

CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL

May 2025 Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach Half Term, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have already completed a number of GCSE and A Level exams. Making good use of the Half Term break will be very important to further secure those top grades.

A number of Year 9 students are completing their Duke of Edinburgh award, the first expedition went out last week. Congratulations to the students on completing their expedition hike.

A group of students from across the school were invited to a Church of England Conference and spoke to representatives from across the Diocese. Students sharing ideas on how Church and school can work together to enable these partnerships to flourish.

We have another busy term ahead of us with many different activities already being planned for the students to provide the very best opportunities to live life in all its fullness.

I hope you have a great Half Term break.

Chris Tomes
Headteacher

This issue:

Message from the Headteacher
Page 01

Key Dates
Page 02

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 1
Page 03

**Fundraising for new gym equipment
Oxford Diocese Clergy Conference**
Page 04

**National Theatre Trip
UCAS Discovery Day**
Page 05

**Design, Make, Market
Climate Change Final**
Page 06

**Datchet Cricket Club
Sports Day**
Page 07

**Outside Achievements
Teaching & Learning Champion**
Page 08

**Important Reminders
Links to Advice & Support
Safeguarding Notices**
Page 09

**PTA News
Uniform Donations
Free School Meals Applications**
Page 10

**Keeping in Touch
Datchet Village Fete**
Page 11



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Key Dates

Start of Term

Monday 2nd June 2025

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 2

Friday 13th - Saturday 14th June 2025

Year 7 Student Progress Meeting

Thursday 19th June 2025

Year 12 Induction Day

Tuesday 24th June 2025

Year 13 Leavers Breakfast

Wednesday 25th June 2025

Year 11 Leavers Breakfast

Thursday 26th June 2025

Year 11 Prom

Thursday 26th June 2025

HPV Vaccines, Year 8

Friday 27th June 2025

Year 12 Work Experience Week

Monday 30th June - Thursday 3rd July 2025

Year 6 Transition Day

Tuesday 1st July 2025

Year 6 Induction Evening

Tuesday 1st July 2025

Year 10 6th Form Taster Day

Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Sports Day

Friday 4th July 2025

GCSE Art Show

Wednesday 9th July 2025

Drama Production

Thursday 10th & Friday 11th July 2025

End of Year Trip - Year 7

Tuesday 15th July 2025

End of Year Trip - Year 8

Wednesday 16th July 2025

End of Year Trip - Year 9

Thursday 17th July 2025

End of Year Trip - Year 10

Friday 18th July 2025

Last Day of Term

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Return to School - Year 7 & Year 12 only

Thursday 4th September 2025

Return to School - Whole School

Friday 5th September 2025

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

This term, 26 students from Year 9 and Year 12 took part in our first Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition this year, across the Chiltern Hills.



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 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.



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.

Life

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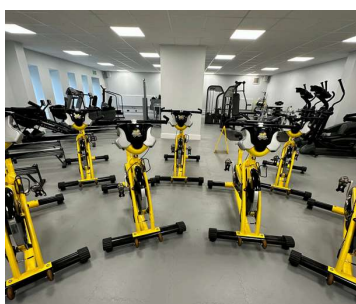
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Fundraising for new sports equipment

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>



Oxford Diocesan Clergy Conference, Derby

This term Churchmead students were invited to take part in the Diocesan Clergy Conference in Derby. A dynamic day of worship and active listening at the Oxford Diocese Clergy Conference.



Churchmead students wrote and showed great courage delivering their own prayers in the intercessions of the Holy Communion service. They were then asked to share their views, beliefs and opinions on pre-prepared questions that included: What is your opinion on the Church? What would you like the Church of the future to look like? Students had an interesting day of enrichment and discussion!

Drama - National Theatre Trip



Year 11 and Year 13 Drama students had a fantastic theatre trip to the National Theatre in London to watch Dear England. The show was immersive, emotional and the production values were outstanding.

