

## Dates for the Diary

**27th June**

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

**28th June**

Year 11 Taster Day

**22nd August**

GCSE Results and Enrolment

**3rd September**

Term Starts



**Welcome from the current Sixth Form Senior Team.**

**We have said hello to many of you already at our open evenings and we are thrilled that you have chosen to apply to study here at St Christopher's Sixth Form in Accrington.**

We are sure that you will enjoy your time here, be academically challenged and personally supported throughout your two years and gain as much from the experience as we have.

At Sixth Form you will find a welcoming environment that, with the support of our brilliant and caring staff, can help you to become the best version of yourself.

In this newsletter we have put together a selection of Sixth Form news to show you what students have been up to since January. As you read through the newsletter we hope you will discover the myriad of opportunities available to you here in our Sixth Form. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Like you we are all preparing for our examinations. We wish you all the very best for your upcoming exams.

**George, Beth, Ibbey,  
Gracie and Olivia**



**St Christopher's Sixth Form  
Student Newsletter  
Summer 2024**

# Student Success

## Speech Night Awards

**In January we hosted our 65th Annual Speech Night Awards to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and students from the last year.**

For the last sixty plus years the school community has been able to come together to reflect on the highlights of the previous year and to celebrate the whole range of pupil and student achievement. It is always a joy to listen to the inspiring words of a guest speaker and to see the faces of worthy recipients of a range of awards.

To all our subject prize winners - congratulations! We hope that you have been inspired by your academic success and are perhaps continuing with your studies in the subject at A-level or as an undergraduate. The variety of awards presented show how we value, promote and recognise the whole range of pupil and student achievement.

If you received one of our special awards - well done! How satisfying to know that you are joining the list of names of those who came before you as part of the community of St Christopher's. We hope that being recognised in this way is as pleasing for you as it was for them.

We welcomed on the evening the donors of some of our school prizes, in person. Many prizes are named after former pupils, members of staff and others closely related with our school. We thank them for their continued support. We would also like to thank Miss Sara Britcliffe, MP for Hyndburn and former pupil, for her kind words and presentation of awards.

Our current senior pupils and students led us in prayer and gave our vote of thanks, and along with Cantores, our Sixth Form Choir, who gave two outstanding performances.

The achievements celebrated have been made possible by the strength of our partnership with parents, the dedication and commitment of staff and the hard work of pupils.

In the words of our Sixth Form scripture (Jeremiah 29:11):

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*



Some of the award winners with guest speaker Miss Sara Britcliffe, Headmaster Mr Jones & Chair of governors Mr Whitehead



Current Sixth Form Head Boy and Head Girl (George and Beth) close the proceedings



Mr Jones welcomes the audience and delivers his speech covering the last year.



Current and former Cantores perform the first song of the evening Caccini's 'Ave Maria'

## Bronze Award in Biology Olympiad

Shifa Mughal, a Year 13 A-level Biology student, took part in the British Biology Olympiad earlier in the year.

This is a national competition that challenges students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their knowledge.

Shifa achieved a Bronze award and was in the top 30% of students that participated!

Well done Shifa on this fantastic achievement.



## Student Runs for Pendleside Hospice



**“Last Sunday, I ran the Roundhay Half Marathon, part of the Leeds Running Festival in support of Pendleside hospice. I decided to do this to aid the charity in its goal of providing care to those in need.**

As I crossed the finish line, a sense of accomplishment washed over me, knowing that I had not only achieved a personal goal but also made a difference to the lives of those supported by the hospice. I have seen the tremendous impact that your donated money makes, having volunteered at the hospice for several weeks in their inpatient unit.

The journey to the half marathon was not an easy one. I trained for a few months to increase my fitness to a level where I could complete my going outside in the freezing rain and pushing myself to my limits. I had to keep the end goal of supporting the hospice and its cause in sight. There were moments when I questioned my ability to cross the finish line, but the thought of the hospice and the incredible work they do kept me motivated.

During the race, I experienced a rollercoaster of emotions. There were moments of fatigue and physical discomfort, but also moments of exhilaration and pure joy. The support from fellow runners and spectators along the route was overwhelming, reminding me of the power of community and the shared goal of making a positive impact.

