

## Dates for the Diary

**18th January**

Sixth Form Open Evening for all  
Year 10 and 11 pupils

**5th and 6th February**

A-level Interviews begin

**28th June**

Applicants Taster Day

Dear Applicants,

We hope this message finds you all well as we approach the Christmas Holidays. We wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for any mock examinations you may be having or approaching and also to tell you a little about what has been happening in the Sixth Form this term.

You will find in our newsletter lots of extracurricular activities that have taken place, some special events and many other things that have been going on throughout the term. We hope you will enjoy reading about these and getting a flavour of what the Sixth Form can offer you.

We are all currently applying for university places and degree apprenticeships and are excited about what the future holds for us after Sixth Form.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you at the interviews in February and know that you will have lots to offer the Sixth Form and will benefit from the great support we have here both academically and pastorally. If you have any questions that you would like us, as students to answer, you can email Sixth Form and we will reply. The interviews are informal and will give you the opportunity to tell senior staff all about you.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with lots of fun and joy! We hope you have a great time with friends and family.

**Merry Christmas from all of us in the Senior Student Team!**

George, Beth, Ibbby, Gracie and Olivia



**St Christopher's Sixth Form  
Student Newsletter**  
Winter 2023

# Sixth Form News

## Former student sails Cape Verde as part of the Darwin200 Global Voyage

**Former Sixth Form student Alison Ashworth is living her dream life studying Green Turtles in Cape Verde all alongside her studies at Lancaster University.**



The Darwin200 Global Voyage (3rd to 11th September) follows Charles Darwin's footsteps, setting sail from the historic town of Plymouth, England, where Darwin stepped aboard HMS Beagle on 27th December, 1831. Former student Alison Ashworth from Brierfield, boarded the Oosterschelde on the Tenerife to Cape Verde leg, where she worked with Biosfera's turtle experts into the population of green turtles on San Pedro beach and the effects of increasing tourism on the health and wellbeing of the animals. She has gained this opportunity thanks to the Don Hanson Charitable Foundation and Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots programme.

From watching nature documentaries as a child to studying climate change more comprehensively in her Environmental Science degree at the University of Lancaster, Alison has always been fascinated by the causes of the current climate crisis and how it can be resolved. Her academic journey has exposed her to various perspectives on global climate issues and potential solutions, fuelling her determination to contribute positively to the cause. Whether through research or campaigning for governments and businesses, Alison is committed to making a difference in the fight against climate change.

One person who greatly inspired Alison is Wayne Dixon, an environmental activist she had the pleasure of meeting at the Annual North West Sustainability Learning Conference. Wayne's four-year endeavour of walking around the entire UK coastline, picking up litter, and raising awareness showcased the impact one individual can have.

Eager to broaden her horizons and gain hands-on experience, Alison sees the Darwin Leadership Program as a transformative opportunity. The chance to witness environmental changes first-hand and participate in research collection aligns perfectly with her goals.

A strong team player with excellent communication skills, Alison enjoys challenges and is passionate about scientific investigations. She relishes the idea of exploring new environments and meeting like-minded individuals through the program. Alison added;

"During my time at St Christopher's School and Sixth Form, I was the school Eco Captain. In this role, I assisted/helped in making the school and local community more eco-friendly. One way I did this was through the 'teach the teachers' campaign which aims to put the risks of climate change into the school curriculum. For this, I spoke in front of the teaching staff and was interviewed by the local radio and newspaper.

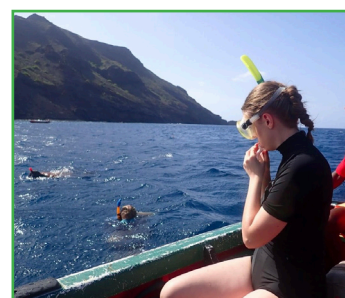
I also took part in the 'Solar For Schools' project, which allowed the school to see how many solar panels could be placed on the Main School and Sixth Form, how much it would cost and whether this would be sustainable. Recently, the school has managed to install these solar panels through the financial support of Solar For Schools.

Even though I left Sixth Form last year, I was recently invited back for a sustainability learning conference. I helped set up the event, hand out awards and greet people. Through this, and also meeting and listening to the speakers and the performances, it widened my knowledge on ways to tackle some of the environmental challenges we face today.

By partaking in these projects, it puts my learning into practice on ways to spread awareness and tackle environmental issues."

