



**Chesterfield
High School**
for everyone the best

#chesterfield365news *Winter 2024*

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

It is amazing to see how quick this term has gone and how much we have packed into the term to make it fun, engaging and productive for all at Chesterfield.

In September, we hosted our highly successful Open Evening where we had over 1000+ visitors to our school to look at our educational offer and how we enrich the curriculum to ensure that everyone at CHS gets the opportunity to achieve their best. We have over 750+ applications for next year and we look forward to the confirmation of allocated places on March 1st 2025.

We also welcomed 310 new starters to school in September. They have settled in fantastically well and have brought lots of energy. It was great to see them all have fun during the summer school at the end of August and I know they will have a fantastic time at the Panto in the last few days before Christmas, as will Year 9 on their end of term trip.

We had a really special evening at the Prize-giving event in November. We were so proud of last summer's GCSE results and how successfully the Year 12s have settled into 6th form at CHS. It was lovely to meet up with students who have gone onto other

colleges and to hear what they are up to and how they are getting on so far. It would not happen without the support of parents so sharing that special evening with them was an important aspect of the event.

All year groups have been really focussed on their studies with recent examinations; giving year 10 upwards an opportunity to experience GCSE and A level papers. They have also had the opportunity to have career interviews with our new careers team 'Careers Connect'. By the end of the term, all Year 13 will have completed UCAS and the Year 11s will have had a Post-16 taster day so they can complete their applications for 6th form and beyond.

As you will see from the sports and enrichment news, we have had some brilliant success on the pitch, on the netball courts, on the rugby field and in lots of expressive arts events. Enrichment is a major part of our school journey and we congratulate all the people that take part and help the teams achieve success both performing/playing and behind the scenes. Congratulations to the Music department for their recent Christmas Concert. We look forward to the production of the 'Lion King' in the Spring term.

Christmas can be a difficult time for some people. We are extremely proud of the work the students across the school have done to raise money, Year 7-9 have gathered a staggering number of toys for the 'Alder Hey' appeal and students in year 10-13 have donated items for Sefton pantry food bank. Our student council have been resolute in helping our local community have a great Christmas, too.

I hope that this Christmas brings you all joy and that you get time to spend it with family and friends. We wish you all a happy Christmas and a fantastic new year. See you in January.



Mr K Sexton
Mersey View
Learning Trust,
Chief Executive



Mr P Lindley,
Headteacher

Inside: Chesterfield at Christmas, Remembrance Day Events, Criminology Experiences, Geography Field Work, English Trips, Dance, Drama & Music, Sports Round-Up, and much more...

Christmas Spirit at Chesterfield High

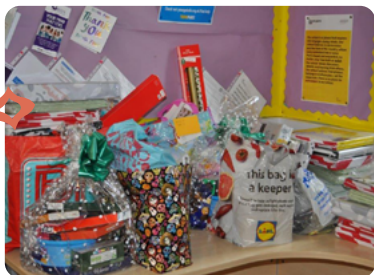
We have been overwhelmed with the generous donations of food that we are passing to Sefton Community Pantry. Students across the school have been bringing in anything from pasta to peas, biscuits to beans and tea to toiletries, it is great to see the spirit of giving is alive and kicking.



We were blinded by the array of Christmas jumpers and festive items worn by staff and students on Christmas Jumper Day. There was festive music in the canteen as the students enjoyed a Christmas dinner served by our hardworking elves, sorry, kitchen staff, whose efforts were very much appreciated and enjoyed. All money donated is going to the 'Save the Children Fund'.



Move over, Wham and Mariah Carey Year 7 are going to show you how it is done. The Year 7 students have warmed up their vocal chords, choreographed their routines and polished their bells as they jingled all the way to their Christmas Carol Competition. Suitably stuffed after their fantastic Christmas lunch, the students merrily sung their hearts out and the competitive spirit shone through.



Year 7 Alder Hey Toy Appeal

During Year 7 Student Council meetings at the start of term, our new year 7 identified that they wished to collect toys for children who will sadly spend their Christmas at Alder Hey Hospital this year. For the past half term they have been busy promoting their toy appeal across the school community and have been amazed by the overwhelming support they have been given. Year 7 would like to thank all students and parents/carers who kindly donated toys and gift sets particularly for babies and teenagers. They would also like to thank the Waterloo Rugby Club U14 squad who donated a huge box filled with toys for us to take to the children.

It was an extremely proud moment today when we loaded up the mini bus and waved it on its way to Alder Hey Hospital.



Cries of 'He's behind you, oh no he isn't' rang out across the ACC Arena when our Year 7 and 9 students enjoyed a theatre trip to the pantomime. Armed with lots of snacks and an enjoyable performance the students loved the entertainment and were a real credit to the school.

Our Year 7 students also visited Waterloo Primary school this week to help the Year 2 children making their puppets. There was lots of festive cheer and plenty of glitter and glue!





Combined Cadet Force

Remembrance Day

For the first time, cadets from Chesterfield High School Combined Cadet Force (RAF (Section) marched and stood with veterans, military personal, members of Government and our community at the war Memorials in Alexandra Park and Waterloo Five Lamps. We remembered the Armed Forces and their families from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth who made, and continue to make, the ultimate sacrifice, in conflicts around the world.