Crossing the finish line was an indescribable feeling. The sense of pride and fulfilment was amplified by the knowledge that every step I took was helping to provide essential care and support for those facing life-limiting illnesses. It was a reminder that we all have the power to make a difference, no matter how big or small.

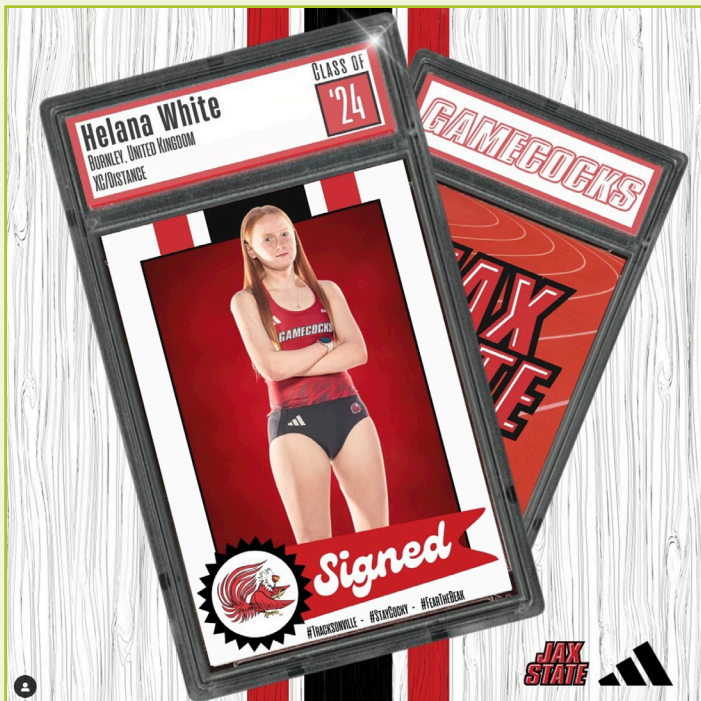
Looking back on this experience, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of something meaningful. It taught me the importance of perseverance, the strength of the human spirit, and the impact that a collective effort can have on the lives of others.

Completing a half marathon for Pendleside Hospice was not just about running a race; it was about running with purpose, running for those who need our support the most. It was a journey that will forever hold a special place in my heart, reminding me of the incredible things we can achieve when we come together for a common cause.

## America Beckons for Sports Star

**Huge congratulations to Helana in Year 13 who has been offered and signed for a scholarship at Jacksonville State University, USA.**

Helana will be part of the Athletics team there, focusing on her passion for running and competing in associated events. We are extremely proud of all she's achieved and wish her the very best for the future!



# Student Success

## Isobel Aims to Help Transform the World

**Lower Sixth student, Isobel Smith, has been working closely with the Global Action Plan group recently and has the following to say about her experience:**

“For the last seven months, I have had the amazing opportunity of working with the Transform Our World Youth Panel, where we have worked towards a set of sessions on Earth Day to educate others (children and educators in particular) about climate issues such as plastic pollution.

Transform Our World is a charity that is partially funded by the Department for Culture Media and Sport and they work closely with educators and school groups to spread awareness about our Earth. It was very exciting on the day to find out that school groups had logged on to watch these sessions live to learn more about our earth and, as I live on a small sheep farm near Clitheroe, I was asked to film a video about sustainable food from the perspective of a British farmer for the Debate Our Plate session, which is now available on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/ggnPNzCXROE?si=IVar1yc6rka-MNI->).

This experience has not only helped me to use my network to educate young people on climate change, but I have also learned more about the environment myself, as well as improving my confidence, having the chance to interview companies like Penguin Books, Ancestry and Ocean Generation to hear about their inputs on plastic pollution, and also learned how to convey a powerful message and encourage other people to make a difference.”



## A Students View 1



**Hi my name's Jacob and I came to Sixth Form from Blessed Trinity RC College to study Maths, Product Design and Religious studies.**

Shortly after the first week of term, I discovered that there was a Sixth Form Choir, Cantores.