Our students were a real credit to the school, showing exceptional theatre etiquette.

Careers - UCAS Discovery Day

Year 12 attended the UCAS Discovery Day this term which will support our students in their post-18 option choices. They gained valuable insights into courses, universities and entry requirements for the subjects they want to pursue.



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Technology - Design, Make, Market Challenge

Our Year 10 group came third with their project at the Design, Make, Market Challenge Final at BCA in Maidenhead. They produced a tractor that allows people with disabilities to operate it, without leaving their wheelchair. Although our Year 9 group wasn't placed, they did a phenomenal job with their project, which was a plant watering recycling system. Both groups did outstanding work on their projects, showcasing their innovation, creativity, and hard work.



Climate Change Final

Learning to Work invited our Year 10 students, who won the previous heat, to represent Churchmead at their Climate Change Challenge Grand Final in May. Working together as a team, they needed to make a four minute presentation to a selection of global businesses on the theme of:

How can technology help tackle climate change to help raise awareness and motivate people in order to adopt more sustainable behaviours in their daily lives?

Six schools from across the area came up with campaigns including the use of social media, interactive advertising, gamification, educational learning platforms and VR, making sure they aligned with the partner businesses core sustainability strategies, and global goals and policies.



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.



Datchet Cricket Club



Sports Day



Our annual Sports Day will be held at Thames Valley Athletics Centre, Pococks Lane, Windsor, SL4 6HN on **Friday 4th July 2025**.

Everyone has been working hard practicing track and field events such as shot put, sprint running, javelin, endurance running and high jump.

Students should arrive at TVAC between 8.10am - 8.20am, and the day will finish around 2pm.

Friends and family who plan on staying to watch, please remember to go into the TVAC Reception and pay for your parking, to avoid a fine.

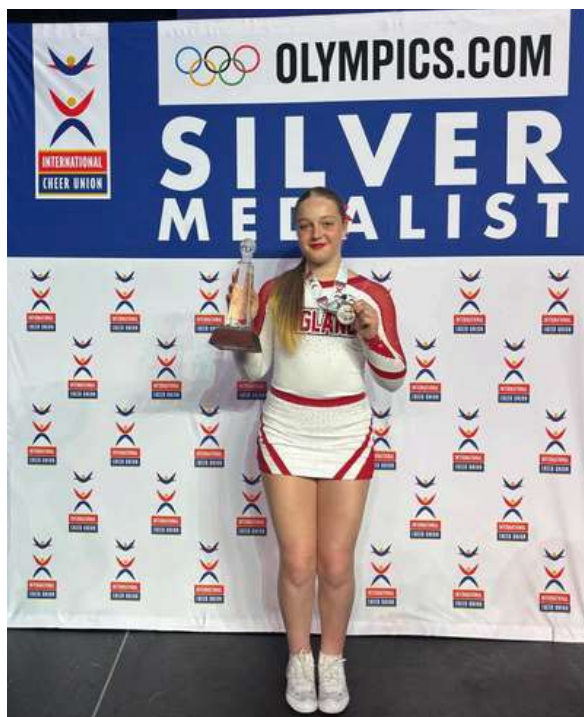


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Outside Achievements

Year 10 student, Sky Andrew, is a two time world champion medalist. Sky took part in the World Cheerleading Championships in Florida this April, representing Team England for the second time. Her team came 2nd and brought home the Silver World Champion Medal. Well done Sky!



Teaching & Learning Champion

Congratulations to our most recent Teaching and Learning Champion, Jon Hart! Jon always produces lessons of the highest quality, with a variety of activities to enthuse and engage all learners in his classes. His approach is dynamic, with a great mix of inspiration, awe and wonder created in all lessons he delivers. Through his nurturing nature and thoughtfully curated classes, Jon always strives to do his best by all his students! Well done Jon!



