



**Chesterfield
High School**
for everyone the best

#chesterfield365news

Easter 2025

Dear **Parents** and **Carers**

As the spring term comes to a close, it allows us the opportunity to reflect on the last few months, and to share with you lots of exciting news and events that have taken place.

As I write, I am looking out of the office window; what a contrast in weather we are having these last few weeks. I hope we can continue to enjoy some great weather over the spring break, and you have time to enjoy some time in the outdoors; it certainly makes a difference seeing and hearing the signs of spring and enjoying longer and warmer days.

We have now had our update on school admissions and it is great to see we have an increase in applications for next year. We will welcome 310 new Year 7 pupils to CHS in September. We have sent all our new students a school tie to show how excited we are that they are joining our school community. Over the next few weeks we will be visiting a number of schools with current Year 7s to share what it's like to be a pupil at Chesterfield. Applications for the 6th form have also increased as many of our year 11 students, and those in the wider community, recognise the personal, academic and social benefits of joining our 6th form.

We will continue with two full days induction in June for the new year 7, which will give our staff and new pupils more time to find out about each other and have a more informed experience of what high school is like. We will also be holding more enhanced sessions for some students with their parents/carers to ensure we provide the best support we can as they move to their new school. In June and July, we will also be inviting Year 5 pupils from across the Crosby area to our 'Secondary School Experience' days. This will involve a range of subjects providing activities that will showcase to pupils what it is like to attend secondary school.

During the spring break work continues with Years 11 and 13 students as they prepare for their public examinations, as well as Year 10 who will sit mock examinations when we return. This term, Mr Coogan along with the year 11 team, has been organising after-school and Saturday intervention sessions. This continues during the break and there is a programme of daily intervention demonstrating the commitment of our students and staff in achieving their very best this summer. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents/carers and students to the Year 11 revision evening hosted by Mr Loughlin and the wider 6th form team who also spoke about Post-16 options. For those of you who were unable to attend the session, we have uploaded a PowerPoint Presentation and booklet with a range of these strategies which we hope you will find useful for supporting your child.

Over the last term we have seen a range of Performing Arts events which have involved pupils across every year group. We had a very successful dance show and diversity concert at Liverpool University, which included a range of dances performed and choreographed by pupils and their peers. Our dance team are busy practising for the Official World Record breaking attempt in May 2025 at Boundary Park in Oldham, which will see 2,500 children and young people attempt to dance and sing their way into the record books, to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association in memory of Rob Burrows.

Last week saw the sell-out production of 'The Lion King Jnr' with 6 performances during the week. Our Trust schools attended matinee performances, and families were able to enjoy the evening performances. The students and staff team worked so hard to make this show another fantastic success.

I hope you and your family have a happy Easter break!



Mr P Lindley,
Headteacher

Inside this issue:

Safeguarding Guides, A Trip to Blencathra, Help with Beating Exam Stress, Sports Round-Up, Our Big Drama Production and much more...

Safeguarding at Chesterfield High School

The school takes the safeguarding of our students very seriously and are always reviewing how we support all members of school community. Often, we are dealing with issues surrounding social media in particular 'Snapchat'. We believe that knowledge is power, and knowing how to support your child, to be proactive in preventing issues and what to do when things go wrong.

Like all forms of technology, young people are more proficient than we are! There are many benefits to Snapchat and other forms of digital communication but when it is misused it can cause distress for young people.



What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages to others that are only seen for a set time e.g 10 secs and users can upload snaps to stories which disappear after 24hours.

Key Concerns using Snapchat

There are potential risks to using Snapchat including:

- The risk to your child's viewing content that isn't age appropriate
- Location sharing (via Snap map) this can be switched off
- Cyberbullying
- Contact from strangers
- Excessive screen time

Family Centre Features

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing to;

- See who your child is friends with
- See who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week
- View a list of group members that your child has been active in
- Restrict content to limit access
- Report any accounts you are concerned about

You can learn more about Family Centre at <https://parents.snapchat.com>

Safety Tips

Please ensure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat including who can see their location and also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.

help.snapchat.com

More detailed advice is available:

www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/theriskssnapchat-poses-tochildren

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/socialmedia/snapchat



Blencathra Year 12 trip

Our Year 12 geographers recently embarked on a residential trip to Blencathra Field Studies Centre in the Lake District. The region's varied landscapes, from U-shaped valleys to meandering rivers, provided real-world examples of key geographical processes.

