



**Chesterfield
High School**
for everyone the best

#chesterfield365news

Winter 2025

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

I would like to begin by thanking the community for the incredibly warm welcome I have received as the new Headteacher of this wonderful school. My first term in post has been fantastic and I have been truly impressed by our talented, dedicated and compassionate pupils and staff. It has been a busy term with much to celebrate, many of which you will find in this Winter Newsletter.

We were delighted to welcome 310 enthusiastic Year 7 pupils at the beginning of the year. They have made an excellent start to their Chesterfield journey, quickly settling into school life, demonstrating our PRIDE values and earning many rewards and praise. They will be celebrating Christmas in style at the Panto during the final week of term, with Year 8 also taking part in this festive tradition.

In November, we enjoyed a very special evening celebrating our Year 11 Class of 2025 at our Academic Prize Giving Evening. Congratulations to all the winners, many of whom have chosen to continue their studies with us in sixth form where they are already flourishing.

Across the school, pupils have been working extremely hard to prepare for their examination weeks. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with our 15 Day Plans, which we are confident help pupils to prepare thoroughly and achieve their full potential. We are very proud of their commitment to their studies.

You may have seen in a recent communication that we have secured five new Business Partners who have generously donated £300 worth of reward vouchers across Years 7 to 11. We are enormously grateful to J.J Pimbley Jewellers/Inspiring-Minds Tuition Service, Kenyon Brothers Agricultural Merchants, C.A.N Property Management, Castle Green Houses and Abode Estate Agents for helping us make our rewards initiatives truly first-class. Before we break up for Christmas, five pupils will win a £100 voucher!

This term, our pupils have also taken part in a number of charitable projects, reflecting our school community's dedication to supporting others. Year 7 raised an impressive £1,500 for Children in Need and will also be creating toy hampers for Alder Hey Hospital. Years 8 and 9 are raising money for Jospice through their 'Reindeer Ramble'. Year 10 are fundraising for Whitechapel, and Year 11 and our sixth form pupils have been collecting food donations for Sefton Community Pantry.

We hosted the inaugural MVL Christmas Carol Concert in School last week. Pupils from Waterloo Primary, Valewood, Forefield Infants, Forefield Juniors, Rowan Park and Rowan High provided us with a very festive evening putting everybody into the Christmas spirit.

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and hope the festive period brings quality time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Inside:

We learn from the Anthony Walker Foundation, It's a busy time for the Expressive Arts Faculty, fieldtrips for Geography and Science pupils, Poetry By Heart is back, Team of the term, A mammoth journey and much more...



Mr Jon Lawes,
Headteacher

Anthony Walker Foundation Workshop:

Educating Our Pupils on Anti-Racism

This term, pupils in Years 7 to 10 had the invaluable opportunity to participate in a workshop led by the Anthony Walker Foundation (AWF). The foundation's mission is clear: education is key to dismantling racism and creating a society free from hate and prejudice.

The workshop focused on empowering young people to challenge hate crimes and incidents, embrace anti-racism, and engage in thought-provoking discussions. Through positive group participation, pupils explored how prejudicial views, unconscious bias, and stereotypes often begin early in life and how education can play a vital role in preventing these attitudes from developing.

AWF encouraged our pupils to celebrate diversity and challenge harmful attitudes in a safe and constructive way. Importantly, the sessions provided tools and confidence to address issues sensitively, without placing themselves in harm's way.

We are proud of our pupils' engagement and commitment to these values, and we look forward to continuing this important work in our school community.



nace

National Association for Able Children in Education

Some great news to share, we have been reaccredited by NACE! The National Association for Able Children in Education works with schools, education leaders and practitioners to improve provision for more able learners and increase challenge for all. Please find attached our official letter. Our feedback from the visit has been phenomenal. Below are some quotes taken directly from the report:

"A deliberate, distributed leadership approach to improving teaching and learning is having a significant impact."

"Reflective work in pupils' exercise books demonstrates the ambitious nature of this feedback and its positive impact."

"Pastoral care for all pupils is very strong, including MA pupils."

"A genuine culture of cognitive engagement was evident. Pupils were consistently ready to engage thoughtfully, supported by a sophisticated mix of cold calling and invited contributions."

