



**Dates for the Diary**

- 26<sup>th</sup> June**  
Applicants Taster Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> August**  
GCSE Results Day and Enrolment
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September**  
Term starts for our new Lower Sixth students

**The Sixth Form senior team would like to wish you the best of luck for your upcoming GCSE exams. There is much to look forward to after exams, so work hard now, and you can relax later! We are sure you will enjoy a fantastic summer break, before exciting times here at St Christopher's Sixth Form in September.**

The Senior Team and the rest of the Upper Sixth are busy revising and preparing for A-Levels, and we know you will be the same. Two years ago, we were in the same boat and understand the stress and pressure you will be experiencing. Work hard, with breaks of course, and enjoy the last few weeks of high school until you make the step up to Sixth Form.

Sixth Form brings many amazing new opportunities and is a different environment to high school, so enjoy a relaxed summer to be refreshed and ready to go again in September.

Once again, best of luck and our Sixth Form students are excited to welcome you into the community.

**Willow and Josiah** - Head Boy and Girl  
**Ellie, Mia-Rose, Poppy and Jake** - Deputy Heads



**St Christopher's Sixth Form  
Student Newsletter**  
Spring 2026

# Welcome to our Spring Newsletter



**This Newsletter and greetings come with very warm wishes to you for a successful GCSE Examination period from all of us here in the Sixth Form at St. Christopher's.**

It can be an anxious time, but we know that you will all be giving the exams your best shot and doing your best. You cannot do any more than that! We have just been advising our Upper Sixth as they begin study leave next week that concentrated effort in short bursts of around 45 minutes with a 15 minute break following, (without a mobile phone anywhere near!), will reap rewards as they revise their subject content and prepare.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at Taster Day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, and you will soon hear more about that and be able to pick the subjects that you wish to have a taster lesson in.

Results day in August will soon be upon us, and we look forward to you enrolling in the Sixth Form and joining our community here.

Wishing you all the very best for the exams,

*Helen Davies*

**Helen Davies**

Director of Sixth Form / Assistant Headteacher

## Open Evening Thanks



**A huge thank you to everyone who visited us at our Sixth Form Open Evening at the start of term.**

It was wonderful to meet so many prospective students and families, and to share what makes St Christopher's Sixth Form such a special place to study, grow and thrive.

Thank you also to our staff and students who helped make the evening such a success — we hope you enjoyed your visit and we look forward to welcoming many of you in the future!



**Our brand NEW student magazine 'THE HUB' is available to download NOW!**

**Its packed full of stories and articles written by our students.**

**Scan the QR code to get yours NOW:**



# The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Night at St Christopher's

The threat of storm Goretta did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of staff, students and pupils as the school prepared to open the doors to prize-winners and their parents for our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Night. The event celebrates the achievements of Year 11 pupils and Upper Sixth (Year 13) students from 2024-25. It was a night of reflection, inspiration, and pride for the entire school community.

The occasion was presided over by the Chair of Governors, Canon David Arnold, who spoke of the importance of the values of the Christian school, and the importance of taking the Good News of Jesus out to the world. In the absence of the Headmaster, Canon Richard Jones, the Deputy Heads delivered a review of the year bursting with information about triumphs and successes, as well as some more reflective parts. We spent a moment in prayer for Kiara Ainsworth, from Year 9, who sadly died last year, and whom we remember with fondness.



We were pleased that Iain Parks, who is the Director of Education for the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, was able to join us to present the certificates, trophies, and commendations to students who had excelled academically, athletically, and in community service.

The evening also featured musical interludes performed by the Senior Vocals, with some beautiful singing that brought a smile to the faces of the attendees.

Ex-pupils and their families filled the hall with applause and laughter, sharing memories and marvelling at the accomplishments of the current generation. For many alumni, it was a chance to reconnect with old friends and mentors while reflecting on the enduring legacy of the school.

