

### This issue:

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the half-term break, it feels like the perfect moment to pause and reflect on the many positives from this term. Across all year groups, students have been receiving awards for 100% attendance and for their sustained commitment to learning. It has been wonderful to see so many young people recognised for their dedication and achievements.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support with the mobile phone pouches. We have seen a significant positive impact: with phones no longer accessible during the school day, students are more focused, more engaged, and making stronger progress. As we move into the next half term, our aim is to ensure that every lesson counts and that each student is making the progress they are capable of.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have completed their first week of Pre-Public Exams, with further assessments continuing after half term. I want to commend them for their hard work and maturity so far and encourage them to keep going with their revision in the weeks ahead.

After the break, we will enter the season of Lent within the Christian calendar — a time for reflection, self-discipline, and compassion. As in previous years, we will be encouraging students to take part in acts of kindness and service, both within school and in the wider community.

Warmest regards

Chris Tomes  
Headteacher

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## Key Dates

### **Start of Term 4**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

### **Year 11 & Year 13 PPE's**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **Year 8 Student Progress Meeting**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **National Careers Week**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Kinship Carers Coffee Morning**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **PTA Meeting**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Churchmead Book Day**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Culture Week**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Year 8 Options Evening**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Year 10 PPE's**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Year 12 PPE's**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **School Trip - GCSE Film Studies Revision Day**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **School Trip - A-Level Art London Galleries**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Prize Giving Evening**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Red Nose Day**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Easter Service**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **School Trip - SEND Careers Fair**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **School Trip - A-Level Sociology & Biology Revision Day**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Performing Arts Showcase**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **End of Term 4**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Computer Science Trip - Bett Show, London

This term our Year 10 Computer Science students visited the BETT Show, at the Excel London. The BETT Show hosts a huge array of Tech companies that focus on the education sector, and gives students a fantastic opportunity to talk with industry experts to support their studies in Computing.



## Computer Science Trip - Cyrus One Data Centre

Our Year 9 Computer Science students went on a trip to Cyrus One Data and they represented themselves exceptionally well. They were set a challenge by the Managing Director and Project Managers to design the next Data Centre in Slough, working with £35 million of a £1 billion budget. The ideas they put forward genuinely impressed the entire team.



Amongst the group, Cash, Julia and Tanveer stood out for their excellent presentation skills, the creativity of their ideas, their community sustainability plans, and their thoughtful measures to reduce negative environmental impact.

## Celebrating our Sixth Form Reader Leaders

We are proud to celebrate the impact of our Sixth Form Reader Leaders, who have been sharing their time and enthusiasm for reading with students in the lower years.



Through reading together and talking about books, they are helping to strengthen our whole school culture of reading and inspire a genuine passion for stories.



A brilliant example of leadership, commitment and community. Well done to our Sixth Form role models for helping to keep the love of reading thriving across our school.

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## Sports Fixtures



Our Year 7 and 8 girls played their first match of the year in the ESFA Cup against a tough Thamesmead side. It was a close game with Thamesmead taking the lead early and doubling in the second half. Aliceia did halve the advantage but Thamesmead scored again to knock us out. Well played girls and onto the next game.



What an effort from the U15 girls in the National Cup. After leading the game 1-0 for most of the game, they unfortunately conceded a last minute equaliser. Then lost the resulting penalty shootout 3-1. Their brave journey ends at the last 16 phase.



The PE tops have arrived in school. If you ordered one for your child please ask them to come to collect before school, break time, lunchtime or after school. A reminder they can be worn for all practical PE lessons, both core and examination. Massive thanks to Kitlocker for supplying these new tops.

## Fitness Centre Fundraiser

**EXCITING NEWS!** As you know we have been fundraising to support the upgrade of equipment in our Fitness and Learning Centre, that was refurbished last summer. If we reached our goal of £15,000, Sport England had pledged to match our contribution, giving us a whopping £30,000 to spend on up to date equipment, kitting out the new Fitness Suite and supporting the continued development our students physical education. With the help of some last minute donations...**WE DID IT!**

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the Barker Bridge Trust, Datchet and The Englefield Trust for their generous donations of £2500, Brittons Solicitors for a fantastic £1000 donation and Churchmead PTA for their donation of £500.



We are so incredibly grateful to everybody who contributed. If you'd still like to contribute, follow the below link, or scan the QR code on the left of this page.  
[bit.ly/4niGRX](https://bit.ly/4niGRX)

## Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Fair was a huge success with all students having the opportunity to visit a huge variety of exhibitors. This ranged from further education providers and businesses from everything in the Arts through to Engineering and Construction. Students and parents were able to have further discussions later in the day to talk through possible career pathways and what opportunities lie beyond school.



