we were thrilled to welcome the Royal Literary Fund back into school for another engaging and insightful workshop.

The Royal Literary Fund's Bridge programme helps students develop their writing skills and prepares them for the challenges of academic writing at university, college, or work. Students worked alongside Bridge Fellows—professional writers who have worked with hundreds of schools across the UK. The Fellows provided valuable techniques to help students write clearly and confidently in all contexts.

We were delighted to host a team of distinguished writers, including:

- **James Friel** – An award-winning writer of fiction and dramatist for BBC Radio.
- **Paul Adams** – Author of the Max Cassidy Trilogy and numerous novels for adults.
- **Susan Elliot Wright** – Novelist and writer of health-related non-fiction and magazine features.
- **Lizzie Nunnery** – Acclaimed playwright and singer-songwriter, known for her work on historical and migrant experiences.
- **Chris Simms** – Author of multiple award-winning crime novels and psychological thrillers.
- **Mark Morris** – Writer of over thirty books, including horror stories and works in the Doctor Who range.
- **Zoe Howe** – Author focusing on music, culture, and the occult, with a special emphasis on women in the arts.
- **Marnie Riches** – Author of the George McKenzie crime thriller series.

Students shared their positive feedback after the event, noting improvements in their writing abilities. Some of the key takeaways included:

- Confidence in writing clear, well-structured paragraphs.
- Enhanced skills in analysing and discussing evidence

What our students said:

"I now know how to assess a question or title and so can structure my essays better. Also how to use evidence but also how analyse and discuss it further. I learnt to read the work aloud too."

"I now know how to structure, edit and add insight and evidence to my paragraphs."

"It now feels just easier – especially topic sentences. I just know more now."

"I'm going to stop going off at tangents and really understand what the title is asking."

"I'm going to take time to look at my paragraphs and how they are structured. I think in the end this will actually save time when I write."

We were immensely privileged to work with such talented writers and grateful to the Royal Literary Fund for supporting the event.

We're hoping that students will be able to use what they learnt on the day to improve their writing ability whether that is in academic essays, their EPQ, personal statements, presentations or letters of application in the future.



Art News

Year 8 report by Isabel Hughes and Alice Adam both 8BY1

Year 8 Art is really fun because you get to see art from different perspectives. Not only that, but it also teaches you new skills. We've learned a lot by studying different artists.

What Art Do You Do?

You take part in a variety of fun and exciting art projects. At the start of September, we worked on something called perspective. We explored techniques like one-point and two-point perspective, which you will soon learn about. Here are some pictures of our artwork in perspective.

After studying perspective, we moved on to making sculptures inspired by the artist Michael McMillen and his abandoned-style buildings. We created these using craft knives, cardboard, and a hot glue gun. To make our buildings look more realistic, we added different textures to the roofs. This was a really fun and exciting project that we thoroughly enjoyed.



Year 7 Students Undertake the Creative Colour Wheel Challenge

In an engaging and imaginative exercise, Year 7 students at Christleton High School recently participated in a unique challenge: the creation of Colour Wheels using everyday materials. This project not only encouraged students to apply their understanding of colour theory but also provided an opportunity for them to demonstrate their creativity and innovation in a practical setting

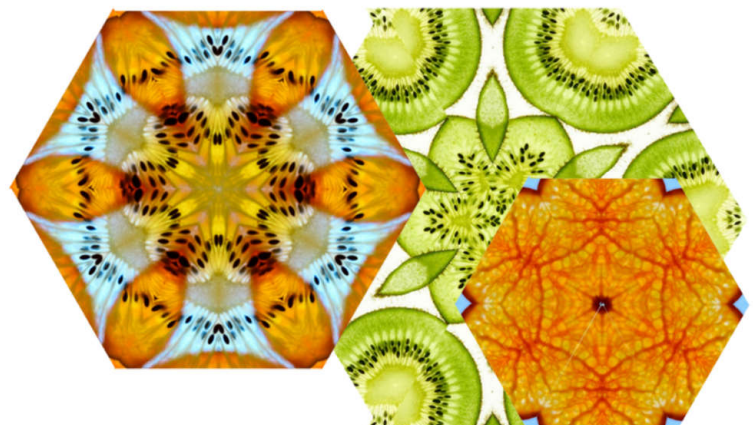
The task required students to construct a colour wheel by selecting objects that represented the primary, secondary, and tertiary colours. The use of everyday items—ranging from buttons, fruits, pens, and various craft materials—demanded considerable creativity, as students were tasked with thinking resourcefully to convey the colour spectrum.



