

St Christopher's CE High School

NEWSLETTER



Easter 2019 • Issue 58

The term has been bookended by two events marking the school's diamond anniversary. January saw our annual Speech Night with guest of honour and former headmaster, Alasdair Coates. This was a wonderful occasion with awards presented to pupils from the 'Class of 2018', years 11 and Upper Sixth. Also in attendance was Mr Jack Greene – a member of staff from when the school opened and someone who has attended every Speech Night in the history of the school. Mr Greene also made it to last week's service of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion where the Bishop of Burnley preached and presided, offering thanks on behalf of the diocese of Blackburn for the contribution that St Christopher's has made to education during the last sixty years. A particularly moving part of the service was the moment when the prayers of intercession were shared between a pupil currently in Year 7 and a lady, now in her seventies, who was in the equivalent year group in September 1958. Marking this sense of continuity and permanence is something which I hold dear.

Largely prompted by the school's sixtieth anniversary, members of the governing body and senior leaders have spent some time thinking carefully about St Christopher's vision, values and mission. We started with the question: what do we want the school to be known for? And we think we know the answer! – a school community where all are encouraged to blossom as human beings by developing a deeper understanding of self, developing in relationship with others, and, deeply and distinctly, developing in relation to God.

However, we are humble enough to accept that we may have got this wrong (!) and we want to widen the net of responses to this important and telling question. This is certainly the sort of question that we will ask the school council to cogitate over during the next term, and what about you, the parents? Do please contact me through SYNERGY if you would like to contribute to the debate and let us know your thoughts.

Thank you for the positive reception to the revamped and improved web site which we think does a good job of reflecting the values and vision of the school, as well as providing helpful and up-to-date information. The web site offers a straightforward way of accessing SYNERGY which is now the best place from which to contact and correspond with school staff. One important way in which parents can contribute to the ongoing success of the school is by serving on the governing body. We are currently looking to strengthen our team of governors and are seeking individuals with a background in business/finance, education or ministry. Please contact me directly if you would be interested and would like to know more.

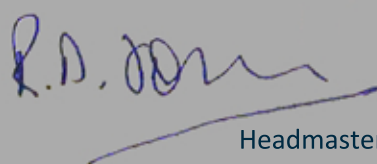
Other highlights this term have included a highly successful period of work experience for our Year 10 pupils. The reports from employers are always heart-warming, comments such as, "we only take St Christopher's pupils, never from anywhere else" etc. and it is always a delight to see pupils thrive as they take to the world of work. Successful foreign trips were also completed with sixth formers visiting New York and Washington, and pupils from a number of year groups taking to the ski slopes of Andorra. I am grateful to all teachers who make such opportunities possible for the young people in our care.

Do please keep our pupils in your prayers, particularly those preparing for public examinations and for whom the Easter break will be a matter of snatching an hour or so off from the slog of revising. We wish them well as the revised and more demanding GCSE and A-level exams loom.

Wishing you and all your loved ones a very Happy Easter. May the risen Christ bring you and your family abundant happiness. Have a blessed Easter.

'He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.'

(Romans 4:25)



Headmaster



MFL UPDATE



It's been a really busy term in the MFL Department here at St Christopher's. Here are just some of the highlights!

TWITTER



The MFL Department is now on Twitter! If you're not already following us, then add us in order to keep fully up to date with what's going on. There's lots of interesting articles as well as posts, photos and videos of our pupils in their MFL lessons. Follow us: @StChrisMFL

MFL FILM CLUB

This term saw the launch of our MFL Film Club. Pupils from Years 7-9 are invited to come along to Room 4 on Monday lunchtime to watch a film in either French, Spanish or German, with English subtitles. The response has been phenomenal, with an average of over 30 pupils attending each week. Every pupil who attends receives a raffle ticket, to be entered into a monthly draw. So far, we have watched 'Sing!', 'A Shark Tale', 'Daddy Daycare' and we have just started 'Mamma Mia!'.



BOARD GAMES AVOID BEING 'BORED' IN LESSONS!