"Teachers used questioning to evoke thoughtful responses, probing and pulling at threads of understanding until they were secure, or it became evident that a responsive, live amendment was required to unpick misconceptions or uncertainty."

Expressive Arts

The drama, music and dance departments which form the Expressive Arts Faculty have had a busy term!

Rehearsals are underway!

Earlier this month we announced our annual school show, Little Shop of Horrors. Production week starts on Monday the 16th of March, 2026. Auditions commenced and then followed some of the hardest decisions we have had to make.

Our KS3 and 4 pupils are so talented it was a nice problem to have. After much deliberation the cast was announced and they are spectacular. Rehearsals have now commenced and our ensemble songs are sounding fabulous.



The Dance Team

The dance team are busy rehearsing two showcases which will be performed on 27th and 29th of January 2026. With over 140 pupils taking part and showing their commitment, it will be an event that can't be missed.



Our amazing choir

Our amazing school choir have already taken part in three events this term, representing the school proudly at the Merseyside Schools Anti Bullying Conference 2025 at St George's Hall. The pupils performed songs by signing & participated in the conference to raise awareness of this year's anti bullying theme 'Power for Good'. Secondly, they performed at the Year 11 Academic Prize Giving Evening and thirdly, they performed at the Switch on of the Christmas Lights in Waterloo.

Capital Theatre Visits



After half term we took KS4 and 5 drama pupils down to London to see two shows and take part in a workshop led by a professional theatre practitioner. Our pupils were amazed by the staging and phenomenal music numbers in 'Starlight Express'. The following afternoon we took part in a matinee performance of 'The Play That Goes Wrong' which had our pupils laughing and cheering throughout.





Lessons from Auschwitz Project – A Profound Learning Experience

Six of our A Level History pupils recently took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This nationally recognised programme aims to deepen understanding of the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance.

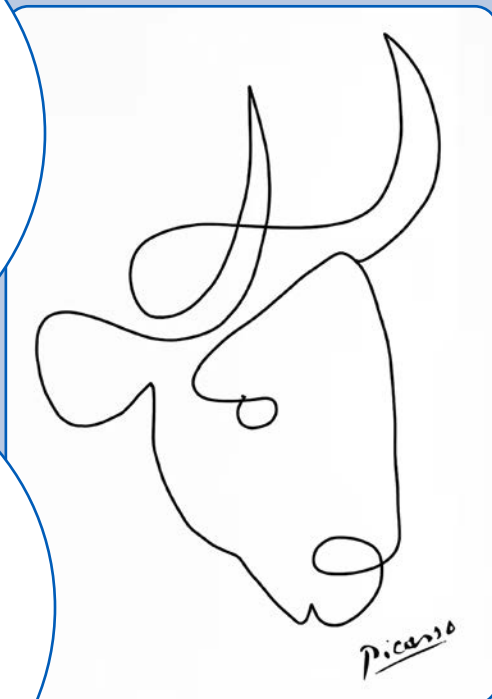
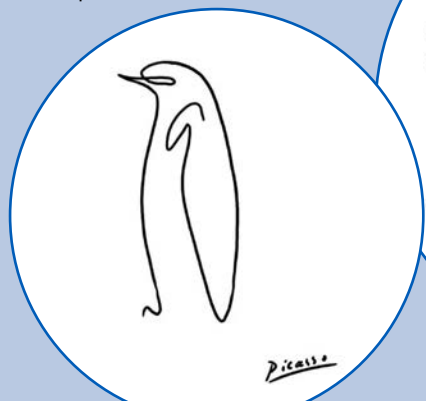
The pupils began their journey by attending an in-person seminar, where they explored the richness of pre-war Jewish life and considered the devastating impact of its destruction. They also had the privilege of hearing first-hand testimony from a Holocaust survivor, an experience that brought history to life in a deeply moving and personal way.

The programme culminated in a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp. Walking through the site offered pupils a powerful and sobering insight into the scale of the atrocities committed. They reflected on the importance of remembrance and the lessons that must be learned to combat prejudice and hatred today.

This experience has not only enhanced their historical knowledge but also encouraged them to think critically about issues of human rights and moral responsibility in the modern world. We are incredibly proud of their engagement with such an important project.

