



CHRIST CHURCH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Autumn (2) 2025

A Christmas Message from the Principal

As we celebrate Christmas, we give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. This season reminds us of God's love, hope, and peace, which are at the heart of our school community.

Thank you to our staff, pupils and families for your continued support and for living out our Christian values throughout the year. It has been a joy to see faith, kindness, and learning grow together.

May your Christmas be filled with joy, rest, and God's blessing. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs T Thorn, Principal

Reminders!

Diary Dates



January 2026

- 5 Inset Day
- 6 Pupils Return
- 12 Y6 Parents Evening
- 12 Y7 Oracy Day
- 20 KS2 Dodgeball (all day)
- 22/23 Y5 Safe and Sound Visits (am)
- 26 8KHO Water Plus Visit
- 30 Y8 Careers Challenge

February 2026

- 9-12 Y6 Mock SATs
- 10 Lego League
- 12 Disco 6:00-7:30pm
- 15-21 Ski Trip, Spain
- 16-20 Half Term
- 23 8HR Water Plus Visit
- 29 Y7 Art Trip

~~~ More information on the above events will follow in the New Year

There is an inset day on Monday 5th Jan 2026 and pupils should return to school on Tuesday 6th!

Before and after school club places must be pre-booked – please see our website for the bookings link.

Don't forget to visit our website to see the new Activities List for Spring Term 1 2026 and the amazing extra-curricular opportunities on offer!

Closing date for applications for Year 5 September 2026 entry closes on 15th January 2026. Tours are available around school for prospective parents/carers and their children.

## Message from Minnie

Woof woof! 🐾  
It's Minnie here, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for making my days so happy with your gentle hands and friendly faces. Enjoy a warm, joyful holiday, and I can't wait to see you all in the New Year! 🎄🐶







# CURRICULUM



## COMPUTING

**Year 6 Stop Motion Projects** – Year 6 are continuing studying stop motion animation this half-term. They are using a variety of objects of their own choosing to create their own movie including Lego, paper and action figures. Here are some photo's from 6MJ's projects.



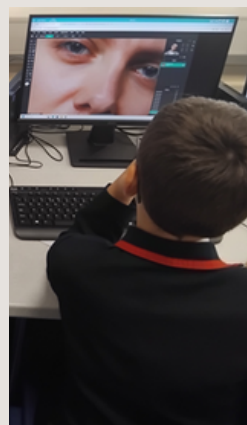
**Aliens in Stone!!** Whilst studying images pupils are also looking at how we cannot believe every image we see online. The increased access to AI has caused fake images to look almost perfect. Pupils created their own fake news images to show how easy it can be done.



**Bebras Challenge 2025** – This term Christ Church Academy pupils competed in the Bebras Challenge tournament for the first time. All pupils had the opportunity during Computing lessons to complete the 2025 challenge which tests Computational and ICT skills through the use of abstract code breaking and logic puzzles. Pupils competed against children of their age from all over the world. We look forward to finding out if we have any winners!



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# CURRICULUM



## FRENCH

It has been a wonderfully productive term in the French Department, with all year groups working hard on their assessments and target tasks. Pupils across the school have shown excellent independence, identifying areas they would like to improve and taking thoughtful steps to develop their skills.

**Year 5** have enjoyed learning "All About Me" this term and have also explored the traditions of Christmas in France.

**Year 6** have been studying profiles, likes and dislikes, and have produced some truly impressive personal profiles.

**Year 7** put their creativity to the test by designing and presenting their own dream schools with imaginative features and persuasive presentations.

**Year 8** invented their own sports and showcased them confidently, demonstrating both originality and strong language skills.

To top it all off, we are incredibly proud of the 11 Year 8 pupils selected to take part in the Business Language Champions regional competition at Kings High School in Warwick. Pupils were challenged to create a model hotel, conduct interviews in French, design menus and brochures, and more.

