

CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL

July 2025 Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

There has been so much to celebrate this term as Churchmead lived up to its vision of living life in all its fullness. I would like to thank parents for supporting with our Sports Day and our School Production. Our student leaders have been amazing with their support of so many different events in serving our school community.

In July we welcomed our new students joining us in Year 7 from September and we are looking forward to them joining our school community. The Churchmead Sixth Form Transition Day was also a great success with students engaging in the rich variety of A Level courses Churchmead has to offer. We had students from Year 12 and Year 10 attend the Eton College summer programme this term, they said they had a fantastic time engaging in a whole range of different activities.

In this next year we will be launching the Global Neighbours Programme run by Christian Aid. It recognizes and celebrates schools that empower young people to become active global citizens through various leadership opportunities.

Over the summer we will be completing our building project which we are looking forward to opening in September.

I hope you have a great Summer break.

Chris Tomes
Headteacher



This issue:

Message from the Headteacher
Page 01

Key Dates
Page 02

Duke of Edinburgh
Page 03

Science - Earth Models
Geography - Hengistbury Head
RE - Gurdwara Visit
Page 04

Film Studies - Harry Potter Studio Tour
Page 05

Sports Day
Girls Football Champions
Page 06

RBWM Borough Games
Year 9 Cricket
Page 07

MFL - More Than Words Trip
MFL - French Exchange Visit
MFL - Churchmead Travels
Page 08

Performing Arts - Heart of the Jungle
Churchmead Choir
Page 09

End of Year Trips
Page 10

End of Year Trips
Page 11

Year 11 Leavers and Prom
Gold Tie Prefects
Page 12

Sixth Form Open Day
Sixth Form Mentoring
Page 13

Garner Ceremony
Heathrow Golden Ticket event
Eco Club at Braywick
Page 14

Outside Achievements
Teaching & Learning Champion
Page 15

Sports Equipment Fundraising
Datchet Cricket Club
Tesco Stronger Starts
Page 16

Important Reminders
Links to Advice & Support
Safeguarding Notices
Page 17

PTA News
Uniform Donations
Free School Meals Applications
Page 18

Keeping in Touch
Page 19



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Key Dates

Start of Term - Year 7's and Year 12's only

Thursday 4th September 2025

Start of Term - Rest of school

Friday 5th September 2025

Open Evening

Thursday 11th September 2025

Year 11 PPE's

Monday 15th September - Tuesday 16th September 2025

Year 7 CATS Testing

Monday 22nd September - Thursday 25th September 2025

School Photographs

Wednesday 24th September 2025

Year 7 Welcome Evening

Thursday 25th September 2025

Year 11 Curriculum & Sixth Form Information Evening

Thursday 2nd October 2025

SEND Coffee Morning

Friday 3rd October 2025

Year 13 PPE's

Monday 13th October - Friday 24th October 2025

Last day of Term

Friday 24th October 2025

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Our second group of students from Year 9 and Year 12 took part in their Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition this term, across the Chiltern Hills.



The weekend involved orienteering, setting up their own tents, working as a team, planning meals and cooking them on camping stoves and hiking, all without the use of electronics.



Students have spent the past six months planning and training to complete a two day (one night) outdoor expedition which took place around Gerrards Cross in May, plus three months of volunteering and improving a skill.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award, founded by the late Prince Philip in 1957, involves a set of challenges for young people to help their community and environment, increase fitness, develop new skills and complete an independent outdoors expedition. It is a voluntary, non competitive and flexible programme of cultural and adventurous activities.

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Science Earth Models

Our Year 7 Science students have been busy creating models showing the earth's layers this term. They used a variety of different methods and worked on their projects throughout the term.



Geography visit to Hengistbury Head

Our Year 10 Geographers spent the day at Hengistbury Head in Dorset earlier this term, testing their fieldwork skills on the beach. They spent the day measuring long shore drift and looked at the impact of coastal defences. This was all great preparation for their fieldwork exam in Year 11.



RE Trip to Slough Gurdwara

Our Year 8 RE students were invited to the Guru Maneyo Gurdwara in Slough to learn about the Sikh faith. They learnt about the Sikh identity and commitments and took part in a Langar, which is a shared meal.