Art Club

Our Year 8 Art Club has begun creating some truly impressive works inspired by Picasso's iconic portraits. Pupils have been exploring a range of experimental drawing techniques, including continuous line drawing, and even sketching with their eyes closed, to produce wonderfully abstract self-portraits. Their project will finish in a vibrant collage, where they will assemble their own paper portraits using a mix of colours, textures, and shapes.





Charles Dickens' *A* CHRISTMAS CAROL

A Christmas Carol Comes to Life for Year 11

This December, fifty of our Year 11 pupils will have the wonderful opportunity to experience the magic of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* live on stage at the historic St George's Hall in Liverpool.

The trip promises to be a festive highlight, combining literature with the grandeur of one of the city's most iconic venues.

Pupils will see the timeless tale of Ebenezer Scrooge brought to life, complete with atmospheric staging and powerful performances that capture the spirit of Christmas and the importance of kindness and generosity.

This visit not only supports their English studies but also offers a chance to immerse themselves in Victorian culture and the enduring themes of redemption and compassion. We're sure it will be an unforgettable experience for all involved!

POETRY BY HEART

Returns!



We are excited to announce that the Poetry by Heart competition is back for another year! This inspiring initiative has already proven hugely popular among our Year 7 and 8 pupils, and we can't wait to see the creativity and confidence it brings once again.

The challenge invites pupils to select a poem that speaks to them personally, memorise it, and perform it with passion and expression. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the power of words and develop public speaking skills in a supportive, creative environment.

Although we're just at the starting line, enthusiasm is already building. Pupils will explore poems, share ideas, and practise their recitations. We look forward to seeing form-time winners join our lunchtime poetry club—a lively space where pupils refine their performances and encourage one another.

As the competition progresses, our young poets will aim for the ultimate goal: submitting their recitations to the national stage, with the chance to perform at the prestigious Globe Theatre. With such talent and dedication in our school, we're confident this year will be another incredible success!

Geography

The Geography department has had a busy and exciting term, filled with hands-on learning across year groups. Our Year 7 pupils took part in a fieldtrip, investigating the potential impact of a proposed new road on the local environment in Rimrose Valley. They carried out environmental quality surveys, questionnaires and decibel metre readings to assess the effect of the road on the community and environment. Year 8 carried out on-site fieldwork, carefully collecting data on vegetation types and tree species to build a clearer picture of our local biome. Meanwhile, Geography Club is leading a brilliant reusable clothing project, encouraging pupils to donate outgrown or unwanted school uniform. The aim is to reduce waste, promote sustainability and support families in our community. We are proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork and environmental awareness shown by our pupils throughout the term. Well done Geographers!



Science Department Highlights



STEM Trip to Unilever



Unilever

On 19th November, five of our pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Unilever as part of their STEM programme, led by Mr. Burcher. The trip offered a fascinating insight into how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics drive innovation in the real world. Pupils explored cutting-edge research and learned about sustainable practices in product development. It was an inspiring experience that showcased the diverse career paths available in STEM industries.

STEM Club and Ambassadors Programme

For the past five weeks, Mrs. Greenwood has been running a weekly STEM Club, which has become a hub of creativity and problem-solving. The club contributes to the STEM Ambassadors Programme, encouraging pupils to develop practical skills and confidence in scientific thinking. Activities have ranged from hands-on experiments to collaborative projects, all designed to spark curiosity and deepen understanding. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our pupils highlight the growing interest in STEM across the school.

Looking Ahead

Both initiatives reflect our department's dedication to providing enriching experiences beyond the classroom. We are proud of our pupils' engagement and look forward to more opportunities that connect learning with real-world applications. Thank you to Mr. Burcher and Mrs. Greenwood for their leadership and passion in making these programmes a success.



"I believe I can fly... like a bee?"



Spanish Spelling Bee Returns + Translation Bee Launches

This half term, Chesterfield's Spanish department has been buzzing with two exciting language challenges for Year 7 and Year 8.

Year 7: The Spanish Spelling Bee



All Year 7 pupils are gearing up for Round One as they learn, translate, and spell 50 Spanish words. Class tests will take place before Christmas and the top spellers from each form will move on to the Whole Year Group round. From there, three super spellers will earn a spot at the Regional Competition at the University of Liverpool in the Spring Term.

