



**Dates for the Diary**

**9<sup>th</sup> January**

Closing date for first round of interviews

**21<sup>st</sup> January**

Sixth Form Open Evening for all Year 10 and 11 pupils

**Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Sixth Form Interviews begin

**26<sup>th</sup> June**

Applicants Taster Day

**Hello to all applicants wishing to join the Sixth Form in September! We are looking forward to welcoming you at the interviews at the beginning of February.**

We hope that you have had a good term, in this your final year of Secondary School and that any mock examinations have gone well.

We are confident you will enjoy life at the Sixth Form and believe every single one of you will find something you enjoy and will succeed here! Our sixth form is a welcoming, supportive space where every student can thrive, whether you are continuing from main school or joining us from another school, you will definitely find a community within Sixth Form which will help you grow academically and personally. As the Senior Team, we would encourage you to make the most of all the experiences offered to you!

As you look forward to next year and the plans you are making for further study this is a unique stage in your life, offering greater independence, fresh opportunities, and the chance to explore your passions- both inside and outside the classroom. The opportunities here are endless, including our year group trips to prestigious universities, UCAS events, Gold Duke of Edinburgh and also the very competitive football and netball teams. The enrichment courses offer a variety of options, so there is something for everyone! They range from preparing for university to playing sports or doing an EPQ so there will be something for you to enjoy. If you are interested in any specific career paths and confident you would like to develop skills for it, the variety of enrichment would provide you with some extra knowledge on top of content you learn in lessons. As an example of this, there are the pathways to law, teaching, and medicine programmes.

Please do come and talk to us on the evening of the interviews and ask us any questions you may have about studying here.

We look forward to welcoming you in February and wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

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



**St Christopher's Sixth Form  
Student Newsletter**  
Winter 2025

# Sixth Form News



## Happy Christmas

We look forward to welcoming you to our interview evenings in February and you will find some helpful tips about those on our website.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Helen Davies

Director of Sixth Form / Assistant Headteacher

## Welcome to Lower Sixth!

We were delighted to welcome our new Lower Sixth students to St Christopher's in September!



They began with a welcome breakfast in The Hub, giving students the chance to meet staff, make new friends, and enjoy pastries and juice — the perfect start to the year ahead. They then had a welcome assembly from the senior staff.

Later in the week, students explored the Enrichment Fair, discovering the wide range of activities and opportunities on offer, from academic Pathways programmes (medics, law, teaching) to sports teams and mind sports.

A fantastic way to kick off their Sixth Form journey and get involved from day one!

## Students Sign-up to be Heroes

Many of our students have shown incredible compassion by signing up with Anthony Nolan, the UK charity that matches stem cell donors with people fighting blood cancers and disorders.



Their willingness to step forward could quite literally save a life. We're proud of their maturity, empathy, and the real impact they're making beyond the classroom.

## 'Braking Point' Presentation

All our Sixth Form students attended the powerful 'Braking Point' presentation, a session highlighting the responsibilities and realities of being a young driver or passenger.



The presentation explored critical issues around road safety, awareness, decision-making, and the consequences of risky behaviour, prompting thoughtful reflection from everyone involved.

Students will take part in follow-up sessions to delve deeper into these themes and discuss practical ways to stay safe on the roads.

A huge thank you to the Braking Point team for delivering such an impactful and thought-provoking session.

## British Textile Biennial

Our St Christopher's Sixth Form Textile students had a fantastic time visiting the exhibitions at the Blackburn Cathedral Crypt, Blakey Moor pop-up shop and Fusebox alongside pupils from Years 10 and 11.



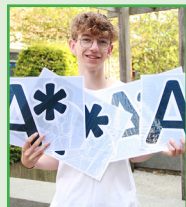
The mix of contemporary textile work and local heritage made it especially meaningful, with the students coming away full of ideas. We're grateful to the British Textile Biennial team for making this opportunity possible.

## A-level Results Success



I am thrilled to celebrate this year's outstanding A-level results. It has been a privilege to witness the joy and pride of so many students who have exceeded even our highest expectations.

Achievement has been strong across every subject area, with particularly impressive performances in our traditional academic courses. Once again, we have maintained an exceptional pass rate with the vast majority of grades awarded at A\*–C.



"Sixth Form has been an amazing and informative time. Supportive staff, a friendly environment and great friends have made my time incredible, 10/10!"

