

Newsletter – December 2024

Christ the King Catholic High School



Spreading all good things within our
school community!

Welcome to the Christmas newsletter for 2024. This term has been busy with lots of events including Prize Night, the Careers Fair, Eco week and celebrating All Saints' Day and The Feast of Christ The King. With more events to come, here's the update for our Autumn Term.

FSM Vouchers

For the children who currently receive free school meals the vouchers will be processed on 16th December. These will be emailed to you and they are from a company called Edenred.

They will be for the value of £35 per child. If you are currently not receiving free school meals and think that your child may be entitled please apply on the following link:

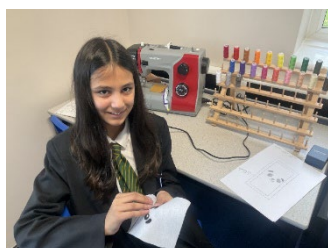
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

Exciting Curriculum Updates for 2024

In September 2024, we implemented exciting curriculum changes to provide a well-rounded education aligned with National Curriculum standards while addressing the holistic needs of our school community.

Highlights include making Art a standalone subject, adding Textiles to the technology rotation, embedding fortnightly PSHE lessons for all year groups, and offering a full Spanish curriculum to enhance language and cultural literacy.

Our transition to a five-period school day, with one lesson after lunch, has improved engagement, behaviour, and wellbeing for both students and staff. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to enrich our curriculum and learning environment.



Eco Week

CtK's first Eco event, 'Green Week', held on worldwide recycling week was a huge success with lots of pupils involved in various events throughout the week, all organised by our Eco Club.

Three members of Eco Club carried out assemblies to the whole school throughout the week promoting the activities they had planned and explained the importance of recycling. They managed to raise over

£100 from their cake sale, which they have decided will go towards a compost bin and plants for the eco garden. All of the activities during the week have also contributed towards CtK becoming an 'Eco School' and gaining the Green Flag Award. The highlight of the week was the Avenham Park litter pick, which involved over 20 students from all year groups, and we hope to carry out similar events throughout the year.



Student Council

The New CtK Student Council has Assembled!

This year's Student Council launch was nothing short of extraordinary, with a record-breaking 57% of students casting their votes - a big leap from last year's 41% turnout. A total of 242 votes were cast, showing just how passionate CtK students are about shaping their school's future.



The launch tied in perfectly with **UK Parliament Week** (18th-24th November), a nationwide celebration of democracy and active citizenship. Assemblies led by Mr Day and Miss Nayee fired up students, inspiring them to embrace leadership, governance and collaboration - values that lie at the heart of the Student Council's mission and *THE CTK WAY*.

An impressive 85 students from Assisi, Goretti, Kolbe and Romero Houses stepped up to represent their peers. After an exciting week of campaigning, voting day on Friday, 22nd November, saw enthusiastic participation, and by the 28th November, the newly elected council held their first meeting.

Wasting no time, the Council immediately got to work on their first major project: a **Polar Express-themed Christmas Disco** to raise funds for St Catherine's Hospice. Always a highlight of the student social calendar, this year's event promises festive fun for a great cause.



With such a motivated and dedicated team at the helm, this year's Student Council is ready to make a real difference at CtK - watch this space!

PSHE Update

It has been an exciting first term for PSHE. We have moved over to a brand-new bespoke curriculum, where lessons are



delivered in forms by form tutors. There has been really positive engagement from students and staff and the lessons have been a real success. Our first Enrichment day was held in October where we welcomed a number of visitors onto site such as Future U,

Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, the Personal Finance Society and Preston College and included sessions on road safety, hate crime, vaping and feedback from

our visitors was superb and complimented our students on their engagement. A big thank you to our staff, students and partners for making the day a huge success. We have also had a visit from the Road Safety team with a fantastic play for our Year 7 students and an assembly from LFRS on firework safety. After the holidays we are looking forward to welcoming the "No More Knives" roadshow into school and a letter will be coming home to parents in due course. Many thanks to parents for supporting us with PSHE and developing our student's wider knowledge of the world. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Huck.



PE Department

The first term has been action packed. Students have shown an outstanding commitment to extra-curricular activities and there has been a significant increase in the number of students attending a range of different sporting activities. So far this year, we have had some excellent results in the SEN Ten Pin Bowling, Cross-Country, Netball, Handball and Football leagues, in which students have excelled. A number of students were selected to attend trials for the Preston District Football Team. Following a gruelling process, it is with great honour we can now confirm that Casper Pilar, Isreal Ekhatior and Jeffery Idahosa Vincent where all selected for their relative age groups in which is an

outstanding achievement. Whole school Inter-house competitions have been an eagerly anticipated event. Over 100 students engaged in the competitions during lunch. After a competitive final, Assisi where crowned Netball Champions. Inter-house Football followed, the standard was excellent and the enthusiasm and passion motivated students to do their best. After a hard fought grand final Assisi House where crowned the overall winners. In addition, 'Fit Friday' was a huge success. Students demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of living a healthy active lifestyle and fully engaged in the activities delivered across the curriculum.

Year 10 and 11 students completed their GCSE PE Rock Climbing Exam. Students demonstrated a range of complex skills techniques which have had a positive contribution to their overall grade. In addition, Year 11 students completed their GCSE PE Road Cycling Exam. The CtK Race record was broken by a significant amount of time by Karol Hojnik.

Within the curriculum, students have been fully engaged and eager to learn. The PE department knows this will continue and we thank all students for their commitment and passion to be the best. We look forward to term two.

