

Across the Bay Christmas Edition 2023

Welcome to The Bay Learning Trust Newsletter



A community of schools learning and growing together

December 2023

The Bay Learning Trust





In the Christmas Edition

Topics discussed in this month's newsletter:

- *Christmas comes early for pupils at Central Lancaster High School*
 - *School News Across the Bay*
 - *Ripley ITT Spring events*
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"For even the Son of Man (Jesus) came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

Christmas comes early for pupils at Central Lancaster High School

Our pupils are delighted that phase two of our £8 million pounds new build is nearing completion. Work starts in the new year on cladding the building and fitting out the inside.

The second phase of the build will house our maths and English departments. Downstairs, there will be 5 classrooms, a departmental office and a new toilet block. Upstairs there will be 5 classrooms, a departmental office and a dual aspect, fully resourced library that will look out over the city of Lancaster, Morecambe Bay and beyond to the view of the Lake District - a truly inspirational setting for our pupils to immerse themselves in literature.

Phase two is due for completion around May half term and complements phase one, which is now fully accessible to our pupils. It offers state of the art facilities including a design technology workshop, food technology room and IT suite. In addition, we have five new science labs, a lab prep room, toilets and departmental office space.

Mr J Cowper

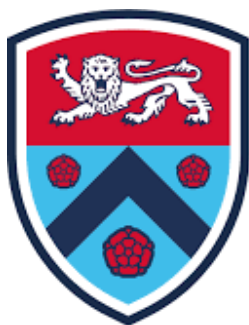
Executive Headteacher

Central Lancaster High School



Schools News Across the Bay

Carnforth High School News



Carnforth
High School

Carnforth Christmas Fair

On Saturday 9th December, Carnforth High School held our Christmas Fair in order to raise money for future community projects. There were a wide range of stalls, including those selling 2024 calendars, which the students in Years 7 and 8 created as part of their recent Enrichment Day. The money raised on the day was over £800, with more calendars still to be sold.

The pupils who supported were utterly amazing and a true asset to the school. It was also lovely to meet so many pupils, parents and grandparents from our school and local community.





Christmas Foodbank Collection

Each year we hold a charity non-uniform day, where we ask students to contribute food items to help our local foodbank, Morecambe Bay Foodbank. As always, our students and their parents rose to the occasion, with 1,272 items donated – that's almost 2 items for every student in our school!

The foodbank came to collect the items on the morning of 9th December, and we filled the van! The collection team also kindly took the time to explain the value of the donations to our student volunteer team, who gave up their time to count, pack and load all the donations. A massive thanks to those volunteers and all the members of our community who donated and supported this important charity work.





Matthew's head shave for 'Help for Heroes' and 'Little Princess Trust'

As you may recall from previous issues, one of Carnforth High School's Year 11 students, Matthew, has been growing his hair to raise money for charity with a head shaving event, which took place on 10th December.

The money raised will be donated to 'Help for Heroes' and Matthew will be donating his hair to 'The Little Princess Trust,' who provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.

Thanks to all the support he has received, Matthew has now reached his £10,000 target to support good causes. What an amazing young man!





[Central Lancaster High School News](#)



Community events and fundraising at Central Lancaster High School

Community Club have been meeting weekly to discuss ways to support the school and local community. They met with the local council to discuss littering in the local area and ways this can be reduced. They have also been involved in organising the Central Lancaster High School reverse advent to support Morecambe Bay Food Bank, and decorated the school canteen in preparation for Christmas Lunch week. To support the local community, they have planned and designed a festive booklet for children over the Christmas holidays. It is great to see how dedicated our members are to supporting the school and surrounding area.



All pupils will be taking part in our **Elf Run** on Tuesday 19th December. Pupils will be running 1.5 miles and are being challenged to raise as much money as they can for St. John's Hospice, as part of our commitment to supporting others in our local community. We were very lucky to welcome a representative from St John's Hospice into school this week to share the vital work that the hospice do, and to share with all pupils how their fundraising money directly supports the work of the Hospice.