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](#)



[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 - hdavid@churchmead.org

Keeping in Touch



01753 211 330



office@churchmead.org



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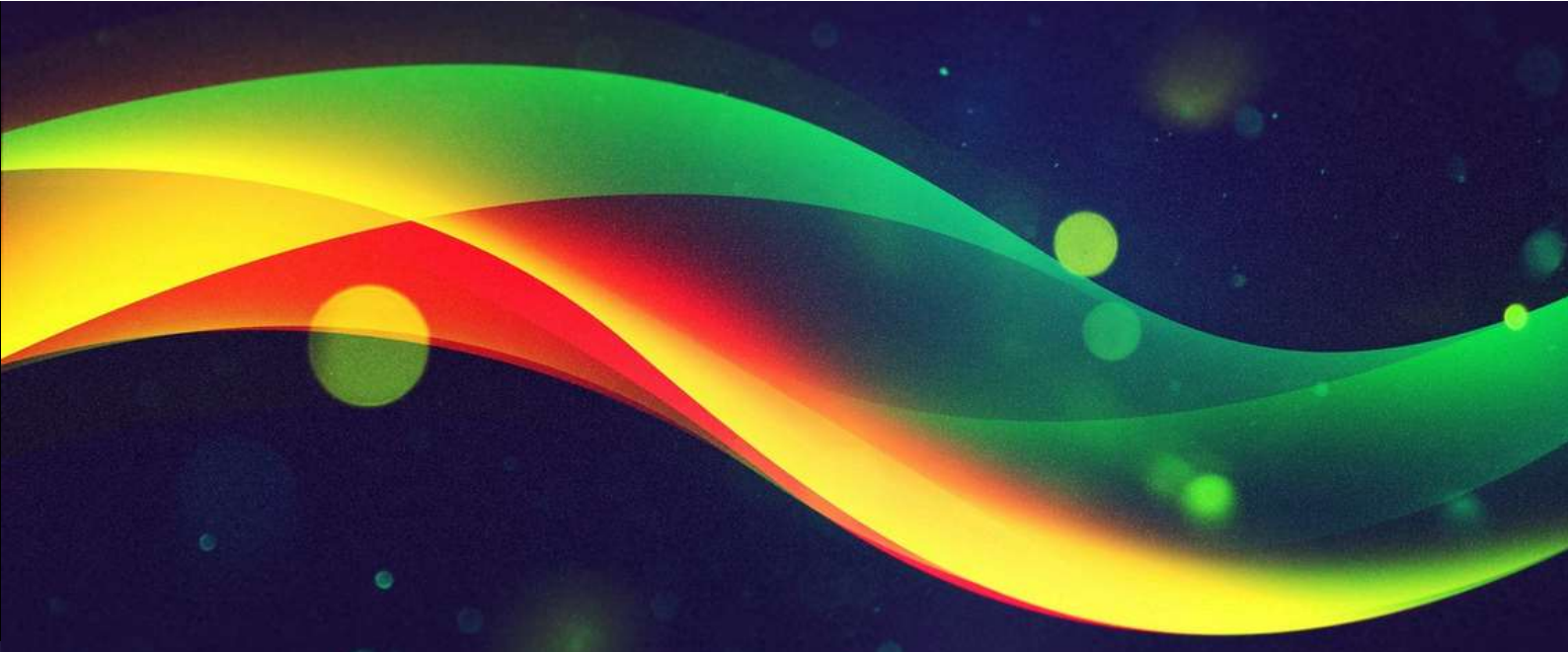
Datchet Village Fete

Churchmead School are delighted to be, once again, hosting the Datchet Village Fete on Saturday 5th July 2025. With over 40 stalls and attractions, it is one of the largest in the county! Expect a bouncy castle, silent disco, vintage cars & much more. Shop artisan stalls, grab a pint or a cuppa and enjoy live entertainment and music.

You can even bring your pooch and enter them into our much-loved dog show. Stalls are free to charity holders, so every time you have fun, you help to raise vital funds for good causes. Bring your family and friends to celebrate Datchet through the Decades.



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