



Message from the Principal

What an amazing start to the new school year! We would like to extend a huge welcome to our new Year 5 pupils and their parents and carers, as well as to all our new starters joining us this term. It has been a busy and exciting few weeks as everyone has settled into new routines, made new friends, and embraced the opportunities that come with a fresh start.

There is so much to look forward to this term - from special events and learning projects to celebrations and community activities. We will, of course, keep you fully informed along the way and look forward to sharing all the wonderful things happening across our busy school!

Mrs Thorn

WHAT'S NEXT

November 2025

- 09 Remembrance Sunday
- 10 Parliament Trip
- 13 Scholastic Book Fair
- 13 Library Coffee Afternoon
- 14 Stone Library Visit
- 17 Y7 Parent's Evening
- 20 Christmas Light Switch On
- 24 8KHO Water Plus
- 27 Eccleshall Music Celebration
- 28 INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED

December 2025

- 01 Entrust Concert - Victoria Hall
- 04 4pm Christmas Fayre
- 09 Road Safety Talks
- 10 Christmas Dinner Day
- 10 6.00-7.30pm Disco
- 11 Christmas Jumper Day
- 11 Y8 Panto (Alleyne's) pm
- 16 KS2 Theatre Trip
- 17 Advent Window
- 18 6.30pm Concert
- 19 10.45am Church Service

CCA ON TOUR

It has been great visiting our local first schools again over the past few weeks and meeting their Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. We've really enjoyed giving them a taste of what life is like at middle school - from the exciting subjects they'll explore to the opportunities waiting for them as they take their next step in learning.

The pupils took part in some fantastic hands-on activities, including African drumming, creating texture tiles, and exploring science through practical experiments. Their enthusiasm and curiosity were wonderful to see, and we can't wait to welcome them in the future!



ADMISSIONS 
FOR SEPT 2026 ENTRY
opens on 1st Nov 2025

Contact us today if you would like to arrange to come and have a look around!

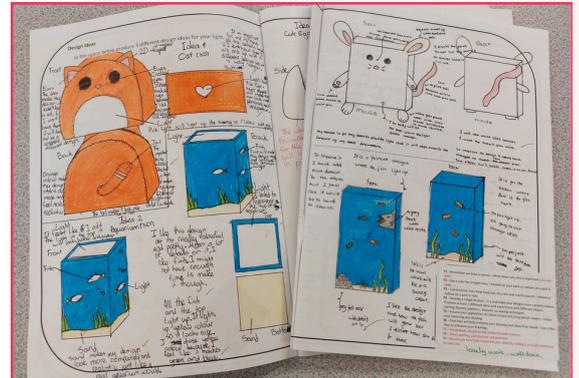
CURRICULUM



DT Textiles

Students have been busy in textiles working on creating design ideas for their projects. With year 7 students producing some creative designs for their Little Monster project and year 8 students demonstrating excellent graphical skills in their ideas for their e-textiles lights.

In key stage 2, year 5 have been practising a running stitch and sewing on a button ready to start making their sock pig, and in year 6 students have started to produce some designs for their tie dye t-shirt.



Art

Arts Award Opportunity – A small group of Year 7 pupils are currently taking part in a number of creative workshops in order to gain an Arts Award Explore. This opportunity is fully funded by the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

As part of this process, the children have recently visited the British Ceramic Biennial at Spode, and created their own scraffito plates at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. They will then attend a Creative Careers event at Gladstone in February!

It is such an exciting project to be part of; we hope that this experience and partnership will lead to further funded opportunities in the future.



English

Mrs Howard's Year 8 class prepared and delivered some amazing group presentations as the animals of Animal Farm, arguing why each of them should be the leader! Congratulations to the winning goats who won the overall vote in a landslide victory! Well done to all the pupils though, everyone participated and everyone spoke!

Miss Harvey's Year 8 English class have begun reading Animal Farm by George Orwell – a classic novel that explores power, leadership, and the fight for equality. They have worked in groups to plan, write, and perform speeches from the perspective of different animals. Some passionately argued that the clever pigs should lead, while others made strong cases for the hardworking horses or the loyal dogs. Performances were full of energy and imagination and we have been extremely impressed with the thoughtful discussions that followed.