During the weeks leading up to this event, cadets and students learnt about Remembrance Day, the meaning behind the Poppy and worked hard to support the Royal British Legion (RBL) by the selling of poppies both in school and in the community. Students made ceramic poppies with the help of the art department and the RBL created their own memorial.

Cadets said they felt privileged to have been able to represent school and the air cadets. Although they were nervous at all the public watching them, they knew it was important to remember those that had died in the war.

Christmas Market

On Wednesday 27th November, our CCF welcomed over 1000 guests to our first fundraising event; getting everyone in to the festive spirit. A joint initiative with 1128 (Crosby) Squadron, all the cadets worked hard to plan and execute the Christmas Market-styled evening with stalls hosted by cadets and local businesses. Father Christmas made a visit from his busy schedule and staff and cadets provided musical entertainment during the night. Thank you to everyone who attended the event, helping us raise over £1600 for the cadets. Every penny will be spent on training activities to benefit all the cadets.

Plans are already underway for next year's event, with more stalls and Father Christmas promising to bring the reindeers!

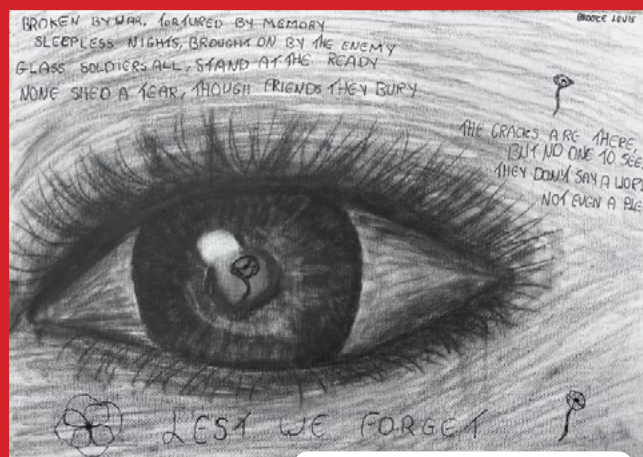
Remembrance Day

KS3 Art Competition

In honour of remembrance day, Miss Heyes & Miss Barry ran an Art competition for years 7, 8 & 9. The competition aimed to encourage students to reflect on the significance of Remembrance Day through artistic expression.

We were deeply impressed by the thoughtfulness and creativity displayed by all participants.

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up, whose work stood out for their emotional depth and artistic skill. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part – your contributions made this competition truly meaningful. We are proud of the talent and dedication shown by all involved.



1st place: Brooke Lewis 9J



2nd place: Clara Payne 8J



3rd place: Matilda Grant 7J

Thank you to the following participants: Penelope Finnegan, Maddison Bond, Cadi Coyne, Jamie Power, Katie Keating, Marianna Banaszczyk (Y7) Libby McCabe, Roman Maritz, Amelia Fairbrother, Olivia Lam, Amelia Yates, Emily Jones, Alannah Doyle (Y8) Grace Conlin, Lily Morgan & Joshua Fairbrother (Y9).

Lest we forget

School Attendance

School attendance remains high on everyone's agenda, especially since the introduction of the new Statutory Requirements and expectations of each pupil securing above 95% attendance. As in previous years Pastoral Teams have focused their energy on rewarding students, the difference this academic year is that there are more weekly rewards notably Queue Jumps that are proving to be a huge success with pupils. Specifically, Year 8 are running a Race to School contest which will see the winning Form have a whole week's worth of Queue Jump passes.

As the New Year approaches there is a big focus on ensuring full attendance especially during the winter months. Regular attendance helps maintain a routine, which can contribute to a student's mental well-being and overall academic performance especially as missing school regularly may cause stress or anxiety about catching up.

Research continues to show that there is a direct correlation between regular school attendance and better academic outcomes. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve higher GCSE grades compared to those with poor attendance and this is no exception here at Chesterfield High School: our figures have shown that across all subjects on average students with 95% and above attendance achieve $\frac{1}{2}$ grade higher than their predictions and have an average result of a grade 6. Whereas those with below 84% attendance on average achieved $1\frac{1}{2}$ grades lower than their predictions and have an average result of a grade 3.

If your son or daughter is struggling to attend school, please do seek support by contacting the respective Year Team to discuss issues.



Anti-Bullying Week

All assemblies focused upon the theme of anti-bullying with the strong message that no one is to be a 'bystander' and we should all stand up to bullies. To eliminate bullying, it starts with everyone showing respect to all members of our school community in line with our PRIDE values.

Lessons were then covered that addressed the issues around bullying and the need to show respect. All members of our school community signed up to the combined pledge: 'We pledge to always adhere to our school pledge and respect ourselves and others. We will always maintain a respectful attitude and help create an environment where everyone feels safe, respected and equal.'

One of our Peer Mentors wrote this poem that encompasses our hopes and drive to maintain an anti-bullying stance throughout the school.