GCSE Fine Art Students Explore Food as Inspiration

GCSE Fine Art students have embarked on an exciting project, using food as a creative foundation to refine their skills in both traditional and non-traditional drawing techniques.

Building on this, they are now creating intricate food kaleidoscopes, inspired by food photographer Christina Peters. Exploring symmetry, repetition, and composition, students are transforming their initial studies into striking designs.



CHSA Update

Hello! Well it's already been a busy year for the CHSA (the school's PTA) as we aim to raise funds to support our children's learning and well being at school. As you will have seen from the Headmaster's update, we have temporarily shifted our aims from fundraising for an outdoor covered seating area to instead supporting the school's aim to upgrade two science labs.

We've been asked to raise £20,000 towards this, which is double our usual annual income, therefore we would really value your (and your business') support where you can. All ideas and offers of support are welcome!

What have we been up to?

The Christmas Raffle

Thanks to all of you who bought tickets, our Christmas Raffle was a big success – raising £2,150 (plus hopefully an additional £1,000 through match funding) which is one of our highest totals in recent years. Thank you once again to The Ring O' Bells, Rowton Hall, Tile Farm Off-road, Glow Beauty, Siam Thai & Teppanyaki, Theatre Porto and Prism Gas & Heating for providing some amazing prizes.

Christmas Concert Refreshments

Just before the Christmas break, the school held a Christmas concert showcasing some of the amazing talent we have at Christleton High. The CHSA sold refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies and together with a raffle we raised over £400. Thank you to everyone who bought a drink, snack or raffle ticket!

If you missed it this year – be sure to come along next year, it really gets you into the Christmas Spirit!

Preloved Uniform Sales

Our Preloved uniform sales have not only saved old uniform from going to waste, they've also raised £350 for the school since September. Look out for our next sale to grab a bargain!



How can you help?

As well as our in school fundraisers, there are a few other ways you can help:

Please sign up to Your School Lottery

Your School Lottery is an easy way for you to make a regular contribution to the CHSA funds while giving yourself a chance of winning prizes. Every week someone from our school wins a prize - currently we only have 48 people playing, so the odds are pretty good! Thank you to our current players, who raised £1,000 by playing last year!

EasyFundraising

Thank you to the people who responded to our request to sign up to EasyFundraising before Christmas, it really is money for nothing. If you can remember to use it while booking holidays and travel (whether work or pleasure) then the potential is huge. If you sign up using the following link, then we automatically get £1:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=238838&invite=44VKR1&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Match Funding

As you have read, we are hoping our Christmas raffle is match funded up to £1000. Can your company offer the same? Please think of us if it's available!

What did we spend our money on last year?

In 2024, following on from the successful ban on using mobile phones in school, we were asked to support the purchase of new Chromebooks and charging trolleys and we were happy to donate £12,000. We also purchased other items like text books for Maths & English and electronics kits for Physics.



The Christleton High School production of

BILLY ELLIOT

© 2014 Billy London Ltd.

THE MUSICAL



Billy Elliot - Meet Billy (x2!) and Mrs Wilkinson!

Nye Egan-Simon 8By1, Billy Eliot (27/03 & 29/03)

I auditioned for Billy Elliot as it's always been a role I have wanted to play, ever since I saw the last production of it at Christleton when I was age just 4! When I found out I got the part, alongside Charlie, I was buzzing! I could not wait to get started and I felt very lucky.

I love all parts of the show, especially the dancing as this will challenge me and I'll be learning something new. I have been working hard on my Geordie accent too!

I'm most excited about the chance to act alongside some of the older cast members who I have been to watch in other shows in the past, both at CHS and On the Mark Youth Theatre, who I really admire and think I'll learn a lot from. It is so good getting to know everyone in the cast. I didn't know a lot of the cast members before this started, so I've made lots of new friends across all years in the school.

So far rehearsals have been going great, seeing how all parts of the play come together is really interesting. I've learnt about how we need to block each scene as we go.

I think you should come and watch Billy Elliot because you will have an amazing time, you will laugh the most that you ever have and you will most definitely love it. Hope to see you in March, get your ticket before they all sell out!



Grace Monaghan 13.5, Mrs Wilkinson

Being in my last year at Christleton, and having taken part in all the previous shows, it felt only natural to audition for Billy Elliot as my final show. Billy Elliot is an incredibly special show to the school, having previously performed it in 2016 and is renowned as one of the best shows CHS have done.