With thanks to our exhibitors - Mars, Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF), Henley Business School, Oxford Brookes University, The Event School London, British Army, Learning to Work, Heathrow Airport, Activate Learning, Slough & Langley College, BCA (Berkshire College of Agriculture), Art Classes Group, West Dean College and Morgan Lovell.



## Ascot Community Challenge

A huge thank you to Ascot Racecourse and Learning to Work for hosting such an inspiring Community Challenge. Following an engaging presentation from L2W, Churchmead students selected the local charity Crossroads Care Slough and threw themselves into creative fundraising ideas with passion and commitment. Their hard work truly paid off at the Ascot Final on Thursday 29th January, where they were named runners-up, and, thanks to the generosity of the High Sheriff, secured an additional £1,000 for their chosen charity.

We are incredibly proud of their dedication and grateful for the opportunities this challenge has provided.



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### Art Trip - Oxford Museums

Our Year 10 and A Level Art & Photography students visited the Ashmolean, Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums in Oxford this week. The gallery experience at the Ashmolean Museum showcases artworks by some of the famous art masters such as Pissarro, Sisley, Picasso and Van Gogh. Students spent time taking a range of photos and sketching things not seen everyday like dinosaur skeletons and statues, as well as the architecture around Oxford during a city walk between the venues. The city walk took them on a route around the traditional Covered Market, famous Rad Cam and University buildings. This was a particular highlight for most students being able to soak up the atmosphere of the busy city life.



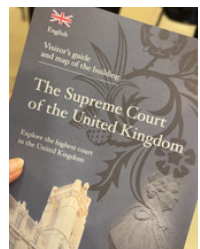
### A-Level Film Studies Trip - BFI London

Our Year 12 Film Studies students visited the BFI London last week for an informative session discussing the aesthetics of the film, Parasite, which is referenced in their final exam.



### A-Level Sociology Trip - Houses of Parliament

Our Year 13 Sociologists had a great day out in London visiting The Houses of Parliament and The Supreme Courts. We were very lucky and got to sit in on the exciting debates that were being held in Parliament yesterday, seeing Leaders and MP's discussing the current news.



## Wraysbury Players Pantomime - Alice in Wonderland

We are so proud of our Churchmead students, past and present, on the Wraysbury Players pantomime production of Alice in Wonderland, for both taking to the stage and producing, directing and creating the incredible scenery and technical effects. Well done to all of you 🍷



## Thames Valley Police Young People's Potential Plan Programme (YPPP)

Our Year 10 Students are taking part in the Thames Valley Police Young People's Potential Plan Programme (YPPP). Fifteen of our Year 10 students are taking part in the Young People's Potential Plan (YPPP), a six-week programme delivered by Thames Valley Police. The initiative is designed to broaden students' understanding of policing, community safety and the skills needed to make positive life choices. Throughout the programme, students will take part in sessions covering key topics such as stop and search, online safety and social media and VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls). They will also benefit from a departmental visit, which, depending on availability, may include specialist units such as firearms or police dogs. As a highlight of the programme, an exciting off-site trip is planned for 26th June, where students will visit the K9 Dog Unit and explore the use of drones in police operations. This promises to be a memorable and inspiring experience for all involved.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND GETTING HELP TEAMS

Berkshire Healthcare  
NHS  
Children, Young People and Families service

# LIVE WEBINARS

## 2026

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

TO SIGN UP, SCAN THE QR CODES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Dates: Various

Time: 6pm - 7pm

Microsoft Teams

For more information about the Royal Berkshire of Woking and Maidenhead Mental Health Support Team please scan the QR code.

21/01/26  
Supporting Low Mood

05/02/26  
Supporting with Sleep Under 11's

26/02/26  
Supporting with sleep over 12's

26/03/26  
Building Positive Relationships at Home

22/04/26  
Exam Stress Under 13's

Scan the QR code to book your place

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**Churchmead Datchet Kinship group**

Wednesday 4th March '26  
10:30am to 12.00pm  
Churchmead School, Priory Way, Datchet, SL3 9JQ  
Free parking in the school's car park

A brand new peer support group for kinship carers in Datchet and surrounding area

- a chance for kinship carers to meet, listen and support those in similar circumstances
- free to join for anyone who is raising someone else's child - a group for adults only
- tea and coffee provided

We'd love to see you there!  
Please contact Keren if you have any questions and to let us know you would like to come along  
email: [keren.beddow@kinship.org.uk](mailto:keren.beddow@kinship.org.uk)  
or call/text: 07961 049807

Charity Registration 2102295

## New Kinship Support Group

We are delighted to be hosting a new Kinship Support Group for anyone who is raising someone else's child, as a carer.