*In Chesterfield High let's spread kindness and light.
Together we'll stand up, putting an end to the fight.
Bullying has no place in our school, you see.
We'll create a safe place, where all can be free.
With empathy and respect we'll make a change,
supporting one another we'll rearrange.
No more hurtful words or actions unkind.
In Chesterfield High love and acceptance, we'll find.
Let us be the voice for those who need a hand.
Together we'll build a stronger, united band.
Bullying will fade as compassion takes flight.
In Chesterfield High we'll SHINE with all our MIGHT.*

By Faye Pruden



English News

Year 9 School Trip to Edge Hill University



Our day began with a guided tour of Edge Hill's campus, where students had the opportunity to explore its impressive libraries, modern sports facilities, and more, it was a great chance for them to get a feel for university life.

After the tour, the students began a fascinating crime writing workshop. Guided by crime-writing experts, they unleashed their imaginations to craft gripping plots and brainstorm compelling characters.

Their creativity and storytelling skills truly shone during this session!

A highlight of the trip was a talk by acclaimed crime writer James Murphy, who joined us all the way from Belfast. He shared his personal journey as an author, offering practical advice for aspiring writers and plenty of anecdotes from his career.

In the lecture theatre, Mr. Murphy gave an engaging presentation on creating authentic and powerful stories, with a particular focus on crime fiction. Our students were inspired by his insights, and the lively discussions that followed showed how much his words resonated with them.

The workshop sessions gave students the chance to start developing their very own crime novel ideas. They worked on crafting intriguing plots, creating characters, and brainstorming catchy taglines and hooks to grab readers' attention. The room was buzzing with ideas and collaboration as the students worked together and shared their creative visions.

It was amazing to see their enthusiasm and the effort they put into their stories.

This trip was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 9 students to immerse themselves in the world of writing and storytelling.



KS4 - 'An Inspector Calls' at the Liverpool Empire

Our day began with a guided tour of In November, 150 pupils from Y10 and Y11 visited the Liverpool Empire theatre to support their study of An Inspector Calls ahead of their GCSE examinations. The performance was excellent and enjoyed by all pupils.



We were, as ever, exceptionally proud to take the pupils out and they represented the school beautifully. Members of the pupils took the time to email Mr Lindley to express how impressed they were by the conduct of our pupils and staff at the theatre also commented positively on their behaviour and engagement in the performance.



Poetry By Heart

Calling all Year 7 and 8 students!

Get ready to dive into the world of poetry as we launch Poetry by Heart form-time competition. This fun and inspiring challenge is all about discovering a new poem, learning it by heart, and sharing it with confidence. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just love words, this is your chance to shine. We can't wait to see creativity soar and celebrate the power of poetry together! Form-time winners will have the chance to enter a nationwide competition and potentially perform at the iconic Globe Theatre in London! **Good Luck!**



Inspiring Day



On the 28th November, a small group of Year 9 students embarked on an exciting school trip to Prenton Park, Tranmere, to participate in the Unilever STEM Project.

The event, designed to inspire and engage young minds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, brought together schools from across the region for a day filled with innovation, teamwork, and hands-on learning.

Prenton Park, home to Tranmere Rovers Football Club, provided a unique and dynamic setting for the event. The Unilever STEM Project aimed to showcase the real-world applications of STEM subjects and to ignite a passion for these fields among the next generation. Students were introduced to the ways Unilever incorporates STEM in their business, from developing sustainable packaging to advancing product innovation.

Upon arrival, the students were welcomed by the event organizers and given a brief overview of the day. The group was then divided into teams and rotated through a series of interactive workshops and challenges, each designed to develop problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and teamwork. The activities were diverse and engaging, ranging from coding tasks to hands-on engineering challenges, such as designing a sustainable structure or solving real-world problems inspired by Unilever's work in the fields of science and technology.

One highlight of the day was a session where students explored the chemistry behind everyday products, such as shampoos and soaps. They learned about the scientific processes involved in creating these products and were given the opportunity to experiment with their own formulations under the guidance of Unilever professionals. This session not only highlighted the importance of chemistry in product development but also demonstrated how science impacts our daily lives in practical ways.

Another standout moment came during a robotics challenge, where students were tasked with programming a robot to complete a series of obstacles. The challenge encouraged creativity, perseverance, and teamwork, as students worked together to troubleshoot and refine their strategies. It was particularly rewarding to see the excitement and determination on the students' faces as their robots successfully navigated the course.

Throughout the day, Unilever staff shared their own experiences and career journeys in STEM-related fields, providing valuable insight and inspiration. The students were able to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the variety of opportunities available in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These discussions emphasized the importance of innovation and sustainability, two key themes that resonated with the students.



By the end of the event, the Year 9 group left Prenton Park feeling motivated and inspired. They had not only developed their skills and knowledge but had also gained a deeper appreciation for the relevance of STEM subjects in shaping the future. The trip was a resounding success, offering students a unique and memorable learning experience that will hopefully encourage them to pursue further studies and careers in STEM fields.

The Unilever STEM Project at Prenton Park provided a perfect blend of education, inspiration, and hands-on learning, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to connect classroom learning with real-world applications, fostering a sense of excitement and curiosity about the possibilities that STEM holds.