*Daniel Ley (Accrington)*

The Class of 2025 has produced a truly remarkable set of results. From the record number who achieved a string of A\* and A grades to those who have made significant progress and triumphed over personal challenges, every student should feel immensely proud. They are a talented, resilient, and well-rounded group of young people. I am delighted that so many of our leavers will now progress to prestigious universities such as Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Lancaster, and York, while others have secured highly sought-after degree apprenticeships.

"St Christopher's has taught me so much about myself both personally and academically and I can't thank my teachers enough for the opportunities that they have provided me with."

*Tayah-Jo Hudson (Accrington)*



These successes are also a testament to the dedication, expertise, and care of our exceptional teaching staff, as well as the unwavering support of our parents.

Together, we have helped our students to flourish and to uphold St Christopher's long-standing reputation for academic excellence.

**Mr RD Jones**  
Headmaster

## A-level Art & Textiles Showcase

We're delighted to share a stunning selection of final A-level Art and Textiles pieces created by our talented Class of 2025.

Each work represents months of creativity, skill and dedication — a true celebration of artistic vision and commitment.

A huge well done to all involved for producing such inspiring final pieces. Head over to our Facebook page to see the full album.



## Archbishop of York's Visit to St Christopher's CE High School and Sixth Form

**St Christopher's CE High School and Sixth Form were delighted to welcome the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, for a special visit in October.**

The Archbishop's visit formed part of a day of engagement and reflection across the school community, joined by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Revd Philip North. In a packed programme, they met pupils, students and staff, participated in Q&A sessions, led assembly worship, celebrated Holy Communion, and had conversations about faith, leadership, and hope for the future.

The morning began with Archbishop Stephen attending the staff briefing, offering words of encouragement to teachers, and praising St Christopher's as exactly the sort of school he would have sent his own children to if he had lived in the area.

Following this, the Archbishop met with Lower Sixth students in the Lecture Theatre for an interactive Q&A session. Sixth Formers devised some excellent questions, ranging from assisted dying to his funniest story, which turned out to be one about the late Queen. It gave our Sixth Formers the opportunity to explore questions of faith, vocation, and modern life with one of the most senior leader in the Church of England.



The Bishop of Blackburn led the Year 9 assembly, before later joining Upper Sixth students for their own Q&A session. The question times were excellent opportunities for our young people to engage thoughtfully with the Church's mission and discuss how faith in Christ can inspire action and purpose in their lives.

Music played a special part in the morning. The Senior Vocals Choir, featuring pupils from Year 8 through to Upper Sixth students, performed during the Year 8 Service of Holy Communion, celebrated by the Archbishop, including a beautiful musical rendition of "The Lord's Prayer" written by Lucy Walker to mark the Archbishop's Tour.

Headmaster Richard Jones described the visit as "a wonderful opportunity for our pupils, students and staff to meet with two deeply inspiring church leaders. We were honoured to welcome the Archbishop of York and Bishop Philip to St Christopher's and were greatly inspired by a morning of conversation, worship, and reflection."

The visit formed part of the Archbishop's ongoing commitment to meeting with young people and educators across the North of England, encouraging them to live out their faith confidently and compassionately in today's world, and it was a great honour that the Archbishop chose make St Christopher's a stop on his tour.





## Upper Sixth Geography Fieldwork

**Our Upper Sixth A-level Geography students undertook their fieldwork visits to collect vital data for their NEA coursework.**

One group visited Lytham sand dunes, studying vegetation succession and the impact of human activity on ecosystem development. Another group explored Manchester, investigating topics such as homogenisation, sense of place, environmental quality, and social deprivation. They carried out surveys, questionnaires, and assessments across the CBD, inner city, and suburbs — including a focus on how well areas cater for an ageing population.

The data and insights gathered during these visits will play a crucial role in their coursework, supporting them in completing a successful A-level Geography programme.

## Students Triumph in Prestigious National Mock Trial Competition

**After weeks of dedicated preparation, students from the Sixth Form and pupils from Year 11 achieved outstanding success at the Young Citizens UK National Bar Mock Trial Competition, held at Preston Combined Court.**

The team worked tirelessly in the run-up to the event, honing their advocacy skills, mastering complex legal arguments, and refining their court etiquette. Their efforts were guided by the expert support of Mrs Flanagan, Miss Broderick, and their barrister mentor, Mr P. Barnes, whose professional insight and encouragement helped the students grow in confidence and capability.