If this is you, please join us on:  
Wednesday 4th March 2026  
10.30am

Tea and coffee provided

A wonderful opportunity to meet, listen and support others in similar circumstances.

This is an adult only peer support group, which will be run regularly until the spring.

We look forward to welcoming you, however if you have any questions you can reach out to Keren from Kinship -  
[keren.beddow@kinship.org](mailto:keren.beddow@kinship.org)  
07961 049 807

## Keeping Children Safe Online

As we head into the festive season, children often receive new devices and spend more time online. To help them enjoy the internet safely, here are some practical tips and tools—especially relevant in the UK—to support healthy digital habits throughout the holidays.

### Set Up Devices Together

Parental controls: Activate built-in settings on smartphones and tablets to manage screen time, block inappropriate content, and disable in-app purchases.

• **Apple Screen Time Guide:** <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208982>

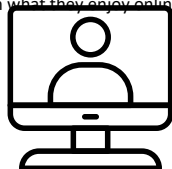
• **Google Family Link:** <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

### Establish Family Rules

Agree on daily usage limits and keep devices out of bedrooms at night. Use apple or google family controls to set daily limits on apps for children to help monitor the time spent online. This can also be easily done on games consoles. Create a communal charging station for overnight use.

### Keep Communication Open

Ask children what they enjoy online and encourage them to share if something makes them uncomfortable. Reassure them they won't be punished for speaking up.



### Understand Online Risks

Children may encounter:

- Inappropriate content
- Cyberbullying
- Contact from strangers
- Risky trends or misinformation

### Useful UK Guides & Resources

• NSPCC Online Safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

• Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

• UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

### Recommended Parental Control Apps

**Qustodio** <https://www.qustodio.com/en/>

**Kidslox** <https://kidslox.com/>

**Net Nanny** <https://www.netnanny.com/>

**Google Family Link** <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

**Apple Screen Time** <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208982>

**Kaspersky Safe Kids** <https://www.kaspersky.co.uk/safe-kids>



### Quick Tips to Start This Week

- Set up and review device settings together- remember you are allowed to monitor and review what's on their phones!
- Install your chosen parental control app, if wanted.
- Create a written 'family tech agreement' for the holidays – boost your social communication.
- Schedule a chat about online safety

Thank you for partnering in keeping our children safe online this holiday season. Let's help them enjoy the festive break—and the internet—confidently and securely!

Warm wishes and a Merry Christmas,  
Mrs Rachel Jenkins  
Assistant Headteacher

## Important Reminders



- If you need to collect your child during the school day for an appointment, please remember to email the school at [office@churchmead.org](mailto:office@churchmead.org) with evidence of the appointment, and what time you will be collecting beforehand.



- A reminder that if a student feels unwell while at school, they must come to the school medical office to be assessed. We will then decide the most appropriate next steps, including calling home if necessary. A gentle reminder that we are a no mobile phone school.



- Please also be reminded that we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. This is to protect our students and staff who have nut allergies. Please do not send your child to school with any food that contains nuts.

### [Links to advice and help](#)

#### Online Safety

[Safer Internet Day Top Tips and Advice Pages | Childnet 11-18s | CEOP Education](#)

#### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Young Minds – [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

[Shout: the UK's free, confidential and 24/7 mental health text service for crisis support | Shout 85258](#)

You can also contact Kooth [Home – Kooth](#) - Free online counselling support



#### Support and Advice for Parents

[Support & advice for parents | NSPCC 11-18s | CEOP Education](#)



### [Half Term Safeguarding Notices](#)

Safeguarding you all continues throughout the half term.

If you have any safeguarding worries or concerns you can email:

[safeguard@churchmead.org](mailto:safeguard@churchmead.org)

If you feel as though you need someone to talk to, remember you can contact

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Or

KOOTH: [Home - Kooth](#)



**If a crime is being committed or you feel like you are in immediate danger, you must contact the police on 999**



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## PTA News

If you'd like to know more about what Churchmead's PTA do and how you can support or join us, why not come along to the next meeting? We're always looking for volunteers and members of the community to get involved.

Email [pta@churchmead.org](mailto:pta@churchmead.org) to find out more.