The trip was an incredible opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the stunning landscapes of the Lake District while deepening their understanding of geography. Located near Keswick, Blencathra FSC offered hands-on learning experiences in one of the UK's most beautiful and ecologically diverse regions.

Our geographers conducted in-depth fieldwork, investigating infiltration rates by measuring how quickly water was absorbed into different soil types. Using a variety of equipment, students recorded data on variables such as soil composition, vegetation cover, and slope angle. This hands-on study helped them understand hydrological processes, water movement, and the impact of land use on infiltration.



We also spent a day in the beautiful town of Keswick, investigating aspects of human geography. Students conducted surveys with members of the public, carried out land use mapping, and used various methods—such as decibel meter readings—to assess environmental quality.

Beyond academics, the trip encouraged teamwork and resilience. The rugged terrain and unpredictable weather tested students' adaptability, while group activities strengthened friendships. Guided by expert instructors, students gained valuable fieldwork skills, including data collection, analysis, and evaluation, which were essential for coursework and future studies.

Evenings at the centre often involved workshops, data analysis, or relaxing in the common areas—playing card games or even participating in a table tennis tournament! The experience not only enhanced subject knowledge but also fostered a deeper appreciation for nature, making it a memorable and enriching part of Year 12.



Help your child beat exam stress

Tests and exams can be a challenging part of school life for children and young people and their parents or carers. But there are ways to ease the stress.

Watch for signs of stress

Children and young people who are stressed may worry a lot, feel tense, have headaches and stomach pains, not sleep well, be irritable, lose interest in food or eat more than normal, not enjoy activities they previously enjoyed, be negative and have a low mood, feel hopeless about the future. Having someone to talk to about their work can help. Support from a parent/carer can help young people share their worries and keep things in perspective.

Encourage your child to talk to a member of school staff who they feel is supportive. If you think your child is not coping, it may also be helpful for you to talk to their Progress Leader. Try to involve your child as much as possible.



Make sure your child eats well

A balanced diet is vital for your child's health, and can help them feel well during exam periods.



Help your child get enough sleep

Good sleep improves thinking and concentration. Most teenagers need 8 to 10 hours' sleep a night. Allow half an hour or so for your child to wind down between activities, such as studying and going to bed, to help them get a good night's sleep. Cramming all night before an exam is usually a bad idea. Sleep will benefit your child far more than a few hours of panicky last-minute study.

Help them study

Make sure your child has somewhere comfortable to study. Ask them how you can support them with their revision. Help them come up with practical ideas that will help them revise, such as drawing up a revision schedule, doing quick quizzing, or getting hold of past papers for practice.



Be flexible during exams

Be flexible around exam time. When your child is revising all day, do not worry about household jobs left undone or untidy bedrooms. Staying calm can help. Remember, exams do not last forever.

Talk about exam nerves

Remind your child that it's normal to feel anxious. Nervousness is a natural reaction to exams. The key is to put these nerves to positive use. If anxiety is getting in the way rather than helping, encourage your child to practise the activities they'll be doing on the day of the exam. This will help it feel less scary. For example, this may involve doing practice papers under exam conditions. PPE weeks held so far and school staff will help with this.



Encourage exercise during exams

Exercise can help boost energy levels, clear the mind and relieve stress. It does not matter what it is – walking, cycling, swimming, football and dancing are all effective.

Do not add to the pressure

Support group Childline says many children who contact them feel that most pressure at exam time comes from their family. Listen to your child, give them support and avoid criticism.

Before they go in for a test or exam, be reassuring and positive. Let them know that failing is not the end of the world.

After each exam, encourage your child to talk it through with you. Discuss the parts that went well rather than focusing on the questions they found difficult. Then move on and focus on the next test, rather than dwelling on things that cannot be changed.



Make time for treats

With your child, think about rewards for doing revision and getting through each exam. Rewards do not need to be big or expensive. They can include simple things like making their favourite meal or watching TV.

When the exams are over, help your child celebrate by organising an end-of-exams treat.

When to get help

Some young people feel much better when exams are over, but that's not the case for all young people. Get help if your child's anxiety or low mood is severe, persists and interferes with their everyday life. Speaking to school or your GP is a good place to start.



