

# CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL

## October 2025 Newsletter



### This issue:

#### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of a vibrant and successful term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights and share our gratitude for the continued support of our Churchmead community.

Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their journey with us. They have settled in brilliantly, and we are proud of how well they have embraced life at Churchmead. Similarly, our Year 12 students have begun their A Level and Sixth Form programmes with enthusiasm and focus, and we're delighted with the progress they are already making.

We are thrilled to share that our school has, once again, achieved record-breaking results this summer for GCSE and A Level. Results in our Sixth Form courses placed us in the top 25% of Sixth Forms nationally. This is a remarkable accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of our students and staff for their dedication and commitment. As we look ahead, our Sixth Form courses for next year are already filling up. We encourage all Year 11 students to complete their applications over the Half Term break to secure their place.

Our after-school programme has been thriving, with excellent attendance across a wide range of activities - from sports clubs to revision sessions for older students. We look forward to continuing this momentum after the Half Term break.

As we mark the season of harvest in the Christian calendar, it's a time to give thanks. Our growing school community has had many opportunities to live out life in all its fullness, inspired by the teachings of Jesus.

Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable Half Term break.

Warm regards,

Chris Tomes  
Headteacher



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## Key Dates

### **Start of Term 2**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

### **Year 11 Student Progress Evening**

Thursday 6th November 2025

### **Year 11 PPE's**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

### **National Anti-Bullying Week**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **Children In Need Day**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **Year 13 Student Progress Evening**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **Flu Immunisations**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

### **Kinship Carers Support Group**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **A Level Business Studies Grade Booster Trip**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **Inset Day - School Closed**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **Music Trip to Windsor Panto**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

### **Christmas Production - Christmas on Earth II**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Year 11 Sixth Form and College Application Deadline**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Christmas Church Service**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Christmas Lunch**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Last Day of Term 2**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

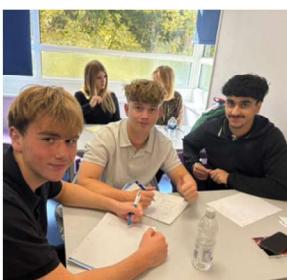
### **Start of Term 3**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Welcoming our new students



It's always a pleasure welcoming our students back after the summer. The new Year 7 and Year 12 students had a day to settle in and meet new friends and teachers, before the whole school joined them. It was a great start to the school year.



## Alps Gold Award

We're proud to announce that our Sixth Form has been awarded the Alps A Level Gold Award 2025, placing us in the top 25% of Sixth Forms and Colleges nationally! This award reflects our commitment to outstanding teaching, high expectations and exceptional student progress.



## School tours available

With our best ever GCSE and A Level results, there's never been a better time to consider Churchmead for your Year 6 and Year 11 students when they change schools next year. The deadline for secondary school applications is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 for Sixth Form and Colleges. If you missed our Open Evening, we would be happy to show you around during the school day.

To arrange a tour, please email [office@churchmead.org](mailto:office@churchmead.org).

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## Fitness Centre fundraiser

As you know our Fitness and Learning Centre underwent a huge amount of work over the summer to provide us with some much needed new classroom and learning spaces.

We are now fundraising to upgrade the new Fitness Suite and it's equipment.

If we reach our goal of £15,000, Sport England have committed to matching it, bringing the total to a whopping £30,000.

But we can't do this without you. Please consider contributing, no matter how big or small, using the link below. Providing up to date sports equipment and technology will benefit so many local children.

[bit.ly/4niGRX](https://bit.ly/4niGRX)



## Sports kits sponsors

We'd like to share our thanks to Horler and Oakwood Estates in Datchet for sponsoring some of our sports teams with new kit this season. Our boys football kit, sponsored by Oakwood Estates, looks great on the pitch and we're excited for our girls football and netball teams, sponsored by Horlers, to show off theirs as they compete against other local schools.



## Generous donation

We received a very generous parent donation of £100 towards our gym equipment fund from Mr Chris Johnson of Frontline Solutions. Mr Johnson also provided an excellent service free of charge to our Music Department - thank you Frontline Solutions!

