

# CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL

December 2024 Newsletter



## This issue:

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

The theme of our Christmas Service this year was Courage, Compassion and Commitment linked to the different people involved in the birth of Jesus. It also served as a reminder that these values are the building blocks of our school community and it was great to hear different accounts of what our values mean to our students. Thank you to parents who supported with the School Christmas play this year. It was again another fantastic performance by our very talented actors and singers.

It has been an incredibly busy and very positive term. The students have continued to flourish with all the different events and activities that they have been able to take part in. I would like to thank parents for the overwhelmingly positive feedback given to the Ofsted team that visited. I am looking forward to sharing more information on this in the new year.

Our Year 13 Sixth Formers and Year 11 students are in their final run up to their examinations. I would like to encourage parents and students to use the Christmas break wisely for revision. Thank you to Year 11 students for completing, on time, their applications to our Sixth Form.

Thank you for your continued support for Churchmead School. Merry Christmas.

Chris Tomes  
Headteacher

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## Key Dates

### **Start of Term**

Tuesday 7th January 2025

### **Year 10 Art & Photography Trip - Oxford**

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

### **Year 10 Student Progress Evening**

Thursday 23rd January 2025

### **Year 11 Revision Fair**

Tuesday 28th January 2025

### **Year 9 Enterprise Workshop**

Wednesday 5th February 2025 - TBC

### **Year 11 PPE Exams**

Monday 10th - Friday 28th February 2025

### **PTA Meeting**

Wednesday 12th February 2025

### **Year 9 Immunisations**

Friday 14th February 2025

### **End of Term**

Friday 14th February 2025

### **Start of Term**

Monday 24th February 2025

## Appointment of Head Girl & Head Boy Team

Following on from their Gold Tie Prefect appointments in the last term, we are delighted to announce our Head Boy and Head Girl team: Bushra Syeda, Christine Mendes, Rose Wordham & Ellie Wordham and Siri Egborge, Daniel Bristow, Edward Humphries & Sashwat Pandey - congratulations to you all!



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Fullness

## GCSE Certificate Evening & Duke of Edinburgh Awards



This term we celebrated the achievements of our previous Year 11's GCSE results. It was great to welcome back students who are pursuing their studies at colleges locally and further afield, as well as students who have stayed as part of our Sixth Form.

We also celebrated those who took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Students were presented with their certificates by our Guest Speaker Tan Ikram - CBE, who gave a fantastic speech on perseverance.

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## Odd Socks Day



On Tuesday 12th November students and staff wore Odd Socks in support of [#AntiBullyingWeek2024](#) to celebrate what makes us all unique. We worked on the theme "Choose Respect" and our school values throughout the week in support of the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

## Children in Need



Churchmead was a wash with yellow in support of Children in Need earlier this term. We raised £621.05 by running a sweet shop at break time and with the donations for wearing something yellow. Thank you to the whole school for donating and to the student council for organising it all. [#childreninneed2024](#)



## Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day



We raised £710.78 for the Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day. It was so great to see so many take part and all the different festive outfits!

## Eco Club Bake Sale



Ambassadors from our Eco Club held a Bake Sale to raise funds towards our Eco Schools Green Flag award, which recognises a school's commitment to sustainable development.

## Christmas On Earth



Our original Christmas Production of "Christmas on Earth" was a huge success with the script being written and directed by our very own Ms Harrington.



Our talented students and school choir once again excelled in taking on a variety of roles in a story that saw a group of young aliens visit earth to learn about the magic of Christmas and why we celebrate.



It was a fantastic Christmas celebration showcasing the gifts and talents of our students across all year groups. Thank you to the Performing Arts Department and all involved in creating this amazing opportunity for our students.



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## Preparing for Adulthood Workshop

Some of our Year 10 and 11 students got to visit a Preparing for Adulthood event held by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. Students visited different college stands to see what they had on offer. Students left feeling enthusiastic about their life after Churchmead!



## SEGro Spotlight on Manufacturing

Our Year 12 students visited SEGro in Slough for a Spotlight on Manufacturing event, as part of their ongoing Careers journey. Members of the SEGRO team were joined by a diverse network of industry partners. Throughout the day, students participated in a Workplace Challenge that included interactive workshops, speed networking sessions and insightful Q&As, to learn first-hand about careers in the sector and the further education learning opportunities available locally. As always many thanks to SEGRO Plc for having us and hosting such an informative event.



## Heathrow STEM Workshop

Heathrow STEM delivered an event for our Year 8's in partnership with Learning to Work. Students spent the session building their own car robot. They had to show key skills throughout the session and work together as a team to successfully programme their car to complete the given track.



## Hampton Court Palace Trip

This term our Year 11 History students visited Hampton Court Palace to explore the history of the Tudors Monarchs, as well as links to the English Civil War. This will support and enhance student learning for both the "Elizabeth" and "Power and the People" topics studied at GCSE.



## Windsor Pantomime Trip

A group of our Music students took a trip to Theatre Royal Windsor to see the pantomime...

Oh no they didn't...oh yes they did!

Here's what Emma M, Year 8, had to say "Firstly, I absolutely loved how interactive the whole experience was. I thought it was the cherry-on-top to ending a fantastic play.