6th Form News



European Youth Parliament Success for our Sixth Form students

7 of our Sixth form students attended the European Youth Parliament Regional Forum on Monday, where they spent the day debating with six other schools and colleges in the North West about issues currently facing the EU. Michael Neville, Lilia Atherton, Mia Wilkinson, Kah Mei Lim, Sarah Magnolia, Harriet Brough and Madison Tierney worked extremely hard in the weeks running up to this to prepare for each debate by undertaking a lot of independent research and writing speeches.

Their hard work paid off as they have made it through the national forum where they will compete against students from across the country with the opportunity to go on to the international forum!

A well-deserved win for our students, who were confident, eloquent and very well informed on all of the issues discussed. A member of the jury personally said how well they did and how they should be so proud of themselves!

Also, a massive well done to Nicolly Dos Santos who attended all of the after school sessions and submitted her research but was unable to make it on the day, and a huge thanks to Harry Humphrey in Year 13 who attended the forum last year and lent his expertise to the students during after school sessions.

Safeguarding Update

Reflections on Netflix's *Adolescence* – Misogyny & Knife Crime

In light of the recent Netflix series "Adolescence" we have provided some helpful tips for parents to understand the real meaning of emojis'. To support your parental endeavours we have found these explanations that may be informative. The digital world is evolving faster than most adults can keep up. But we don't have to be in the dark.

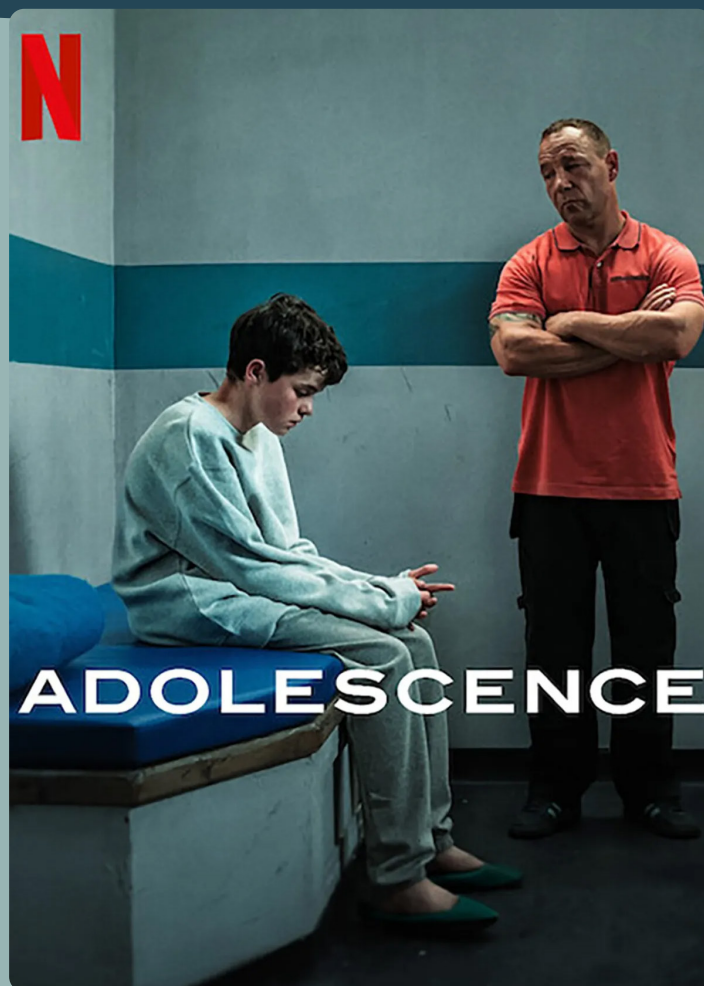
It was not an easy watch, but it highlights issues that are increasingly relevant to the young people particularly around misogyny, peer pressure, and knife crime. It's the kind of show that makes you stop in whatever role you're in either within a school, or just a parent and think about what some of our young people might be facing, especially when those issues aren't necessarily visible in school or at home.

The programme shows how quickly situations can spiral for teenagers who are searching for belonging or identity often in places or people that are unsafe. It's a reminder for us to keep an eye on early signs that something's not quite right such as changes in mood, withdrawing from peers, new friendships, or a growing interest in control, status or violence.