Thanks to the FOSSC, we have managed to purchase a whole host of board games in all three languages for use both in and out of the classroom. Mr. Greenhalgh's Year 10 French class enjoyed playing 'Race to Paris', which enabled them to practise their speaking skills whilst broadening their vocabulary and reinforcing grammar structures, all through having fun! Things got very heated in the Year 12 A-Level Spanish class when the students played Monopoly. No English was allowed at all and we certainly saw a competitive side to all the students!

IN THE MFL CLASSROOM

We've been trialling out lots of new and exciting activities in the classroom. These have included a 'Fortnightly Focus' whereby teaching staff have concentrated on a specific skill during that fortnight and tried out new ideas. So far these have been; listening, reading, writing, speaking, and translation. The next focus will be grammar. Activities have included pass the bomb for speaking, tangled translations, one pen, one dice, vocabulary prediction for listening, verb wheels, running dictation, joke of the day, thought for the day, and many, many more.



KS3 Spanish pupils have also been introduced to 'exit tickets'. In order to encourage every pupil to participate, they are given an 'exit ticket' on entry to the classroom. In order to leave at the end of the lesson, they have to contribute orally at least once during the lesson. They are then allowed to post their ticket into the post box. If they still have their ticket at the end of the lesson, the teacher asks them a question that they have to answer before they can leave. So far, we haven't had to do this!



MFL UPDATE (CONT)



NEW LOOK MFL CORRIDOR

If you've ventured down the MFL corridor lately, you'll have seen a whole host of new displays, including a 'Most Fabulous Linguists' board, which celebrates our pupils' outstanding work in their MFL lessons, as well as our 'MFL Department News' and 'MFL in the News' boards.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

Key Stage 3 pupils celebrated 'World Book Day' in their lessons by completing a variety of activities, including translating well-known book titles and a range of Harry Potter themes activities.



YEAR 8 INTER-SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Our Year 8 pupils are being encouraged to enter a creative writing and poetry competition, which we have organised in conjunction with other schools in East Lancashire. Pupils have to write a short story or poem in either French, German or Spanish. We will then select one winner for each language, and these pupils will go forward to represent St Christopher's at the grand final in June, which will be held at Burnley College. Closing date for entries is May 10th.

LEGO MINDSTORMS

THE LEGO MINDSTORMS CHALLENGE WAS ATTENDED BY NINE PUPILS THIS YEAR AND YET AGAIN THE PUPILS DID US PROUD. THEY WERE WINNERS OF THE SPEED CHALLENGE AND CAME THIRD OVERALL! MR FOY SAID "ONCE AGAIN I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF ALL THE HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND TEAMWORK SHOWN BY THE NINE FUTURE ENGINEERS! WELL DONE, YOU DID ST CHRISTOPHER'S PROUD."



ROOTS & SHOOTS AWARDS



LONDON 2019

The Roots and Shoots education programme is a powerful, youth driven network operating in almost a hundred countries, connecting tens of thousands of young people who all share a common desire to help make our world a better place. The charitable organisation Roots and Shoots, guided by the founding principles and extraordinary vision of Dr Jane Goodall – renowned primatologist, environmentalist and humanitarian, fosters a fun, flexible and supportive environment. Young people are enabled to come together to share ideas, inspire others, implement successful community service projects and participate in significant events and international campaigns.

The annual awards are a celebration of the achievements of the Roots & Shoots groups who've campaigned, researched, raised money, made positive changes, raised awareness and worked as teams and individuals to help people, animals and the environment.

As an official member of the Roots and Shoots programme, thirty-two pupils accompanied by four members of staff from St Christopher's attended the award ceremony for the sixth year running, held this year at The Barbican Centre. Students modelled the looks they had designed and made from only recycled/re-used materials and components, all of which were inspired by the issues derived from unrecyclable waste and the damage of our environment, in our infamous 'Trashion Show'. Each outfit was individually judged by Duke Ingram – an activist, songwriter and former model and Livia Firth – (wife of Hollywood actor, Colin Firth) co-founder and Creative Director of Eco-Age and founder of the Green Carpet Challenge.

