



Dates for the Diary

29th June

A taste of what's to come...
Parents information evening from
6:30pm

30th June

Year 11 Taster Day

24th August

GCSE Results and Enrolment

5th September

Term Starts

Hello from the current Sixth Form Senior Team.

We met many of you at the open evenings and are very pleased that you have decided to apply to study at St. Christopher's Sixth Form. We know that you will find the Sixth Form as welcoming and supportive as we have found it. You'll love the warm and friendly atmosphere here where students and staff work together so that we can all aspire to be the best we can be.

We have put together a selection of Sixth Form news to show you what the students have been up to over the past few months. We hope you enjoy reading it.

We are all preparing for our examinations now, as you are. We want to wish you the very best for your exams.

Adam, Maisie, Archie and Sophie.



St Christopher's Sixth Form
Student Newsletter
Summer 2023

Guest Speakers

UCLan Guest Speaker



In November we had a fantastic afternoon in one of the enrichment sessions deepening Year 12 & 13 subject knowledge.

Dr. Jonathan Colman from the University of Central Lancashire Humanities Department delivered a comprehensive and insightful lecture entitled 'The Origins of the Cold War in Europe' with over 50 students in attendance.



Motor Industry Experts Discuss the Future with Business and Economics Students

In February we had the pleasure of Chorley Group join us to give a presentation about the motor industry to our Year 13s.

An added bonus was having alumni Dan Goff back in his role as Sales Executive who gave the presentation along with Miles Roberts, Innovation Development Manager.

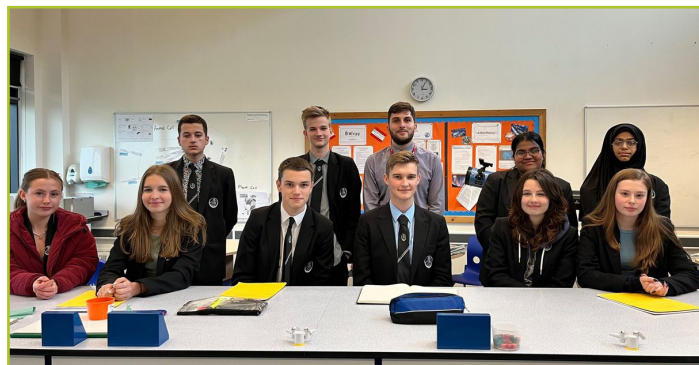
It was incredibly helpful and interesting, especially having three of the cars discussed being available to view during the day.

Alumni Surprise

It was great see ex-student Will Fort around the main school in October!

He was imparting some of his knowledge to our current Year 11s about life after school and sixth form. He now works for Sundown Solutions Ltd and is pictured here with CIO Ben Lee.

Future Medics



We are delighted that the visit from Edge Hill University Medical School introduced our students to the demands and challenges, as well as the satisfaction and fulfilment, of studying to be a doctor.

Our students gained lots of advice, tips and suggestions for support resources.

It helped our students understand that a career as a doctor is within their grasp, and that they can aspire to follow a career in medicine, if they work hard and show evidence of how they meet the personal core values and skills needed for such a demanding role.



This is what our Pre-professional programme will help develop, through our sessions and their self-reflective Learning Logs.

We also had Dr Tucker from Lancaster Medical School lead three sessions for our students in both Years 12 and 13 in October - covering 'What makes a good doctor?', How to apply for Medicine, as well as critical thinking and medical ethics.

Students gained a valuable insight into the pathway for their medical aspirations. The students took part actively and were challenged to think "outside the box" and outside their preconceptions of a career in medicine.



Student Success



Oxbridge Offers

Two of our students have received conditional offers to study at Oxford University.

Olivia and Lewis are over the moon to have been offered places to study at the world renowned University from next year. Olivia who is currently studying English Language & Literature, RE and Law at A-Level is hoping to meet her offer of three A grades to read for a degree in English Language and Literature at Exeter College. She says,

“It was hard work to do all that was necessary to apply for Oxford but well worth it. I feel quietly confident, but incredibly nervous about the upcoming exams.”

Lewis, who wasn't sure at first whether to apply, but after some gentle persuasion from staff and family decided to bite the bullet, is working incredibly hard to attain the grades to read History at University College.

We wish them and all our students the very best in their upcoming exams!