**We are thrilled to announce that our CCA team came first place!**

It's been an exciting half term full of creativity, hard work and linguistic adventure.



## DT - TEXTILES

**Year 5** students have been very excited about making their sock pigs. We have gone from stuffing and sewing the pigs bottom, to adding a blanket and some groups have now added ears and a snout (no more talk of bacon or sausage rolls is allowed!). We will be finishing the project after the Christmas break.

**Year 6** have been keeping me busy with a never-ending rotation of rinsing tie-dyed t-shirts and some are adding sponge printed lettering as well. The textiles room is a kaleidoscope of colour and the first batch of t-shirts should be going home just before Christmas.

In **key stage 3** it has been great to see the Year 7 little monster designs come to life - we have donuts, planets, cartoon characters and food.... not to mention the odd 67 monster! In Year 8 students are turning their light designs into real life with students enjoying using the sewing machines and refining their hand sewing skills as they sew a circuit together using conductive thread.







# CURRICULUM



## MATHS

Year 6 did a brilliant job during their recent mock SATs week. They showed real determination and stayed focused across all the tests, giving their best effort throughout. It was great to see how much their confidence has grown, and the week has been a really useful experience as they get ready for the summer SATs. We're very proud of them!

🎄 **Christmas Maths Puzzle** 🎄 **A challenge for children and grown-ups to solve together!**

Santa is packing Christmas gift boxes for families. Each box contains:

- 🎁 Toy cars
- 🧸 Teddy bears
- 🍫 Chocolate coins

### The Rules

1. Each box contains exactly 30 items.
2. The number of toy cars is double the number of teddy bears.
3. The number of chocolate coins is 6 more than the number of teddy bears.
4. There is at least one of each item in every box.

### ? The Question

How many toy cars, teddy bears, and chocolate coins are in each box?

### 💡 Helpful Hint

Start by choosing a number for the teddy bears.

Then:

- Double it to find the number of toy cars
- Add 6 to find the number of chocolate coins
- Check whether the total adds up to 30.

★ Extra Challenge (optional)

Can you explain why some totals wouldn't work?  
What would happen if the box contained  
24 or 36 items instead?

👁👁 Please see answers later in the Newsletter!



## Year 8 Pupils Shine in Interview Skills Lessons

This term, Year 8 pupils have been exploring the concept of identity and what makes them who they are. During the final lessons, pupils have explored how to apply for jobs and how to sell themselves to prospective employers. These lessons introduced pupils to the fundamentals of a successful interview: making a strong first impression, speaking clearly, listening actively, and answering questions thoughtfully. Pupils then had the chance to put these skills into practice through paired activities and mock interviews.

Mrs Thomas was particularly impressed by how quickly pupils embraced the challenge. Many pupils stepped out of their comfort zones, practising everything from maintaining eye contact to structuring detailed, reflective answers. By experiencing interview situations in a supportive classroom environment, Year 8 pupils discovered that interviews can be positive learning experiences rather than something to worry about.

The lessons concluded with group feedback, where pupils shared tips, identified areas for improvement, and celebrated each other's progress. Mrs Thomas noted a noticeable improvement in pupils' self-assurance and communication skills.

Overall, the interview-skills sessions have been a great success, helping Year 8 pupils build valuable life skills they will carry with them well beyond the classroom.