It is useful to reflect on how we're identifying these early signs particularly in those who may be more vulnerable. We know that behaviours like sexist comments, controlling relationships, or fascination with violent content are sometimes brushed off as typical teenage behaviour. But as the show highlights, these can often be early indicators of more serious issues such as toxic group dynamics, emotional abuse, or criminal exploitation.

Misogyny, in particular, is something we need to keep challenging. It can be easy to let certain language or attitudes slide as "just banter," but it sends the wrong message. Whether it is online, in relationships, or in how young people talk to one another, we need to create a culture where that kind of behaviour isn't accepted and where staff and parents feel confident addressing it when they hear it.

The same goes for knife crime. Most students won't come forward and say they're scared or involved, but we often see it through changes in their behaviour, nervousness, reluctance to walk home, or sudden emotional outbursts. Strong relationships with trusted adults make a huge difference. If a young person feels safe enough to talk, we're more likely to intervene before something goes wrong.



As educators, schools have a key role in challenging harmful situations before they take hold. That means being proactive with our families too by keeping communication open, offering early support, family help and working closely with the police or youth services when needed.

Adolescence brings to light the hidden risks that some of our young people are working with, and while it was very hard to watch at times, it's also a strong reminder of how important our role is.

We are all responsible for safeguarding. Supporting young people through these challenges isn't always easy but the work we do every day makes a big difference. Let's continue to support each other and keep doing everything we can to help our young people feel safe, seen, and supported both in school and at home.

So what should parents/carers do?

1.

Get Curious, Not Combative - Ask open-ended questions: "I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard this?" Keep the conversation light.

2.

Create a Judgment-Free Zone - If your child feels like they'll be punished for opening up, they won't. Make it clear you're there to listen, not just to lecture.

3.

Decode Together - Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don't assume - ask.

4.

Teach Critical Thinking - Help them question online content. "Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?" Arm them with questions, not just rules.

5.

Monitor Without Spying - Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.

6.

Be Real About Manipulation - Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have 'insider knowledge'.

7.

Build Their Offline Confidence - The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they'll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

James Takes Centre Stage Hosting Major Liverpool Music Initiative Launch

James Metcalfe in Y11 has played a pivotal role in launching an initiative set to transform music education across the Liverpool City Region, serving as both host and performer at the prestigious launch of the Sound! Music Hub.

The sixteen-year-old commanded the stage at Liverpool's British Music Experience, skillfully guiding the evening's proceedings and introducing a series of performances including a special video message from Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram.



As a member of the Sound! Music Hub's Youth Board, James is helping to shape an initiative that will serve over 550 schools and reach more than 210,000 pupils across Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, and Warrington. His duties as host showcased the hub's commitment to putting young people at the forefront of this groundbreaking project.

"I think every young person should get involved in something like this," James shared during the event. "It's great to see so many young people collaborate on something they find important to them, and it can make everybody feel represented and heard. Working with other like-minded young people across the region has helped me to make new friends and connections, and it's great to see so many young people sharing the same passion for music that I have."

The hub, which is one of 43 across the UK, aims to provide high-quality music education and create pathways into music careers for young people. It offers diverse opportunities ranging from traditional music lessons to modern initiatives like DJing and digital music production.

James's dual role as both host and performer at the launch event, which featured performances from a choir of primary school students and other talented young musicians from across the city region, demonstrated the kind of leadership and talent that the Sound! Music Hub aims to nurture.

The initiative builds on Liverpool City Region's rich musical heritage, from The Beatles to contemporary artists, and aims to set new standards for music education in the 21st century. Through his role on the Youth Board and his contribution to the launch event, James is helping to shape these opportunities for future generations of musicians and music industry professionals.

In recognition of his role in this landmark initiative, James was also invited to share his insights in an interview with BBC Radio Merseyside, discussing the importance of music education and the opportunities the Sound! Music Hub will bring to young people across the region. For more information about the Sound! Music Hub and its programs, visit the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority website.



News Round-Up

Dance Team attempt Official World Record



On Friday 14th March, 51 students spend the day learning the choreography for their upcoming official world record attempt. The event will involve 2,500 dancers and 500 singers performing alongside a major pop star, with the goal of becoming the largest mass participation sports presentation since the 2012 London Olympics. The purpose of the event is to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association in memory of Rob Burrows.

We wish them well with their ongoing rehearsal ready for the big event on 10th May 2025 at Boundary Park in Oldham.