The event concluded with the school hymn 'Christopher's Story' and a vote of thanks by the current Head Boy and Head Girl of the Sixth Form, followed by refreshments in the dining room, where conversations buzzed with pride and nostalgia. As the crowd dispersed, there was a shared sense of belonging to something greater—a community rooted in faith, learning, and a commitment to excellence.

For St Christopher's CE High School and Sixth Form, our Annual Speech Night is not just a celebration of achievements, but a reaffirmation of our mission to inspire and equip our children for lives of purpose and impact.



# Business Conference with a bit of Disney Magic

**A group of main school pupils and sixth form students recently returned from an unforgettable trip to Disneyland Paris, where they combined business insight with plenty of Disney magic.**

The visit centred around the park's annual Business LIVE! event, an exciting event that brings together industry professionals from across marketing, finance, operations, hospitality and creative sectors. Our students had the unique opportunity to attend seminars, and, most importantly, question experts about their career journeys, industry trends and the skills needed to succeed in the modern business world.

Beyond the Business conference, students were also able to experience the park itself. From analysing how attractions are marketed and managed to observing customer service in action, the visit provided a live case study in large-scale business operations. Of course, there was also time to enjoy some of the rides and attractions, making the trip both educational and memorable.

The combination of professional insight and shared fun made the trip a resounding success, strengthening friendships and sparking new aspirations.



"I just wanted to thank you, the teachers, and the coach drivers for making the trip such an amazing experience.

Thank you for all the hard work, time and effort you put in for making it a safe and enjoyable trip, we all had an unforgettable time.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn new things, step outside the classroom and make special memories- thank you for making it happen!"

- Iqra Khan (Lower Sixth student)

Mx Coop-Rushworth, the trip organiser and Head of A-level Business and Economics, had the following to say;

"Attending the Business Conference was a powerful reminder that our pupils and students are an inspiration to an ever-changing future of work. For some, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I hope it has invigorated them to think bigger and step confidently into the wider world.

In A-Level Business we study leaders such as Lee Cockerell, and experiences like this bring that learning to life — it's fun, educational, and develops the professional skills that truly matter."

Our students represented the school with enthusiasm, maturity and engagement ensuring that this trip was not only enjoyable but also truly enriching.

Thanks to Mrs Harber, Mrs Tyson, Mrs Mulhall and Mx Coop-Rushworth for providing the pupils and student with this experience.



# Extracurricular

## UCAS Discovery Exhibition



Our Lower Sixth students enjoyed a valuable trip to the UCAS Show in Manchester, where they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of universities and apprenticeship providers from across the UK.

Students spoke directly with university representatives and gained helpful advice about applications, student life and future career pathways. It was a fantastic chance to start thinking seriously about their next steps and the many opportunities available to them.

A great experience as they begin planning for life beyond Sixth Form!

## Cambridge University Student Conference



27 Lower Sixth students attended the University of Cambridge North-West Student Conference at Haydock Park.

Throughout the day, they took part in a series of presentations and taster sessions to help them make informed decisions based on their academic interests, strengths, and future aspirations.

Well done to our students for representing the Sixth Form so brilliantly — we hope the day has sparked plenty of ambition for the future!

## Law and Politics Students Masterclass from Edge Hill University



We were delighted to welcome Dr Steven Daniels and Elin Williams from Edge Hill University to Sixth Form, where they delivered engaging and informative lectures to our Law and Politics students.

Dr Daniels, from the School of History, Geography and Social Sciences, and Elin Williams, from the School of Law and Criminal Justice, shared their expertise and gave students a valuable insight into university-level study and current thinking in their subjects.

A huge thank you to both speakers for taking the time to visit and inspire our students — a fantastic enrichment opportunity for all involved!

## Q 'n' A with Sitting Magistrate for Law Students



Law students were given the opportunity for a Q&A session with Mrs Martin, a currently sitting magistrate in order to aid their studies.

They asked insightful questions and were able to develop their understanding further. It was a fantastic opportunity and we can't thank Mrs Martin enough for giving up her valuable time.