“Partaking in the Bar Mock Trial has been one of my most valued experiences with St Christopher’s. It has improved my public speaking skills and has solidified my passion for a career in Law.” - Sarah Pearson (Lower Sixth student)

Facing tough competition from schools across the region, the team presented their cases with poise, clarity, and conviction. Their strong performances in both prosecution and defence roles impressed the judges and ultimately secured them first place in this regional round.

“I couldn’t be prouder of our students for winning the Bar Mock Trial competition! They put in so much hard work and preparation, and it really shone through on the day. Their teamwork, and sheer enthusiasm were fantastic to watch. Now we’re off to London for the national finals—and we couldn’t be more excited!” - Miss Broderick

This remarkable victory means the team will progress to the national finals in London later this year—an exciting opportunity that places them among the top young legal minds in the country.

Staff and students alike are immensely proud of the team’s achievement, which celebrates not only their legal acumen but also their teamwork, determination, and commitment. The school community now looks forward to supporting them as they prepare for the next stage of the competition.

“The Bar Mock Trial has truly been a brilliant experience for our school and I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to take part. It has improved my on-the-spot critical thinking and has left me with the confidence that Law is for me! London here we come!” - Evie Williams (Lower Sixth student)



## Students of the Half Term – Upper Sixth!



**We held our very first Sixth Form Student of the Half Term celebration.**

A brand-new initiative recognising Upper Sixth students who consistently demonstrate a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and outstanding commitment to their studies. Each student was nominated by their subject teachers and received a certificate of achievement, and a one-time “Jump the Queue” pass for break or lunchtime.

Head of Year Mrs Lillie presented the awards during assembly, congratulating all recipients on their fantastic effort during half term one. We're incredibly proud of all our award winners!

## St Christopher's at Futures Events 2025



**Mrs Driver and Miss Davies have been busy representing our Sixth Form at a series of exciting local events this term.**

They kicked things off at the Amazing Accrington #FuturesEvent 2025, meeting Year 11 pupils from across the borough and sharing what makes St Christopher's such an inspiring place to continue your studies. Our Upper Sixth students were also on hand to speak with our own Year 11s, offering a first-hand insight into life in Sixth Form and our A-level options.

The team then visited Blackburn Inspiring 2025, aiming to inspire local students by showcasing the opportunities and support available at St Christopher's Sixth Form. Most recently, Miss Davies and Mrs Driver attended Burnley Council's #FindYourFuture event, giving Year 11s in the local area a chance to explore our A-level courses too.

It has been fantastic to connect with so many prospective students and share how St Christopher's can help them realise their dreams — we look forward to welcoming many of them to our Sixth Form next year!

## Spirituality and Worship



**At the start of the term we held our “Beginning A-levels” Eucharist service for the Lower Sixth.**

A joyous and faith-filled occasion, it was wonderful to share this milestone with our school community as we started the year together.

Fr. David Arnold celebrated for us, and preached an inspiring message for our sixth formers. Their conduct, as is to be expected, was exemplary.



**Our Sixth Form Spirituality Day was held in October. This year, the sessions were all themed around ‘powerful prayer’.**

This was to build on the platform that the hugely successful ‘Lord's Prayer tour’ visit of the Archbishop of York gave to us earlier in the month.

Sessions delivered by our own staff & students, alongside some of the very best external contributors to days of this sort, ensured the day was extremely beneficial for all involved.

# Extracurricular

## Observing Armistice Day in Sixth Form



Our Sixth Form students joined the whole school community in observing the two-minute silence for Armistice Day, in November.

A heartfelt thank you to Oliver W (Lower Sixth) for his moving performance of the Last Post, which set a reflective and respectful tone for this important moment of remembrance.

We take this time to remember and honour all those who have served, reflecting on their sacrifice and the freedoms we enjoy today.

## St Christopher's Choir Shines at Amazing Accrington Lights Switch-On



We had a fantastic evening at the Amazing Accrington Lights Switch-On, with both our Main School and Sixth Form pupils taking part in this festive community event.