This sparked a passion for me for choral music and after we had a concert at Blackburn Cathedral with the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir I went to sing with the Cathedral

Youth Choir and auditioned for a Junior Choral Scholarship, singing The Vagabond by Vaughan Williams, which I was successful in getting.

I am benefiting from singing in both choirs and am improving my technique and musicality on a weekly basis. As well as having discovered a love of choral singing I am also undertaking Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and play football and cricket. We have formed a Sixth Form cricket team and look forward to playing matches.

I am enjoying the Sixth Form life and look forward to many more opportunities it can offer me. I strongly encourage anybody coming to Sixth Form this year to join Cantores, if you enjoy singing, as you never know what can happen.

## Tayah is 'Popping' through her A-levels



Tayah can be seen here centre, back row.

**My name is Tayah and I dance at Dynamic Dance Studio in Burnley. My team and dance school compete at various competitions, including North West competitions (regional) Great Britain competitions (national) and also worldwide competitions (international).**

I've danced since I was three in various styles but now I focus on streetdance. We have won nearly every single competition we've entered in the last three years. I study BTEC Nationals in Performing Arts and this is equivalent to one A-level so I can also study other A-levels. I think sixth form supports my passion really well and enjoy seeing their students success. I also think that having a hobby helps to take away from the pressures of A-levels and is a release from all the stress!

# Trips and Visits



## Aiming to be a 'Young Lawyer'

Olivia, currently in Upper Sixth, has ambitions to become a Lawyer after her studies with us. Here she recounts taking part in a series of master-classes to help achieve her goal.

"In Lower Sixth, I took part in an online course called 'The Young Lawyers Program' which entailed a series of master-classes led by those already in the law profession.

The interactive sessions consisted of deciphering and solving imaginary cases within the areas of criminal law and human rights law, along with tips on how to become a barrister or solicitor and a chance to ask more specific questions about the profession.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course but most of all, it benefited me as I don't study Law at A-level and showed me how I could incorporate skills and make connections from my other A-Level subjects which is just as important.

The course helped me realise that I would like to pursue a career in Law as the end goal and therefore, after Sixth Form I will hopefully be reading Law at Newcastle University."

## Study Leave Beckons for Upper Sixth



On the 10<sup>th</sup> May we said a fond farewell to the Upper Sixth on their final day in Sixth Form before study leave commences.

They are a fabulous group of young people and we will miss them. We wish them all the very best for their examinations over the next few weeks and look forward to the Prom in June and A-level results day in August.

Over the past academic year students from both Upper and Lower Sixth have had the opportunity to experience the world around them, visit some of the top universities in the country and hear from professionals and employers about their experiences.

In the following pages you can find out a little more about some of these exciting events.



Our Pathways to Medicine students experience the Medical School at Edgehill University.

A group of Lower Sixth students went on a trip to Edge Hill University Medical School to take part in some taster sessions. This is also a part of their extracurricular Medicine Pathway.

They had a great time and learnt a lot more about what it takes to get into medical professions and the things that they can expect to study as they progress on to their chosen university courses.



# Trips and Visits

## Parisian Adventures: A Journey Through Culture, Education, and Business

**Our sixth form and main school students recently embarked on an enriching journey to Paris, where education met excitement in a truly remarkable experience. Divided into two groups, students explored distinct facets of learning and discovery, leaving an indelible mark on their academic and personal growth.**

In one group, students delved into the dynamic world of business, leadership, and management at Disneyland Paris. Alongside esteemed figures like Kate Hardcastle MBE, a highly respected and successful businesswoman known for her award-winning ventures and insightful commentary on major media platforms, they gained invaluable insights into real-world applications of their coursework. Kate's expertise, garnered from over 20 years of founding business transformation organisation Insight with Passion, proved invaluable as students learned about forging successful partnerships and navigating commercial ventures.



The pupils and students excited to make it to Disneyland Paris

Accompanying Kate was Louis Barnett, an inspirational entrepreneur who began his business journey at his parents' kitchen table. Despite leaving formal education at a young age due to various neurological diversities, Louis has since become a global advocate for unlocking potential through his 'chocolate box methodology'. His expertise in consumer psychology, branding, marketing, and sales provided students with invaluable lessons on scaling businesses sustainably and realising their own untapped potential.