We are also supporting the **Foodbank** this Christmas, with pupils and their families kindly donating items to support the Foodbank's Christmas appeal. By the last week of term, pupils from Community Club will have taken our donations down to the centre and will have supported volunteers there to pack boxes for families.

Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival 2023 (1st – 3rd December)

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas – especially at Christ Church, where their annual Christmas Tree Festival was held in the first weekend of December. For the second year running, Central Lancaster High School decided to put its creative skills to the test and enter the competition. It was a pleasure to be involved, once again, and we send our huge thanks to Julie, who coordinates the event each year.

The 7-foot trees adorning the aisles of the church throughout the festival weekend are sponsored by local companies. Groups and schools within the local community are then invited to decorate them.

On Thursday 30th November, a number of Year 7 and 8 pupils walked to the church, to decorate our entry with a variety of embellishments made to reflect our community spirit, our inclusive environment and the vast amount of charity work we do.

The pupils worked efficiently and respectfully in the church and Julie was extremely impressed with the creative decorations, the maturity that the pupils showed and the enthusiasm demonstrated.

The finished product comprised a huge number of decorations made by form groups throughout school and several of the art classes, under the guidance of Mrs Stephenson.

Julie then took it upon herself to give the pupils a guided tour of the church and was thrilled with the high levels of interest shown.

After the festival closed on Sunday 3rd December, the school adopted its tree and it now stands proudly in the inner reception area at school for all to see.







Longridge High School News



Jumpers for Joel

In February 2020, Year 7 pupil, Joel Shaw, lost his fight against cancer. Joel had received the all clear weeks previously, after enduring 56 rounds of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Indeed, he rang the bell at Manchester Children's Hospital when he got the all-clear.

Sadly, the cancer returned with a vengeance and Joel, on learning that it was now incurable, shook the Doctor's hand and said, 'You tried your best.'



Every Christmas, we have a Jumpers for Joel day, where we raise money for Derian House Children's Hospice, who looked after Joel and his family in his final weeks. This year is particularly poignant since Joel would have been in Year 11. Joel was the most amazing and inspirational young man who never moaned or complained. His friends have said the following: 'It is a true honour for us to be able to carry on Joel Shaw's legacy even as our time at Longridge High School comes to end. Joel was quite a character to all who knew him. He was funny and kind-hearted and would always make you smile and laugh even if you weren't in the mood. He always put a smile on everyone's faces and lightened the mood every single day. When Joel had cancer, he always looked on the bright side. The fact, Joel could still joke about and be himself whilst undergoing treatment and battling this horrific illness, really inspires us and others who knew him.'

Joel embodies all that is good about Christmas – kindness, compassion, fun and love. We all miss him.

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert featured a range of musical talent, from bands playing songs by Metallica and Nirvana, to traditional Christmas songs, with the cast joining together with the audience for a rousing rendition of Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree.

Pupils from all year groups entertained a large audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the evening. There was a scene from the upcoming school production of Frozen, to whet the appetite for more entertainment in the New Year. A good time was had by all, with the Christmas spirit very much evident across the school and local community. All money raised on the evening went to supporting CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), to support heart screening weekends for young people from across the community.



Helping the Community

Longridge High School is at the heart of the local community, and staff, pupils and their families have been very generous in donating food for the Ribble Valley Food Bank. Ribble Valley Food Bank is run in partnership with local churches, and last year distributed 3 days' food to 1560 people in crisis need in the Ribble Valley. We are donating to the Longridge Centre, hoping that our donations will go some way to supporting those families in need over the Christmas period.



Morecambe Bay Academy News



Kindness of Student Ambassadors

At Morecambe Bay Academy, our Year 8 Student Ambassadors have been contributing to our whole school Christmas charity events. Organised with support from Miss Povey-Carter, they are running a Christmas raffle, and tickets are selling like hotcakes after they secured some excellent prizes from our local community.