Computer Science & Business

Our Year 9 students have been investigating cyber security, looking at different threats online and what they need to be aware of when using their phones and computers. Are they cyber aware, ensuring they have strong passwords and protecting all of their data online. They have started to analyse the impact of artificial intelligence, when using self-driving cars.

Year 8 have been thinking like a computer, investigating binary and how this represents characters and information in a computer. They can talk like a computer and are able to convert between binary and denary numbers. They have also been creating pixel images on the computer and debating the impact of photo shopping photos on society.

Year 7 have been able to learn how a computer works, they are able to use Google drive confidently and send appropriate emails to staff members. They have been updating on us how their summer has been, and issues associated with cyber bullying. Additionally, pupils have been given the opportunity to understand the 4 main cornerstones of computational thinking, identifying real life scenarios where abstraction, pattern recognition, decomposition and algorithms are used.

Year 10 were able to have an afternoon with Young Enterprise looking at different types of business and how they work. They were able to create a marketing campaign looking at logos, adverts and what they could do to make customers choose them over their competitors.

Criminology

In November, the **Y13 students** had the opportunity to visit Liverpool Crown Court as part of their study of Criminology. They have studied the process of trials and influences on the outcome of trials, and found this a rewarding experience to see it in action. Libby Lennie has recorded her thoughts on the day.....

“My experience at the Crown Courts in Liverpool has benefitted me by improving my understanding of how a courtroom works. We observed a trial consisting of two defendants, who had been involved in a drug altercation, during which there was a cross examination where the prosecutor presented an interview script to the jury, and asked the defendant to clarify certain aspects. The defendant's barrister then asked his own questions in order to clarify the points that he wanted to get across. Attending this trial gave me an insight into the career I wish to pursue, which is becoming a criminal solicitor and it gave me a chance to experience what it would be like attending a court hearing. As the session was coming to an end we were able to have a conversation with the prosecuting barrister, in which he shared insight into his perspective on the case and what would happen as the trial developed”



Our **Year 12** Criminology pupils attended an event at Anfield Stadium in partnership with LFC Foundation. Pupils participated in a mock trial (of which one of our own got to be head judge!) and they had an interactive Q&A session with Judges and Barristers about their experiences working in the criminal justice system.



Geography Field Work



Year 7 Geography Field Work Rimrose Valley Country Park

Our Year 7 geography field trip to Rimrose Valley Country Park was an exciting opportunity to explore the natural environment and study local geography. The trip focused on investigating whether a new road should be built through the park to connect to the Liverpool 2 docks. We conducted an environmental quality survey to assess factors like pollution, noise, and vegetation, which helped us understand the potential impacts of the proposed road. Students also completed questionnaires, asking park visitors for their opinions on the project. Additionally, we used a decibel reader to measure noise levels in different areas, considering how construction and traffic might affect the park. This fieldwork gave us valuable insights into the environmental and social implications of the proposed development.

Following the trip, Stu Bennett from Rimrose Valley Friends came into school to run an assembly for Year 7. He discussed the potential impacts of the new road on the local environment and community. Stu's talk helped consolidate our learning and gave us insight into the work of the charity in protecting the park. The proposed A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Road, which would have linked Switch Island to the port, has now been cancelled, 7 years after National Highways announced its preferred route, through Rimrose Valley Country Park. A great result for our local community!



Borderscapes Project with the University of Liverpool



This year, our Year 10 students had the incredible opportunity to engage with undergraduate students from the University of Liverpool as part of the Borderscapes project. These undergraduates, who are also assistant researchers working with Dr. Jessica Hampton and Professor Stefania Tufi, delivered a series of thought-provoking lessons to our students.

The collaboration began in June 2024 when Dr. Hampton visited our Year 9 students on four occasions for the 'Borderscapes' research project. According to the University of Liverpool, "the project aims to generate new understandings of borders". During these sessions, Dr. Hampton introduced the concept of how language shapes our sense of identity and influences how we perceive the world around us. Students took part in this research project by completing questionnaires on the topic, but also explored this idea creatively by producing artwork, photography, and personalized "artefacts" that reflected their understanding of the relationship between language, nature, culture, and identity.

This year, the focus shifted to how language can act as both a bridge and a barrier in communication. Research Assistants from the University of Liverpool guided students through activities and experiments designed to illustrate these challenges. In one particularly impactful exercise, a student in each group was asked to communicate only in Spanish while the rest spoke exclusively in English. This activity provided powerful insights into the isolation non-English speakers can feel in predominantly English-speaking environments. It also encouraged empathy and a deeper appreciation for the struggles faced by those adapting to a new linguistic and cultural context.

The project has been an eye-opening journey for our students, broadening their perspectives and fostering empathy. To celebrate their efforts and creativity, students will attend an exhibition in January 2025 at the University of Liverpool, where their photography and other artwork will be proudly displayed.

We are immensely grateful to Dr. Hampton, Professor Tufi, and the University of Liverpool team for providing our students with this transformative experience.

Geography Masterclasses

Y12 geographers have taken part in Geography masterclasses which explored the environmental and geographical aspects of composting, emphasising sustainable waste management. Y12 learnt techniques to convert organic waste into nutrient-rich compost while understanding its impact on soil health, carbon cycles, and local ecosystems.