Harry Potter Studios Tour

Our Film Studies students took a trip to the Harry Potter Studios this term to find out more about Mise-en-Scene (which means everything that is within the frame), which they have been learning about in class this term.



Students got to experience first hand how the Harry Potter franchise intentionally created the magical world of Hogwarts and beyond in the films, studying specific scenes and characters.



Students were able to discuss costume design, hair and makeup, prop making and set design with experts who had worked on the films. They got to see the actual sets and costumes that were used in the films up close as well as lots of behind the scenes film making information.



The group took part in an activity to create their own storyboard, creating a scene for a film they devised, even bringing them to life using green screen technology.

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Sports Day

We had a great Sports Day this year, with so many students trying new sports, and exceeding expectations. There were plenty of records broken too!



The points for each year group have been counted and the winners for each year group are:



Year 7 - Faith House
Year 8 - Victor House
Year 9 - Victor House
Year 10 - Teresa House
Year 12 - Faith House
And your overall winner is...

Faith House



Churchmead Girls Crowned Inter-Schools Sevens Champions

On Tuesday 10th June, the Churchmead Girls' Football Team competed in the Inter-Schools Sevens Tournament.

They dominated the group stage, winning all of their matches. In the semi-finals, they faced tough competition but rose to the challenge, securing a solid 2-0 victory. The final saw them go head-to-head with Furze Platt. In a tense and closely contested match, the game went to penalties. Remarkably, Churchmead had still not conceded a single goal throughout the entire tournament! With nerves of steel, the team triumphed in the penalty shootout, earning the well-deserved title of Inter-Schools Sevens Champions!

Congratulations to the entire squad for their outstanding performance, teamwork and resilience.



RBWM Borough Games



This term we took part in the RBWM Schools Borough Games Championships, competing against other schools from across the area in track and field events. Churchmead students did us proud with results, and how they represented the school.

Special mentions go to:

Emily B - Year 8 Girls Javelin - 2nd
Avinash K - Year 9 Boys Javelin - 3rd
Alexa C - Year 9 Girls 100m & 200m - 2nd
Charlotte W - Year 9 Girls 1500m - 3rd
Year 9 Girls Relay Team - 3rd
Sky A - Year 10 Girls Shot-Put - 1st
Harrison G - Year 10 Boys Long Jump & 1500m - 1st
Cayden F - Year 10 Boys Javelin - 2nd
Alfie S - Year 10 Boys Javelin - 3rd
Fabian L - Year 10 Boys Discus - 3rd
Year 10 Boys Relay Team - 3rd



Year 9 Cricket

The boys had a fantastic time at the Year 9 Cricket - congratulations to Hannan and Oli for taking the win with 59 runs! All the hard work at Datchet Cricket Club on Thursdays is clearly paying off!



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MFL - More than Words event

On Wednesday 2nd July a group of Year 9 students attended the More than Words Pearson MFL event at Emirates Stadium, London. They listened to a huge variety of career options using languages, including in the sport and football industry, theatre, medicine and art. They had the opportunity to take part in Bollywood dancing and meet representatives from a range of companies and embassies.



MFL - French Exchange



100 students from our Pen Pal partner school in Rouen, France came to visit Churchmead on a language exchange last week. They spent time with the Year 9 and 10 GCSE French students learning about what school life is like in the UK and had a chance to get involved in a range of activities. It was a fantastic day with lots of French and English spoken.

Churchmead Travels



Bring your post card to MFL and give it to one of the teachers. Please put name and form on the back of the postcard.

Any questions please come and see Miss Macaree ☺

The postcards can be from days out or holidays both in the UK and abroad.

If you go on holiday or a visit this summer, buy a postcard and bring it back to Churchmead in September. We want to see how far around the world Churchmead can travel and all the interesting places we have visited.



Performing Arts Production - The Heart of the Jungle



Round of applause for the cast and crew, alongside our fabulous Performing Arts department and of course our wonderful Miss Harrington for a successful production of The Heart of the Jungle. With vibrant costumes and incredible talent, this original adaptation of "The Jungle Book" was a huge hit! Thanks also to the Churchmead PTA for their support, who raised an incredible £240 from the raffle they ran both nights. Congratulations to you all.