# CURRICULUM



## ENGLISH

At the end of November, the English team hosted their first Book Fair for many years. During the course of a week, pupils, parents and carers were invited to come along to buy books and stationery to raise money for the school library. We are delighted that as a school reading community we raised over £700 to spend on new books.

The Y8 librarian team all chose some books they'd like to see on the shelves and many of the really popular series such as Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Tom Gates and Dork Diaries will be updated or replaced. In addition, there will be lots of brand-new book titles for our pupils to enjoy.

The library also hosted a busy coffee afternoon during Book Fair week and welcoming many parents, grandparents and carers. Minnie joined us to say hello and pupils had the opportunity to browse and buy books from the book fair, as well as sharing their favourite reads from the library shelves.

We look forward to holding more coffee mornings/afternoons later in the year.



## HISTORY

This half term, Year 7 have been exploring the Norman Conquest during 1066, focusing recently on the Bayeux Tapestry and discovering why it is often described as a medieval comic book. Just like a modern graphic novel, the tapestry tells a dramatic story through sequential images, speech-like captions, and vivid action scenes - only stitched instead of printed!

Inspired by this, pupils have learned how the tapestry reveals the key events of 1066, from the fight for the English throne, to the Battle Of Hastings itself. Using their knowledge, they have planned and created their own comic-style retellings of their favourite moments from 1066. Each student designed panels, captions, and illustrations to show the build-up to the invasion and its aftermath, echoing the narrative style of the original tapestry.

The finished "Bayeux Comics" are full of creativity, historical detail, and humour. These are a brilliant blend of art and history that brings the story of 1066 to life!







# CURRICULUM

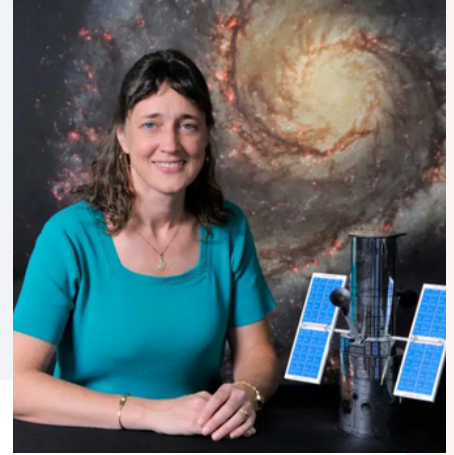


## RE

### Science & Religion

In RE, pupils in Year 5 & Year 7 have been learning about stewardship and creation. They have explored a variety of different perspectives, including that of Christian scientists like Jennifer Wiseman. Wiseman is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as the Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. It has been brilliant to see pupils' understanding of the relationship between faith and science develop over the course of this topic.

Pupils have discussed how much awe and wonder there is to be found in observing nature and the universe in science, and how this leads to questions of spirituality and belief for many people. As a whole school, we are working on developing pupils' speaking and listening skills.



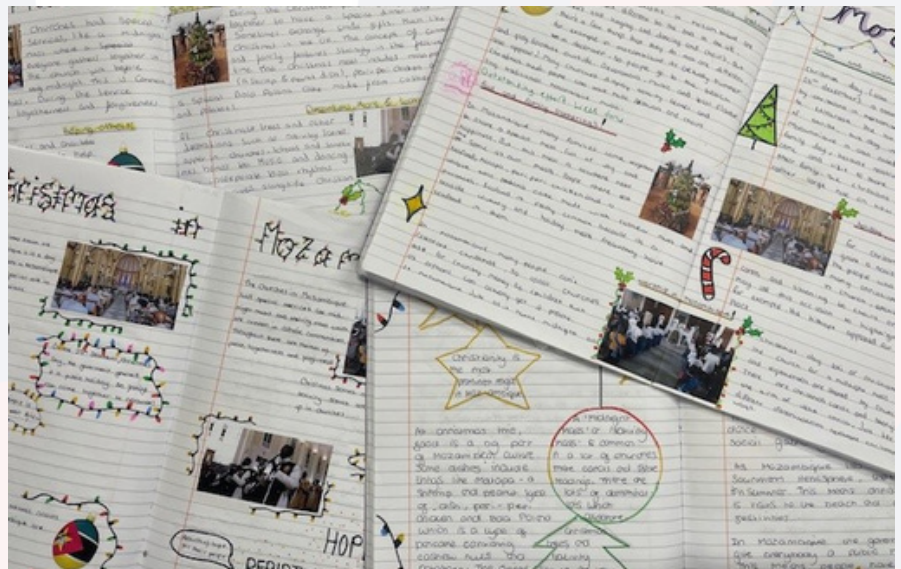
It has been fantastic to see how so many children have embraced this chance to debate and discuss and to listen so thoughtfully to the perspectives of their peers. We are very proud of them.

### Christmas Case Studies

As part of our teaching about Christianity as a global faith, we have been exploring how different Christians around the world celebrate Christmas. Each year group has learned about the traditions and practices of another place:

- Year 5- Lebanon
- Year 6- Nigeria
- Year 7- Iraq
- Year 8- Mozambique

Each place was chosen because of a connection with another part of the curriculum, for example, in Year 6, pupils have studied the history of The Kingdom of Benin, in modern day Nigeria. Pupils learned about how Christians in their location celebrate, including through services of worship, music, food, gatherings and local traditions.



It has been great to see their understanding of the wide variety of ways the faith is expressed around the world grow. Pupils showcased their learning within some brilliant double page spreads featuring colourful artwork and detailed explanations.

Well done to all!

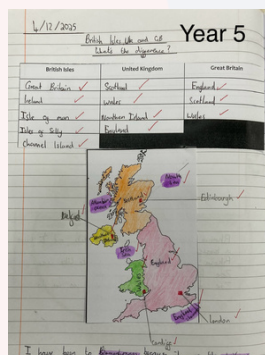




# CURRICULUM

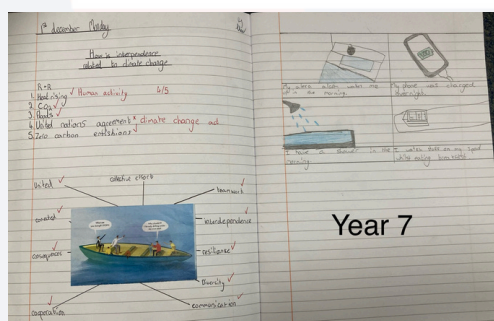
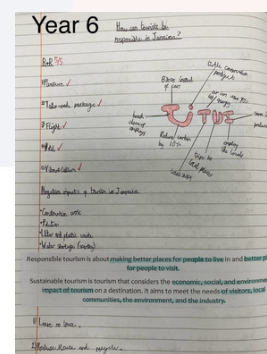