Churchmead School PTA are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us and the school so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us.

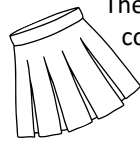
It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page by following this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchmeadpta>



## Uniform Donations



The school office are looking for any donations of pre loved school uniform still in good condition. We currently have a shortage of skirts of all sizes and small blazers. If you have anything you'd like to donate, please drop it to main reception.



## Lockers

We currently have a limited numbers of lockers available for hire across all year groups. Please contact [finance@churchmead.org](mailto:finance@churchmead.org) to register interest/get more information for your child.

## Free School Meals Applications

It's quick and easy to apply for Free School Meals.

Scan the QR code or visit

<https://apply.cloud-foredu.org.uk/ofsm.rbwm>



Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment & Support Allowance
- Support under V1 of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of state pension credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,900
- Working Tax Credit "run on" - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credits



Please contact Heidi David if you need any help applying - [hdavid@churchmead.org](mailto:h david@churchmead.org)

## Keeping in Touch



01753 211 330



[office@churchmead.org](mailto:office@churchmead.org)



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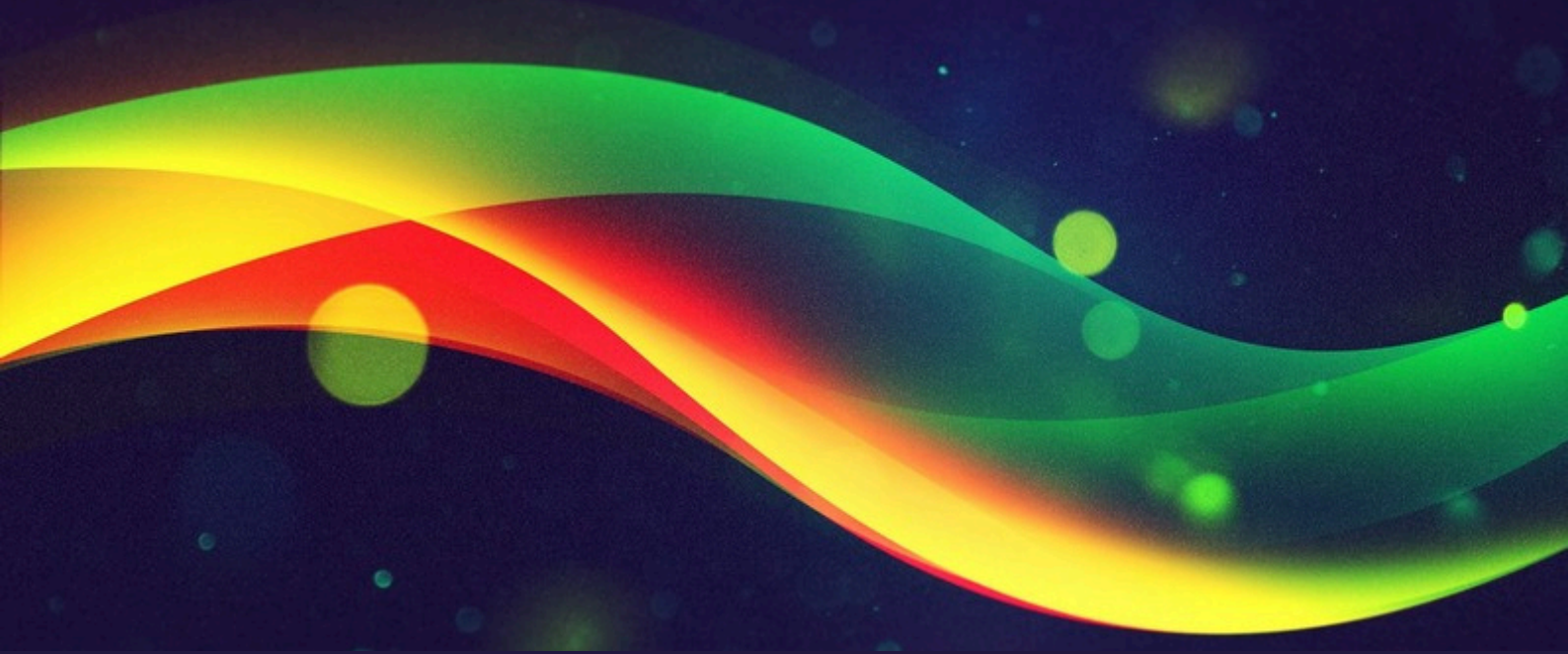


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