Led by Miss Davies, the Primary School Choirs were amazing filling the town with beautiful voices and festive cheer. Alongside the singing, our pupils and students showcased their musical talents with trumpet and piano performances, adding extra sparkle to the occasion. It was wonderful to see our pupils and students performing with such confidence, energy, and joy — a true celebration of music and community spirit.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for making the evening so special, and for representing St Christopher's so brilliantly! You can see more photos and highlights from the performance on the school's Facebook page.

## Lunchtime Lectures Roundup



The Sixth Form Lunchtime Lecture series launched with outstanding enthusiasm this term, offering students a rich variety of thought-provoking sessions across different subjects.

Mr Hands opened the series with Faith in Science, an engaging exploration of how religious belief and scientific understanding can intersect. The lecture drew an excellent audience, sparking lively reflection among students.

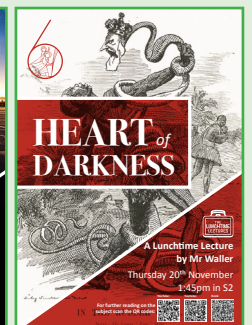
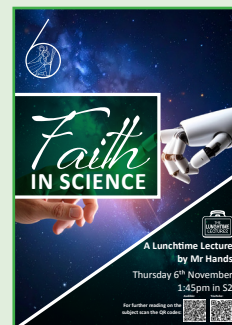
The following week, Mrs Procter captivated attendees with Airplane Mathematics. From seat-pricing strategies to minimising time spent in airports, students were fascinated by the real-world applications of maths within the travel industry.

We were also delighted to welcome Mr Waller, whose lecture on Heart of Darkness offered a powerful examination of colonialism and the Christian church's role in confronting injustice. This challenging topic prompted deep discussion and left students with plenty to consider.

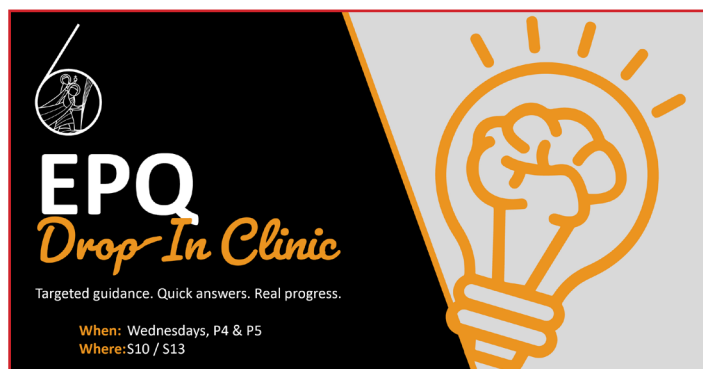
Most recently, Mrs Lillie delivered an inspiring session supporting both History and Government & Politics A-level students. Her lecture encouraged students to think beyond the classroom and highlighted the value of academic enrichment across the Sixth Form.

A huge thank you to all our speakers for their time and expertise, and to the many students who continue to support and engage with the series.

We have more planned for 2026, with a few of the posters visible below. You can find out more about the lectures by following this link: <https://bit.ly/40vn9ND>



## From Idea to Impact: Celebrating EPQ



This year's Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) cohort is the strongest the school has seen in both scale and substance. With forty students completing projects, the programme is a flagship for process-based learning - learning critical skills such as planning, creativity, and problem solving.

The projects themselves reflect real intellectual aims including creative artefacts and research questions that wouldn't look out of place in a university dissertation. It's not just the end product, but the way students have learned to think. The EPQ's emphasis on critical thinking, learning through errors, and evidence-based decision-making has pushed students beyond the comfort of traditional coursework. They will plan, refine, fail, recover, and improve - key habits associated with later academic success.

National research backs this up. Universities report that EPQ students arrive better prepared for independent study, with improved academic resilience, stronger writing, and more confident project management. Large cohort data shows that EPQ candidates often outperform their predicted grades at A-level, with the qualification acting as a scaffold for higher-level study skills and reflective practice.

Students learn to justify their choices, defend their methodology, and engage critically with sources. Many balanced the EPQ alongside demanding study programmes and extracurricular commitments, demonstrating the self-regulation universities routinely expect but rarely teach.

Most importantly, the students see that this isn't a linear, teacher-led course. It's an intellectual apprenticeship - one that positions students to thrive at university, where process matters as much as product. This year's forty EPQ candidates will prove that when our students are trusted with a challenge, they rise to meet it.