## GEOGRAPHY



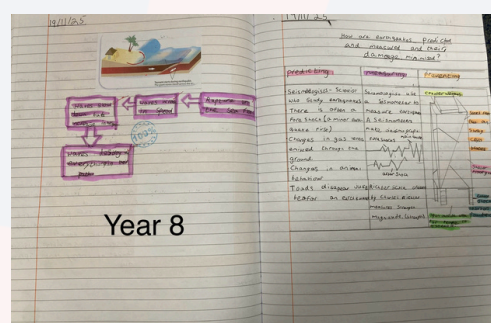
**Year 5** pupils have continued with their topic 'Location! Location!' where we have continued to underpin their geography knowledge and skills that will be required throughout their time here with us at CCA. They went around the world in sixty minutes comparing continents with facts and features, before focussing more specifically on Europe. They used atlases to locate key countries of our continent before completing Venn diagrams to compare their lives with children from two European countries. All pupils studied the British Isles, the UK and Great Britain before zooming in on our own region and county. Their geographical vocabulary is growing by the lesson!

**Year 6** have continued with their topic 'Caribbean Connections' with a spotlight on Jamaica. They looked at the Jamaican flag and its meaning before completing a timeline of Jamaican history where we discussed topics such as slavery and independence. Pupils then moved on to comparing physical and human features of Jamaica and they studied the capital city of Kingston where we looked at the terms 'capital city' and 'settlement.' The topic ended by looking at sustainable and responsible tourism. Why not ask your child how they have pledged to be a more responsible tourist on their next holiday?



**Year 7** have had a focus on climate change in the latter half of this term. They studied one of the most influential photos ever taken: Earthrise. Thinking about the thoughts and emotions it triggered in them and how our Earth should be something that we all treasure and care for. Pupils then looked into the concept of interdependence and how, for climate change to be effective, we really need to work collaboratively with a common goal. Why not discuss your own behaviours at home as a family? Do you really do all that you can to help with climate change? Could you do more? CCA are proud to currently be working alongside the Climate Ambassador scheme in developing our school Climate Action Plan.

**Year 8** have continued with their 'Turbulent Tectonics' topic where they looked at earthquakes and tsunamis. Their geographical vocabulary is now super-charged with all things tectonic! Pupils studied Tohoku in Japan 2011 looking at the causes and impacts of this devastating natural disaster. Next stop for year 8 after the Christmas break will be a study of Africa with a focus on Kenya.



## MATHS PUZZLE ANSWER

TEDDY BEARS: 6  
TOY CARS: 12  
CHOCOLATE COINS: 12

$$6 + 12 + 12 = 30$$





# CURRICULUM



## PSHE

### **Y7 Pupils Explore Behind the Scenes at the W2R – Staffordshire Energy Recovery Facility**

Last week, our pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit the W2R Staffordshire Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) to learn first-hand how waste is transformed into energy.

The visit offered a unique insight into the vital work carried out on site and the wide range of careers involved in keeping the facility running safely and efficiently.

The session began with an informative introduction from Dan, who provided an overview of the essential work undertaken at the ERF. Pupils were then split into two groups to take part in a carousel of activities.

Group One joined Dan for a 30-minute guided tour of the site, where they were able to see the operational areas up close and gain a deeper understanding of how the process works from start to finish.

Meanwhile, Group Two met with Jenny, who explained the important role apprentices play within the facility. She shared insights into the training, responsibilities and opportunities available to apprentices, as well as her own work supporting the site's development. We were also fortunate that an apprentice joined the session, giving pupils a real-life example of the pathways available in the industry.

After the groups swapped over, pupils came back together for a final summary of their learning. The visit concluded with a lively Q&A session, where students were able to ask thoughtful questions and reflect on what they had discovered during the day.

