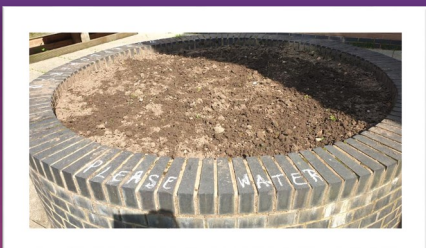
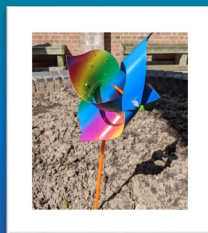
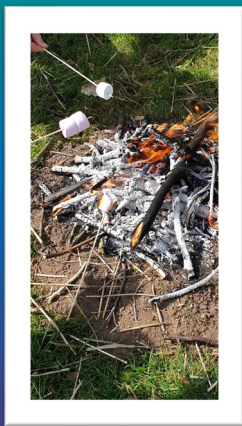
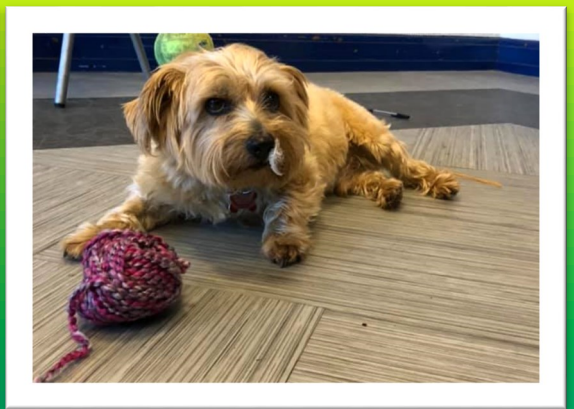
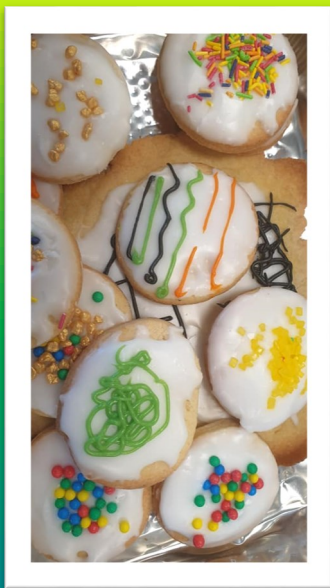
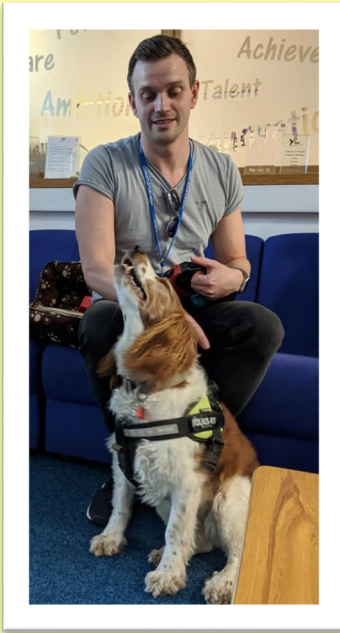




# The Swan

Newsletter of Christleton High School  
May 2020





# In this edition...

Normally we love to bring you The Swan as a glossy magazine, but, due to the COVID 19 lockdown this has not been possible. However, we still believe you would like to see what we have been up to, so as an alternative, we thought we'd produce this online newsletter in house. We also hope to publish another edition before the end of term, which will be in electronic format only. We hope to return to a glossy magazine in the future.

In this issue of The Swan Newsletter we reflect on life before lockdown and Joe Wicks became a staple in our lives. Mr Jones' report, on pages three and four makes for uplifting reading, celebrating the School and its achievements.

You can see what our students were up to from preparing for their futures, to working on others' wellbeing, as well as taking part in a variety of activities from those of a scientific nature to visiting Malaga. All the staff and students at Christleton High School hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and are keeping well and staying safe.

