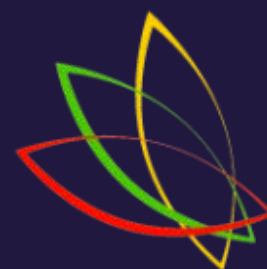


CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL

October 2024 Newsletter



This issue:

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had an incredible term. Our new Year 7 students have settled in extremely well and we are very pleased with their transition into Churchmead. In Year 12 our new Sixth Form students have started their A level programmes of study and we are delighted with the progress they are making.

This summer our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to visit Kenya and work in a local school. This was a life changing adventure for all involved and Churchmead is looking to establish a long lasting link with our partner school in Kenya.

We had the great pleasure of welcoming Olympic Gold medal swimmer Tom Dean MBE to open our new gym earlier this term. The students had a great time meeting him and looking at his 3 Olympic gold medals.

The after school programme ranging from various sports clubs to extra revision lessons for older students has been very well attended this term and we look forward to offering a similar programme after half term.

In the Christian Calendar it is traditional to give thanks for the harvest at this time of year. As the school continues to grow, students have had many opportunities to celebrate and demonstrate our school values of Courage, Commitment and Compassion drawing on the teachings of Jesus.

I hope you have a good half term break.

Chris Tomes
Headteacher

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Key Dates

Start of Term

Monday 4th November 2024

National Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 11th - Friday 15th November 2024

Year 11 PPE exams

Monday 11th - Friday 22nd November 2024

Year 11 Student Progress Evening

Thursday 14th November 2024

Children In Need

Friday 15th November 2024

Year 13 Student Progress Evening

Thursday 21st November 2024

Year 8 PPE exams

Monday 25th November - Monday 2nd
December 2024

GCSE & Duke of Edinburgh Certificate evening

Thursday 28th November 2024

Inset Day - School Closed

Friday 29th November 2024

Deadline for Sixth Form Applications

Friday 6th December 2024

Christmas Production

Thursday 12th & Friday 13th December 2024

PTA AGM

Wednesday 18th December 2024

End of Term

Friday 20th December 2024

Start of Term

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Churchmead celebrates best ever GCSE results!

Churchmead School celebrated a fantastic set of GCSE results in August.

The school maintained very good results in English and Maths, achieving over 73% and 66% 'good passes' respectively, with many outstanding grades in both subjects. A continuing upward trajectory in key subjects, including Science, paints a very encouraging picture as results show a significant improvement on previous years.

Humanities subjects continue to flourish with excellent outcomes in Geography, RE, Spanish and other languages.

Churchmead School takes exceptional pride in the artistic talents of their students, which shone through in the Photography, Art and Drama results.

Vocational subjects including Enterprise have produced some exceptional outcomes, showcasing some of the very talented young people in the cohort.

New subjects, introduced to the curriculum this year, have proven to be exceptionally popular with excellent results evident, particularly in GCSE Business Studies.

Special mention must be given to some of the highest achievers this year, including Anjishnu Roy Choudhury on achieving 10 grade 9's, and Nikola Czarnulicz on achieving three grade 9's, three grade 8's and four grade 7's.



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Volunteering in Kenya



During the summer, some of our Staff and Year 12 students embarked on a trip of a lifetime to volunteer in Kenya for nine days. They were able to visit the elephant orphanage before starting five days volunteering at the Jubilee Primary School in Nakuru. This is in an area where many families and children still live in poverty.



Our students spent time working with students and helping with the construction of a new kitchen for the school. Many were moved to tears with how amazing the children and staff were. We held a sports day and special mini party of treats for the students, who were thrilled with the popcorn, crisps and biscuits. It was a day where stronger bonds were formed and our Churchmead students were a real credit to us. All 71 students were gifted with clothes and toiletries to take home, along with five families, most in need in the slums, who were gifted food bags. Although the poverty was incredibly difficult to see, it was an eye opening experience and we were all reminded how blessed we are. Our students exhibited our school values and have returned feeling very blessed. It was an incredibly emotional day saying goodbye but we all feel very lucky to have been able to meet such special and inspiring people there.



This has truly been a life changing experience. Thank you to the staff who supported the students on this journey. We may have left Kenya, but Kenya will never leave us.

Olympian Tom Dean opens new gym



We were delighted to welcome three times Olympic gold medalist, Tom Dean, to Churchmead last week, as he officially opened our new gym facility. He gave a fantastic inspirational talk to our students with future aspirations of being Olympians themselves, and had his photo taken with them and the gold medals from Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024. Special thanks go to student Edward Humphreys for taking such great photos throughout.



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Back To School

We had a wonderful first week back at Churchmead, to kick start the new school year. We welcomed our new Year 7 on their secondary school journey and our Year 12 students to our Sixth Form. The whole school were excited to make use of our new classrooms and gym.



Culture Week

This term we celebrated the different cultures within our school community. Classrooms were decorated and students and staff were encouraged to come in wearing traditional clothes from their countries. We also had an array of activities and food tasting, which was enjoyed by all.



European Day of Languages poster competition

To celebrate European Day of Languages in September, students were invited to create a poster illustrating the theme of 'Languages for Peace'. This can use symbols, quotes and artwork to convey messages of unity and understanding across different languages.



Winner: Emma Spence - Year 7

Runners up: Ariana Humbarzumyan - Year 7, Darcey Dearsley - Year 8,
Dhra Turshani - Year 7, Sienna Hawthorn - Year 7



Well done to all who took part!