Zakia Moulaoui, who has been instrumental in raising awareness about social justice through her work with organisations like Social Bite and the Social Enterprise Academy, helped students gain a deeper understanding of the human stories behind large cities in the UK with her business venture Invisible Cities.

Lucas from Year 13 who is studying Business and Economics A-levels commented:

"The trip to Disneyland Paris was a once in a lifetime experience. It was a great balance between exploring all of the parks and what Disneyland has to offer as well as gaining valuable business and life advice from extremely successful entrepreneurs who each had various different roles to play in their respective fields. I would recommend this trip to anyone lucky enough to be offered a place."

Meanwhile, another group immersed themselves in the rich tapestry of French culture and history, traversing iconic landmarks such as the Champs-Élysées, Montmartre, and Montparnasse. Infused with opportunities to apply their French language skills in authentic settings, students embraced the vibrant atmosphere of Paris while uncovering the profound connections between language and culture.

Throughout the trip, students demonstrated remarkable growth, showcasing their ability to adapt, communicate, and thrive in diverse environments. From confidently ordering in French to analysing real-world business scenarios, they demonstrated our expectations of academic rigour and practical application.

As we reflect on this transformative experience, we look ahead with anticipation to the future. With plans already underway for the 2025 Paris Conference trip, we are excited to continue fostering growth, curiosity, and global awareness among our students. Join us on this incredible journey and unlock the boundless opportunities that await in the City of Lights!

"The trip to Paris was a really good experience that had a great mix of business insight as well as lots of time to gain the full Disney experience."

Edward, Year 13 Business and Economics A-levels.



On their cultural excursion around Paris

## Prospective Trips for 2024-25

In the coming academic year (2024-25) we have the following trips planned, amongst several others!

- Music Concert Tour 2024 (October)
- Durham University Trip 2025 (February)
- Cambridge Convention 2025 (March)
- National Apprenticeship Convention NW 2025 (March)
- Lancaster University Day 2025 (May)
- New York 2025 (May)
- Oxford Residential 2025 (June)
- Cern Science Trip 2025/6
- Iceland Trip 2026 (Easter)

More details, costs and dates will be announced once the new term starts in September 2024!

*Please note all months stated are provisional at this stage.*



Potential Cambridge students at the North West Conference 2024

## Lower Sixth Plan for the Future

In March, students in the Lower Sixth had the opportunity to visit the UCAS Discovery Exhibition at the Manchester Convention Complex, as well as the University of Cambridge Student Conference.

The UCAS event is a vital part of our careers offer and can help students decide what and where to study within higher education. They were able to explore courses and talk to different universities from around the UK as to what degree courses and apprenticeships are available, as well as gap year activities.

The University of Cambridge North West Student Conference is an annual event which gives those students interested in studying at the prestigious university to find out more about it and what is required to gain a place.



Our students make the most of the UCAS Exhibition 2024

## Art Inspiration for our Students

Lower and Upper Sixth A-level Art students took a trip to the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

While there they took the time to take in some of the wonderful art exhibits and made plenty of observations in their sketch books.

This will help with their studies and provide some inspiration for their upcoming art projects.



## Classics Students See History Brought to Life

In January our Classics students visited Warwick university for the Warwick Ancient Drama Festival - Schools Day.

They attended a number of lectures relevant to their A-level studies and had the pleasure of watching a performance of Aeschylus' The Persians.

Special thanks to The Hellenic Society, The Classical Association, Classics For All North and Warwick Classics Society for their support in getting them there!



# Trips and Visits

## Wonders of Iceland: A Geographical Odyssey

It was a crisp morning when the students of St Christopher's Sixth Form embarked on their much-anticipated five-day geography trip to Iceland. Excitement buzzed as they boarded the plane, eager to explore the geological wonders of this captivating land.

Their first stop was Gullfoss waterfall, where the sheer power and beauty of nature took their breath away. Standing at the edge of the cascading water, they felt a sense of awe at the raw force of the falls. Cameras clicked incessantly as they tried to capture the magnificence of the scene before them.

Next on the itinerary was Geyser Park, a surreal landscape dotted with bubbling hot springs and erupting geysers. The students watched in amazement as geysers shot hot water high into the air, creating a spectacle unlike anything they had ever seen before.