On Thursday 7th December, the student ambassadors also had their own private art club session, supported by Miss Moore, to create posters advertising all their hard work.

They also have planned a candy cane sale and a movie night!









Morecambe Food Bank donations

The community of Morecambe Bay Academy have very kindly donated a fantastic array of items to Morecambe Food Bank over this festive period. Thank you so much to everyone who donated, the food bank were extremely grateful.



Elf Run

On Friday 15th December, wearing our Christmas jumpers, the whole school took part in the St John's Hospice **Elf Run** along Morecambe Promenade. Our Year 9 students also organised a collection for the charity, Save the Children.



[Ripley St Thomas CE Academy News](#)



Christmas Clothes Drive

In the build up to Christmas, lots of Ripley families have made room by having a clear out and donating to our clothes drive.

This charitable initiative has encouraged us to donate warm clothing, sleeping bags, gloves, scarves, hats and coats to help the homeless and refugees this winter. The clothes have been piling up nicely and by the time you are reading this, they will have been delivered to, and distributed by Global Link (refugees) and Lancaster and District Homeless Association.

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated and are thinking of others this Christmas.

<https://globalink.org.uk/>

<https://www.ldhas.org.uk/>





Raising money for Lancashire MIND and Save the Children

The **Mental Elf Run**, organised in school by Ripley Sport, is taking place after school on Thursday 21st December - just as this newsletter is likely to be landing in your inbox. Our Ripley community will be raising money for Lancashire MIND. Like lots of other schools in the Trust, we love to participate in

this special Christmas activity. Circuits of the school grounds are the norm and all pupils and staff have been invited to attend.

It will be brilliant to end the term with lots of people there, running, walking and talking. There will be hot chocolates provided in the dining room afterwards (but of course!) whilst festive Christmas music plays. Christmas attire is optional (but very usual, as you can see by some of last year's runners below).

As part of our charitable activity this year and in line with our value of 'service,' we also held **Christmas Jumper/ Non-Uniform Day** on Friday 15th December.

Pupils and staff arrived in a flurry of sparkles and snowflakes, having donated to chosen charity, Save the Children. The mood was lovely in school, with spot prizes, tutor group Christmas fun and staff selfies. The 20 tubs of Cadbury's Heroes in Mrs Benter's office were ready to be claimed for prizes as all home-made or decorated jumpers and outfits were celebrated!