The Swan is the official magazine/newsletter of Christleton High School Village Road, Christleton, Chester, CH3 7AD Tel: 01244 335843 [www.christletonhigh.co.uk](http://www.christletonhigh.co.uk)

Keep in touch with Christleton High School via Website, Facebook and Twitter @ChristletonHS

# Headteacher's Report

*"The start of a new year is always a time for reflection. 2019 was, in many ways a momentous year and one not without its difficulties..... For our country, the political uncertainty led to some rather anxious and soul searching times for all of us. ....I hope 2020 is a good year for you and your families".*

These were the words I wrote in my first blog of the year! If only I knew then what I know now! If 2019 was momentous: think back...Brexit.....political upheaval....a new Government – and for our school, a change in leadership – I wonder how we will eventually describe 2020?

We formally closed school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March and re-opened under Emergency School Provision the following Monday. As a result, the Spring term has been significantly shorter than usual. Even so, students and staff have packed quite a bit into their time and this mini edition of The Swan showcases some of their exploits.

In January, we featured as 'School of the Week' on Dee 106.3. Every weekday at 3.30pm on the Jamie Stevens' show, podcasts were aired which had been prepared by our students. The podcasts focused on life at Christleton High School and featured reports from staff and students.



Whilst the current cohort of Duke of Edinburgh participants have seen their summer expeditions cancelled, (there are plans to hold them in the Autumn term), some 56 of our students received their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award at a ceremony held at The Bishops' Blue Coat High School.

This was by far the largest cohort of silver awards in the area. In addition, three of our students won individual awards: Jake (Expedition Section Award), Izzy (Volunteer Award) and Tom (Physical Section Award). Congratulations to all and a huge thank you to Mrs Humphries and all her volunteers for giving up so much of their free time to lead the expeditions and for all the support work it entails.



The curtailment of the Spring term didn't just see the postponement of the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, but also of all our sporting fixtures, (so disappointing for students as so many of our Year teams had fought their way to semi-finals and finals), school trips, field work trips, work experience, Futures week, Year 7 camp and of course, our school production of Aladdin.

The most disappointing events to be cancelled were the Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' Ball. In fact, saying goodbye to those two Year groups was perhaps the most upsetting part of closing the school.

The way in which both Year groups took the news and the way they behaved on their last day was exemplary. There were many tears shed, and much sadness, especially for Year 13, who really were leaving school for the last time – we hope of course to see many Year 11s enrol in our Sixth Form in September.

It may not be possible to hold the Year 13 Leavers' Ball – many students will hopefully be away at University in the Autumn, but staff and I are determined to mark their leaving in some way – and we will hold a reunion event in due course. We would like to hold the Year 11 Leavers' Ball this autumn and we will announce plans in due course. To our departing students, I say, 'thank you' – for all that you have done for our school and we all wish you every success in the future.



# Headteacher's Report

I have been working with senior staff and the governing board on a new three year Strategic Development Plan, to run from September 2020 to 2023. This will replace the current SDP which has been in place since 2017. The new plan will shortly be made available to view on our website, but I can share with you the key strategic priorities of that plan:

- To provide the highest quality teaching and learning for all our students
- Ensure that students develop the learning habits that allow them to emerge as intellectually curious, resilient and enterprising and independent lifelong learners
- To inspire intellectual excitement and academic excellence in all our students
- To develop young people who possess an intrinsic desire to contribute towards the community life of our school and who develop into compassionate and caring young adults
- To develop a broad and balanced coherent whole-school curriculum that is relevant and appropriate, to give the knowledge and skills required for the twenty-first century
- To ensure the Sixth Form is the destination of choice for our students and achieves ambitious outcomes for all
- To ensure all our staff are the best they can be
- To improve the quality of our communications and engagement with external stakeholders
- To help in delivering our vision and strategic priorities by ensuring robust Quality Assurance Systems and high-quality governance and support.

We believe that it is an ambitious plan that articulates a strong and deliverable vision for a progressive, creative, caring, inclusive and open-minded school. Most importantly, it is underpinned by an uncompromising commitment to ensuring that we continue to provide an outstanding quality of teaching and learning within a holistic educational context that encourages young people to fulfil their extraordinary potential.



We have recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of the school's opening – the vision and ethos of our founding Headmaster, Mr Les George, still influences who we are and how we do things. However, it is also the case that we need to take substantive steps to future-proof the school and ensure that it is well-placed to both shape lives and inspire excellence for generations to come. Change inevitably constitutes a challenge, yet Christleton is well-placed to embrace a creative and forward-thinking dynamic, in order to ensure that we offer a truly outstanding quality of education.