Eco Lead and Associate Assistant Headteacher at St Christopher's, Wendy Litherland remarked;

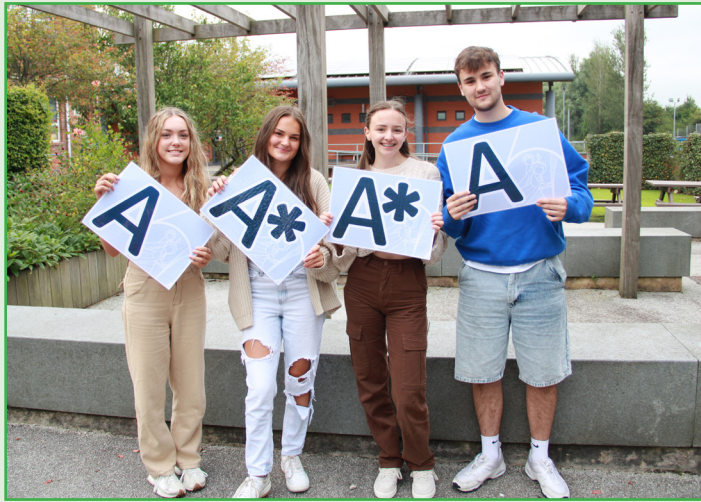
"This amazing opportunity for such a high calibre student, as Alison reflects the continued partnership the school has with Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots which aligns with the school's sustainability ethos. Throughout her seven years at St Christopher's Alison took part in various projects, which reflects the commitment the school fosters for environmental awareness within the school, community and country. We are really looking forward to welcoming her back into school and sixth form to share her experiences with our current pupils and students later this academic year."



## Alumni Holly shares her experience since leaving the Sixth Form

**We had another Sixth Form student visit the main school to help with Year 11 Mock Interviews.**

It was great to catch up with Holly Harker and find out more about her journey since leaving us...which has led to her creating the wonderful 'The Little Lancashire Village'.



## A-level Results Success

**At a time of great uncertainty for many results day was a day of triumph for St Christopher's Sixth Form!**

We were delighted with this year's excellent set of A-level results. At a time of considerable national uncertainty following the removal of COVID protection measures, we are thrilled that so many of our students have surpassed our high expectations.

Pupil attainment was strong in all subject areas, but especially so in traditional academic courses. Once again we achieved virtually a 100% pass rate and over three quarters of students gained enitely top grades of A\*-C.

*"My time at St Christopher's Sixth Form, as well as main school, has been incredible and I couldn't have achieved these grades (A\*AA) without the support of my teachers who have helped me through the whole journey. Thankyou."*

*Alice Burrows (Burnley)*

Taken together the performance of the class of 2023 represent a strong and impressive set of results.

Our students deserved all the praise and acclaim that they received. From those who achieved a string of A\* and A grades, to those who made great progress and overcame challenging circumstances. They were a wonderful group of well-rounded young people and we were thrilled that so many have chosen to continue their studies at prestigious universities or are preparing to start highly sought after places on degree apprenticeships.

I also want to highlight the dedication and expertise of our talented teachers who have guided and nurtured them through their time in the Sixth Form and to thank our parents for their unstinting support.

These results help to reinforce St Christopher's long standing reputation for academic excellence.

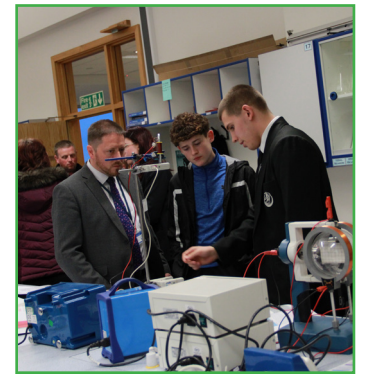
**Mr RD Jones**  
Headmaster

## Year 11 Visits and Open Events



**We had a great time welcoming many of you to our Sixth Form back in October.**

We hope you discovered everything you needed to about us and our A-levels. But if not, we are having another Open Evening on the 18th January, so please come along with any other queries you may have or if you would just like another look around.



Also, keep an eye out for us at any events in your schools in the new year, we'd love to see you and have a chat.



**Some of our students took the chance to visit their old school and share their experience of the sixth form. This time it was a visit to Ribblesdale High School.**

# Extracurricular

## Pupils and students take part in Mock Trial Competition

A group of Year 11 pupils and sixth form students from St Christopher's CE High School and Sixth Form took part in the annual Young Citizens UK National Mock Bar Trial competition at Preston Crown Court earlier this month.