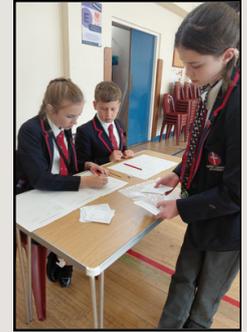
Well done to all of Year 8 for their enthusiasm and insight – Animal Farm has truly come alive in our classroom!

CURRICULUM

PSHE

Exciting News: Our Pupil Parliament Has Officially Begun!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Pupil Parliament, following successful elections held on 2nd October. Each form group now has its own elected MPP (Member of Pupil Parliament), who will work closely with our Pupil Parliament Prefects to plan and lead regular meetings.



This initiative gives every pupil a voice—an opportunity to raise important issues, share ideas, and help shape improvements across the whole school.

To kick-start their journey, Mrs Thomas will be taking all MPPs on a special trip to London next month, where they'll visit the UK Parliament and gain first-hand insight into how democracy works in action. It's a fantastic way to inspire our young leaders and prepare them for the exciting responsibilities ahead!

Music

The music department have been busy during the first half term.

Year 5 have enjoyed learning the Ukulele and have added a couple of new chords to their repertoire in preparation for the upcoming Christmas period.

Years 6 have enjoyed time on keyboards and have learnt to play using their right hand and reading the treble clef.

Year 7 have enjoyed a mini topic using Garageband and

Year 8 have been filling the corridors with the sound of Africa on their Djembes.

Pupils learning an instrument have settled into their new lessons really well and the Entrust Music teachers have been very impressed by the progress made during this first half term and the new look school Rock Band have begun rehearsals for the Christmas Concert.

Mr Harrison has enjoyed visiting a number of First Schools with the help from some talented Year 8s on our CCA on tour visits. We have been blown away with the Year 4s and what they achieved in these small taster sessions.

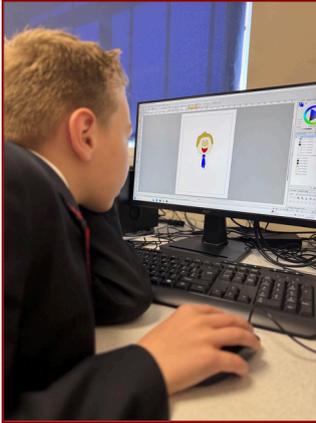
The Choir have started to practice for the Christmas Light Switch on this week, recording their voices so that the local First Schools are able to rehearse before the big night.



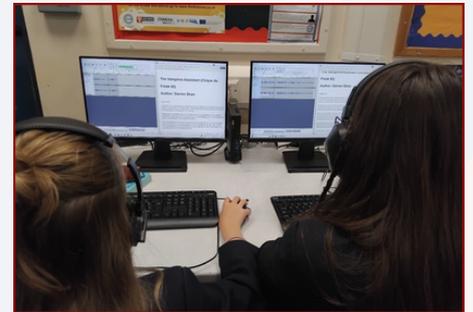
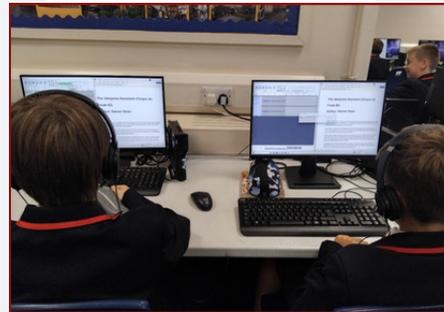
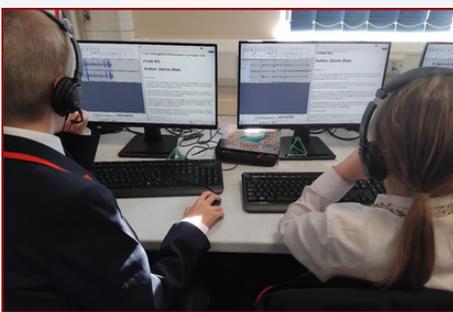
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Computing

Year 6 are studying computer images this term. After some quick games of Quick Draw to develop mouse control they are learning about basic shape manipulation and layering to create a cartoon version of themselves.