Churchmead Choir

The Churchmead Choir was delighted to be invited to sing for the children at Datchet St. Marys Primary School at the start of this term. They sang a selection of songs they have been learning, with many of the St. Marys students joining in. What a great opportunity to do something they love in the community!



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End of Year Trips

Year 7

Our Year 7's had a fantastic day at Big Hat Bushcamp in Lyne, to celebrate the end of the school year. They learnt survival skills like matchless fire lighting, campfire cooking, shelter building, archery, navigation, woodcraft, and traditional bush craft skills.



End of Year Trips

Years 8, 9 and 10



Year 8

Year 9

Our Year 8, 9 and 10 students all went to BeGripped in Hounslow, an ariel adventure park, for a day of high ropes courses, zip lining adventures, speed slides and treetop nets.



Year 10

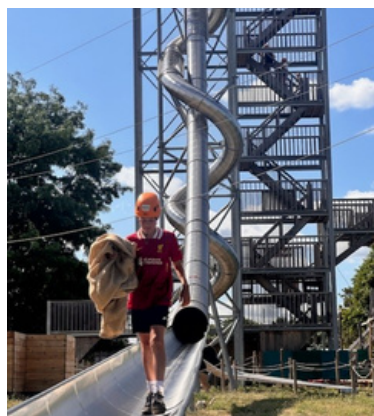
End of Year Trips



Students and staff bounced, tumbled and scrambled in the huge treetop nets, as well as experiencing two high ropes courses with the highest platform standing at 7.5m!



The 1km zip lines and aerial bridges could be done individually or with a friend together. And if that wasn't enough there were two epic speed slides, one 50m and the other 24m long with either a near vertical drop, or swirly spiral slide.



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Year 11 Leavers and Prom



It somehow never gets easier to say goodbye to our Year 11 leavers, but it's always been such a privilege watching them through their time at Churchmead. They had a wonderful celebration at prom, and we wish them all the very best for whatever the future holds next.



Gold Tie Prefects

Please join us in celebrating our newly appointed Gold Tie Prefect Leadership Team. Congratulations to Joshua, Sky, Nehemy, Maddison, Clayton, Gracie-Mae, Ali, Bethany, Oliver, Jhanvi, Neet, Aditi, Taylor, Ava and Abbie.

Students will work closely with the Headteacher, Mr Tomes, to help drive student led improvements across the school.



Sixth Form Open Day and Tours

We were thrilled to welcome our prospective Sixth Form students for their Year 12 Taster and Welcome Day this term. The day began with a warm greeting over breakfast and a chance for students to talk to our current Sixth Formers about their experiences. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement and positivity, with one student commenting "Churchmead feels like home." Students demonstrated outstanding collaboration as they worked in groups on A Level research tasks, impressing us all with their mature presentations and the insightful questions they posed to one another. Teachers were equally inspired by the level of engagement. "Mr Tomes was so impressed with our Maths students and can't wait to lead them into their further studies of Mathematics," said one staff member.



Each subject provided resources to help students prepare over the summer, giving them a strong head start before September. Many students expressed their appreciation for the day's events, with one saying, "I'm so looking forward to starting in the Sixth Form." The enthusiasm, focus and teamwork shown throughout the day were truly exceptional. One Year 11 student summed it up best - "What an amazing day!"

We're really looking forward to welcoming this brilliant, motivated cohort into our Sixth Form community in the new academic year.

There's still time to apply for Churchmead Sixth Form, so please feel free to get in contact for a tour or more information.

Sixth Form Mentoring

Our incredible Sixth Formers are stepping up to make a difference by mentoring lower school students. Whether it's offering academic support, sharing study tips, or just being there to listen, these leaders are setting a shining example of kindness, dedication and community spirit.



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Garter Ceremony

We are so privileged to continue to be invited to the Most Noble Order of the Garter Ceremony each year held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The King and Queen, and members of the Royal Family, join the procession as well as those receiving the honour of becoming a Garter Knight. The Order is the oldest and most senior Order of Chivalry in Britain and Knights are chosen from a variety of backgrounds, in recognition for their public service. Our students had a wonderful day and were proud to represent our school.