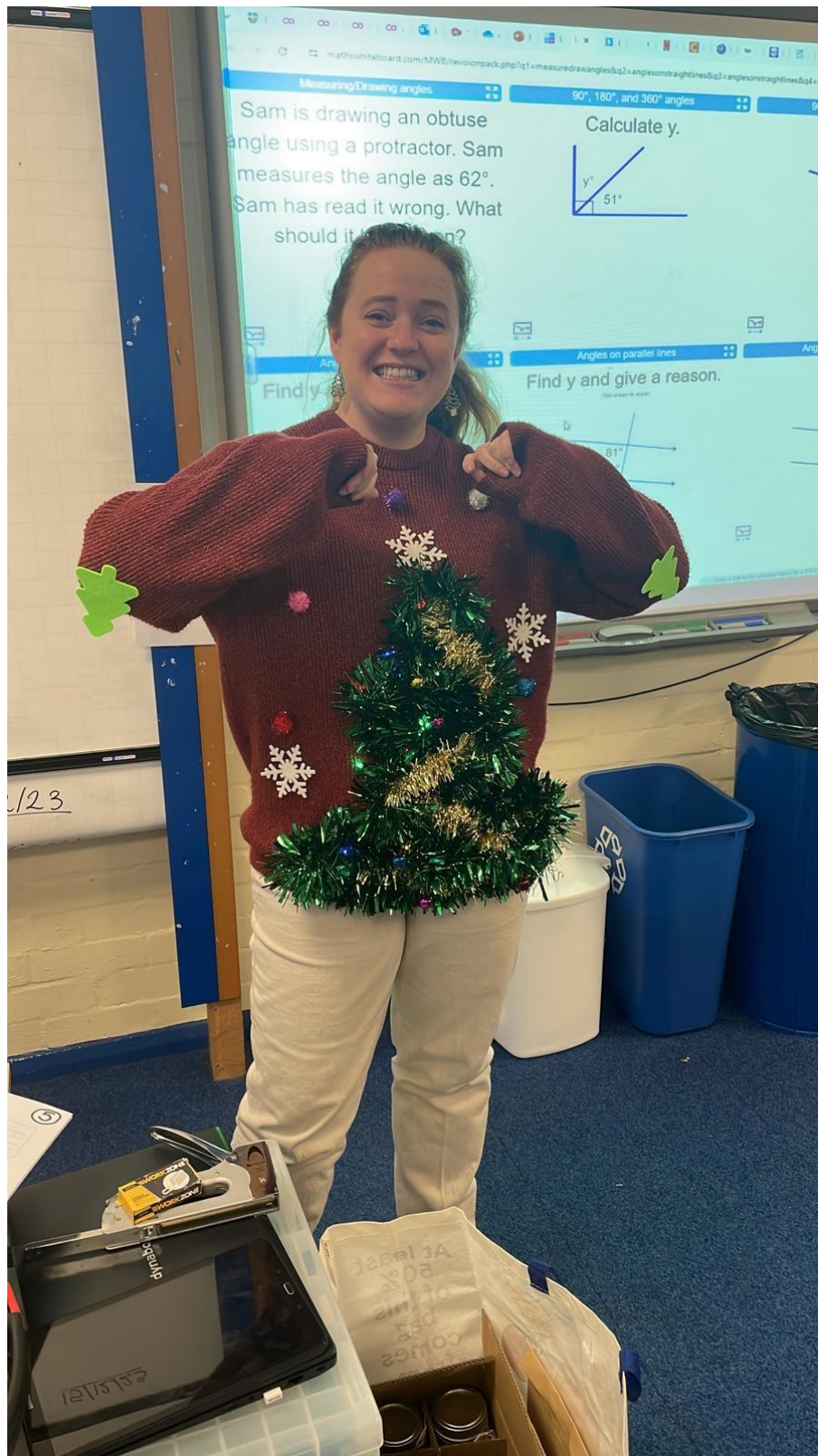








































A Musical Christmas at Ripley

On Tuesday 12th December, Ripley Music Department delivered the most amazing **Christmas Concert** to a packed audience of family, friends and staff.

This performance demonstrated just how talented our musicians are, with renditions across all instruments, vocal groups and ages. Huge thanks must go to all the Music department staff, supported by the peripatetic music teachers offering so much variety to our pupils and we can't wait for the next performance (the Staff Choir was the icing on the cake).

The audience enjoyed the performances immensely with rapturous applause and couldn't wait for the next event - our not-to-be-missed (and fully sold out) Carol Service!

"A massive well done to all of the performers at tonight's concert. From Year 7 to 13 (and many alumni!), it was a fantastic showcase of talent, enthusiasm, and camaraderie. A night to remember."