Biology Olympiad

A group of Year 13 A-level Biology students took part in the British Biology Olympiad.

This is a national competition and students took the exam in their own time after school. The Olympiad challenges students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. Rebekah Jeffery achieved a Silver Award - well done Rebekah for achieving a score in the top 15% of students nationally!



Musicians Secure Conservatoire Places

A-level music students Ed and Finlay have secured highly sought after Music Conservatoire places to study Jazz and Popular Music next year.

Finlay gained conditional offers at both the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and Leeds Conservatoire to study Jazz Bass. Ed also has an offer of a place from Leeds Conservatoire to study on their Popular Music course as well as several offers from Universities including Liverpool.

Both are very keen musicians and play in their band 'Free from the Wilde'. Finlay is also the Jazz Bassist for the Lancashire Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Miss Davies commented that,

“To gain a place at one of the country's top Conservatoires is to be applauded and we are very proud of both boys.”



Future Medic

Another student success from the Pre-Medical Support Programme.

We are really proud of Marcus who has an offer to study medicine at Lancaster University. Marcus has also been taking the Pre-Professional Programme for Medics alongside his A-levels. The programme runs on Wednesdays during enrichment and prepares students for application to Medical School amongst others.



Trips and Visits

Manchester Gallery Visits

Our A-level Fine Art students from upper and lower sixth had a day out in Manchester to visit The Whitworth and Manchester Art Galleries.

This was to help with Upper Sixth's critical studies element of the course and to prepare Lower Sixth for their upcoming personal investigation.

Much fun was had alongside deepening their subject knowledge.



Students Ask the Questions

Miss Davies and 5 students were in the audience for the live Radio 4 Any Questions at Blackburn Cathedral.

The students all submitted questions for the panel and Alice Pennington-Yates was chosen to ask her question.

Alice asked the panel an insightful question into the recent Scottish Parliament Gender Recognition Reform Bill and its impact on legislation in England.



Durham University Open Day



The Lower Sixth took the opportunity to visit Durham University.

Students looked round the campus, took part in several workshops and lectures and gained a taste of life at a Russell Group University.

Stargazing at Jodrell Bank



Year 12 and 13 Physicists visited Jodrell Bank, the site of the Lovell telescope, which is the third largest fully directional radio telescope in the world.

As part of the trip we used real Jodrell Bank data to calculate the rotational velocity and mass of a nearby galaxy showing the need for additional non-visible mass, or dark matter.

We also toured their new first light exhibit and watched an amazing space show where we were taken on a tour of the night sky looking at planets, nebulae, blackholes and many more.

Overall, a great trip and useful revision of many aspects of this Year 13's chosen A-Level Physics optional module, Astrophysics.

Glaciers and Hot Pools - Iceland 2022

At the end of March 2022 a group of 23 year 12 and 13 students visited Iceland on an A-Level Geography field visit.

We visited several areas on the South Eastern coast of Iceland over 5 days. We started the trip with an afternoon exploring Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland, experiencing the culture and feel of modern Iceland. This was followed by a full day visiting volcanic formations including a spatter cone, volcanic beaches and active geothermal vents at the Great Geysyr. This allowed the students to get first hand experience of tectonic processes that they had been learning about in the class room putting their learning in a real world scenario.

The visit also included trips to Þingvellir national park where a canyon created by the movement of two tectonic plates splitting apart is continually growing and the site of the world's first ever parliament where Chieftains from different tribes came together in 930AD to discuss and decide on matters affecting the entire island. We then moved onto Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station where they produce electricity and hot water for roughly 50% of the island. We also visited some of the world's most beautiful waterfalls created by glacial meltwater from Iceland's central glacier zone and learned about our impact on the earth through climate change by looking at the retreat of glaciers in the area.

The trip wasn't all work however, we all managed some excellent relaxation time visiting the secret lagoon natural hot springs for a morning absorbing the natural heat and minerals from the geothermal vents nearby and of course our daily evening swim in the naturally



heated swimming pool, hot tubs and steam room at the hotel!

Overall, despite ever changing COVID restrictions, the trip was a great success. Henry Barker of year 12 stated that...

“this trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I’m so glad I was able to go on it, I would massively recommend it to any future students, whether they study geography or not.”

Thanks to Mr Pellet for his trojan work, to get our first foreign trip off the ground since the pandemic. The hoops he had to jump through to ensure the trip was enjoyed by all, was very much appreciated by the school and the students.