It really boosted my happiness and I thought it was very fun that they included a raffle and party bags for helpers up on stage. The jokes were really amusing and the courage it took for the actors to do certain roles and scenes really impressed me. I would definitely go back again. This was the highlight of my night."



## Remembrance Day Parade

We are delighted that our students chose to take part in their community and attend such an important event as Remembrance Sunday. Thank you to Datchet Royal British Legion for organising a very moving service, and to our students who attended.



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## Gracie-Mae awarded Bucks Youth Champion



We are delighted to announce that Year 10 student, Gracie-Mae, has won the Buckinghamshire Council Proud of Bucks Youth Champion Award for her voluntary work with Girl Guiding UK. The awards recognise and applaud outstanding community contribution carried out by local volunteers. The Youth Champion Award is dedicated to someone who has made a significant contribution towards their local community through volunteering, supporting a charitable cause, or championing their peers.

Well done Gracie-Mae, we are so proud of you!

## Class 7T Science Christmas Tree

As part of our Christmas celebrations, Class 7T, along with their teacher Mr Hart, created this awesome Christmas Chemis-tree, made with test tubes, a stand and clamps!



## Evie celebrates Slough District Football win

Congratulations to the Slough Schools' FA U14 Girls District Team on their first win of the season in the ESFA Champions Cup against Maidstone SFA with the help of Churchmead Year 9 student Evie. It was a historic moment as it is the first ever time a secondary girls district team in the association has won a competitive match. Good luck with the rest of the season Evie, and to the rest of team.

## Duke Of Edinburgh Awards

We were delighted to celebrate all those who completed the DofE Bronze award this summer. 24 current Year 10 students completed the course which consisted of 3 months volunteering, 3 months learning a new skill, 3 months doing something physical and plan, train, and complete a self sufficient 2-day (1 night) expedition without the use of technology.

Congratulations to all those who received their certificates.





## Special Thanks

Everyone at Churchmead School would like to thank the people at PearlCatchers, especially Lucy Foster, Customer Services Manager and a member of our PTA, for their generous donation of office furniture, which has been extremely helpful with the fitting of our new classrooms for January 2025.



### 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**



### 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](#)



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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>



## 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



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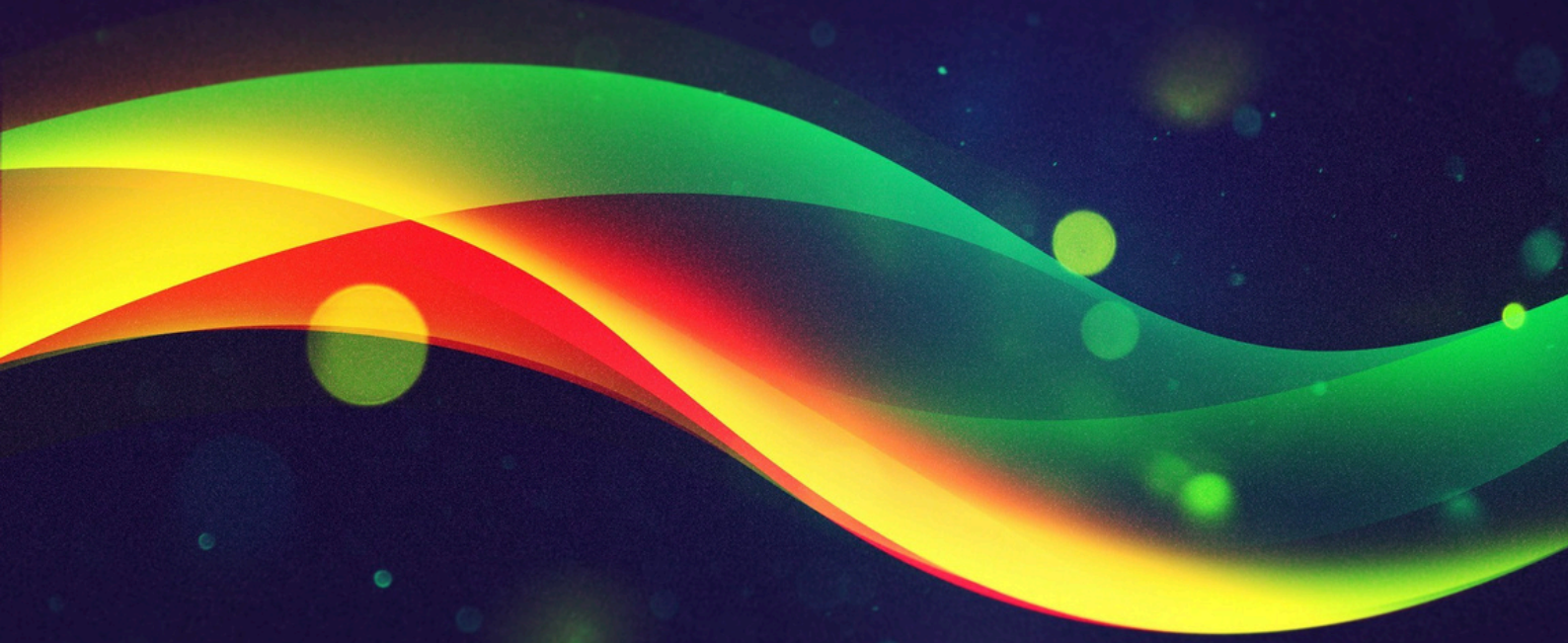


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