Year 7s are learning about sound technology this term. After learning about Copyright Law they have been using Podcasting Software to create their own talking story version of Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan complete with crisp packet and pencil case snapping sound effects. After this they will use the same software to create their own music mix that they can save as a ring tone.

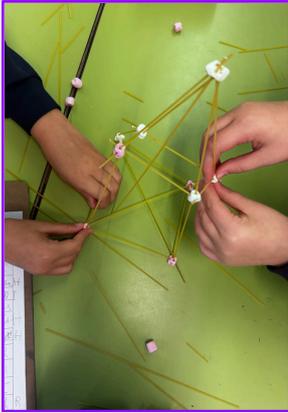


Students in Year 6 are currently beginning their stop-motion animation projects where they are allowed to bring toys in from home and use a camera to bring them to life in front of a background. One group has worked on a Hulk vs Iron Man battle in a football stadium that is shown in the screenshot. Notice the stegosaurus that is stomping around in the background too!



CURRICULUM

French



It's been a fantastic start to the year in the French Department, with pupils across all year groups diving enthusiastically into their learning!

Year 5 have settled in beautifully and are enjoying learning how to introduce themselves in French – lots of confident French speaking and singing can be heard in class!

Year 6 are working hard on expressing their likes and dislikes, practising how to share their opinions on everything from food to hobbies.

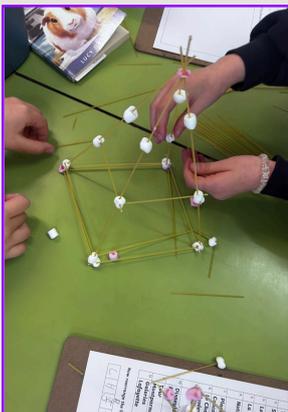
Year 7 are exploring school life through the magical world of Harry Potter, while Year 8 are taking on the excitement and challenges of their 'Extreme sports topic'.

Year 8 – behind the scenes, preparations are well underway for the Y8 French Trip to Paris. A quick reminder that the Pupil Information and Consent Form must be completed by Friday 24th October.

We also had great fun **visiting the First School** recently, where our pupils helped younger learners build Eiffel Towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows and took part in a scavenger hunt to spot famous Parisian landmarks.

'**European Day of Languages**' was another big success. A highlight was the Year 7 online workshop with Futbol Lingo, all about languages in the world of football which was a real hit with our budding linguists and sports fans alike!

A huge merci beaucoup to our wonderful student helpers who brought the French Department to life on **Open Morning**. From making crêpes and running a French-themed photo booth to leading Year 4s through a range of fun language activities, they truly embodied the spirit of teamwork and enthusiasm.



Maths Puzzle!

Puzzle 116

MATCHSTICK CLOCK



Move two
matchsticks
to make the
clock strike
10 minutes
past 11.

CURRICULUM

History

In recent weeks, Year 7 students have excelled in their assignments on the Battle of Hastings, showcasing not only a deep understanding of medieval battle tactics but also a keen awareness of the pivotal moments that altered the course of English history. Their write-ups highlight a strong grasp of the strategic elements of the battle, such as the use of archers, cavalry, and shield walls. Many students have also explored the significance of Harold Godwinson's positioning and the effect of the feigned retreat, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of how individual decisions shaped the outcome.

The level of insight shown in these assignments is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students. Through their analysis of such a defining moment in English history, they have demonstrated not only excellent historical knowledge but also critical thinking skills. This end of term assignment has proven to be a great way for students to prove their grasp of the interconnectedness of military action, leadership, and historical change. We couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments!