Dr Allcock, Director of Music



Orchestra Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson Hoe-Down (Rodeo) – Aaron Copland, arr. Iain Farrington	Guitar Group Ripley Blues – Traditional, arr. Tim Lockyer Sweet Child O' Mine – Slash/Rose/Stradlin Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree – Marks
Away in a Manger	While Shepherds Watched their Flocks
School Band God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen – Traditional, arr. Bernd Wolf Dancing in the Street – Marvin Gaye, arr. Ed Korolyk Knock on Wood – Floyd and Cropper, arr. Ed Korolyk	Isaac Goddard Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson
Glee Club The Nicest Kids in Town – Hairspray	Upper School & Junior Girls' Choir Levitating – Dua Lipa arr. Emma Williams White Winter Hymnal – Fleet Foxes/Pentatonic arr. Emma Williams
Megan Bowden Intermezzo – from Cavalleria rusticana, arr. Alan Bullard	Lauren Hamilton & Evie Hobbs "Cysga Di – Sleep Away" Welsh traditional arr. Gwyn Arch
Junior Boys' Choir When you believe – Stephen Schwartz	Saxophone Group Deck the halls with a Merry Christmas – arr. David Beal Subway – Karen Street
O Little Town of Bethlehem	Lydia Walmsley Requiem – Dear Evan Hansen
Brass Group Football Crazy Carol of the Bells	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Chapel Choir Wexford Carol – tradition Irish carol, arr. Sarah Quartel	Jazz Band Gonna Fly Now (Theme from Rocky) – Conti, Connors and Robbins, arr. Jay Chattaway Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas – Martin and Blane, arr. Dave Wolpe Omaha – Matt Wallace, arr Gordon Goodwin
Once in Royal David's City	Elena Reeve O Holy Night
String Group Snowscape – arr. Peter Wilson Have yourself a merry little Christmas – arr. Peter Wilson	Staff Choir I want it that way – words and music by Max Martin and Andreas Carlsson, arr. Don Gillthorpe
Eva Loynd A Change in Me – Beauty and the Beast	Finale
INTERVAL	

"Our 13th Ripley Christmas Concert and fantastic to see the confidence and progression of these "lockdown children". Talent in abundance supported by their committed and inspirational teachers."