The story details one boy's passion to dance within the context of the 1984 Miners Strike in County Durham. An inspirational story, where Billy's talent transcends above his background. Being cast as Mrs Wilkinson, Billy's ballet teacher, was a great honour. Though my initial excitement slightly subsided upon realising the number of lines she has!

I was delighted to be given the opportunity to play a challenging role; her brash personality and thick Geordie accent are key aspects of her character yet slightly daunting. However, upon the first few rehearsals I began to relax into the role (thanks to the excellent guidance of Mr Phillips of course!) Being a dancer myself, I have been thoroughly enjoying the rehearsals with Billy and all the Ballet Girls. Ballet is such a key part of this show, which I have wholeheartedly loved doing. Billy Elliot is truly a show for all, with its exceptional comedy and gut-wrenching grief, all mixed in with showstopper songs written by Elton John. You wouldn't want to miss it!

Charlie Lewis 7By2, Billy Elliot (26/03, 28/03)

I am really excited to be one of the students chosen to be Billy Elliot. I auditioned for a part because I thought it would be a good opportunity to get involved in school activities and meet new people. I was very shocked when I saw that I was cast as Billy Elliot but overall I was very happy and excited!

The rehearsals are a very good way to have a break from the school day and is a great help with learning lines and scenes. Everyone in the cast has been friendly and supportive, Mr Phillips is an amazing help and has worked hard on the show!

We hope to see you there!

Tickets available from

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/christleton-high-school/>



Christleton
HIGH SCHOOL

The Christleton High School production of

BILLY ELLIOT

© 2014 Billy London Ltd.

THE MUSICAL



26th - 29th March 2025

Book and lyrics by
LEE HALL

Originally directed by
STEPHEN DALDRY

Music by
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Originally choreographed by
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Orchestrations by MARTIN KOCH

Executive Producers (Original London Production) - ANGELA MORRISON & DAVID FURNISH

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Originally presented in London by Universal Pictures Stage Productions, Working Title Films and Old Vid Productions, in association with Tiger Aspect. Based on the Universal Pictures / Studio Canal Film.



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Available from October 2024



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
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🍷 Drama & Theatre Studies Trip to Bolton Octagon – Animal Farm 🍷

On Tuesday, 28th January, our Year 10, 11, 12, and 13 Drama & Theatre Studies students had the fantastic opportunity to watch *Animal Farm* at the Bolton Octagon.

The production brought Orwell's powerful allegory to life with striking performances, dynamic physical theatre, and a thought-provoking take on the classic tale. Our students were captivated by the intense storytelling and creative staging.

Here's what some of our students had to say:

Ava Chalmers 10LA1

"The actors engaged with the audience through direct mode of address, eye contact, and sometimes communicating with audience members. The intense sound effects and harsh lighting really helped to create that tense atmosphere and keep the audience on edge throughout the duration of the performance."

Calum Baillie 13.1

"The use of physicality and animalism effectively portrayed the animals on the farm, subtly conveying their emotions through body language, facial expressions, and mannerisms."



Helena Ball 10LA1

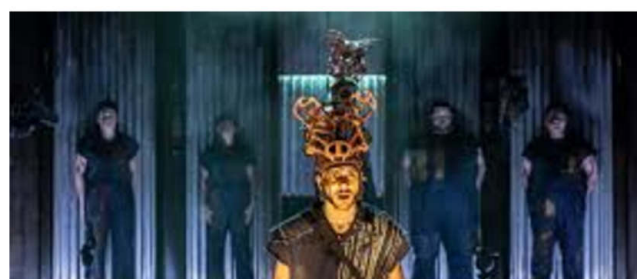
"Whilst the other actors also did a really good job, Natalia Campbell's performance as Old Major and Clover made a huge impact on the show. Watching it live and in person was a captivating experience, and really changed my perspective on the story—it has inspired me to explore the story further by reading the book."

Alice Rose 13.6

"The dramatic lighting changes helped to keep the audience captivated as well as highlight the severity of the control the pigs had over the other animals. The execution scene portrays the workers confessing their crimes and being punished to extreme levels. A loud zap played to signify a death and red LEDs further implied connotations of death."

Amy Roberts 10LA1

"The production used dramatic, almost electrifying lighting to create this fear aspect of the play, which made it so you were on the edge of your seat."