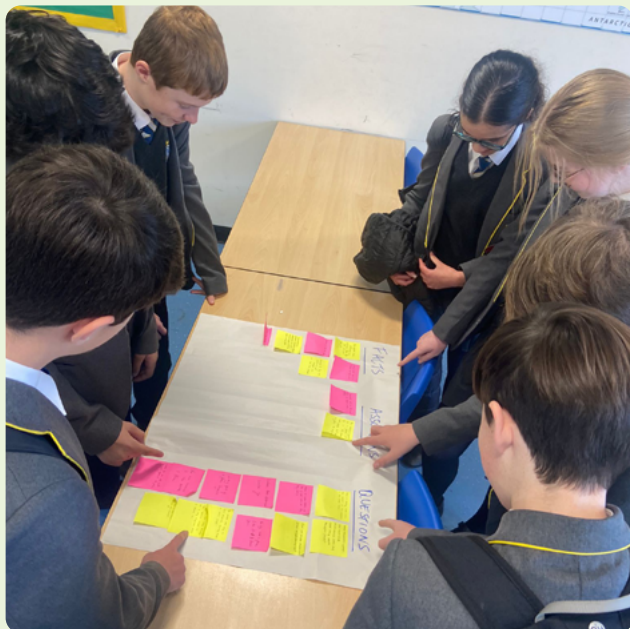


Year 9 Waste Management Project

A group of Year 9 pupils are participating in an innovative project run by Liverpool World Change, focusing on tackling waste management in Liverpool.

The initiative encourages pupils to explore sustainable waste practices, raise awareness about recycling, and find creative solutions to reduce waste in their local community.

Through research, workshops and a conference day due to take place in March, the pupils are learning about environmental responsibility while directly contributing to making Liverpool a cleaner, greener place. Well done to all of those involved!



Religious Education

At Chesterfield High School, we believe in fostering an inclusive and respectful environment where students learn about and appreciate the rich diversity of cultures and traditions represented in our community. To support this, we celebrate several important world religious festivals throughout the year, including this term Diwali, Interfaith Week, and Yom Kippur.

Inter Faith Week



These festivals offer students valuable opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of different beliefs and practices. For example, during Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, students explored themes of good overcoming evil and light over darkness. Interfaith Week promotes understanding and respect among different religions, encouraging dialogue, community service, and collaboration for a harmonious society; and Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, provides an opportunity to reflect on themes of forgiveness and renewal.

Our celebrations included engaging activities and classroom discussions to highlight the meaning behind these festivals. We encouraged parents to engage with their children at home about these events, reinforcing the importance of cultural awareness and respect for all.

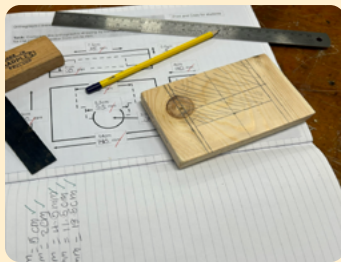
By celebrating these festivals, we aim to promote understanding, empathy, and a sense of unity within our diverse school community. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing these values.

Design Technology Term 1

The Design and Technology department have had an extremely busy term. Students across all year groups have been involved in a variety of different lessons, engaging in a variety of activities, developing new skills and gaining lots of new knowledge.

Year 7

Year 7 students have been busy in the workshop developing skills with saws, drills, files and rasps, along with gaining knowledge of measuring, marking out, properties of materials and different types of timber, as they manufacture their passive speakers.

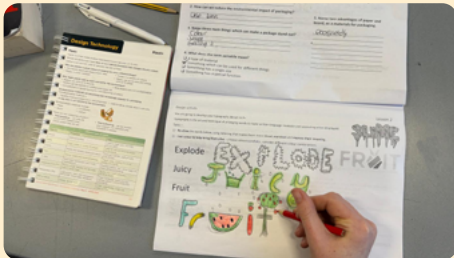


Year 7 students have also been busy in the kitchen, developing knife skills; learning to prepare fruits and vegetables and preparing vegetable couscous, gaining knowledge of healthy eating and nutrients, and gaining knowledge of different cooking methods.



Year 8

Year 8 students have been busy in the design studio, developing and testing out ideas for a new drinks packaging. Students have gained knowledge of the importance of packaging, as well as different types of materials which can be used for packaging. Students have developed typography skills, creating lettering for designs which will attract customers' attention.



Year 8 students have also been busy in the kitchen gaining knowledge of coagulation as they cooked fritatta, as well as gaining knowledge of healthy eating and nutrients.



Year 9

Year 9 students have been putting their architectural skills in to practice as they design a new school building for Chesterfield High school. Students have been learning to produce floor plans and elevations as well as gain knowledge of standard drawing conventions. Year 9 students have also been exploring the topic of sustainability, gaining knowledge of sustainable construction methods and materials.

Year 9 students have also been busy in the kitchen, developing knife skills, learning to professionally cut vegetables, gaining knowledge of healthy eating and understanding the importance of nutrients at different life stages. Students have applied their new knowledge and skills in the cooking of potato and leek soup, as well as Thai green curry.