## Art Inspiration for our Students



**Our A Level Art students enjoyed a study trip to Tate Modern in London, gaining inspiration and fresh ideas to support their coursework and final A Level exam pieces.**

Exploring world-class, contemporary art up close will provide the students with a valuable insight into techniques, themes and creative approaches, helping to inform and develop their own artistic practice.

A brilliant and inspiring experience for all involved!

## UK Parliament Workshop



**Following the visit from the UK Parliament back in February, our Sixth Form Government & Politics and Law students took part in an interactive workshop.**

Students had the opportunity to propose, debate and amend a new Bill, gaining valuable insight into the real-life process of how legislation is developed and becomes law.

This was a fantastic hands-on learning experience and an excellent enrichment opportunity.

## Student Council



**Representatives from both the Upper and Lower Sixth met with Miss Davies for a productive and positive Student Council meeting this term.**

Students shared feedback gathered from their peers and discussed a wide range of topics, including facilities updates, possible changes to the Hub menu, and new student-led enrichment activities.

It was a fantastic meeting with lots of thoughtful ideas and constructive discussion — a great example of student voice in action. Well done to everyone involved!



# Mock Trial Finals



We are incredibly proud of our amazing students and pupils, who, after winning the North West regional heat at Preston Crown Court last November, have gone on to represent our school at the national final this March, in London at the Royal Courts of Justice.

While they didn't get crowned the winners this time, the experience itself was truly invaluable. Our team, made up from Year 11 pupils and Lower Sixth students, worked so hard to prepare.

We made the most of the opportunity by spending a day exploring London together by visiting Covent Garden, taking in the wonders of the British Museum, and enjoying a well-earned pizza before a visit to the Millennium Bridge and then all getting a good night's sleep (St Paul's all night bells allowing).

The team then woke up bright and early in the morning, ready to make their way to the prestigious Royal Courts of Justice for the final, competing against schools from all over England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Every single student performed their role with confidence, professionalism, and dedication, from the court clerk and usher to the defendant, witnesses, and the barristers.

What a fantastic achievement and a memorable experience for all involved!

Well done team!



# Enrichment

## Lunchtime Lectures Go from Strength to Strength



**This year's Lunchtime Lecture series has been a huge success, offering students a wide range of fascinating and thought-provoking topics.**

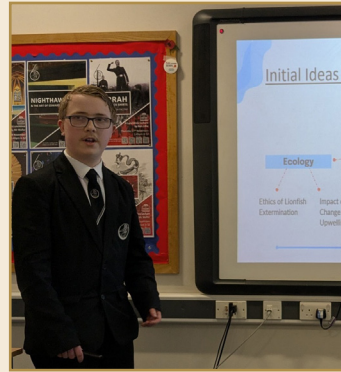
From Mrs Tyson's engaging insights into life working on Disney Cruises, to Mr Brady's exploration of modern British politics, students have enjoyed a diverse programme of talks. Miss Smith's lecture on nutrition and wellbeing encouraged students to reflect on the impact of diet, while Mr Surgeon brought international relations to life through his discussion of Cuba and the USA.

Historical perspectives were also a highlight, with Mrs Saxby-Street delivering a compelling re-examination of Jane Boleyn, and Mr Allen closing the series with an engaging talk on organised crime in the USA. We were also delighted to welcome back former student Mr Hurst, who shared valuable real-world insights into risk management in business.

The lectures have been extremely well attended, sparking curiosity, discussion and enthusiasm across the Sixth Form. A huge thank you to all staff, guest speakers and students who contributed to such a successful series — we look forward to its return next year!



## Outstanding EPQ Projects Showcase Student Talent



**Our Sixth Form students have recently showcased some outstanding Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) presentations, highlighting both academic excellence and creativity.**

In a special Lunchtime Lecture-style session, Jonathan Rides (Upper Sixth) delivered an engaging presentation exploring how marine biology provides evidence for the theory of punctuated equilibrium. Drawing on marine fossil records and evolutionary patterns, Jonathan clearly explained complex scientific ideas, demonstrating impressive research, analysis and enthusiasm for the subject. His work is a fantastic example of the independence and academic rigour the EPQ encourages.