Careers Event – Experience of the Workplace

The Chesterfield High School Careers Champions participated in a experience of the workplace event at Liverpool Hope University in partnership with Liverpool City Region Careers and All about Stem.

The students were led through 5 different snapshot sessions which demonstrated skills and experiences that are expected when working within organisations. Workshops by the Knowledge Quarter, Sciortec, Knowsley Safari Park and the Chartered Institute of Export and International Trade provided lots of different interactive activities for the students to engage in.



Walk in White for the Roy Castle Foundation

In February our Year 7 students helped to fundraise for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

“Walk in White”. As a year group they raised funds for the foundation through various fundraising activities across school, which included over 150 students taking part in the walk to raise money and awareness for this fantastic foundation that supports people and families affected by cancer.

We are very proud of all the students who got involved and helped to raise a massive £2,700 for the charity! Along with another 8 local schools, the total raised was in excess of £16,000.



Cyber Challenge Event

On Wednesday 5th March, our students took part in a Cyber Challenge hosted by Merseyside Police at Aintree Racecourse.

Our students took on a series of tough cybersecurity challenges, demonstrating their skills in teamwork, logical problem solving and coding. Throughout the event, they had a valuable opportunity to meet with professional from various businesses in the computer science industry. While the team didn't win, they received glowing feedback from staff who praised their strong communication skills and ability to tackle challenges effectively. They were great ambassadors for the school and we are very proud of the efforts from the team!

The team included; Jacob, Zac, Lewis, James, Harris, Benjamin, Jack & Ryan. The boys maintained high spirits throughout the competition and are already looking forward to next year, eager to continue building on their experience and skills.

Sports Pages



Boys Football

Year 7

The Year 7 football team embarked on an exciting and challenging journey this season, as they played their first year together as a team. For many of the players, this was not only an opportunity to showcase their talents but also a chance to forge new friendships and learn valuable life lessons both on and off the field.

As the season unfolded, the team began to develop a winning mentality, all while embracing the true spirit of sportsmanship. The beginning of the season was a fresh start for each player, many of whom had never played alongside each other before. While they brought their individual skills to the pitch, they quickly learned that teamwork and trust were the foundations of success.

Over time, bonds have formed as they spend countless hours training, supporting each other during matches, and celebrating every goal and victory together.

As the season has progressed, the team has gradually started to develop a strong sense of belief in themselves. At first, there were inevitable hurdles: tough matches, moments of frustration, and learning the ropes of competitive football. However, with each challenge came a valuable lesson. They quickly learned how to handle defeat with resilience and how to embrace victory with humility.

Year 8

Year 8 have had an exciting and busy term of football beginning with the A team getting past a strong Cardinal Heenan team on penalties, with Isaac Jones the hero making multiple saves to guide the team through to the quarter finals of the Merseyside Cup. The A team also have a Sefton Cup Semi Final to look forward to facing Range just after Easter; the group will be looking to put themselves in back to back Sefton Cup Finals. The B team have made significant progress this term, with a convincing win over Sandbach at the start of the term setting up a Quarter Final match against St Joseph's High School away in South Tyneside.

Chesterfield were the much stronger team but failed to take their chances. The game went to extra time were St Josephs scored in the last minute. Not giving up, however, Chesterfield launched one last attack, with the ball lofted in from a corner. Lewis Conway was first to the ball, looping it in to the top corner with the last kick of the game and sending the game to a penalty shootout. Unfortunately, the boys couldn't repeat the A team's heroics on penalties and were knocked out. The whole team had a great trip, a great experience that they will learn from and will help them going forwards.

Lastly, the Year 8 inter-form football competition came to a conclusion with 8H the eventual winners after a 1-0 win over 8C in the final. The tournament was another massive success, engaging around 100 students every fortnight in sport.



Year 10

Year 10 have had a fantastic season so far and have put together some of our best runs in both the Sefton, Merseyside and National Cup. In the national we had superb wins against St Marys, North Liverpool Academy and Childwall on the way to playing Helsby in the 5th round. We were unable to secure the victory after a poor 1st half left us with too much to do. In the Merseyside Cup the U15s are into the quarter finals with a match against Maricourt. In the Sefton Cup, after winning comfortably in their other games, year 10 were beaten by penalties against a Maghull high school in a terrific match however played in terrible conditions.

We are hoping that with the improvements made this year and the quality of the football the boys are playing some silverware isn't too far away!