Year 10

Year 10 Construction students have made a positive start to their BTEC Construction qualification. Throughout the term, students have gained knowledge of measuring, marking out and cutting a range of wood joints, developing setting out, cutting and chiselling skills. Students have also been learning about designing buildings and the process involved in producing floor plans and elevations, as well as constructing scale models. Students have gained knowledge of proportion and scale, as well as standard drawing conventions.



Year 10 Food and Nutrition students have also made a positive start to their WJEC Food qualification. Students have been involved in cooking a variety of dishes, developing various preparation and cooking techniques, as well as learning how to present food in an appealing and professional manner.

Students have further strengthened knowledge of the importance of a balanced diet and how food supports physical and mental health, as well as studying the dietary needs of different groups, such as children, athletes, the elderly, and those with medical conditions.



Year 11

Year 11 Construction students have been working extremely hard, completing the first of two coursework modules, for their BTEC Construction qualification. Students have been producing a client brief for a low-rise residential project, as well as submitting floor plans and elevations.



Year 11 Food and Nutrition students have been very busy further enhancing their food preparation and cooking skills, as they work towards the submission of their coursework unit. Students have been planning out and trial cooking potential dishes which they could cook as part of their practical examination.



6th Form News

As you are aware, sixth form has been very busy with fundraising during the last few weeks. From the Christmas Raffle and from selling all of the crafts students have made at the Christmas fair, we have raised a huge £1054.76! All of this will be going to Sefton Community Pantry, to help the most vulnerable families in our own community.



Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated prizes, it will make a massive difference to people who need it most! Also a massive thank you to Madison Tierney, Harriet Brough and Imogen Robertini who spent weeks making the various crafts for us to sell, even taking some home to complete at the weekend. And to the students that helped out at the Christmas Fair, Harry Humphrey, Liam Lewis, Neil Green, Sarah Magnolia, Libby Lennie and Maisie Stevens. Please congratulate any of these students if you see them for all of their hard work and dedication.

Maths

This term, our students have been busy tackling a range of challenging topics in maths. At KS3, they've been mastering algebra, focusing on expanding and factorising brackets using the area model technique. It's a demanding topic, but their resilience and maturity have been commendable.

KS4 students have revisited and reinforced key concepts in preparation for their PPEs—Year 10s before Christmas and Year 11s afterwards. It's fantastic to see so many praise points awarded and outstanding work displayed on our "Proud" boards.



Our Sixth Form students have embraced the rigorous KS5 curriculum, making excellent use of the online learning platform "UpLearn." Well done, everyone!



Climate Change Event

On November 21st, the CHS Climate Change Council participated in a mock UN Climate Change Conference with other schools from across the North West. We represented The USA – quite a challenge!

Students had the opportunity to simulate the roles of global leaders, scientists, and policymakers in addressing climate issues. Delegates represented various countries, negotiating solutions to pressing challenges such as greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy adoption, and climate justice. Through realistic debates and the proposal of action plans, participants gained a deeper understanding of international collaboration and the complexities of climate policy.

The day underscored the urgency of tackling global warming while fostering critical thinking, diplomacy, and teamwork. The Climate Change Council hope to action their learning further with some fantastic ideas for improving sustainability in our school – watch this space.



School Council

Step aside General Elections, nothing compares to the fiercely competitive voting for form representation on the student council. The year groups have been meeting each half term and deciding the direction the agenda can take. There have been further suggestions on how we can reward our students as well as selecting charities for each year group's charity

focus. Moving forward into the new year, the Student Council will be meeting with our catering company 'Mellors', raising suggestions on how we can enhance and develop the refreshments available in our school. The students are keen to share their feedback in form period, assemblies and in meetings with the Headteacher, Mr Lindley.



Drama & Music



This has been a very busy term for the Drama Department so far, due to next year's school production, 'The Lion King Junior'. Drama Production Club began in September and once the show had been decided on, auditions for the main roles were held in October.

Casting has now been finalised and rehearsals are in full swing! Cast members are learning lyrics, reciting their lines and performing songs. The cast need to know all of the songs well before we introduce the choreography after the holidays.



Meanwhile, the art department are busy making lion masks and costumes and the music department are perfecting the soloists. Look out for the sale of tickets in the New Year as production week starts on Monday 24th March 2024.

Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts course



We were also really excited to launch the Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts course in September. Students have been researching theatre practitioners and exploring them practically. We were lucky to have two members of staff from Liverpool John Moore's in during November to talk to our students about two impressive higher education courses.

Mark Smith told us about the Performance and Production course and Wez Nolan informed us about the Media Production course. This meant that Digital Media students from our Sixth Form were also able to join us for their presentations.

Dance News



BTEC Tech Award Dance Level 2 once again produced fantastic results from the Year 11 cohort with a value added score of 0.89. One student in dance gained a Distinction star, which was the highest mark attained across the whole of the Expressive Arts Department.

BTEC Tech Award Dance Year 10 have been working hard on their coursework which will be entered in December. This component asks students to explore the Performing Arts industry both in a practical and theoretical environment.

The intervention group consists of 5 Year 11 students who attend after school every Thursday. The aim of these sessions is for the students to retake component 2 to obtain a higher mark. Students even attended a session from 4-6pm where they worked on both the practical and theoretical elements.