Pingvellir National Park greeted them with its stunning vistas and rich geological history. Walking between the tectonic plates that divide Europe and North America, they marvelled at the forces of nature that had shaped the land over millennia. This area was also the site for the world's first parliament where chieftains came together to make decisions for the good of everyone rather than individual settlements.

Lake Kleifarvatn offered a serene respite from the excitement of the day, its calm waters reflecting the surrounding mountains like a mirror. Here, they took a moment to pause and appreciate the tranquillity of their surroundings.

At Elborg cinder cone in Seltun and Kerid Volcanic Crater, they witnessed the otherworldly landscape of steaming vents and bubbling mud pots, a testament to Iceland's volcanic origins. The air was thick with the scent of sulphur as they explored this geothermal wonderland and extinct volcanic cones.



"Iceland was a once in a lifetime trip! We visited a variety of different places; Secret Lagoon was my favourite."

Nicole Cooper- Upper Sixth

"I enjoyed sightseeing, specifically visiting the waterfalls. I had an unforgettable time!"

Grace Holland- Upper Sixth

In Reykjavik, the capital city, they immersed themselves in Icelandic culture, wandering through the colourful streets and sampling local delicacies. The 'secret lagoon' provided a blissful escape, its warm waters soothing their tired muscles after a day of exploration.

Their visit to Hellisheiddi Geothermal Power Station offered a glimpse into Iceland's innovative approach to renewable energy and Carbon Capture technology. Surrounded by the hum of machinery, they learned about the importance of geothermal power in powering the nation's homes and businesses and how the country is leading the way in capturing carbon and storing it as stable geological reservoirs.

On their final day, the students journeyed to Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, their beauty rivalling that of Gullfoss. At Seljalandsfoss, a rainbow arched gracefully over the cascading water, casting a magical glow over the scene.

Their adventure concluded at Reynishverfi black sand beach, where towering rock formations rose from the dark sands, sculpted by the relentless forces of the sea. As they stood on the shore, waves crashing against the rocks, they reflected on the unforgettable experiences they had shared during their time in Iceland.

"Iceland is a unique environment, both culturally and geographically. The opportunity for students to experience the landscape and customs is something they will never forget. I have been here several times, and every visit brings something new and exciting!" - Mr Pellet, Geography Teacher and Iceland Trip Lead

With memories etched in their minds and cameras filled with photographs, the students bid farewell to this land of wonders, their hearts full of gratitude and thanks to all the staff, especially Mr Pellet, for providing them with the opportunity to explore and learn in one of the most captivating corners of the world.

# Guest Speakers

## Future Medics and Engineers get hands-on at Meducators UK Workshops

St Christopher's Sixth Form was abuzz with excitement on Saturday 20th January as over 60, Year 11 to 13 students from six local schools eagerly gathered for unique and innovative workshops hosted by Meducators UK. This is the second year of running the workshops, and this year we were excited to include an engineering pathway.

The workshops were split into medicine and engineering pathways, which the students had already signed up to, and promised to provide an enriching experience for them all especially as many of them are thinking of starting careers in these two exciting and important industries.

The day began with a welcome and introduction, before the students were split into their corresponding groups. Through two sessions they took part in five workshops in each pathway.

Those on the medical pathway learnt more about Medical Ethics, X-Ray Interpretation and Vital Signs, as well as getting an insight into what it means to work in medicine from experienced staff. One of the students taking part in the medicine pathway commented;

"I loved the instructor's enthusiasm and passion for medicine. The way they explained everything was superb and I as a student was captivated by their fascinating and highly-engaging stories and life experiences. Their teaching and little activities had me hooked and just made me marvel at how amazing and beautiful the world of medicine truly is, further increasing my passion to becoming a doctor in the future."

The engineering workshops which ran at the same time included practical sessions on Mechanical Engineering and Computer science, as well as an eye-opening afternoon session on potential engineering careers which smashed pre-conceptions and raised aspirations.

There were also four apprentices from Rolls Royce attending all day, who worked with the students, answering questions about their own career paths and future employment. This rare opportunity gave them a real insight into what was expected to make it in the industry.