Oxbridge Visit

Several students from Year 12 visited both Cambridge and Oxford as part of their Open days and residential visits.

The students are part of the Aim Higher programme and all had a thoroughly good time whilst being academically stretched whilst there.

They gained useful and practical help ahead of their application to study at Cambridge and Oxford Universities.



Extracurricular and Spirituality

The Lunchtime Lectures



Students join the first lecture of the year, with Mr Johnson

This year our Lunchtime Lecture series returned bigger and better, with an exciting and diverse programme of lectures to interest all students.

The first of the lectures was back in October from Mr Johnson and was titled 'The Power of Sleep'. We had a great turn out for this and it has since continued.

In the new year we have a number already planned based on 'The Battle of Towton', 'Chemotherapy' and 'Energy Crisis? What Crisis!' with more to come.

You can find out more about the lectures by following this link:
<https://bit.ly/40vn9ND>



Spirituality and PSHE Day



The Sixth Form spirituality day began with a session from the Respect Me team

In the first week of the Spring half term we had a drop down day which focused on PSHE and Core RE.

Themed on 'The Golden Rule' the day saw a combination of our own staff and some excellent guests present high quality sessions supporting the theme, and the day came to a conclusion with a service for Ash Wednesday led by Bishop Philip and Rev. Andy Froud our Sixth Form Chaplain. Students were engaged throughout in a series of fast paced workshops where they could discuss several topics and one commented:

"The teachers were really well prepared and really engaging. They allowed us to share our thoughts also and the sessions were fun and informative."



Easter Service

The entire Sixth Form gathered in the Lecture Theatre for a short Easter Meditation.

This was headed up by our Sixth Form Chaplain Andy who helped us to focus on the real meaning of Easter as we approached Holy Week and the good news of the Resurrection.



Prospective Trips for 2023-24

In the coming academic year (2023-24) we have the following trips planned, amongst several others!

- Iceland 2023
- Washington and New York 2024
- Music Concert Tour to Germany 2024

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

Sporting Success

We have a number of pupils who take on many of the sporting enrichment activities available, with others going a step further!

Millie is a keen runner and a member of the Preston Harriers Club. She has taken part in the English Schools Competition twice (which the Sixth Form has been happy to part sponsor) as well as other events. She's also a competitive Jujitsuka.

She has taken her passion for sport and used it alongside her A-Level PE studies, using competition videos for moderation evidence and performance targets in her coursework, set against elite professionals.



Millie (L) on the podium after a recent competition

Work Experience

On Wednesday afternoons our students that are taking the Pre-Professional 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 Snowdonia in September.

A four day self-sufficient expedition, carrying their kit and camping independently, including a wild camp. We are extremely proud of the determination, strength of character and teamwork shown by our students.



D of E: Reading Group



Our Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh's Award students have worked hard supporting a select group of year 7-9 pupils as 'Reading Mentors' in our school library.

They have forged strong bonds with their reading buddies as they complete the volunteering section of their Gold Award.

Foundation Pathways



Thinning out the trees at Whinney Hill with the Prospects Foundation Team

Volunteering with the Prospects Foundation

In January the group carried out some volunteering work with Prospects Foundation. They helped with the thinning out of Aspen trees at the Whinney Hill Woodland site.

The volunteering also helped to cover two BTEC units on their course:

- Contributing to your local community
- Skills for Learning, working in a team and learning different skills, use of different tools

It was great fun and they all learnt a lot, but it was a tad cold!

Business Enterprise Skills

During February the students held a Valentine's themed biscuit and cake sale.

This was part of their enterprise lesson and all the funds raised will go towards a trip at the end of the year.

We have to say the biscuits were great and tasted fantastic!



Fundraising Efforts and a Trip to Speak in Parliament

This year two of our students have been doing great things for raising awareness about Downs Syndrome.

Lucas and Esme had a fantastic time at the East Lancs Downs Syndrome Support Group, Anniversary Ball where they helped to raise a magnificent £9,000! Lucas also took the opportunity to visit Westminster Palace and give a talk about the Support Group to members of parliament.



Growing Plants

Throughout February and March the students have been working on the Level 1 'Growing Plants' unit.

This has seen them tidying up the St Christopher's Sixth Form roof garden, ready for planting and deadheading/potting on strawberry plants in the polytunnel.



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