Life continues to be different, none of us know what the new normal will be, but our school will continue to serve the interests of our community as best we can. We don't always get it right, no one does, we don't always make decisions with which everyone agrees, but it doesn't make them bad decisions or wrong decisions.

What we will always do is listen to your concerns; we may not always be able to solve them or meet your personal desired outcome because we operate in the interests of all 1370 students and 125 staff and it's not always possible to reconcile the diverse interests of everyone, but I hope the new Strategic Plan, gives confidence to everyone, of our direction and ambition for your children and our staff.

I hope you enjoy this mini-version of The Swan, and are as amazed as I am at the exploits of our students that it showcases. Christleton High School is a remarkably vibrant community school; together there is nothing we cannot achieve and whilst I look forward to more 'normal' times and the eventual full re-opening of school, in the meantime we will continue to do all we can in the circumstances, to support all our students in any way we can, to ensure their continued development and happiness.

Best wishes

DP Jones  
Headteacher





I was given the opportunity to participate in the school's Anti-Bullying training. I quickly applied as I wanted to use my negative personal experience to improve others and to assure they do not go through anything similar. The day was amazing and eye opening.

As a group we learned about different ways to tackle and deal with situations and we met many others who had experience with bullying in the past. It massively improved my teamwork skills and overall confidence.

All activities were informational whilst still enjoyable! Moving forward, as part of Anti-Bullying week we have recently carried out a series of assemblies to raise awareness. We are also planning future events such as: Compliment Day and Odd Socks Day.

My personal experience with bullying was due to a move in primary schools in the second and third year when groups were already established. Talk to someone or it will just proceed to get worse.

Brodie, Year 9



## Anti-bullying Ambassadors Training

On 7<sup>th</sup> November, another cohort of Christleton students undertook the Diana Award Anti-bullying ambassador training. For the second year, Christleton hosted a number of schools from across the country for this exciting event. Our students represented a range of year groups from Year 7-12. They have described their experiences below.

Interesting, insightful and fun are three ways to describe my experience at the anti-bullying ambassadors training day. Over the course of the day we met and interacted with our peers from many other schools who were all trying to achieve the same goal as us in becoming an anti-bullying ambassador.

We took part in many activities over the course of the day which all gave us a better understanding into the definition of anti-bullying and how we, the anti-bullying ambassadors could deal with it. Yet my favourite element of the entire day was the trainers who led the activities, not only did they feel very deeply about the issue of anti-bullying but they were also very funny and had big personalities.

David, Year 9



# Pathway to Learning for Work



## Year 9 Students Enjoy a Taste of Reaseheath College



As part of the Year 10 Learning for Work option some of our Year 9 students have enjoyed a Taster Visit to Reaseheath College in January followed by a second Induction Visit in June to experience one of the following vocational courses: -

- Agriculture
- Animal Care
- Construction
- Equine
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance

The Learning for Work option in Year 10 and 11 will give these students either a full day placement at Reaseheath College or a work placement with a local employer every Wednesday.

This gives students the opportunity to experience the world of work by learning the skills of particular skilled trades and occupations which are always in demand, such as construction, hairdressing or motor vehicle maintenance, or to really get involved in a practical area of interest such as agriculture, animal care or equine management.

Here's what they thought of the experience: -

## Animal Care

*Reaseheath is in Nantwich. When we went to Reaseheath we saw the animals and construction and equine and engineering. The lady from Reaseheath showed us around the college. At the animal centre we saw parrots, rabbits, meerkats, rats and dogs. When I head to Reaseheath I want to do the animal care because I have a great bond with my dog Milo and I used to have other animals in my past, so I am doing animal care.*

**Finley**

*I would love to go to Reaseheath College because I would like to work with the animals. They have all the types of animals (reptiles) I would love to work with and look after them. The staff there are also really kind, helpful and tell you all the information you need to know about the animals. I can't wait to be able to go there.*

**Rhiana**



# Motor Vehicle Engineering



**Motor Vehicle Engineering**  
*I liked Reaseheath because I want to learn about cars. I thought that they would bring in spare engine parts but we practice on actual cars. In the mechanics department there are cars all in the classroom. The students were working on them and having fun.*  
Sam



*I really liked Reaseheath College it has all I want in a college. It has lots of cars and I really want to learn about how they work. I'm looking forward to reassembling the cars. I can't wait to get there.*  
Aaron



We wish our new group of Learning to Work students every success when they begin their weekly placement in September.