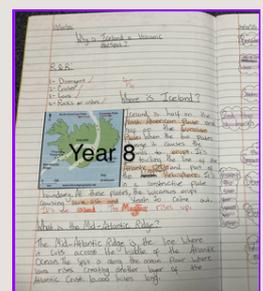
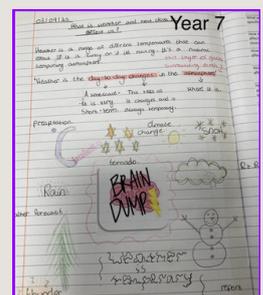
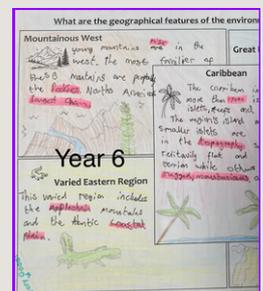
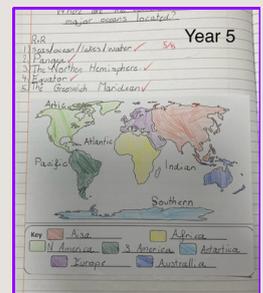
Geography

Year 5 pupils have settled into their Geography lessons with a fascination and enthusiasm for the world around them. All pupils have sat a baseline assessment to ensure we can build on prior knowledge from first schools. They have enjoyed studying their first topic: Location! Location! Beginning right back to the times of the super-continent Pangea and zooming in on our own continent of Europe, pupils have developed their map skills and an awareness of the world around them. What a super start!

Year 6 have continued their journey in Key Stage 2 by studying 'Caribbean Connections'. They have completed some accurate map work, locating the major countries of North America and the Caribbean islands and have used their best research skills to produce a factsheet about environmental regions of North America. They are currently 'jammin' in Jamaica! Why not ask them what they can tell you about this beautiful island?

Year 7 have moved on to the topic 'Warming World.' Starting with the basics of what weather is, they had a time challenge of creating as many weather-related doodles, sketches and words as they could all in the time it took for 3 well-known weather-related songs to play. It was quite a singalong at times! They could now tell you about some key weather instruments such as a barometer, anemometer and rain gauge to name but a few. The forecast for after the half-term break is a scattering of climate with the odd shower of climate zones!

Year 8 have had a 'turbulent' start to their Geography lessons but not in the way you may think! The 'Turbulent Tectonics' topic has given them an insight into tectonic plates focussing firstly on volcanos with a case-study on Eyjafjallajökull. (Yes, they have been practising their pronunciation of this one!). Pupils listened to a witness audio to give them a real feel for the disaster, before studying the impacts of the 'volcano that stopped Europe.'



After October half-term it is straight into Assessment Fortnight for all subjects.

Look out for your child's Geography revision mat coming home with them and why not test their knowledge to ensure they are ready for their assessment.

CURRICULUM

RE



In RE, pupils created some fantastic Harvest reflection pages. They discussed the importance of this time of year for our farming communities and for producers and growers around the world.

Having then looked at what Christians believe about sharing generously and serving others, pupils sketched out their own autumn scene and reflected on their learning.

We were very impressed with the way that they analysed the lyrics from some of our Harvest hymns and also key pieces of scripture on the theme. What a great way to spend time contemplating this important topic!

DT - Graphics

Y7 Structures- Civil Engineering talk

CCA's wonderful Design and Technology link governor, Mr Banham, held an exciting talk with 7RS this half term as part of their Structures project. The class were about to embark on their bridge building challenge and so Mr Banham spoke to pupils about his career as a Civil Engineer, giving them an insight into the industry and gave them advice on how to design, plan and build their bridge. Team work and problem-solving skills were going to be important in this challenge and we look forward to seeing how structurally sound their bridges are.



PE

This term, we have established a school-to-club link with Trentham Rowing Club. Some of our Year 7 pupils have been down to the club to enjoy a free taster session. Many of them have gone on to sign up to the clubs 'Wet Start' programme. If your child is interested in trying a new sport like rowing, please contact Mrs Edwards.



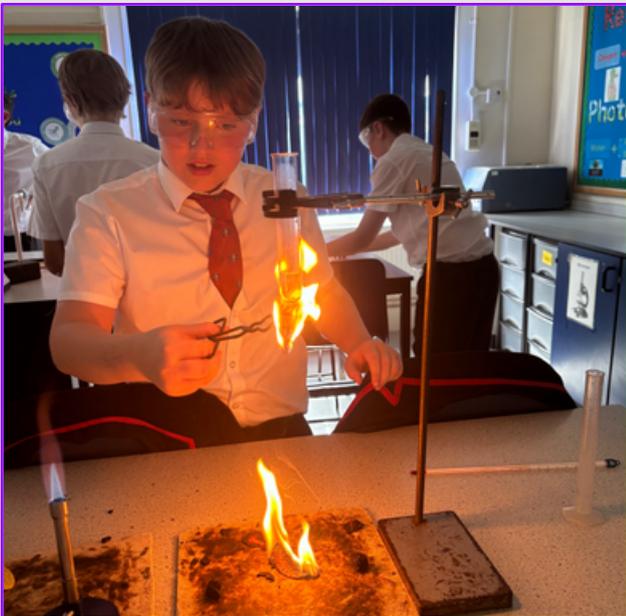
CURRICULUM

Science

We have had a very busy start to the year in Science, the labs have been hives of activity!