Year 7

Some thoughts to share from Mrs Williams (Head of Year 7)

The first term for our Year 7 students has been exceptionally successful, with a remarkable range of achievements accomplished in a relatively short period. These include the election of representatives for the student council, participation in Inter-house competitions, involvement in the whole school mass, engagement in Feast Day celebrations, active participation in extra-curricular activities, and support for the foodbank initiative.



I am particularly impressed by the resilience demonstrated by the Year 7 cohort this year. Despite numerous transitions and adjustments in their school experience, they have embraced these changes with determination and enthusiasm. Their ability to adapt and persevere is truly commendable. Congratulations to all!

Year 8

Some thoughts to share from Mrs Dodd (Head of Year 8)

As we approach the end of the term, Year 8 students have been making good progress across all areas of school life. From engaging in exciting classroom activities to participating in extracurricular events, it's been a busy and rewarding few months.

This term has seen inter-house Netball and Football. It has been great to see so many Year 8 students taking part in teams and supporting their House.



The Year 8 Football team has also had some difficult fixtures this term. They have though worked together to produce some excellent victories. Attendance for some students has been excellent but many Year 8 students need to work towards improving their attendance.

We want everyone to achieve here at CtK and this is most likely to happen when they are in school and learning. Looking ahead, we are excited for the upcoming term and the many opportunities it will bring and we encourage all Year 8 students to continue striving for their best and making the most of the opportunities available to them. Keep up the great work.

Year 9

Some thoughts to share from Miss Nayee (Head of Year 9)

As we approach the end of another memorable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, challenges, and growth that our Year 9 students have experienced.



This term, we've seen dedication in both academic and extracurricular activities, with students demonstrating resilience, creativity, and teamwork. Students have had lots to look forward to this term such as The Christmas House Challenge, The Christmas Disco and forming the new Student Council. Congratulations to Meerab Sheikh, Oscar Dutton and Ryan McTear for being voted to represent this year's Student Council. The festive season is a time to celebrate, recharge, and look forward to the new year with excitement.

I am proud of how far our Year 9 students have come during their time at CtK and the positive contributions they make to our school community. I would like to thank parents, staff, and students for their continued support and hard work throughout the term. Year 9 may wish to take some time over the Christmas break to think about their future and what options they would like to do.

On behalf of the Year 9 team, I wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a well-deserved break. I look forward to seeing all our students return refreshed and ready for the challenges and successes of the new year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Year 10

Some thoughts to share from Miss Brown (Head of Year 10)

This Term Year 10 have had an exciting start to their Academic Year with their chosen Option Subjects. With our new Attendance raffle on a Friday, our students have been making an extra conscious effort to ensure they are in school and on time daily which shows they really value the importance of education.



The students have been participating in House Competitions in both Netball and Football. They have been thinking about their career choices and some have started their C.V and Personal Statements in preparation for their College applications which are soon. There have also been some thrilling conversations about their Work Experience opportunities for their placements later in the year.

The Student Council elections went extremely well and we now have a full team with Bruno being nominated as Head Councillor. Collectively as a School, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King with a Mass and a treat. It has been very rewarding to see the input students have in our Daily Worship and we all look forward to our exciting Festive events.

Year 11

Some thoughts to share from Miss Wilkinson (Head of Year 11)

Year 11 have had a fantastic start to their final year with us. Congratulations to every student for their excellent behaviour and efforts in their PPE 1. I was so proud of all of them for how they conducted themselves, and this was commented on by our external invigilators. On Thursday 21st November we held our annual Prize Night where it was great to see so many Year 11s receiving prizes. I would like to say a special congratulations to Regan Tunstall who was awarded the prestigious Phillip Ellison trophy for his continued work at The Foxton Centre.



Year 11 have now applied for college and are hopefully preparing for their futures after CtK.

A huge well done to Ricardo (11G) who currently has the highest number of merits in Year 11. A fantastic achievement!

Miss Wilkinson, Miss Dickson, Mr Pearson, Mrs Noblet, Mr Beetham and Mr Ghakou would like to congratulate all of Year 11 on a great start and we look forward to the rest of Year 11.

Term Dates

Spring Term Dates 2025

School re-opens	at	8.40am	on	Monday	6 th	January 2025
School closes	at	3.00pm	on	Thursday	13 th	February 2025

Half Term dates: Friday 14th February to Friday 21st February 2025

School re-opens	at	8.40am	on	Monday	24 th	February 2025
School closes	at	12.20pm	on	Friday	4 th	April 2025

Easter dates: Monday 7th April 2025 to Monday 21st April 2025

Summer Term Dates 2025

School re-opens	at	8.40am	on	Tuesday	22 nd	April 2025
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School is closed May Day: Monday 5th May 2025

School re-opens	at	8.40am	on	Tuesday	6 th	May 2025
School closes	at	3:00pm	on	Friday	23 rd	May 2025

Half Term dates: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

School re-opens	at	8.40am	on	Monday	2 nd	June 2025
School closes	at	12.20pm	on	Friday	18 th	July 2025



Advent Prayer

Lord, we believe. We pray that at this time of Advent Dear God, thank you that Christmas is a time of hope. Thank you that you sent Jesus at Christmas to give us the hope that the world can be a better place. Please help us to play our part in bringing hope and peace to the world in particular to the people of Gaza, Syria and Ukraine.

Amen

*Have a happy and
Holy Christmas*