The visit provided an inspiring look into sustainable energy, engineering careers, and the teamwork required to manage such a complex facility. Our pupils left with a greater appreciation of the science and people that help power our community.



### **Pupil Parliament Trip to London**

Our Pupil Parliament had an unforgettable day on their recent visit to London, filled with excitement, learning, and inspiring experiences. Travelling by train, the group set off bright and early, ready for a full day of exploration in the capital.

Our first stop was the Natural History Museum, where pupils wandered through the fascinating galleries, discovering everything from towering dinosaur skeletons to sparkling gems. The museum's hands-on exhibits and awe-inspiring displays helped bring science and history to life, sparking curiosity and lively discussion among the children.

After lunch, we made our way to the Parliament Education Centre, where the real parliamentary adventure began. Pupils enjoyed a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, stepping inside the historic chambers where important decisions are made. They learned about the roles of MPs and Lords, the history of the building, and how laws are created.

The day finished with a brilliant workshop, giving pupils the chance to debate ideas, share their opinions, and understand how their voices can make a difference—both in school and beyond.

A huge thank you goes to the parents who volunteered to accompany us on the trip. Your support helped make this valuable learning experience possible, and we are incredibly grateful for your time and enthusiasm.

It was a memorable day for everyone involved and one that will certainly inspire our young leaders as they continue their work in Pupil Parliament.





# CHRISTIAN VALUES



It's been a wonderfully busy end of term in our Music department spreading Christmas cheer near and far! 🎄🌟

Our Choir opened the week performing at the Eccleshall Christmas Festival at Holy Trinity Church, sharing three songs with a lovely audience and joining other schools for a joyful "Ding Dong Merrily on High." 🎵

We then visited Stafford Hospital, singing carols for patients and visitors—always a heart-warming highlight. ❤️

The school choir also delighted the residents of Oulton Care Home by bringing their wonderful voices and spreading joy in our local neighbourhood through song! 🎵🌟

And to finish, we took part in a magical Christmas Concert at the Victoria Hall with Entrust Music Service. Our students shone in the joint performances, and their solo piece, "Winter Carol," was simply beautiful.

It's been such a joy to see our pupils sharing music, kindness, and Christmas spirit with the community. They've represented the school beautifully, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work, talent, and enthusiasm. ❤️🎄



## What an achievement for 6BE!

After raising £241 at their bake sale, they spent the morning shopping for Stone Food Bank and delivering their donations. The food bank told us we're the highest donor this year!

Our pupils were a joy to take and truly embodied the spirit of giving.





# NOTICES

## Uniform expectations - Working together for success

At CCA, we believe that wearing the correct uniform is an important part of creating a positive learning environment and fostering a sense of pride in our school community. We are asking for your continued support in ensuring that all pupils attend school every day in the correct CCA uniform and with the correct PE kit.

As part of our uniform policy, we kindly remind you that we do not permit:

- Excessive make-up
- Gel or false nails
- False eyelashes
- Glitter strands in hair
- Hair dyed in non-natural colours

We understand that during colder weather, pupils may wish to wear an extra layer under their shirt. Where possible, please ensure this layer is white. Similarly, if additional socks are worn, we ask that these are black or dark grey to maintain a smart and consistent appearance.