Last year's star, Sarah Noon, travelled all the way to the national final in Cambridge—coming 4th in the entire country. ¡Qué estupenda! Will another champion rise this year?



Year 8: The Spanish Translation Bee

For the first time, all 310 pupils in Year 8 are taking on the Translation Bee. Their task? Learn 50 Spanish phrases and translate as many as possible in just one minute. Like the Spelling Bee, class winners will compete in the Whole Year Group round, and the best will move forward.

Good luck to all our brilliant linguists—spread your wings and fly!

Sarah Noon, current Year 8, Cambridge Translation Spelling Bee Finals, 2025



Year 13 Criminology Court Visit



Our Year 13 Criminology pupils recently had the opportunity to visit Liverpool Crown Court, gaining first-hand insight into the workings of the criminal justice system. The trip allowed pupils to observe live proceedings, including real cases being heard before judges and juries.

During the visit, pupils observed the roles of legal professionals and the processes involved in delivering justice. They were able to see how theoretical concepts from their studies—such as sentencing, evidence presentation, and the rights of defendants—apply in real-life scenarios.

The experience was invaluable in deepening their understanding of the complexities of law and order, while also highlighting potential career paths within the legal sector. Many pupils commented on how seeing justice in action brought their classroom learning to life.

A big thank you to Liverpool Crown Court for welcoming our pupils and providing such an engaging and educational experience.

Spotlight Club of the term: Gymnastics

This term our Gymnastics Club has truly shone, earning its place as our Spotlight Club of the Term! We've been thrilled to welcome over 60 pupils across our two lively weekly sessions and the enthusiasm, commitment, and determination on display have been nothing short of inspiring.

Throughout the term pupils have been working hard on a wide range of skills including vaulting, floor routines, tumbling, and many exciting new elements that showcase their growing confidence and strength. Every session has been full of energy, teamwork, and impressive progress.

A major highlight this term has been our upcoming trip to Airborne, where pupils will have the chance to practice their tumbling skills in a specialist environment. We can't wait to see how this extra training helps them as we look ahead to our post-Christmas competitions.

And that's not all—parents and carers, please keep your eyes peeled for our Gymnastics Display Show coming in early 2026. It promises to be a fantastic celebration of everything our talented gymnasts have achieved.

Well done to all our pupils for their dedication this term—you truly deserve the spotlight.



Out of school achievements

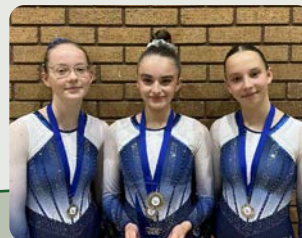
Jumping for joy!

Huge congratulations to our pupils who took part in the schools trampoline competition North West recently.

The following gymnasts have all qualified to the Zonal Round of the competition:

- Noah Atkinson 1st
- Mollie Mullin 4th
- Elite az-14 Team 2nd
(Beth Pavey, Esmae Marshall and Alice Deardon)
- Advanced 7-9 Team 2nd
(Hannah Vis, Amelie Gomes and Iyla Brown)

This is a huge success and we hope you join us in congratulating the children who competed.



A real knockout!



Huge congratulations to Oliver in Year 10 who recently returned from Niagara Falls in Canada having taken part in the WKC world kickboxing championships.

Oliver is now a two times world kickboxing champion. He fought exceptionally well and won two gold medals and a bronze!



A Race for a Reason: Lydia's Mammoth Journey for Alfie's Squad



In November, Year 10 pupil Lydia and her dad Danny set out on an extraordinary challenge in support of Alfie's Squad, the charity set up by 8 year old Alfie in 2017, with the aim of providing peer support to children and young people who have been bereaved by suicide. Remarkably, such dedicated support for children is not available anywhere in the UK.

Alfie's Squad provides a safe space in which young members and their families have the chance to build confidence and friendships, while reduce isolation with others who share similar experiences. raising awareness of youth mental health and preventing suicide.

Their mission: **Race for a Reason**—a multi-day, cross-country adventure connecting communities impacted by high suicide rates and celebrating local efforts to support those in need.

Day 1: From Anfield to the North West Coast

The challenge kicked off with a burst of energy as the pair set off from the Anfield Hotel, heading straight for Bolton's football ground. Spirits were high as they even found themselves on the pitch, meeting football legend Peter Reid along the way.