Our Primary links



Mrs Ambrose spent 5 weeks working with Year 4 pupils at Valewood Primary to create a dance for their remembrance assembly. The students learnt about the use of storytelling through dance. The inspiration for this dance came from a book, which students had been studying in English called 'Where the Poppies Now Grow'. The assembly for Year 5 and 6 took place on Friday 8th November and our Year 11 student, James Metcalfe, came along to play both 'The Last Post' and The 'Reveille' of which he received outstanding praise from the students and a large bar of chocolate from the class teacher!

At the end of the summer term five Year 9 students went to Valewood to teach Year 5 and 6 a dance routine to be performed at their summer fete. The Chesterfield students were impressed with how quickly the Valewood students picked up the choreography and their ability to stay focused for the whole time. The dance was performed to the song Dane the Night by Dua Lipa.

Over at Waterloo Primary, the children in Year 6 were taught the Lindy Hop, Rock and Roll and Street dance. The second half of this term has been delivering the Lindy Hop to Year 4. We hope that all years in Waterloo will get to experience some form of dance this academic year. Teachers at Waterloo have commented how much they have enjoyed the dance and were shocked at how enthusiastic the students were.



Our upcoming diary dates;

- January** - Dance Showcase at Chesterfield High School
- February** - Y10 & Y11 Empire Theatre trip to see Chicago
- February** - Y7 Empire Theatre trip to see Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake
- April** - Y10 CAPITAL Equality Concert
- April** - U-Dance - we have just entered a small group of dancers and hope to be selected to perform in Manchester.
- May** - Years 8-10 students will be performing in Manchester to break a World Record for the most amount of backing dancers to a known artist.
- June** - Y8 Wally Cain Dance Festival

Extra Curricular Dance Club

has been a great success. Students have been working really hard towards the Dance show and we will look forward to sharing their dances with you, on 30th January 2025.

The current attendance at clubs is the highest it's ever been with over 120 attendees from Year 7 to 9.

Achievements out of school

Stanley Morris from 7E took part in the WKU/ GCO world kickboxing championships in Rhodes. He won a gold medal in 9-12 years male points fighting under 30kg.



Rhys Connor recently competed in the Unified World Championships in Carrara, Italy representing team GB. He won 5 x Golds in both Muay Thai and K1 kickboxing.



Taylor Williams in Year 9 recently took part in the TAGB Taekwondo British Championships in Worcester and won 3rd place in individual sparring and first place in team sparring.



Huge Congratulations to **Amelia** in Y11 who is now the British MMA Champion! Amelia recently spent two weeks in Thailand where she lived and trained with Andrew and Matthew Zhu.

Congratulations to Amelia, and all the students at The Combat Unit where Phil was an instructor. We're incredibly proud!



Peer Mentors

Congratulations on our new Year 7 peer mentors completing their induction training to be awarded their Peer Mentor badge. They have stepped up to take responsibility for supporting their peers, listening to their concerns, understanding how to resolve conflicts and giving others their time. We are really proud of these students as they join our previously trained cohorts to provide another layer of support in our drive to eradicate bullying and ensure that no student feels alone.

Peer Mentor

SCHOOL GAMES

Since September there have been over 1400 pupils from Central Sefton who have participated in the different Sporting Competitions and Festivals organised through School Games.

Pivotal to the success of these events are the Sports Leaders from Chesterfield High School. Our leaders from Year 8, 9, 10 and the Sixth Form have officiated, overseen the score sheets and managed individual activities. In line with the vision of School Games they have also identified and rewarded students who have demonstrated the desirable qualities of honesty, self-belief, teamwork, respect, passion and determination during an event.

By guaranteeing that each competition flows seamlessly, helping to coordinate logistics and manage resources the Chesterfield Sports Leaders have created a positive environment for participants and have assisted in shaping the experience by ensuring the integrity, inclusivity and success of each event.

Sports Pages



Netball Roundup

Our netball teams have enjoyed a successful 1st half of the season with 40+ pupils attending KS3 practice every week, supported by Year 10 leaders, who have given up their time and 20+ attending KS 4 & 5.

In the Sefton League, we are still one of very few schools who is able to field a team in every year group and B team in year 7. With half of the matches played so far this season against Maghull, Deyes, Litherland, Maricourt, Holy Family and Kings Leadership, all of our teams remain unbeaten with some very convincing victories. The league now has a winter break and matches will continue again at the start of February.

In the tournaments, the U19s played in the South Sefton tournament at Merchant Taylors in October and by winning every game they played, won the competition.



On Saturday 16th November, we entered 3 year groups, U14, U16 and U19s to the Merseyside round of the Netball Nationals tournament on the Wirral. In extreme weather conditions and against very tough competition, the girls played fantastic netball but unfortunately didn't finish in the top 2 to progress to the North West round.

In the New Year, we will be entering the U14, U15 and U16s in the Liverpool School tournament and in March attending the annual South Sefton Tournaments.

Badminton

Badminton has been a resounding success so far with numbers continuing to grow week on week. It has been excellent 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 rising number of girls that are attending the club on a weekly basis with some excellent badminton players emerging.