Sports Pages



Girls Football

It has been a busy year for Girls football as the sport and opportunities to play continues to grow. We have had some fantastic opportunities provided by ESFA, Merseyside County Schools FA and School Sports Partnership throughout the year which have allowed all the teams to play in tournaments and cup competitions across the North West.

Some successes this year have been the U13 and U14 teams getting to the Quarterfinals of English Schools, just falling short of progressing through. However, the U13 girls team are still with a chance of winning some silverware as they await to play in the Merseyside Semi Final in the Summer term. We are hoping to become back-to-back winners in this competition and age group.



Netball Roundup

Another netball season has come to an end and what a fantastic season it has been. All season being able to field teams in year 7 (2 teams) all the way through to 6th form, with squads of 10 in each year group. Leaders in KS 4 and 5 have also been coming to help and lead sessions, umpiring and tournaments - the girls could not have given more this season.

There has been several successes this term which include:

In the Sefton league, the year 7s and 8s both winning the league, not losing a game all season which is an unavailable achievement. Year 9s also won the Sefton league, only losing 1 match all season and that was only by 1 goal and the year 10s finished 2nd.

This term we have competed in both the Liverpool Schools tournament and the Sefton Schools tournament. The U18s made it a double of tournament wins by winning the Liverpool Schools tournament at Merchant Taylor's to go with their Sefton School's success back in October.



The year 11s, 10s and 9s all finished 2nd with the year 11s losing in the most cruel circumstances losing 1 match to the eventual winners, Rainford, by 1 goal. These successes against really tough schools across Liverpool is an phenomenal achievement.

In the Sefton tournaments at Wavertree Sports Park, the standard across Sefton is continuing to improve year on year, and again we were one of a few schools entering the tournament with a team in every year group. The girls were an absolute credit to the school and the netball being playing was exceptional. Both the year 9 and 10 were cruelly beaten to 1st place both only losing 1 match by 1 goal. Year 7 and 8 again played incredible netball all day. Year 7s again only losing 1 match to Merchant Taylor's (which was their 1 loss all season) meaning they came 2nd overall. The year 8s, however, they won every match they played and won the tournament. We are so proud of all the girls' hard work and dedication all season. We cannot wait for next season already after a well-deserved break.



Rugby Competitions

This year has seen us able to enter 4 teams into the Lancashire cup competitions. Year 11 started the season competing in the Year 10 final that was postponed last year. Our boys came up against an extremely well drilled St Thomas Ripley side and although they gave all their efforts they unfortunately came up just short. The year 11s were awarded their semi-final game against Range High due to them being unable to field a team. This has meant a tough clash in the final against AKS Lytham and makes it 3 finals in 3 years for the U16s - this is a truly amazing achievement by the team! The under 14s team started off with a tough fixture against Audenshaw who proved to be too strong on the day but due to defeat in that game we went into the Lancashire bowl competition. The team came up against a strong Irlam & Cadishead for a place in the semi-final and in their best performance to date managed to get a 42-15 win to book a place in the semi-finals! Unfortunately it was not to be in the semi-final after coming up against an extremely strong Outward Academy, Haydock, side who had been previously rugby league national champions. The boys played with great pride and passion and scored some outstanding tries but sadly it just wasn't enough on the day. Year 7 has been unfortunate that the Sefton tournament was cancelled due to pitch conditions; however, we have played fixtures against both Maghull and Birkdale and the team has shown how far they have come in just one year. We are looking forward to some summer 7s tournaments and entering the Lancashire competitions next year.



Judo Championships

Congratulations to Chloe Allison in Year 7 who competed in the Judo British Schools Championships in Sheffield, winning Silver. This was Chloe's first national competition and we are really proud of how well she did. She was up against tough competition, some of whom were two belts higher than she was. This follows her winning Gold at the Liverpool Open Judo Competition.