Heathrow Golden Ticket

What a fantastic day two of our lucky Year 8 students had, getting a behind the scenes Golden Ticket tour of Heathrow Airport thanks to our friends at Learning to Work. They spent time learning about airport security, the onsite airport Fire Brigade, Air Traffic Control, even going up the control tower, and using the training simulator. They even stood at the side of the runway and watched the planes take off! A really incredible opportunity.



Eco Club Braywick

Students from our Eco Club attended a Climate Action Day hosted by the RBWM Youth Council. Students were given a chance to debate, discuss and give their opinions on Climate Policy and Programs being delivered by the local council. Students also were given a chance to create a piece of climate protest art. Their creation, a canvas focused on protecting the bees, was recognised and awarded best in show by Councillor Davies, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity and received a planter of succulent plants made from recycled materials. Overall, it was a great experience for the students to share with other schools and plan for the next year of Eco activities.



Outside Achievements

Year 9 student, Alexa, represented Berkshire at the English Schools Athletics Association National Championships in Birmingham last month. Following two rounds of district qualifiers, Alexa was chosen to represent RBWM at the County Championships in Bracknell, and following her success there, was chosen to represent Berkshire at the 100th Anniversary English Schools Championships. Coming 5th in her heat (despite soaring temperatures and being rather unwell) Alexa is currently ranked 15th fastest in the Under 15 girls category in the country! We are so proud of you Alexa, keep going!



Teaching & Learning Champion

Congratulations to our Teaching and Learning Champion, Mrs Murphy! Mrs Murphy constantly produces lessons which are engaging and accessible to everyone in her classroom. Through her dynamic teaching and thoughtful use of the Churchmead Teaching and Learning strategies, Mrs Murphy shows a deep love and interest in her subjects in her lessons. This, in turn, is reflected in the positive attitudes and outcomes of her students. Through her higher-level questioning skills, Mrs Murphy allows her students to reflect upon some of the most crucial topics in today's society, whilst also promoting understanding and empathy. Well done Mrs Murphy!

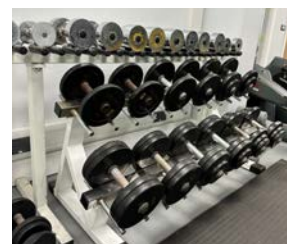
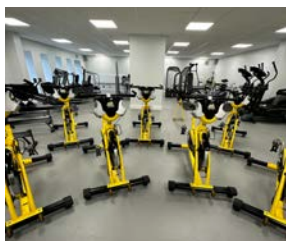


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Fundraising for new sports equipment

We have launched a crowdfunding project, in connection with [Sport England](#), to raise £15,000 to help purchase new equipment for our recently refurbished gym and PE classrooms. Sport England's Movement Fund will match our contribution if we reach our goal of £15,000, providing an amazing £30,000 investment to our students sports facilities. Please use the link below if you are able to donate. Any contribution, large or small, will be hugely appreciated. You can donate by following the below link, or scanning the QR code!
<https://bit.ly/4mDwqPw>



After School Cricket at Datchet Cricket Club

After school Cricket Club is on every Thursday from 3pm - 4.30pm at Datchet Cricket Club. Students will be coached by their Director of Cricket Tom Lambert (Former Head of Berkshire Cricket). This is an excellent opportunity to use the redeveloped nets and facilities at Datchet Cricket Club and forge stronger links between the club and the school. Students need to be ready to leave for the club (via school minibus) at 3.05pm and can be picked up at the club at 4.20pm or back at school at 4.30pm. Please let Mr Verity or Mr Clarke know if your student would like to be included.



Tesco Supports Churchmead School Sports



Tesco Stronger Starts have committed to giving up to £1500 towards new equipment at Churchmead School if we get the most blue tokens between now and the end of September. So next time you're in one of the following Tesco stores, please use your blue tokens to vote for our new orienteering equipment.

Datchet Tesco Express
Langley - Parlaunt Road Tesco Express
Slough - London Road Tesco Express
Windsor - Dedworth Superstore
Windsor - Peascod Street Tesco Express
Windsor - Clarence Road Tesco Express

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction.

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 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, not call or text home directly. 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

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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[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

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 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. If you have anything you'd like to donate, please drop it to main reception.