Congratulations to Christina Hemingway (Yr 9), who was awarded first prize, for her monochrome two piece. She created a skirt made from woven bin bags and high neck top made from ring pulls taken from recycled cans. Further congratulations to Amelia Litherland (Yr 10) who claimed second prize for her formal dress and accessories made from chocolate wrappers, inspired by the upcycling of plastic and the issue of Fairtrade. A final congratulations goes to Olivia Shearon (L6), who came in third place, with her oversized jacket made only from recycled plastic.

Further congratulations go to Amelia Litherland (Yr 10), who won the prestigious 'Most Outstanding Individual' award, given to the individual deemed by Roots & Shoots to be making the most profound contribution to the goals of the organisation. As part of her prize, Amelia will have the opportunity to spend a day with Dr Jane Goodall herself, which will be amazing!

Not only did we get to participate in the prestigious awards show, we had the opportunity to explore life in London. We visited Westminster, where we joined a Brexit protest and promoted our opinions on the forthcoming nuclear station in Preston, before dining at Leon's Restaurant in China Town on Shaftesbury Avenue. The night was topped off by not only visiting the infamous M&M World but also the West End to watch the renowned theatrical performance 'Aladdin'.

Report by Leah Hodges (Yr 13)



North West Eco-Schools Sustainability Conference 2019

20th June Blackburn Rovers Football Club



Key Note Speakers Wayne Dixon & Koda

Veteran, Keep Britain Tidy Ambassador, #LitterHero
Talking about his 8000 mile journey cleaning our coastlines.



Marketplace Activities
Challenges and Competitions
Adult CPD



Up-Cycling Clothing Competition
in association with David Luke the
UK's Number 1 eco-uniform supplier

- Sustainability Rap Competition
- Zero Waste Packed Lunch Competition
- STEM Green Challenge presented by St Bede's RC High School (years 9-10)
- Production Line competition (years 7-8)

Cash Prizes to be Won

Supported by Lancashire Environmental & Community Projects and the world's largest educational programme @EcoSchools

Book Now

Name of School _____ Staff Places _____ (£5 each)

Main Contact _____ Telephone Number _____ E-mail _____

_____ STEM green Challenge Team Places (Years 9 & 10 only, 6 students per team)

_____ Production Line Team Places (Years 7 & 8 only, 6 students per team, entrance fee £25 per team).

_____ Upcycled Clothing entries (£3 per entry) _____ Sustainability rap entry (£3 per entry)

E-mail completed form to schoolssustainabilityconferences@btinternet.com

Cheques payable to: Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum. Post to Lancs. Schools Sustainability Forum, c/o 1 Lappet Grove Cottam, Preston, PR4 0DF

Bank transfer details sort code **089299** Account name **Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum**
Account number **65782952**



Lancashire
County Council



www.eco-schools.org.uk

Worship News

Easter Services

At the time of writing, we are very much looking forward to our Easter services on the final day of term, which will appropriately draw to a close another busy term by focusing on the Cross and Resurrection.

Strong assembly programme

This term's worship programme began in January by building on our Christmas services with a focus on miracles. The second half term then focused on following Jesus as his apprentices. A timely message for all our pupils, but most especially our Year 11s, many of whom will be starting their own apprenticeships in September. Our team of volunteer Chaplains, to whom we are very grateful, make this consistently high-quality worship possible.

60th Anniversary Service with + Philip.

At all times, we try our best to keep the Easter message central to all that we do, as have our predecessors for the past 6 decades. On the evening of Friday 22nd March, pupils past and present enjoyed a sung Eucharist service enhanced by the excellence of the 6th form Cantores choir and presided over by Bishop Philip North of Burnley. This brought to a close a hugely successful open afternoon as part of our 60th year celebrations. The Bishop's message galvanised us all to continue to lay Christ-centred foundations for the next 60 years of St. Christopher's legacy.



Archbishop of York Service & Presentation

This term has had many high points, including the presentation of the Archbishop of York young leaders' award to all of our Year 8 pupils. On Wednesday 27th February, they became our 4th year group to achieve this prestigious award, which they had presented to them by the Venerable Michael Everitt, Archdeacon of Lancaster, at a Eucharist service in our Sports Hall, enjoyed by parents as well as pupils.