We also congratulate Ellie Campbell, who presented a wonderfully creative EPQ project focused on writing and illustrating a children's book for ages 4–8. Ellie explored how storytelling and visual design work together to engage young readers, producing an imaginative final piece supported by thoughtful research and careful development. Her project showed great creativity, dedication and attention to detail.

The EPQ is a nationally-recognised qualification that enables students to pursue their interests through independent research, developing valuable skills in investigation, creativity and presentation. Both Jonathan and Ellie have demonstrated just how powerful and rewarding this process can be — well done to them both on their fantastic achievements!

## Sixth Form Stars Shine at Burnley Orchestra Concert

**Our St Christopher's Sixth Form students were out in force at the Burnley Orchestra Concert!**

Students were involved in a variety of roles — from performing with the orchestra, singing with the Occento choir, to helping behind the scenes to make the event a success.



A special mention to Oliver W, Ella B, Maia B and Amy P for representing the Sixth Form so brilliantly. We're very proud to see our students sharing their talents and supporting the local arts community.

# St Christopher's Celebrates First Ever Reading Week

**We recently hosted our very first Reading Week, bringing the joy of books and storytelling to life across the main school and Sixth Form. From form time reading to pop-up poetry and Secret Storyteller sessions, the week was a celebration of literature, imagination, and community.**

Reading Week kicked off with pupils in Years 7–9 exploring *Lamb to the Slaughter* by Roald Dahl, while Years 10–11 delved into Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart* during form time. The sessions were part of the school's "*!Reading Allowed!*" initiative, where pupils read aloud and discussed texts together, creating lively, thoughtful classroom conversations.

The highlight of each day was the Secret Storyteller series in the Library, which kept students eagerly anticipating each lunchtime. The week began with Mrs Tyson's original tale, *The Curse of Harold Hump*, delighting pupils with mystery and humour. Mr Gardner followed with a dramatic reading from Roald Dahl's *The Umbrella Man*, while Mrs Spence captivated listeners with Guy de Maupassant's *A Vendetta*. The series concluded with Mr Young sharing two atmospheric tales, *A Night in the Cottage* by Richard Hughes and *Captain Murderer* by Charles Dickens, with a special guest, Oscar the dog, joining in the fun.

In addition to storytelling, pupils enjoyed the "Book Flood" — a peaceful lunchtime session where the Library was filled with the quiet buzz of pupils immersing themselves in books together. Miss Holman kindly provided sweet treats, adding to the welcoming atmosphere and reinforcing the joy of shared reading.



## Sixth Form Celebrates Poetry and Classic Literature

Sixth Form students embraced Reading Week with both shared reading and pop-up poetry sessions, aligned with the National Year of Reading campaign, Go All In. Form time sessions brought students together to read aloud Chapter One of George Orwell's 1984, fostering discussion and reflection on the text's powerful themes.

At break each day, members of staff presented "Pop-Up Poetry" in the Hub, sharing poems that resonated with them personally.

- Mrs Saxby-Street reciting Emily Dickinson's *Hope is the thing with feathers*.
- Mr O'Doherty performing Strongman by Tony Curtis.
- Mrs Lillie bringing Carol Ann Duffy's *Before You Were Mine* to life.
- Mr Hardwick reading *Kubla Khan* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
- Mr Bailey finishing the series with Instructions *Upon My Death* by Harry Baker.

"This year we decided to celebrate the National Year of Reading by 'going all in' with our Reading Week. It was great to see such enthusiasm from staff and students alike throughout the week, from our *!Reading Allowed!* form time reading, to the creative storytelling and creepy characters in from our storytellers, as well as the power of poetry in evidence with over 300 Sixth Form students captivated in the Hub. Our students shared their love of reading, both for learning, and for pleasure, in a school where reading is always allowed!"