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

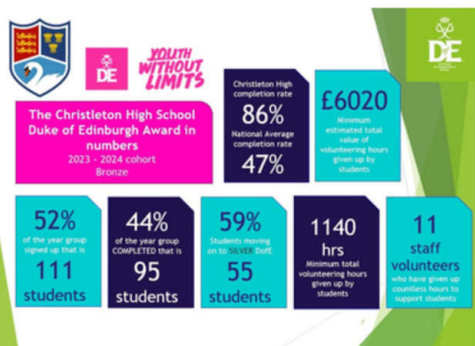
On Thursday 6th February, the school hall was filled with Year 10 students who had completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) last academic year along with supportive parents. 111 students took on the Bronze award and 95 completed the award, a staggering 86% completion rate.

Our inspiring guest speaker was Bernie Hollywood OBE JP a recognised Third World Advisor, plus a very accomplished explorer and adventurer. All his exploits are at www.berniehollywood.com. Bernie's main message to students was 'Grab opportunities when you have them. Opportunities are nowhere.

All students received their Bronze Certificate and pinbadge from Bernie Hollywood. In addition, there were some special sectional awards, drawn from nominations, for their commitment and achievement in their chosen activity.

The winners were Volunteering Section - Luke P, Physical Section – Matthew P, Skills Section – Craig B.

Thanks must go to all the students and parents for their commitment and the volunteer staff without who, the award and expedition section would not be possible.



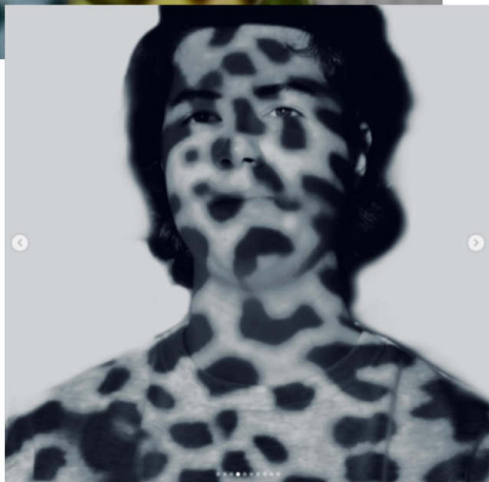
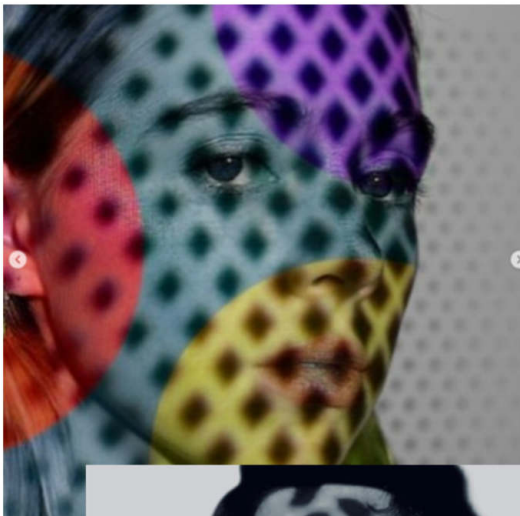
CHS Art on Instagram,

Follow us for more celebration of students' work.

[@christleton_art](#)



Year 13 student Carys absolutely smashing her coursework! Well done!! This piece is entitled "Myfanwy"



January Joy from A-level photographers!! Projection photography referencing artists such as [@tracymartinphotography](#) have produced some beautifully sophisticated images. Well done!!

Stay Up to Date with School Trips! 🚌📱

We want to ensure that parents and students never miss an important trip update! To make staying informed easier than ever, we're using the Myevolve app for all trip communications.

With the app, you can:

- Receive instant notifications about upcoming trips
- Get important reminders and updates straight to your phone
- Quickly and easily access trip details

How to Get Started:



Simply download the Myevolve app from your device's app store and stay in the loop with just one tap! If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Term dates and dates for your diary:

24.02.25	School re-opens
25.02.25	EPQ Presentations
27.02.25	Year 13 Parents' Evening
06.03.25	Year 12 Futures Evening
07.03.25	Year 11 and 13 School Photos
13.03.25	Year 8 Parents' Evening
26.03.25	Billy Elliot Opening Night
01.04.25	Year 12 Parents' Evening
04.04.25	School closes for Easter Break

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 school news, an opinion piece, or creative writing, we'd love to hear from you. To submit your articles, please email them to celebration@christletonhigh.co.uk

We look forward to your contributions!

Wishing all our staff, students and families a happy and restful half-term break.