Jo, Parent















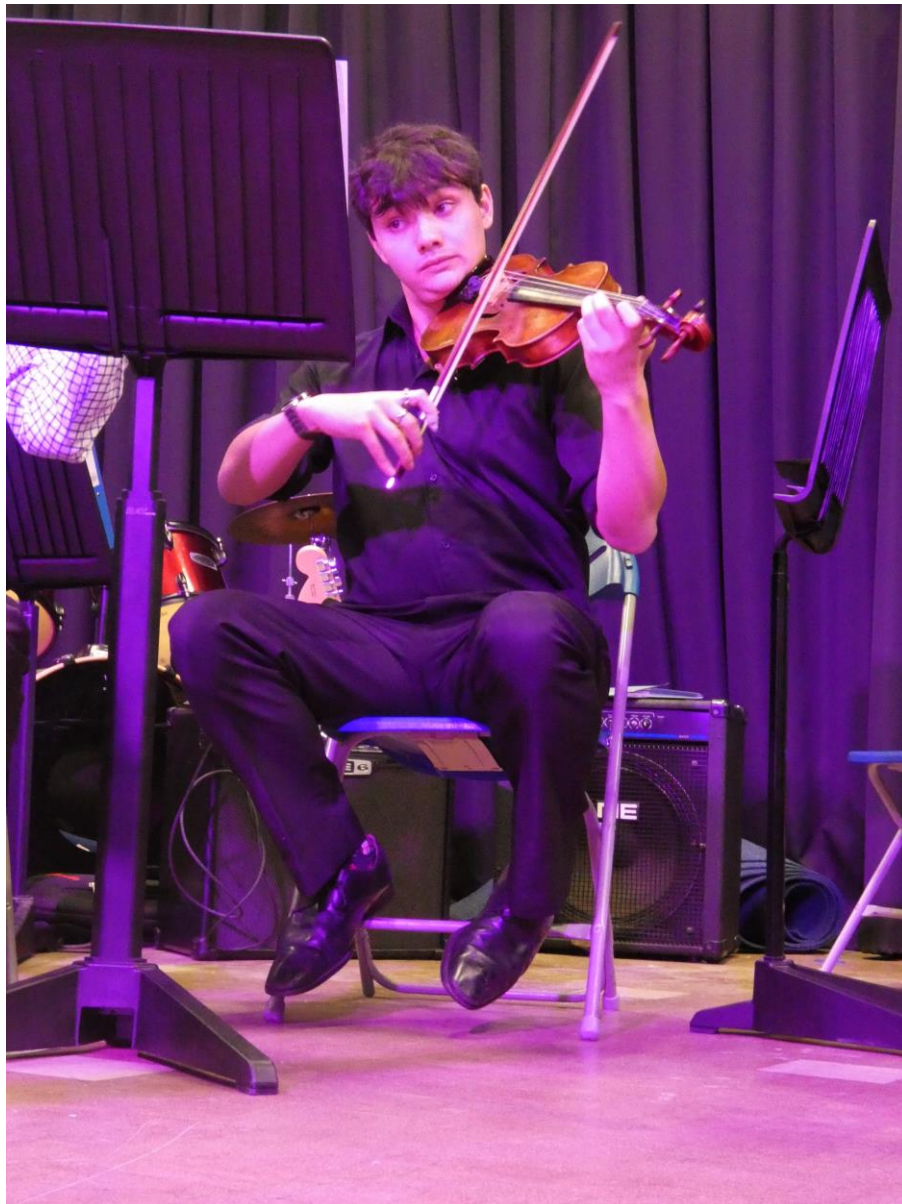


























On the evening of Tuesday 19th December, in Ripley Chapel, the Choir prepared for what is one of the most memorable nights of the school calendar, the annual **Carol Service**.

It was beautifully atmospheric as a packed audience joined in the singing and were thrilled by the incredible voices of the Choir.

We were also very honoured that many Ripley alumni made special journeys for the occasion.

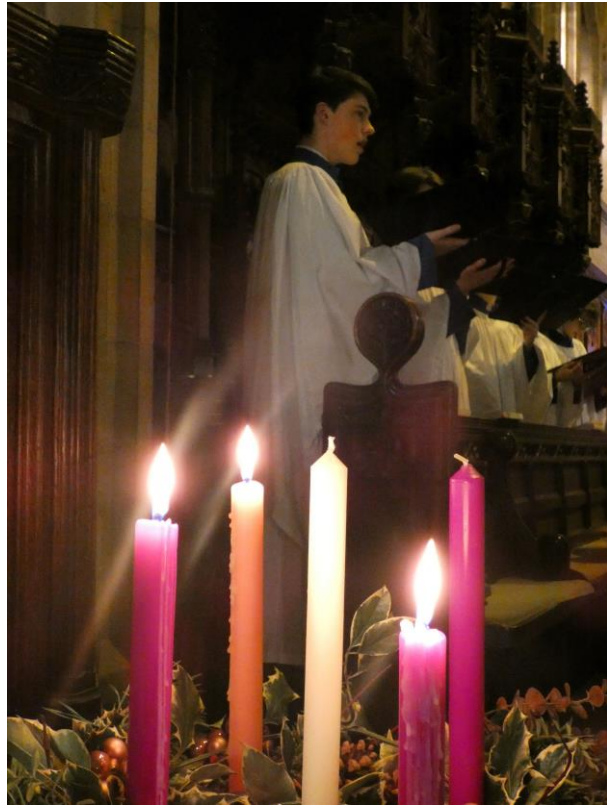


<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/VabSiBrDXlq8MTsB#content=glufgWTTRzvxVu>

"The most perfect moment of the year for me. It is absolutely magical. Don has a choir to be proud of - incredible voices augmented with some 'old' familiar faces. Happy Christmas everyone."

Kate, Parent







Ripley ITT events in Spring 2024

Open Evenings Spring 2024

January 16th at Ripley St Thomas
17:30 - 18:30pm

Jan 25th on Zoom
17:30 - 18:30pm

6th Feb on Zoom
18:00 - 19:00pm

Orsted
Outstanding
Provider

Sign up on Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/3uh2tvxk>

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