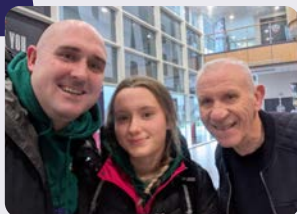
Next stop: Blackpool. In true *Race Across the World* style, Lydia and Danny ended the leg in a thrilling foot race against former Liverpool goalkeeper Chris Kirkland—sprinting from the train station to the iconic Blackpool Tower.

They closed out the day at Carlisle United's ground, checking in as Team 7 out of 20, and even managing to finish ahead of 2025 Race Across the World winner Tom Bridge. A brilliant start, full of momentum and motivation.

"Keep the donations coming—thanks for all your support," Danny shared after an exhausting but rewarding first day.

Spreading the Message Across the Country

Throughout the challenge, Lydia and Danny's goal extended beyond reaching checkpoints. They were travelling the country to spread awareness about Alfie's Squad, highlighting the vital role the charity plays in supporting communities affected by high suicide rates. Every stop, every city, and every sprint served a bigger purpose: making sure more people know where to turn for help.



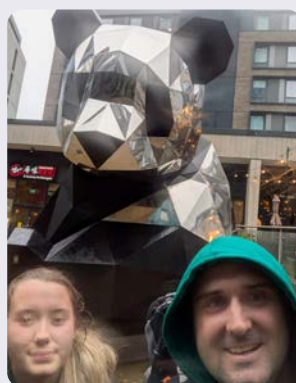
Day 2: Rain, Railways, and Remarkable Determination

Day two began with Team Lydia and Danny in 7th place, but their grit and teamwork would soon transform that position.

Starting again in Carlisle, they raced to catch a train to Newcastle, sprinted to the Earl Grey Monument, then shared an Uber with another team to Age UK Darlington—checkpoint one of a long and demanding day.



Another dash to Darlington station sent them south to Sheffield, where the rain awaited them. Despite the weather, they hunted down Hendo the Panda for a required photo, then headed to Bramall Lane to complete checkpoint two.



A gruelling 3.5-hour train journey to Norwich didn't slow them down. As soon as they arrived, Lydia and Danny were off at full speed once again—running to Carrow Road, snapping a picture in a specific seat, and racing to their hotel for the final checkpoint.

Day 3: Capital Ending

What a day. Norwich to Cambridge, Cambridge to the Emirates. Then we had to tick off 5 sights in London including Hyde Park, Winter Wonderland, the Christmas Tree at Covent Garden, Nig Ben, the Natural History Museum and the Southbank centre before a mad dash to Stamford Bridge. Lydia and I finished 4th out of 20 teams. We were shattered but made up with the memories we have made, the new friends, and the money that will help Alfie's Squad.

Out of the nine teams on the same train, they finished 2nd, an incredible achievement after such an intense day. Their overall position improved from 7th to 5th, putting them in the third timeslot for the next morning—with their sights set firmly on climbing even higher.

"I couldn't be prouder of Lydia," Danny shared.

"It has been some graft today and we are shattered."

You can donate to
Alfie's Squad here:



Little update

The total raised is over
the **£56,000** mark.
Thanks for all the
donations everyone.

Carol Concert Celebration



Our annual Trust Carol Concert was a truly joyful occasion this year, filling the Chesterfield school hall with warmth, music, and festive spirit. With over 100 children taking part and an audience of more than 400 adults, the hall was alive with excitement as families, staff, and community members gathered together to celebrate the season.

The children delivered a wonderful programme of carols and seasonal songs, showcasing both their hard work and their enthusiasm. From traditional favourites to modern festive pieces, their voices blended beautifully and filled the hall with the magic of Christmas.

For many families, it was a highlight of the school calendar, and the pride on the faces of parents and carers was clear to see.

Our thanks go to the staff and music leads who supported the children in preparing for the concert, and to everyone who joined us on the evening. It was a heart-warming reminder of the strength of our Trust community and the joy that comes from coming together.

We look forward to many more shared celebrations in the year ahead—until then, we wish all of our families a peaceful and happy festive season.