Starting back in August 2023 the Mock Trial team was selected from a group of pupils and students who had a real interest in law and politics, and they began their training for the competition to be held in November. The team was made up of seven Year 11 pupils from main school and six students from across the sixth form, all taking on specific roles needed in a trial.

Using the resources that are supplied (including specially written criminal cases) they began preparing legal arguments and practising them in school on a regular basis. They also had the opportunity to visit Preston Crown Court and meet Judge Jeffries KC, barristers, and to sit in on a trial itself. They asked Judge Jeffries KC very insightful questions and got a real insight into the workings of a courtroom and what was expected in the upcoming competition.



Students were also provided with a Barrister Mentor, Joe Allman. Joe is a specialist prosecutor with the Crime Prosecution Service and specialises in Counter-Terrorism and Organised Crime based in Manchester, Lincoln Chambers. He watched our students run through their legal arguments and offered lots of helpful advice and suggestions. Joe was very impressed with the confidence of our speakers and the progress they had made ready for the regional heat where they would go head-to-head with other Sixth Form Colleges in the area.

*"The whole team are clearly bright and capable. I can't believe none of you have done this competition before! Your standard is high."*

*Joe Allman*

The team gathered in the early morning of Saturday 18th November and made their way to Preston Crown Court. Once there they set to work prosecuting and defending their cases against Queen Elizabeth School, Winstanley College and Cardinal Newman College. Our witnesses and defendant held their own under cross examinations and some of our students acted as members of the jury for other trials, as well as Court Clerk and Court Usher.



We are now all well versed in the minutia of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the law regarding public nuisance. At the end of the day there was the opportunity for an in-depth Question and Answer session with the Judges who had presided over the mock cases. Although we did not get through to the next round of the competition, we were happy with our performance especially as it was our first year competing.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. It was fun to discuss and research laws that are relevant and controversial today. The day of the competition was fantastic. It was a great opportunity to meet like-minded people. I felt a rush of adrenaline when standing in court as a barrister; I particularly enjoyed the cross-examination."*

*Sebastian Bernabe -Y12 Student*

The Young Citizens Bar Mock Trial competition has been running for over 30 years and is open to 15-18 year-olds from non-fee paying schools across the UK. The competition helps young people understand how the law touches every aspect of their lives, gaining an insight into how the legal justice system works. By taking part in the competition the pupils and students gained a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of the law and justice system in our society and helped to improve their critical thinking and boost their confidence.



*"We are so proud of our students. They put in so much time and effort to prepare for this competition and we all got so much out of it. I think many of them are now set on a career in the Justice system."*

*Miss Smith, Head of Law*

## The Lunchtime Lectures



Mr Waller delivers his Lunchtime Lecture on 'A History of Art' to a packed audience.

**Our Lunchtime Lecture series goes from strength to strength in this first term of 2023-24.**

The Lunchtime Lectures are a chance for students to find out more about subjects that are of interest or a passion of our staff. These lectures are also linked to our A-levels and can be of help with their studies.

This first term has seen lectures on:

- The Chemistry of Chocolate
- A History of Art
- The Hero's Journey
- Rise of Fascism in Britain
- Why Spanish Holds the Key in Washington DC

We have more planned for 2024, with a few of the posters visible below. You can find out more about the lectures by following this link: <https://bit.ly/40vn9ND>



## Sporting Success

**We have two new sports teams for 2023-24 with the Boys Football Team and Girls Netball Team.**

Both teams have got off to a great success with wins in all their opening games, the most recent being a 1-0 win for the boys against Rossall School and Sixth Form College. This means they are now unbeaten in the league with three wins from three.

The Netball Team gained a 31-21 win against St Wilfrid's Blackburn. A great team performance, especially with only having seven players. Player of the match was Scarlett Lees with some super shooting.

Well done to both and we are looking forward to the season ahead.



## NonFiction November

**November was #nonfictionnovember and in the Sixth Form we have been fortunate enough to gain free access to hard copies of the The i Paper.**

This was used in form time to review current affairs and other important subject related articles. The students have also had free access to the The Times and The Sunday Times online.

## Bridge Club



See the smart moves and teamwork of our Year 12 students, especially Noah and Connor, who clinched victory in the first internal bridge tournament of the year. Their strategic prowess and teamwork set the stage for an exciting year of bridge ahead.

Our bridge team showcased exceptional skills, defeating Loughborough with a remarkable score of 26-9. Special mention goes to Artem for an outstanding play in 1HXX + 2, earning a score of 920. Notably, Daniel (a team member with only two months of experience) demonstrated impressive skills and contributed to the team's success.