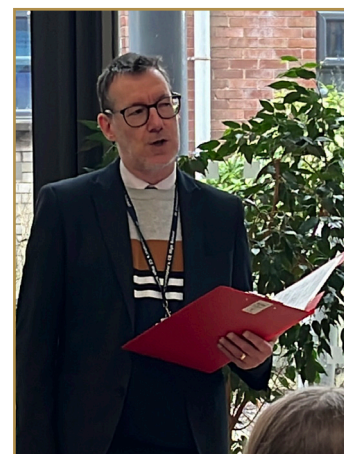
- Mr Waller

## World Book Day and Reading Week Finale

The week concluded with a vibrant World Book Day celebration. Year 7 pupils and staff came in creative costumes inspired by favourite book characters, while the school librarian distributed free books to encourage further reading. Sixth Form students joined in the celebrations, supporting the library and sharing their enthusiasm for literature with the wider school community.

Reading Week at St Christopher's CE High School and Sixth Form was a resounding success, inspiring pupils and students to explore new stories, reflect on poetry, and enjoy reading as a shared experience. From the classroom to the Library and Hub, the week demonstrated the power of literature to connect, entertain, and inspire.

The school looks forward to building on this inaugural Reading Week, continuing to foster a love of books, poetry, and storytelling throughout the year.



## World Book Day – Sixth Form Style!



**Our Sixth Form students (and staff) got involved in World Book Day (UK & Ireland) today, celebrating the joy of reading and supporting the school library.**

It was fantastic to see them engaging with reading and sharing their love of literature with the wider school community!

What a wonderful way to end our very first St Christopher's Reading Week.

## Candlemas Eucharist Service



**Our Sixth Form gathered to celebrate the Eucharist for Candlemas, a reflective and meaningful service marking this important moment in the Church calendar.**

The service was led by our Sixth Form Chaplain, Rev'd Alex Oehring, with students contributing thoughtfully through readings and prayers, creating a calm and reverent atmosphere.

A special time of worship and reflection for our Sixth Form community.

## Football Update



**Our football team has been in sensational form this term!**

The Sixth Form team delivered an outstanding 6–0 victory over Haslingden, booking their place in the Lancashire Cup semi-final. Impressively, six different players found the net: Tom O'Doherty, Will Armer, Calen Spencer, Josiah Finn, Thomas Astin, and Joseph Van Der Zwaan. A semi-final against QEGs will be arranged soon — we can't wait for the next challenge!

They also battled through windy conditions to secure a thrilling 4–3 win against Stonyhurst. Calen Spencer starred with a brilliant hat-trick, while Will Armer added the fourth goal, earning a Player of the Match performance for Calen.

Congratulations to them all for their excellent performances and fantastic team spirit!

## Netball Update



**The Sixth Form netball team has also been fantastic this term!**

The team secured another impressive win against DACA, remaining undefeated in the league this season. Congratulations to Ella, who was named Player of the Match for her outstanding performance.

In another exciting match against QEGs, the girls narrowly missed out on victory but showcased excellent netball and grew in confidence throughout the game. A special congratulations to Keira T and Emma H on their team debuts, with Keira earning Player of the Match honours.

Well done to all our Sixth Form netballers for their skill, dedication, and team spirit!

# Iceland Field Trip: Exploring the Land of Fire and Ice



**Our A-level Geography students recently embarked on an unforgettable four-day field trip to Iceland, experiencing first-hand the dramatic landscapes and powerful natural processes they study in the classroom.**

## Day One: Arrival in a Changing Landscape

After an early (and very cold!) 5am departure, the group arrived safely in a snow-covered Keflavík, following only a short delay despite challenging weather conditions.

On the journey to Hveragerði, students witnessed the real-world impact of volcanic activity in Grindavík. Once home to over 4,000 residents, the town has been largely abandoned due to recent eruptions, offering a powerful and sobering insight into the human impact of tectonic hazards.

After settling into their hotel, students embraced Icelandic culture by enjoying geothermal pools, hot tubs, and even braving the snow after a sauna. The day ended with a well-earned meal and excitement for the days ahead.