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

*The added pressures of Christmas can be tough,
but it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to...*



Call **111** and select option 2 to speak to the **NHS Mental Health Crisis Response Service** 24/7.

nhs.uk/mental-health



Under 35s can Call **0800 0684141**,
Text: **88247** or
Email: pat@papyrus.uk.org 24/7

papyrus-uk.org

SAMARITANS

Call **116 123** to talk to Samaritans, or
Email: jo@samaritans.org for a reply with 24 hours.

samaritans.org



Call **MIND's Mental Health Helpline** 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday on **0300 102 1234**

mind.org.uk



Text '**SHOUT**' to **85258** to contact the **Shout Crisis Text Line**, or Text '**YM**' if you're under 19.

giveusashout.org



Mental Health Forum & Chat for Men from 5pm - midnight everyday
Call or WhatsApp **0800 585858**

thecalmzone.net

Festive Fundraising

Year 7 Spread Christmas Cheer for Alder Hey Children's Hospital

This festive season, our wonderful Year 7 pupils have shown true kindness, generosity, and community spirit through their collection of toys and monetary donations for the children at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

Over the past few weeks, pupils and their families have come together to donate an incredible variety of gifts—from cuddly toys and creative activity sets to thoughtful contributions that will help brighten a child's stay in hospital. Each item and every penny given represents the compassion and empathy that make our school community so special.

A heartfelt thank you to all Year 7 pupils and their families for your generosity. Your support will make a real difference to children spending time in hospital over the holidays, bringing smiles, comfort, and a little extra Christmas magic when it is needed most.

Well done, Year 7—you've truly shown the power of giving.



Year 9 Shine in the Reindeer Ramble

Last Friday afternoon, under clear blue skies and glorious sunshine, our Year 9 pupils took part in the much-anticipated Reindeer Ramble. The event was filled with festive cheer, laughter, and plenty of smiles as pupils walked together in support of a wonderful cause.

We are thrilled to share that the Ramble was not only a fun and memorable experience but also a fantastic success in raising funds for St Joseph's Hospice. Your generous donations will make a real difference, and we cannot thank you enough for your kindness and support.

A huge well done to all pupils for their enthusiasm and community spirit, and a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this meaningful event. To date we have raised over £800 for St Joseph's Hospice. Together, we have shown the true power of giving during the festive season!



Year 10 Live Out Our Social Signature Through Support for the Whitechapel Centre

Our school's Social Signature continues to shine brightly shaping the character of our pupils and positively impacting the wider Liverpool community. This term, our Year 10 pupils and their families have shown exceptional compassion by donating essential items and monetary contributions to support the vital work of the Whitechapel Centre, a charity dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness across the city.

From warm clothing and toiletries to food items and generous financial donations, the response has been inspiring. Every contribution will make a meaningful difference to individuals who rely on the charity for support, safety, and hope—especially during the colder months.

What makes this initiative so powerful is not just the donations themselves, but the empathy and understanding behind them. Our Year 10 pupils are demonstrating that social responsibility is not just something we talk about; it is something we actively live out as a community. Their actions show how our Social Signature is helping to shape young people who are thoughtful, outward-looking, and committed to helping others.

A heartfelt thank you to all Year 10 pupils and their families for your kindness and generosity. Your contributions will make a real impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Liverpool.

Together, we are proving that even small acts of kindness can create big change.

Celebrating Our Pupils' Community Spirit

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils for their outstanding efforts in raising money on behalf of **Sefton Community Pantry**.

Through their enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment to helping others, our pupils have made a meaningful contribution to a local organisation that provides vital support to individuals and families within our community. Sefton Community Pantry plays an important role in helping people access affordable food and everyday essentials, and the funds raised will directly support this valuable work.

This achievement reflects not only the generosity of our pupils, but also their strong sense of social responsibility and compassion. Taking the time to support others while balancing academic commitments is no small feat, and they should be extremely proud of what they have accomplished.

Well done to everyone involved for representing our school so positively and for making a real difference locally. Your efforts truly demonstrate the power of young people coming together to support their community.

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.

Ease the pressure

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

Ask for help

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

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.

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.

Connect

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

Plan ahead

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

Chesterfield High School

Chesterfield Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 9YB. Tel: 0151 924 6454 Fax: 0151 931 5089

Email: head@chesterfieldhigh.co.uk www.chesterfieldhigh.org.uk