Mr A J Francis: Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 3)

## Blood Brothers by Sam, Isaac and Alex

On 6<sup>th</sup> November, the majority of Year 11 went to the Crewe Lyceum theatre to watch a performance of Willy Russel's Blood Brothers. (A play we have been studying for GCSEs.)

Blood Brothers was a popular musical, set in Liverpool in the 1980s around the time of Thatcher England. The production explicitly conveyed the struggles of two Liverpudlian boys in a contemporary nature vs nurture plot.

One boy raised in a wealthy home, benefitting from all the privileges of the upper class lifestyle.

The other brought up by a poor, single mother pressured by her many children to provide them with the life necessities.

The story follows both of them as you watch as despite their biological similarities they lead completely different lives.



Superstition plays a strong part in the play which changes decisions and causes some serious outcomes.

We conducted an interview with multiple students after the play:



“Before this viewing, I struggled to picture few elements of the play but now, I can.”

“The actors portrayed the characters and their personal conflicts incredibly well.”

“Incredible display of acting ability, combined with the iconic score. A wonderful experience.”



Overall the play was very well presented, utilising a confined stage space. It gave a visual reference to help us understand our play further to improve our English GCSEs.





On Tuesday 26 November, Christleton High School had representatives from all the parties running in the City of Chester constituency for 12<sup>th</sup> December General Election. The representatives were put through their paces from the audience made up of Christleton Sixth Form students.

Questions were well thought out and included key issues including climate change, tuition fees, the NHS and Brexit. It was incredible to see how politically engaged some of our young people are and how they are taking responsibility for societies future.



A special thank you to Isaac who chaired the debate with maturity and, when needed, discipline to ensure a free flowing question and answer session and Mr Ralphson, who organised the sound system.

A huge thank you must also go to the representatives themselves; Andy Argyle (Brexit Party), Paul Bowers (Green), Samantha George (Conservatives), Chris Matheson (Labour), and Robert Thompson (Liberal Democrat).

Without them giving up their valuable time the event would not have been possible. After the event the students were all politically charged, debating key issues and who they would vote for. When asked about the hustings, one student said she 'had changed who she was voting for' and another mentioned how it was 'very valuable getting a feel for all the candidates'.

It was clearly a great educational experience and gave our students something to think about before going to the polls for the first time.

# Oxford Masterclass



This was an exciting opportunity for some highly able and ambitious students in years 10-12 to go to a special event with poly-mathic academics from Oxford and Cambridge, who gave a series of lectures. Themes include epistemology, science, happiness, knowledge and astrophysics. There was also a critical examination of Plato's Symposium. The day was full of high level thinking and really gave the students a taste of what academic life is like at a highly regarded university.

As usual our students were exceptional ambassadors to the school and performed well at the end of the day during the inter-school debate.

A special mention needs to be made of Alice, who volunteered to make the first contribution to the debate in front of all the attendees.

Although there were a lot of aching brains by the end of the day students developed a clearer understanding of how different subject specialisms link together and hopefully were inspired to one day apply to a world renowned university.