6 students also got the opportunity to represent the school competitively in badminton against St Michaels. The tournament was a big success with Chesterfield claiming a clean sweep. We are excited to see how the club progress.

Rugby

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. The 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 now wait to play Range in the quarter finals of the Lancashire vase with the hope of making it 3 finals in 3 years! The U14 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. We came up against a strong Irlam & Cadishead for a place in the semi-final and in their best performance to date managed a 42-15 win to book a place in the semi-finals. Year 7 have been unfortunate that the Sefton tournament was cancelled due to pitch conditions; however, after the Christmas break, we will look to get some more games for our newest team!



Gymnastics

This year has seen us add the very popular gymnastics club. We have had over 60 pupils training every week and improving week on week! Miss Ledgerton has had the incredibly tough job of now selecting a gymnastics squad to represent us in the Merseyside Gymnastic competition in January. The team are looking forward to it so much they have been doing fundraising to buy new leotards for the competition. We are sure they will be amazing and we wish them the best of luck!!

Football Crazy!

Girls Football

What an incredible start for the girls football teams so far this term. With lots of successful results across all teams in all major cups and local competitions. As we move through the term we are seeing U12, U13, U14 and U15 teams all successfully progress forward in the National Cup as well as the Merseyside Cup. We have also been awarded overall winners in recent Sefton Competitions for Year 8 and Y9/10 run by the Sefton Schools Sports Partnerships. We continue to wish all the girls representing the girl's football team the very best of luck in their upcoming fixtures and wish them success in all competitions.



Boys Football

Year 7

As a Year 7 football team, we have made incredible strides this season, showing fantastic growth in both skill and teamwork. One of the highlights of our recent matches against Lathom High school in the National Cup was how we stuck together during tough moments. When the game got intense, instead of getting frustrated, we kept our heads up and continued to encourage each other. This attitude is what makes a great team. Looking ahead, there's a lot to be excited about. If we keep building on this teamwork and supporting each other, we can only get better as the season progresses.



Year 8

Year 8 have had a strong start to the season competing well in all competitions. So far the group have made it through to the last 16 stage of the Merseyside Cup and the semi final stage of the Sefton Cup with some notable victories over Maghull, Merchants and Hillside. In the National Cup, the

A team progressed really well with some strong performances including probably the best performance to date against St Peter's Wigan. Unfortunately the boys were eventually knocked out at Round 4 against an extremely strong Caldby team despite Chesterfield having the better chances.

The B Team still have their 3rd round fixture in the National Cup to come. Hopefully the boys will be able to progress far in the competition. The C/D Team competition provided the opportunity for some students that were yet to represent the school team to do so and they impressed finishing in 3rd and 4th place. There has also been the Year 8 Inter-form competition engaging over 100 students across the year group with football on a weekly basis. The competition comes to a conclusion over the coming weeks so it'll be interesting to see if 8B retain their crown!

Year 9

Year 9 have had to wait to get their games due to having a number of 1st round byes. An agonising penalty shootout defeat to Halewood High School was our only blip so far in what is hopefully going to be another strong year for the boys. We now await our next opponent in both the Merseyside and Sefton cup and the team are hoping to make it 3 Sefton Cup appearances in 3 years!

Year 10

Year 10 have made their best start to a school season this year with wins against St Marys, North Liverpool Academy, and St Hilda's. Defeat against a very good Helsby High team unfortunately means we are now out of the National cup at the round 5 stage; however, we are still going strong in the Merseyside cup and the Sefton cup. We are looking forward to a very good season for the Y10 boys with some big games coming up after Christmas

Year 11

The year 11 boys have made another fantastic start to the year. The side has had to use a large number of players due to injuries and unavailability; however, that has not hampered their amazing start to the year. The Year 11s are still in all three competitions with their last game being an amazing 8-1 victory over Calderstones. We are hoping for another silverware filled season for the Y11s as they look to defend their Merseyside and Sefton Cup titles.

Sixth Form

The sixth form team have played one game so far this year which was a repeat of last year's Sefton cup final. After a poor first half, we managed to re-group and show that the team has the quality to make another final. When we return after the Christmas break, we look forward to a tough fixture against Holy Family for a place in the semi-finals.

Looking after your mental health over Christmas

Set your boundaries

If you're not comfortable, it's too much, know something isn't helpful for you or you want to take a break you can say no and step away.

What do you need?

Speak to loved ones to tell them what's best for you, let them know what you find difficult and your coping methods.

Ask for help

If you're struggling you can still get support. Mind, CALM and Samaritans are all open over Christmas

Connect

Christmas is a great time to get in touch with old friends & family. Share, chat and laugh with people you care about.

Ease the pressure

Christmas can be a highly pressured time, take some time out to yourself. You don't need to justify yourself to anyone.

Look after your body

There's nothing wrong with a treat at Christmas but too much can have an impact on your mental health. Try to get some exercise and healthy food in you.

Talk & Listen

Christmas can be a hard time for many. Don't be afraid to speak to someone. And if someone speaks to you be sure to listen intently.

Plan ahead

Try to build some structure in your days. If you know Christmas comes with certain triggers try to prepare coping strategies to help.



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