Then, on Tuesday 26th March, Mr. Pountain and Mr. Goddard were privileged to be invited to speak at the Archbishop of York young leaders' conference in Warrington. Y10 pupils, Amelia Litherland, Georgia Parker and Heidi Kewin all spoke with excellence about their experiences of the award scheme and were a credit to themselves, their parents and the school. (See accompanying photo). This invitation is a measure of the high standing the school now has at a national level, and we take our responsibility to use this God-given platform for His glory very seriously indeed.

Ash Wednesday service with ashes

Wednesday 6th March saw Andy Froud, Year 7 chaplain, preside over our annual Lent Communion service for Year 7 pupils, but this year, we had the added blessing of celebrating this solemn occasion in the traditional way using ashes. A separate lunchtime service, led by Year 10 chaplain, Toby Webber, gave all staff the opportunity to receive ashes, as well as any other pupils in other year groups. As ever, we are extremely grateful to the strength in depth of our diverse Chaplaincy team, which means we can deliver these acts of worship with such consistency.

Stations of the Cross Reflection

In that same spirit, Sixth Form chaplain, Fr. Lawrence Carson-Featham will lead staff in a stations of the Cross reflection at lunchtime on the penultimate day of term. We are grateful to Mrs. Musso, who facilitates this act of worship every year.

Good Friday stations of the Cross walk up the Coppice in Accrington

This year, as every year, uniformed St. Christopher's pupils will join pupils from Mt. Carmel, the town's Roman Catholic school, in a powerful show of unity as alternate readers/prayers through the ten stations of the Cross on the way up the Coppice hill in Accrington. The people of Accrington assemble at the park at the top of Avenue Parade in Accrington at 11:15am on Good Friday. As always, parents are warmly invited to join us for this act of worship.

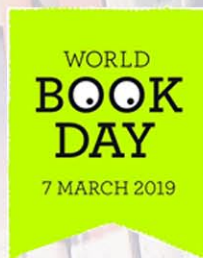
Worship News (Cont.)

On into next term

Next term, our immediate focus will be our Year 11 & 13 pupils, as we look to prepare them spiritually as well as academically for their examinations and the world beyond school. Services of Holy Communion will again keep the Cross and Resurrection of Christ central to everything.

In addition, Thursday 2nd May will see as many of our Year 7-10's benefit from hearing the testimony and music of Christian band, 'Social Beingz.' We are very much looking forward to that. In the same way, we are looking forward to our innovative 'Spirituality week,' week commencing Monday 8th July, when we shall attempt to saturate all aspects of school life with the Gospel message, using as many high-quality contributors as possible. As ever, our partnership with parents remains central to it all. If you have any comments or questions at all about any aspect of our worship, please do not hesitate to get in touch: c.pountain@st-christophers.org

The school's World Book Day celebrations took place on Friday 8 March. Pupils from Years 7 and 8 were invited to come dressed as a book character. Some members of staff got in on the act as well! Anyone wearing a costume brought in a £1 and proceeds went to Book Aid International, a charity which aims to improve literacy in developing countries. This year we raised £123! Pupils also had the opportunity to enter the National Book Token Design competition where lucky winners can win book tokens for themselves and the school! In addition there was a 'Design a Potato as a Book Character' competition.



Library News



1st prize 'Harry Potter' by Daisy Holden 7LO
2nd prize 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Milly Harrison 7JY
3rd prize 'Ron Weasley' by Jessica Riley 7RK.
Prizes (pictured) included a stationery hamper, books and other stationery. All participants received a certificate and Synergy credits, well done!



Accelerated Reader is a reading scheme where a pupil reads a book at their reading level, then takes an online quiz and gets immediate feedback. Students respond to regular feedback and are motivated to make progress with their reading skills. We now have sixteen classes following the programme. The following pupils achieved the most words read in their class:

Year 7

Aimee Pullan, Kira Pickles, Abigail Edwards, James Manners and Anya Lishman.