J.Rose



UNIVERSITY OF  
**OXFORD**

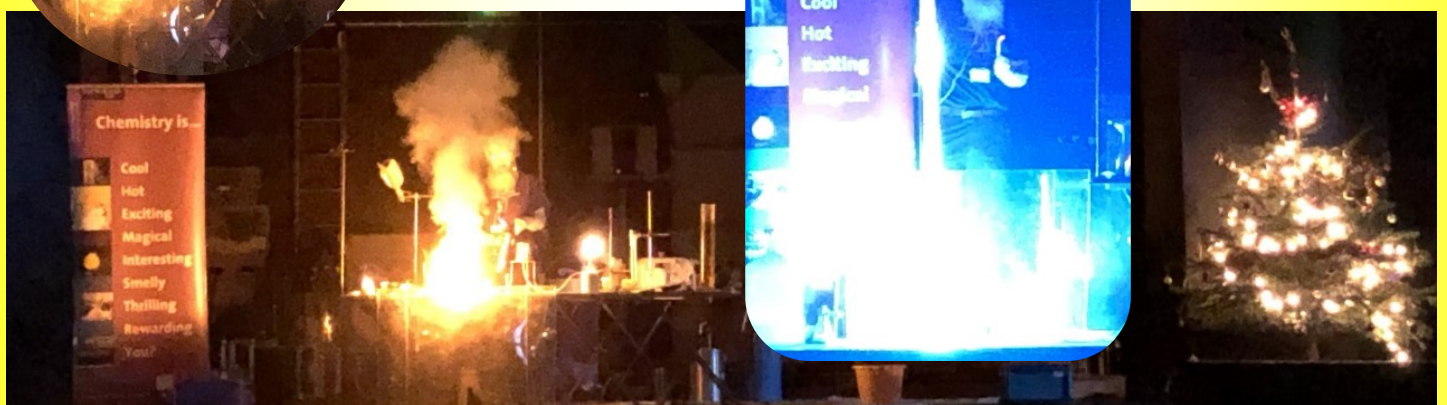
# Flash Bang Science Show



On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Dr Frank Mair from the University of Manchester came into school and delivered a mesmerising display of “flashes and bangs” showing the really exploding part of Chemistry.

Year 10 students were blasted with loud, colourful explosions and chemical reactions. Blowing up caution and setting students’ excitement aflame, these fast-paced demonstrations were paired with an insightful commentary that took all the science of solids, liquids and gases and combustion and made it pop.

Exploring everything from rapid colour changes to clock reactions, gun cotton, sticky tape bombs, indoor fireworks, hydrogen rockets, water fires and phosphorous globes, he was able to demonstrate experiments using chemicals and equipment that we don’t have in schools so gave students a really unique insight in to what Chemistry can do.



# International Year of the Periodic Table



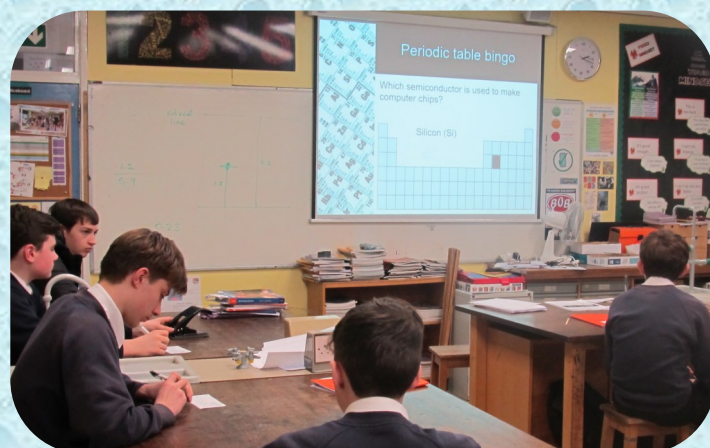
1869 is considered as the year of discovery of the Periodic System, and Dmitri Mendeleev was a major originator.

2019 was the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements and was therefore proclaimed the “International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT 2019)” by the United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO.

Christleton High School celebrated IYPT 2019 on the week of 23<sup>rd</sup> November where we did a range of activities in Year 9 lessons. This linked to the start of the Periodic Table topic they will learn in Chemistry.

Students guessed the elements in common foods as well as playing Periodic Table Bingo and created wonderful posters on all of the common and obscure elements in the Periodic table.

We also challenged students to come up with the longest word from using the element symbols in the Periodic table and the winning word was, HeLiCOPTer (Helium, Lithium, Carbon, Oxygen, Platinum, Erbium) from 7K2.



# Spectroscopy in a Suitcase



On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Royal Society of Chemistry sponsored Gwyndyr University to come into school to deliver a 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' workshop to all A-Level Chemistry students.

Each workshop included techniques which are key to the Chemistry specification. Our students

were given a unique opportunity to learn about spectroscopy via a hands on experience with equipment we don't have access to in schools.



Students got an opportunity to look at and use over £250,000 worth of equipment including an IR

spectrometer and  $H^1$ -NMR spectrometer which helped to captivate students in modern analytical science and put their communication and problem solving skills to the test.