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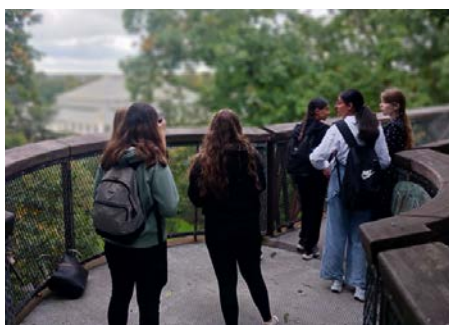
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Art & Photography trip to Kew Gardens

This term we took our Year 9 Art & Photography students on an exciting adventure to Kew Gardens. They enjoyed walking the vast landscapes, viewing the Botanical Gallery and explored the greenhouses discovering tropical, rare plants and tree variations.



The opportunity proved to be a great success as it provided students with an opportunity to take a full range of photographs and observational studies, that will form part of their GCSE coursework portfolio.



There were many highlights during the day - these included: the tree top views, carp fish swimming in the ponds and watching wildlife up close in their natural habitats, all of which will help provide interesting starting points on which students can base their idea development and artistic creations over the next term.

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>



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 - h david@churchmead.org

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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**



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](#)



Keeping in touch



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office@churchmead.org



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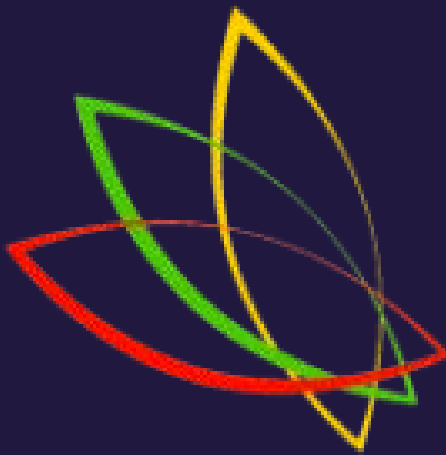
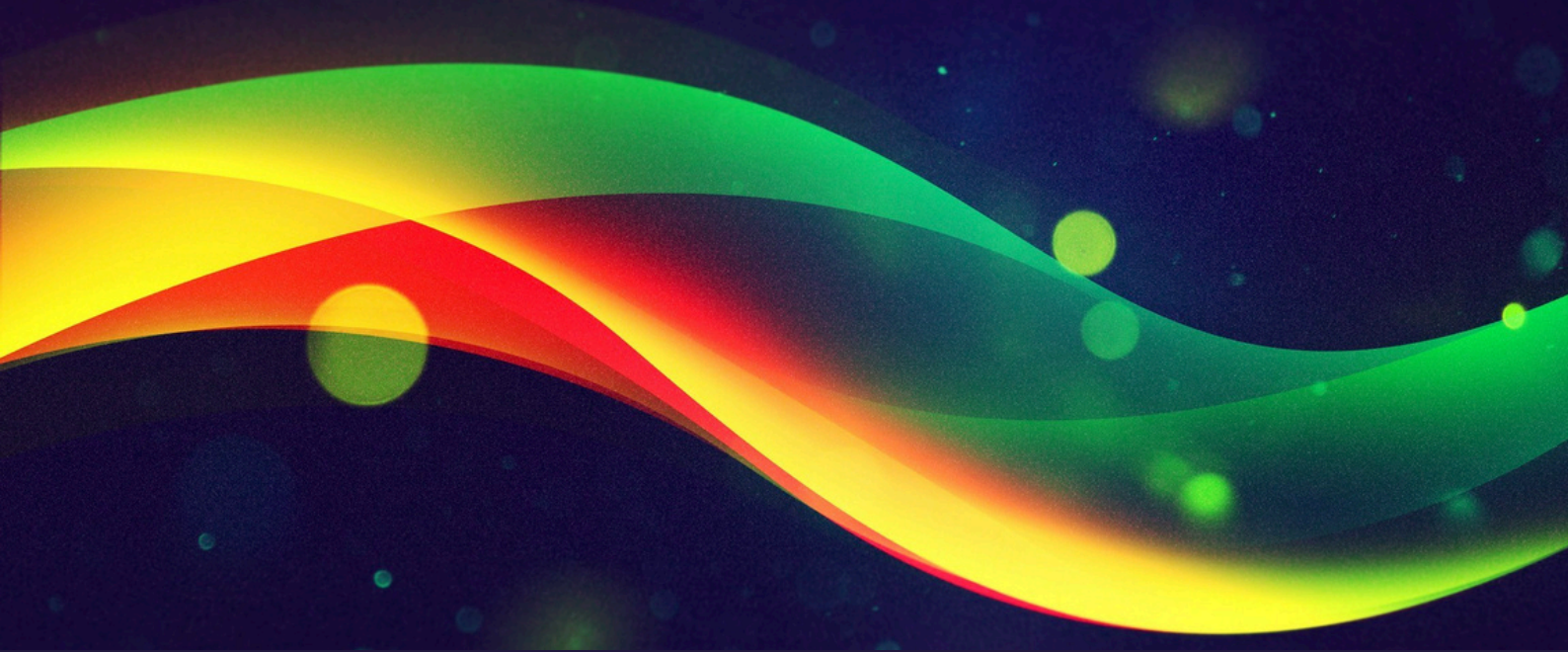


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