## Interhouse sports challenge

The results are in! Our Interhouse sports challenge has been a huge success this term, with all year groups playing futsal, which is a type of football. We're delighted to announce the winners for each year group:



Year 11 - Teresa  
Year 10 - Faith  
Year 9 - Beckett  
Year 8 - Faith  
Year 7 - Faith



## U15 ESFA girls football win



What a game for the girl's first football match of the season! Drawing 1-1 at half time and following a rousing team talk from Miss Spencer, the girls really turned it on to win 9-1 at the end of the game. 6 goals for Charlotte W and Evie S bossing the middle of the park.

## Year 8 boys football win

What a start to the football season for the Year 8 boys with a 5-0 win over Long Cross School. Special mentions to Jimmy, Jeevan and Frank for scoring the goals and Jacob for defending and saving two from the opposition.



## Netball success

A huge congratulations to our incredible Year 7 and Year 9 netball teams for a fantastic start to the season! Year 7 had an impressive 6 wins out of 9 matches, showing off their hard work and determination. Special mentions go to Sophie, Poppy and Olivia for their outstanding performances and exceptional teamwork. Year 9 had 7 wins, 4 losses and 1 draw. A great opportunity to learn, grow and show their fantastic sportsmanship. Special mention goes to Florence for the energy she gave at every match.



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## GCSE Art & Photography



Our Year 10 GCSE Art & Photography students took a trip out to The Sculpture Park in Farnham to support their coursework. Students followed the trails and took images using the different camera settings, and used pen techniques to create a double page spread in their project books.

## GCSE Film Studies

Our Film Studies students had the opportunity to visit the Sky TV studios in Osterley. They had a fantastic behind the scenes tour of the facilities and got hands on experience of filming techniques, editing and production.



## GCSE Food Technology coursework



Our Year 11 Food Technology students were tasked with preparing an exotic dessert as part of their GCSE coursework. Challenged with stepping beyond the usual cupcakes and traditional cakes, we had some really tasty options including tiramisu, sticky toffee sponge and a chocolate gateau showing off their creativity and skill.



## Sixth Form UCAS Discovery Event at St Mary's University



The Year 12 cohort attended the UCAS Discovery Day at St Mary's University this term.

UCAS Discovery Events bring together universities, colleges, employers, and apprenticeship providers under one roof. It's a chance to explore options after school or college and get expert advice on next steps. Students can discuss apprenticeship options as well as meet employers to find out more about real-world career options.

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## Year 8 Heathrow STEM workshop

Thanks to our friends at Heathrow and Learning to Work, our Year 8 students recently took part in an exciting two hour STEM event, where innovation and teamwork were at the heart of the challenge. Students worked collaboratively to design and build a robotic car, which they then manoeuvred across a detailed template of Heathrow Airport.

The activity tested their creativity and problem-solving skills, while highlighting the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in real-world applications. From brainstorming designs to overcoming technical hurdles, students demonstrated resilience and ingenuity throughout.



Fullness

## Supporting charities



We had a whole school non-uniform day shortly before the end of term in aid of Unicef, to celebrate a great return to school. Thank you to all those who donated. We can't wait to update you with the amount we raised.

Our Gold Tie Prefects have also been selling poppies at Form Time on behalf of the Royal British Legion. There will still be time to buy one after Half Term. The suggested donation is £1 or more if you choose.

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## New Kinship Support Group



For family or friends who step up to raise a child.

**Churchmead Datchet Kinship group**

**Wednesday 26 November**  
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: 1093975

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 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
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

## Windsor Lions Christmas Gift Market



Maidenhead Lions  
Saturday 8th November  
**Christmas Gift Market**

Christmas Gifts, Craft Stalls, Tombola, Mystery Gift Bags, Refreshments.