Looking ahead, we would also appreciate your support in making sure pencil cases are stocked with our Smart Start equipment:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Red pen

Thank you for working with us to uphold these standards. Your support helps us maintain high expectations and ensures that every child is ready to learn and succeed.

## Attendance

Ensuring your child attends school regularly is one of the most important ways we can support their learning and wellbeing. Good attendance helps pupils keep up with lessons, maintain routines, build strong friendships and develop confidence. Even occasional absences can lead to missed learning that is difficult to fully catch up on.

We understand that your child will sometimes be unwell or may need to miss school for genuine reasons. If this happens, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can record the absence correctly and offer support if needed. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please speak to us – early communication helps us work together to find solutions. For more detailed guidance, the Staffordshire County Council website (link below) has helpful information for parents about expectations and support around school attendance.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Education-welfare/Attendance.aspx>

Support is also available for children and families via <https://staffs.staywellcyp.org>

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child make the most of their education.



# NOTICES

## WANTED

### Can you help out the food department?

If you happen to collect **any empty plastic chocolate containers** (Celebrations, Heroes, Roses etc.) over the festive break that you are willing to donate, the food department will be very pleased to take them off your hands to help out when pupils forget containers when cooking.

We would also be grateful of **any old dinner plates** that pupils can use to present food on, so if you're having a spring clean in the new year, or have any odd plates you can donate please drop them off to reception.

**Your support is much appreciated.**



## Thank You for Making Our Christmas Fayre a Wonderful Success!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Fayre such a joyful and successful event.

Whether you donated items, attended on the day, volunteered with the PTFA, or ran a stall, your support played an essential part in creating a fantastic community celebration.

The hall was filled with festive cheer, smiling faces, and an incredible sense of togetherness. From handmade crafts and tasty treats to exciting games and tombola prizes, every contribution helped make the event truly special.

We are so grateful for the time, effort, and generosity shown by pupils, families, staff, and friends of the school.

While we are still finalising the total amount raised, we are delighted to say that the event was a huge success. Every penny raised will go directly towards resources that support all pupils' mental health, helping to make a positive and lasting difference throughout our school.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support. We couldn't have done it without you, and we look forward to many more successful events together!

**mind North Staffs**

## DAD AND CO-PARENT Support group

Being a dad or co-parent can be tough. It is a rewarding feeling but often can be overwhelming and tiring. Finding time for yourself is not something you should feel guilty about, it may take a little planning but taking a break can help you be the best dad or co-parent you can be.

- 1st Thursday of the month: Bentilee Family Hub
- 2nd Thursday of the month: Shelton Family Hub
- 3rd Thursday of the month: Chell Heath Family Hub
- 4th Thursday of the month: Normacot Family Hub

4:30pm - 6:30pm

CONTACT US TO JOIN FOR FREE  
RECEPTION@NSMIND.ORG.UK  
01782 262100

**Family Hub**

*"I love being a dad. It is tough, challenging, and at times lonely. However, it is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done."*  
Anthony  
Group Leader & Dad

**bacp** | Accredited Service

**"Wishing everyone a happy and holy Christmas"**