Year 8

Elizabeth Maibaum, Matthew Prawucki, Ruby Armstrong, Carson Daniels, James Smith and congratulations to Malachy Ratcliffe who was this year's first **Word Millionaire!**

Year 9

Mackenzi Bottomley, Ella Harrison, Tyler Greenwood and Larnea Dibden.

JUDO NEWS

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S JUDO CLUB HAS ENJOYED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TERM, CULMINATING IN A GRADING ON 29TH MARCH WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR PUPILS ENJOYED FURTHER PROMOTIONS THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE HIGHLY REWARDING COLOURED BELT SYSTEM. ADDITIONALLY, OUR SIXTH FORM PUPILS HAVE ALSO BENEFITTED FROM A JUDO OPTION DURING WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT TIME, AND THEY ALSO ENDED THE TERM WITH A GRADING. SIMILARLY, DUE TO SOME INNOVATIVE TIMETABLING, HALF OF YEAR 7 HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS JUDO AS PART OF THEIR PE CURRICULUM THIS YEAR, AND THEY TOO WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO GRADE AT THE END OF NEXT TERM. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TERM HOWEVER, HAS TO BE TEGAN DAVIES (YR 13) WINNING A GOLD MEDAL REPRESENTING ST. CHRISTOPHER'S AT THE BRITISH SCHOOLS' JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SHEFFIELD ON SUNDAY 17TH MARCH. WELL DONE TEGAN, A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT!



PE NEWS

Huge congratulations to Theo Fitzmaurice (Yr 9), who recently had an incredible weekend at the National Schools Biathlon finals, at which he represented St Christopher's. Theo swam a personal best of 1:14.04 in the under 14s 100m and ran a personal best (by a full twenty seconds!) of 6:39.11 for the 1600m. This result saw him place 55th nationally and 3rd for the North West region, which we think is absolutely remarkable. The event was held at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in London on the 16th and 17th March and over two action-packed days of competition, saw around fourteen-hundred athletes compete fairly and enthusiastically across almost three-hundred separate heats of swimming and running. Theo qualified for entry in this hotly-contested competition after securing one of only a hundred and twenty available places, as a result of successfully meeting the entry criteria at both the Accrington Academy and Rossall Biathlon qualification stages in October 2018.

For swimming, Theo trains at Accrington Academy's pool with 'Pioneer 79', an amateur swimming club with over six-hundred members across East Lancashire, and he's been with them since he was eight. However, the only running that Theo does is during school PE lessons at through his own sense of motivation, which makes his recent achievements all the more impressive.

Mr Jones, Headteacher of St Christopher's said:

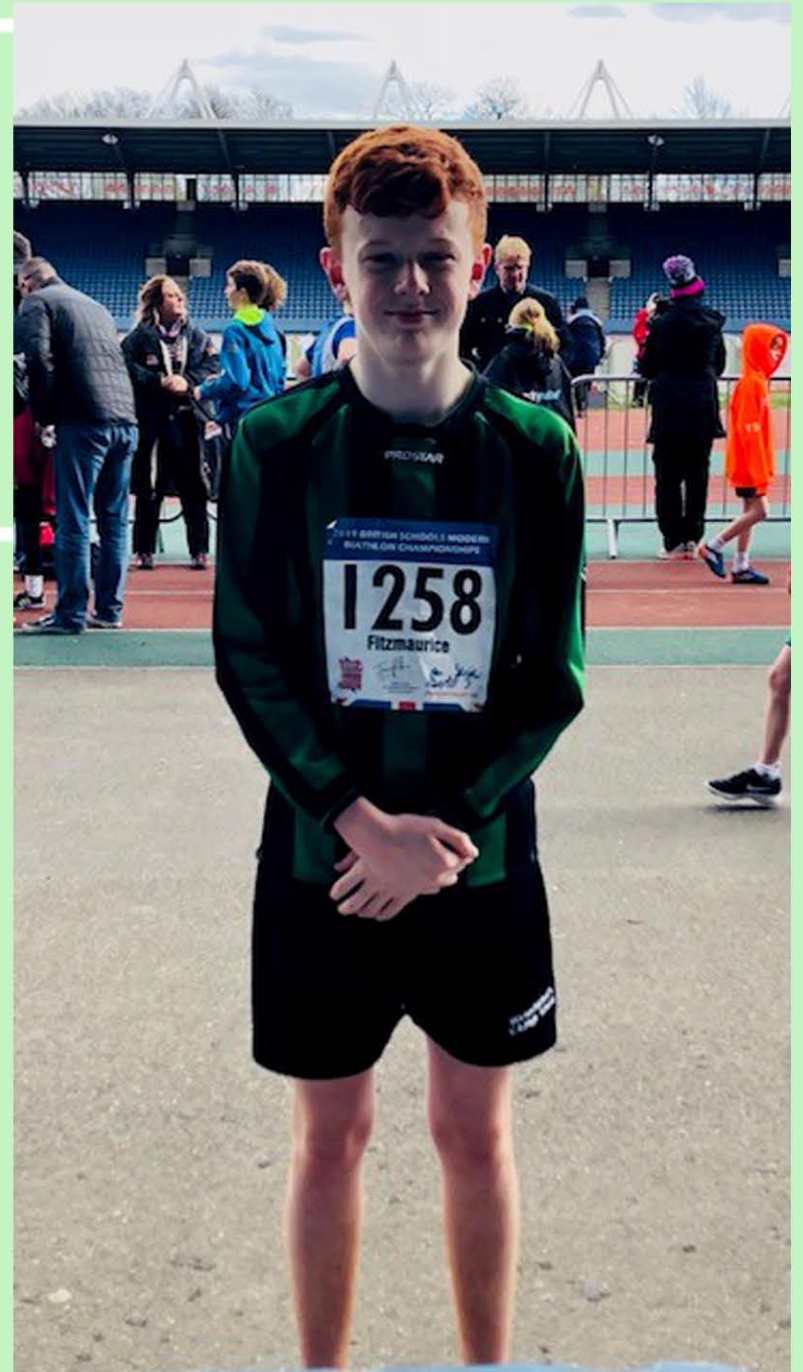
"I am delighted to hear of Theo's sporting success. To smash a personal best in two events is noteworthy in itself and to rank so highly in the national rankings just adds to the sense of triumph. Well done Theo!"

When we asked Theo himself about his achievements, he said:

"I hope to qualify for next year's 2020 Biathlon and continue with my usual training. I have ambitions to gain further personal bests and have set myself a goal of achieving the required times to swim at county levels in future years. I'll also continue to develop my running through the opportunities provided to me in school PE lessons."

The whole school would like to echo the sentiments of Mr Parker, Head of PE, when he said:

"Well done, Theo... St Christopher's is proud!"



Helena White (Year 8) qualified for the English Schools Cross Country Finals, as she came 8th in the Lancashire Schools XC in Blackburn. Starting from the back of the pen, the Lancashire coach told her to aim for top two-hundred and not to worry, as she has next year in the same age category (as it is Year 8 & 9).

Helena smashed it! She came home in 38th place out of 353 runners and 3rd out of the Lancashire runners! Next year she is determined to qualify higher up, so she can get in the front pack early in the race, rather than working her way up from the last row as she wants a top eight finish, which will get her first England vest.

This amazing result combined with coming 16th in the Inter-Counties XC, and 36th in the National XC has brought her further recognition. She has been selected to represent the North West England team in the London Mini Marathon this year! This is a real honour, as they only select six girls in her age from the whole North West region (Lancashire, Merseyside, Manchester etc), to make the team.

So far this year Helena has 'completed the treble' of Red Rose League Champion, Mid Lancs League Champion, South East Lancs League Champion and combined that with being the Lancashire U13 Champion as well. A fantastic achievement which has made St Christopher's very proud!



There was table tennis success, too, as we finished first in Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley, qualifying for the North West Finals in May. Well done!



Well done to the Under 18 team who came third in a badminton competition held at Stoneyhurst College recently.