Bridge isn't just a game; it's a brain-boosting, friendship-building activity that helps your child think sharp and make lifelong connections.

Join us in shaping young minds through the exciting world of bridge – where strategy meets fun, and success starts early!

Each Wednesday, during Enrichment, our Sixth Form Club explores bidding techniques, responding to 1NT, finding a trump fit, and enhancing cardplay skills. The learning atmosphere is both challenging and supportive.



## Peace and Justice Day



A mini 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' tournament certainly got conversations started.

In October we held our 'Peace & Justice' themed day.

A great day of workshops, visits from the Pearl of Africa Child Care Children's Choir and the The Bethany Project and a combination of our own staff along with some external contributors.

*"Spirituality day gave me and many others the opportunity to understand the truths behind many ongoing struggles in the world and helped us to see how lucky we really are."*

*Emily Forrest - Y12 Student*

A thoroughly thought provoking day for all our students and staff involved.



## Prospective Trips for 2024

In the coming academic year (2024) we have the following trips planned, amongst several others!

- Iceland 2024
- Washington and New York 2024
- Music Concert Tour to Germany 2024

More details, costs and dates will be announced once the new term starts!

## Workshops

We have two special workshops available in January. Find out more by visiting our Facebook events page.



Just **£25.00** per student

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM**  
**MEDUCATORS UK**  
**SATURDAY 20 JANUARY**  
10AM - 2:30PM | ACCRINGTON, BB5 4AY  
MEDICAL WORKSHOPS TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Just **£25.00** per student

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM**  
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ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

## Work Experience

On Wednesday afternoons our students that are taking the Pre-Professional Law, Medical and Teaching Programmes have the opportunity to complete work experience.

We currently have students working in junior and secondary schools to compliment the teaching programme and others learning more at care homes, doctor surgeries and pharmacies to help with the pre-medics programme and university applications.

To find out more about the programmes please visit:

<https://bit.ly/40ZEePt>

## D of E: Gold Expedition

Upper Sixth students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expedition in the Rhinogs in south Snowdonia back in Spetember.



To complete the expedition they had to plan their route and navigate to each campsite, which covered 15km+ each day, while taking everything they would need (tents, food, equipment).

Well done to them all, especially as the weather wasn't the best!



# Foundation Pathways



## Welcome to our new students

**It was fantastic welcoming all the new Year 12 Pathways Students into our Sixth Form family back in September.**

The students had the chance to get familiar with their classrooms, took part in some getting to know you activities and met some of the Year 13 students too.

## Busy in the Kitchen

**Both Year 12 and 13 have been busy in the kitchen making all sorts of wonderful treats and meals.**

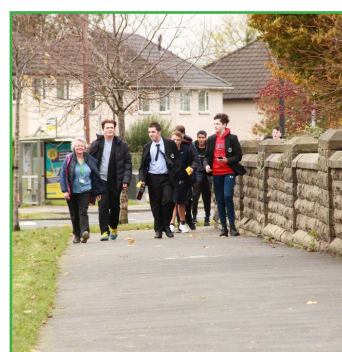
Last term our Year 13s made some bread rolls from scratch as part of the catering module. They looked and smelled amazing!



While Year 12 made some fantastic cakes and brownies.



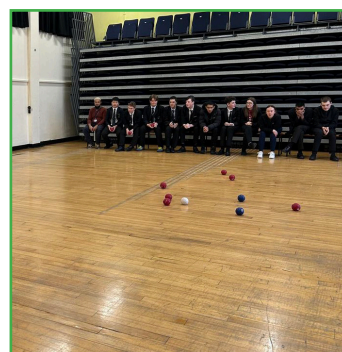
## Other News



In Enterprise Classes, the whole Foundation Pathways group have been thinking of ways of raising money for numerous charities. In November, they undertook a sponsored walk around the local area to raise money for Guide Dogs for the blind. So far they have raised £200!



Earlier in the term the students went to see Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles at Vue Cinema. All thanks to Into Film who put on various showings of films free of charge. We used this free trip to the cinema as an opportunity to develop their life and social skills



As part of their enrichment time the Pathways students have been learning how to play Boccia. Boccia is a sport designed for athletes with high support needs and has no Olympic equivalent. It is a target sport played indoors with soft leather balls. It is a sport of intriguing tactics, incredible skill and nail biting tension. Once you see it or play it you will be hooked!



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