No entry fee  
donation only  
Parking available

St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Cookham Road, SL6 7EG  
11.00 - 3.30pm

St. Joseph's Parish Hall  
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11.00 - 3.30pm

Maidenhead Lions will be hosting their Christmas Gift Market  
Saturday 8th November 2025  
11.00am - 3.30pm  
St Josephs Parish Hall, Cookham Road, SL6 7EG  
Free entry and Parking

Tasty homemade refreshments will be available thanks to the Tangent Ladies group, and there will be a wide variety of gift stalls which include local honey, jams, sauces and chutneys, crochet and hand made items, 3D printed, handmade and resin gifts, vegan beauty products, jewellery and lots more - all perfect for Christmas gifts.

Maidenhead Lions will be running a tombola for you to try your luck on and a mystery gift bag stall.

## 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. 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/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.rbw>



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:hdavid@churchmead.org)

## Keeping in Touch

01753 211 330



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



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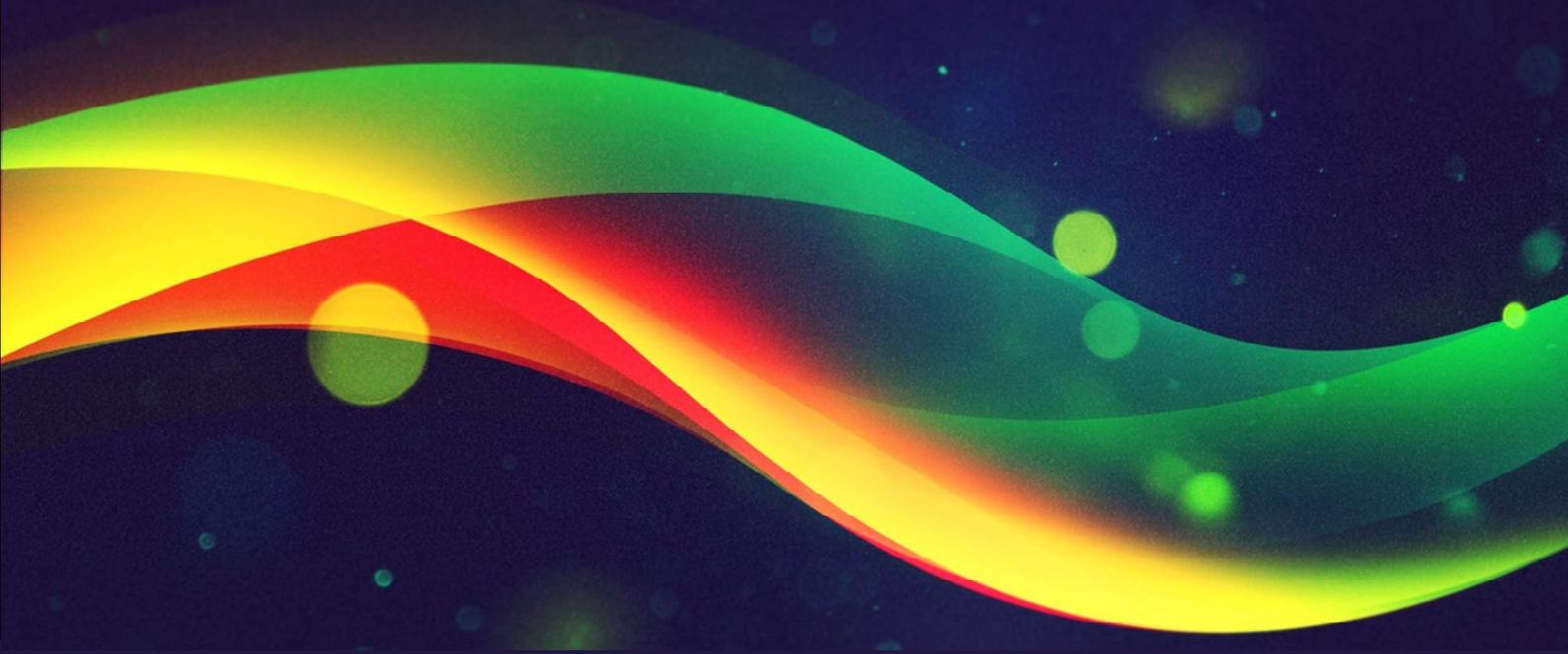
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