Year 5 started by considering what science is and the scientific method. Pupils were asked to explore the humble tomato as a way of getting them to consider what they think they 'know' and how we might investigate their preconceptions, ideas and predictions. They then developed these skills with lots of hands on practice of measuring, predicting and drawing conclusions.

Year 6 started the Year with an introduction to Solids, Liquids and Gases, we explored together the differences between the 3 different states and what makes them so very different from each other.



Year 7 were able to develop the knowledge of Solids, Liquids and Gases that they began in Year 6, we had a great time 'being' particles, recreating the behaviour of particles when they are heated and change state, being a gas takes a lot of energy and this was exhibited with vigour by Year 7 as we made the most of the dry and warm weather and took the activity outside! Pupils were also able to create some 'Magic' with the cup and card trick whilst learning about air pressure.

Year 8 started with a focusing on healthy lifestyle, diet and the function of a the digestive system. We had a great lesson burning foods to establish which of the foods transferred the most energy. Once again, pupils were aware of risks in the lab, carrying out the investigation safely and learning a lot about the energy content of different foods.



After half-term, keep an eye out for our exciting new '**Spotlight on Science**' mini-newsletter feature! This special edition will showcase the wide range of amazing science activities taking place across the school. From hands-on experiments and creative classroom projects to inspiring pupil achievements, we'll be shining a light on the curiosity, innovation, and enthusiasm that makes Christ Church Academy's science learning so special.

We can't wait to share all the highlights with you!

thank
★ you ★

END NOTICES

We would like to say a huge **thank you** to Stone Lions, our parents, and some of our local neighbours for their very generous donations towards our Wellbeing Shelter. Your kindness and support mean so much and will make a real difference to our school community.

We are now appealing to any local businesses who may be able to support us with building the foundations or assist in any way with the construction of our Wellbeing Chalet. If you can help, please get in touch with the school office – we'd love to hear from you! 🙏

Year 7 Charity Coffee Morning Raises Over £1,400 for Dougie Mac!

On Thursday 9th October, our school hosted a heartwarming charity coffee morning in aid of Dougie Mac – and what a success it was! Organised and run by our enthusiastic Year 7 pupils, the event raised an incredible **£1,509.48** for this vital local charity.

Year 7 pupils took responsibility for the event, managing sales and making sure everything ran smoothly. Their professionalism, teamwork, and commitment were truly impressive – especially for such a young year group.

A huge well done to all the Year 7 pupils involved. You did yourselves and the school proud!

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all the pupils, parents, and staff who supported the event – whether by baking, donating, attending, or helping out on the day. Your generosity and community spirit helped make this fundraiser such a memorable and meaningful occasion.

All proceeds will go to Dougie Mac, who provide invaluable care and support to people with life-limiting illnesses in our community.



Y6 SATS INFORMATION EVENING

On Monday 13th October we were pleased to welcome a large number of parents to our Year 6 SATS Information Evening. It was great to share with them how hard Year 6 have been working and passing on key information about their preparation for SATS.

Year 6 have already undertaken their first round of Mocks and will be sitting their next round at the start of December.

Key dates along with copies of the presentations from the English and Maths department were shared with parents via the MCAS app.

REMEMBRANCE

Pupils – Don't forget to visit our amazing Mr Warner at break times on the tiled area. He will be selling poppies and remembrance memorabilia after half-term as part of the **annual Poppy Appeal**.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to show their respect and support for those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces.

All donations go towards helping veterans and their families, so please consider purchasing a poppy or one of the special remembrance items available.

Your support makes a real difference – thank you for taking part in this important cause.