## Sixth Form Netball Update



Our Sixth Form Netball team has started the season in fantastic form, securing three strong home wins in their opening league fixtures.

They began with a brilliant victory over Haslingden High, with Jasmine H named Player of the Match. The team then continued their momentum with another impressive win against DACA Sixth, where Claudia A earned Player of the Match for her excellent performance.

Most recently, the squad claimed a third win against St Wilfrid's, featuring confident debuts from Georgia and Chloe. Georgia P was awarded Player of the Match for outstanding defensive play.

Well done to the whole team — and thank you to the Friends of St Christopher's for the fantastic new netball dresses!

## Sixth Form Football Update



Our Sixth Form football team has made an excellent start to the season.

They opened with a strong 4–1 win against Ripley St Thomas, with Josiah F named Man of the Match for his standout performance.

In their next fixture, the team produced a remarkable comeback in a cup match against Stonyhurst College. After going 3 behind just after half-time, they sparked an impressive fightback to 3–3. St Christopher's held their nerve in a tense penalty shootout to win 4–3 and progress to the next round.

Well done to all the players for their teamwork, resilience and school spirit. A great start to the season!

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Success



**Congratulations to 23 Upper Sixth students who successfully completed the assessed expedition for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's!**

The challenge took them on four days of walking and navigating in the Rhinogs, South Snowdonia, with three overnight camps — including a wild camp in extremely challenging weather conditions. Despite rain, wind, and tough terrain, the students showed incredible determination, resilience, and teamwork throughout the expedition.



Their achievement is a testament to their perseverance and commitment, and they should feel extremely proud of this milestone — as are we! This experience not only tests physical endurance but also fosters leadership, problem-solving, and a true sense of adventure, making it an unforgettable part of their Sixth Form journey.



## Sixth Form Student Council Update



**Our new Sixth Form Student Council hit the ground running!**

Students have shared fresh ideas on enrichment, student support, and improvements to facilities and catering — already making a positive impact.

In their second meeting, the council continued their fantastic work, discussing ongoing projects, generating new ideas, and collaborating to enhance life for the whole Sixth Form community. Their enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment to representing their peers are truly inspiring.

We can't wait to see how their plans develop over the coming weeks!

## World Champion Success!



**We are delighted to congratulate Lower Sixth student Harrison K, who recently represented Team UK at the International Functional Fitness World Championships in Lithuania (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December).**

Harrison delivered an outstanding performance, securing the gold medal and earning the title of World Champion in the Boys' 15–16 division.



This remarkable achievement is a true testament to his dedication, discipline, and commitment to excellence. We are incredibly proud of Harrison and all he has achieved — very well done!

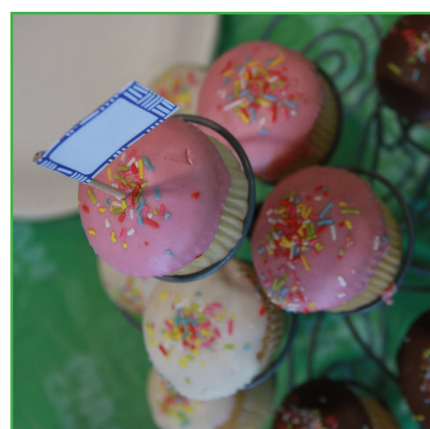
# Foundation Pathways



## Pathways Bake for Macmillan

Foundation Pathways students were busy this term preparing and baking delicious treats for the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Sixth Form Hub. Staff and students were invited to enjoy cakes and coffee while supporting this important charity.

The event was a fantastic success! Thanks to the students' hard work and everyone's generosity, we raised an incredible £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A huge well done to our students for their brilliant organisation, tasty baking, and warm hospitality — truly a wonderful way to come together as a school community for a great cause.



## Students of the Month

**Well done to Bailey and Rihanna who received the first Student of the Half Term for Upper Sixth Foundations!**

Head of Year Mrs Lillie presented the awards during assembly, congratulating all recipients on their fantastic effort during the first half of the Autumn Term.



Scan the QR code to Pre-Register:



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM

# OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY, 2026 | FROM 5:30PM

GO FURTHER WITH ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM

CONSISTENTLY  
EXCELLENT  
RESULTS

THE SIXTH FORM  
PROVISION IS  
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SIAMS REPORT 2024

OFSTED  
OUTSTANDING



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