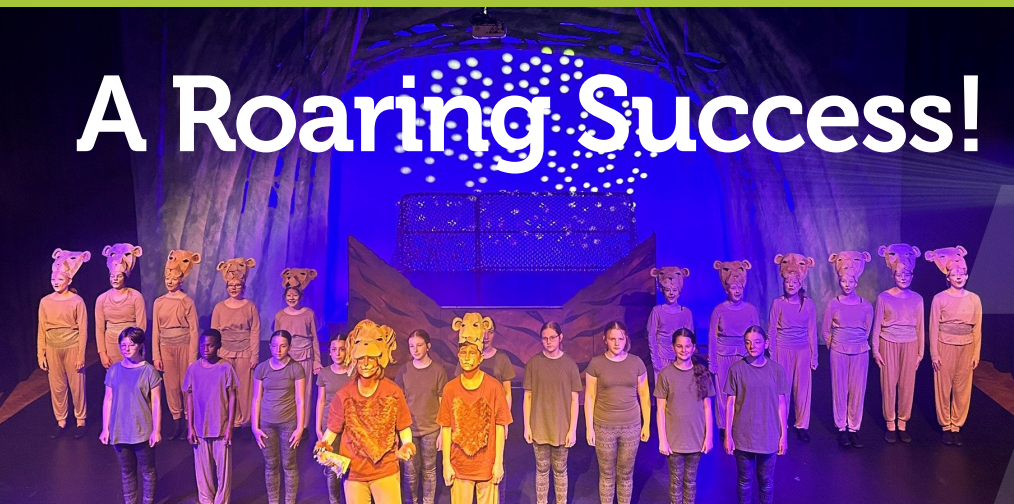
Badminton

Badminton has been another massive success this term with numbers continuing to grow across all year groups. It has been great to see tournaments taking place between year groups with all students pushing themselves to become the best they can be. It has also been fantastic to see the continued rising number of girls that are attending the club on a weekly basis with some excellent badminton players emerging. A highlight was taking 11 students to Maghull High School for a cross school tournament with students taking part in competitive singles and doubles matches. Overall, the tournament was a great success with some great badminton on display. Chesterfield were the eventual winners but it was brilliant seeing lots of new faces competing in Badminton, some for the first time.

Cricket

The Year 7 cricket team's first season together has been an exciting journey of learning, growth, and friendship. Despite facing challenges and experiencing the intense pressure of their first competitive match, the team showed remarkable spirit, resilience, and dedication. Their first game against Holy Family will be one they'll never forget—not only because they lost by just one run, but because it encapsulated everything the team has come to represent: teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. The start of the cricket season brought together a group of players who had not yet had the chance to bond on the field. As the players came together for their first training sessions, they began learning the importance of trust, communication, and mutual support. Cricket, with its unique blend of individual skill and teamwork, was the perfect environment for these players to forge new friendships. Although the Year 7 cricket team's first season has just begun, their performance in the closely contested match against Holy Family has already laid the groundwork for what promises to be an exciting and rewarding journey. Through this experience, they've developed strong friendships, learned valuable skills, and embraced the importance of sportsmanship.

A Roaring Success!



The Lion King Junior School Production

A big breath has now been taken our show week is over. In September, our students joined the School Production group with no idea of what show they would be performing. When the big reveal came, Disney's The Lion King Junior, everyone was excited and the casting process began. It was especially difficult this year due to the high number of year 9 students who have exhibited high dedication and talent in the previous year's show.



From October until last week, students casted did not let us down, again exemplifying their dedication and resilience through a long and hard rehearsal process. This included two weekend rehearsals in which they gave up their own free time to make sure the show was as refined as it possibly could be. For such a big project it would be impossible to rely solely on the Drama and Music department, so while the students learnt songs, choreography and stage direction, the Art department got to work. Starting with crafted wildebeest heads and Rafiki's cane they would then outdo themselves by creating the heads of our lions with such detail that it transformed the performance. The art didn't stop there as Ms. Heyes ran face painting workshops creating characters to such a professional standard, that we didn't recognise our own cast members.

As a department we can't stress enough how grateful we are to Mrs. Molyneux, our costume designer, and Mr Loughlin who designed the lighting, sound and set. We also thank Mr Cousineau for building Pride Rock with year 11 students. We also would like to give a special mention to our Drama sixth formers, Isabella Atkinson, Lucy Francis, Michael Neville, Louie McDougal and Megan Hurst. Without them this process would have been so much more difficult.

Production week started on Sunday 23rd March, three matinees for primary schools in our trust and three evening performances ran from Wednesday to Friday. To perform six shows was amazing and we're so proud of the cast for showing such ability, professionalism and resilience during that time. All of the cast performed to the best of their ability and many shone brightly encouraged by supportive audiences who clearly enjoyed the show. An exhausted cast and crew can't wait for the next show!

Mr Kent and Ms Amos



Chesterfield High School

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