## Day Two: Energy, Waterfalls and Tectonic Forces

Day two began with a visit to the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant, where students learned how Iceland harnesses geothermal energy and leads the way in carbon capture and storage—an inspiring example of sustainable innovation.

The group then relaxed at the Secret Lagoon, experiencing natural hot springs in the winter sunshine before continuing their exploration of Iceland's dynamic environment.

Highlights of the afternoon included the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall, where glacial water carves through volcanic rock, and the famous Geysir geothermal area, where the Strokkur geyser erupts with remarkable regularity.

The day concluded at Þingvellir National Park, a site of both geological and historical significance. Here, students stood between the separating North American and Eurasian tectonic plates and learned about the world's oldest parliament, established in 930 AD.

## Day Three: Geothermal Wonders and Reykjavik

Day three offered further exploration of Iceland's unique geology. Students began at Lake Kleifarvatn, taking in views of one of Iceland's deepest lakes, before visiting the Seltún geothermal area, where bubbling mud pots and steaming vents revealed the Earth's energy beneath the surface.

At the Stampar volcanic fissure and Gunnhver hot spring area, students observed volcanic features shaped by past eruptions and ongoing geothermal activity.

In the afternoon, the group travelled to Reykjavík, stopping at the Sun Voyager sculpture and visiting the iconic Hallgrímskirkja church. Students enjoyed free time exploring the capital and experiencing Icelandic culture.

Despite an approaching storm, the group returned safely to their hotel, where spirits remained high with more swimming, dinner, and games.

## Day Four: The South Shore Expedition

The final day took students along Iceland's stunning South Shore, guided by a local expert.

At Skógafoss, students admired one of Iceland's most iconic waterfalls, before visiting the dramatic black sand beach at Reynisfjara. Here, they observed powerful coastal processes and unique landforms, while carefully following safety guidance due to the of unpredictable waves.

A visit to Sólheimajökull glacier provided a striking illustration of climate change, as students saw clear evidence of glacial retreat—having receded significantly in recent years.

The day concluded at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where students explored the surrounding landscape and discovered a hidden nearby cascade.

## A Truly Memorable Experience

This field trip provided an exceptional opportunity for students to connect their classroom learning with real-world environments. From geothermal energy and tectonic activity to glacial retreat and coastal processes, Iceland offered a living laboratory of geographical phenomena.

Beyond the academic value, the trip was filled with memorable experiences, new challenges, and plenty of fun—making it an unforgettable highlight of the Sixth Form journey.



## Sixth Form Students Visit the Heart of British Democracy



**Twenty-five of our Lower Sixth students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to London, visiting the UK Parliament for a truly memorable experience.**

During the visit, students took part in a guided tour through the historic corridors of Parliament, gaining a deeper understanding of its rich history and significance. They also had the unique opportunity to observe live debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, bringing their studies to life and offering a real insight into the workings of the “Mother of all Democracies.”

A particular highlight of the day was meeting Hyndburn MP, Sarah Smith, where students engaged in thoughtful discussion around key issues such as public housing and mobile phone use in schools. This provided a valuable opportunity to hear directly from a serving MP and to ask questions about current political challenges.

Students also participated in an interactive “snap election” activity, where they worked in groups to create their own political parties, develop manifestos, and campaign for votes. This hands-on experience helped to deepen their understanding of the electoral process in a fun and engaging way.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and proved to be an inspiring and enriching experience for our students.



## Exploring Economics Beyond the Classroom



**We were delighted to welcome Dr Alex Squires, Programme Director of BSc Economics at the University of Manchester, to speak with our Lower Sixth Economics students.**

Dr Squires delivered an engaging and insightful guest lecture on experimental economics and economic thinking, giving students a valuable introduction to how the subject is studied at university level. He explored how economists test theories in real-world settings, using experiments and data to better understand human behaviour and decision-making.

Students responded brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and fully engaging with the ideas presented. The session provided a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of economics and to experience the kind of analytical thinking expected in higher education. A huge thank you to Dr Squires for sharing his expertise and inspiring our students.