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 - hdauid@churchmead.org

Keeping in Touch



01753 211 330



office@churchmead.org



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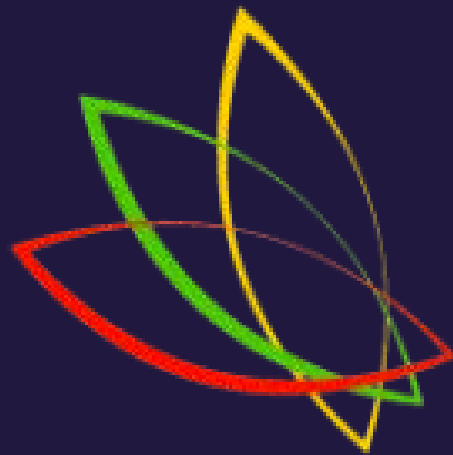
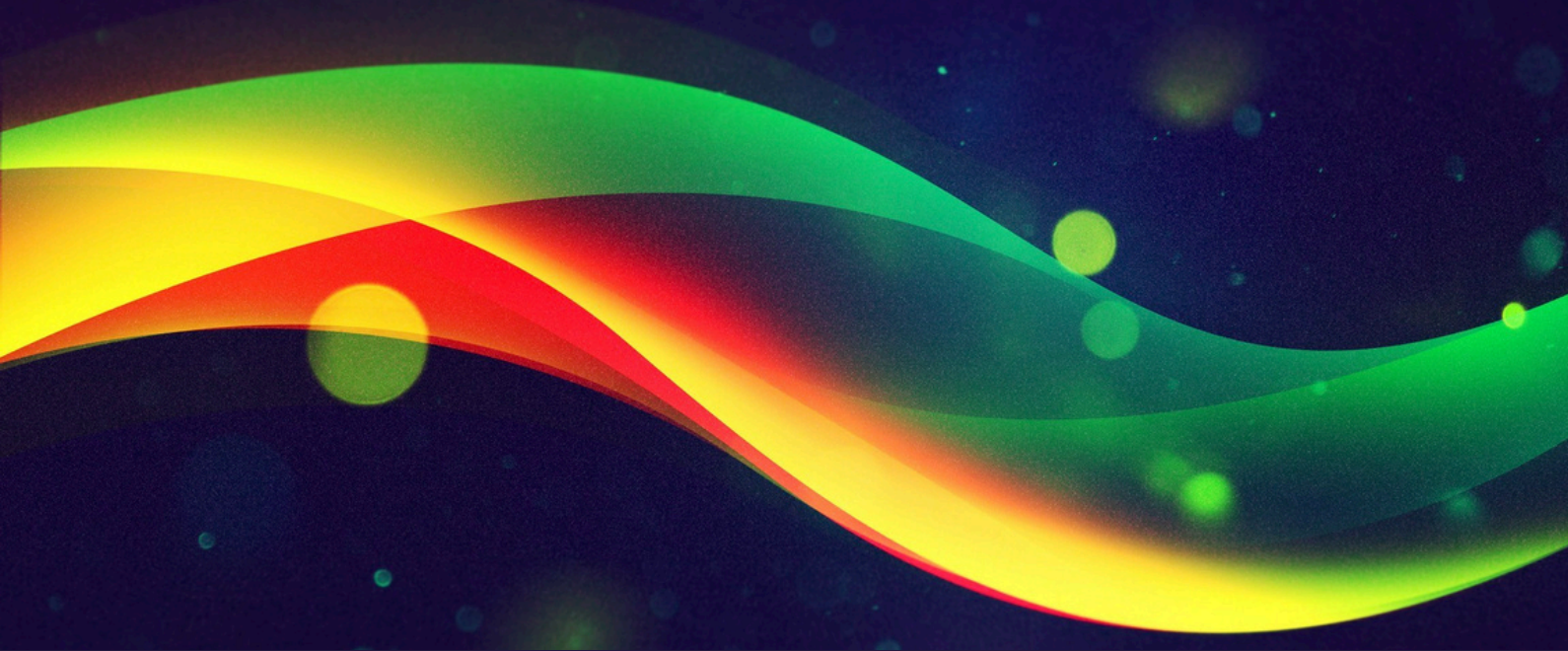


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