**And yes, the spectrometers really did come in suitcases!**

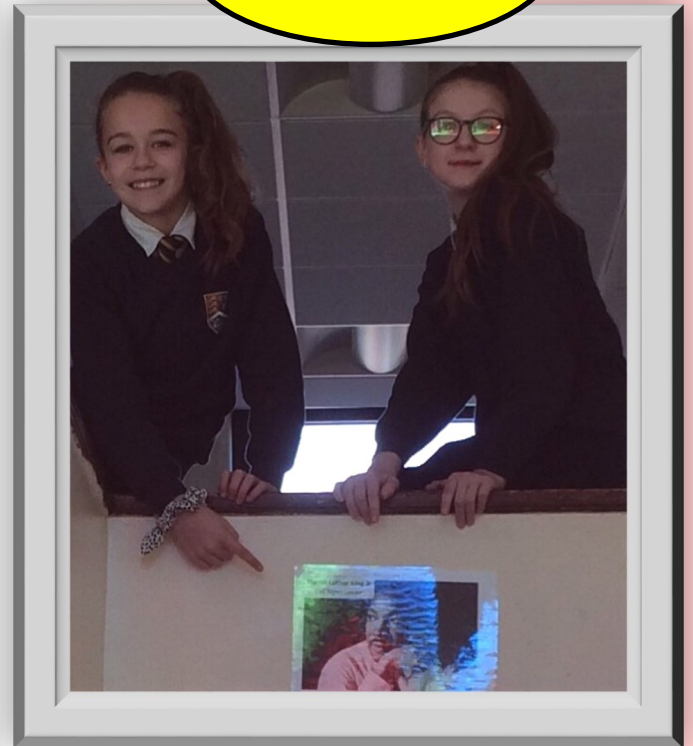
# Religious Studies Careers

As part of Religious Studies we looked at famous people who studied Religion, Ethics and Philosophy at university . Look who we found....



Two Politicians

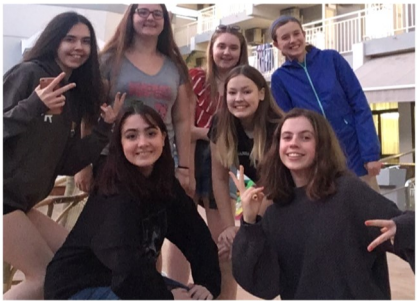
Martin Luther King Jr



And even Ricky Gervais



# Malaga Trip



We began our trip to Málaga at 4 o'clock in the morning at Manchester airport. Then eight Year 10s, 3 Year 11s, Mrs O'Malley and Mr Vilches hopped on a plane to Málaga airport and drove to Benalmadena (town at Málaga's outskirts).

After an hour of admiring Benalmadena and its many palm trees we checked into our hotel and immediately jumped into the ice cold pool.

Later on we properly explored Benalmádena and enjoyed a tasty lunch at a local tapas bar. In the early evening we enjoyed free time at the beach and finished off the day with Spanish bingo and dancing.

After a stressful awakening (disregarding our alarms) we stuffed our breakfast buffet down and headed out on a coach to a school in Fuengirola, I.E.S Santiago Ramón y Cajal.

Upon arrival at the school we shared presentations of information about Chester and Christleton and learnt about Fuengirola and their school.

We then had a break, exchanged socials and made new friends before attending a creative take on a maths lesson and a brilliant P.E lesson out in the sunshine.



After a prolonged farewell we walked to a large shopping centre (Miramar), where we spent a few hours shopping, eating and meeting with our newly made friends.



# Viaje a Málaga

Day 3: We took a train out to Málaga city centre, met our tour guide and began our walk “through the past”. Exploring the beautiful hidden landmarks and winding streets of the city.

Next we hiked up a mountain to a city view balcony to capture some amazing views. We then hiked back down to the centre of the City where we went shopping and ate for 3-4 hours.

Afterwards, we finished our day out with hot churros,

chocolate sauce and a walk down Málaga’s pier.

On the last final day we played a relaxing game of mini-golf and ate a delicious authentic Spanish lunch of Paella and fresh seafood.

After a slightly stressful flight (due to storm Dennis) back to the UK we arrived back at school in the early morning.

Our trip to Málaga was unforgettable and we would fully recommend it to anyone who has the chance to go!!!