Mrs Flanagan, Lead Teacher of the event said "I firmly believe that students in our local area should have these opportunities: to widen their horizons and to give them the confidence that they too can go for these careers. Such days can light up their imaginations and stoke their self-belief. I am very grateful to FoSC (Friends of St Christopher's) for their contribution to funding this event."



## Bio-Tech Expert Enthuses Students with the Future of Biology

Mr Saxby came to visit our A-level Biology students and delivered a lecture about bio-technology and genetic engineering.

He covered the uses and issues surrounding both technologies, as well as the career paths in these areas of science. He was formerly the CEO of Leaf Expression Systems, a biotechnology company that uses plants to manufacture biological products.

It was a fantastic lecture and gave the students plenty to think about for their future career choices.

# Extracurricular

## Bridge Achievements

**It's time for a quick update on the world of BridgeWhiz. Over the past term, our members have delved into the complexities of the game, honing their skills and strategies.**

From mastering the art of opening large hands to perfecting defence play, our BridgeWhiz participants have showcased a remarkable dedication to learning and improving. Moreover, our exploration of the Strong and Five system has provided a solid foundation for advanced gameplay, setting the stage for exciting challenges ahead.

We're gearing up for some exhilarating afternoons as we plan visits to local bridge clubs for friendly games. These outings promise not only to put our newfound knowledge to the test but also to foster team spirit within our club and with fellow bridge enthusiasts in the community.

Last week, we held another schools championship with our main school pupils and sixth form students. A great time was had by all, as we put the skills and previous lessons of the term to good use. Congratulations to Scarlett Atkin, Julia Nagadowska, Noah Harwood and Connor Speakman for winning this tournament. We hope to be playing another tournament again soon!



## Becky's Passion for Cricket

**My cricket career started at Rawtenstall Cricket Club with the under 9s team where I was the only girl.**

For my first game I played in a dress (which was a brilliant first experience) as my brothers team needed an extra player. I stayed at Rawtenstall until the end of my time playing in the Under 15s. During that season I also played in the Senior Men's 3rds and 2nds teams. Over the past few years I have helped coach the under 9s which has supported my ability to teach and coach and given me much experience and have also played for Ramsbottom Cricket Club in the girls teams.

At Ramsbottom, I played for the women's first and second team where we won both the LCF 40 Over League and LCF T20 League last year. This year Ramsbottom Women's Team have entered the Lancashire League as the first all female team in the league. Our first game was against Accrington Cricket Club which we won by 6 wickets!

At St Christopher's I joined the netball team in enrichment to diversify my sporting experiences which I am very grateful for. We have had an extremely successful run so far winning EVERY game we have played even with some tough competition. I have enjoyed every game and am proud to be part of a very strong and supportive team.



## Lower Sixth Multi-Sports Star

**My name is Ruth and for the last two years I have played for Accrington Stanley Women's Football Club, and currently play for the Under 18s and Reserve team.**

I have recently been on a trip to Dallas, Texas with Accrington Stanley where we competed in the Dallas Texans International Girl's Cup. We played a range of friendlies and in the competition; we lost one match, drew one and won one but didn't make it into the quarter finals. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip, and a great opportunity to experience the American culture, staying with a local family, whilst having the chance to play against teams from around the world. Recently we have won the Lancashire U18s cup, and we have finished top of our U18 league.

In addition to football, I am part of the Lancashire U18's women's cricket squad and play club cricket for Salesbury & Edgworth. Following a busy schedule of training over the winter at Old Trafford, I am looking forward to representing my county again. In 2022 and 2023 I had the privilege of playing in an MCC competition for Bolton. On both occasions we made it to the national finals at Lord's where we were hosted in the Pavilion, walking out through the Long Room and playing on the famous pitch. I had the honour of opening the bowling against Guildford in both finals, being crowned champions in 2022 and runners-up the following year.





## Lunchtime Lecture Series

Our final Lunchtime Lecture of the 2023-24 series drew yet another excited crowd.

S2 was packed with students and staff to hear Mrs Saxby-Street's championing of modern feminism, entitled, '2023: The Year of the Girl'. Students were enlightened by a brief history of feminism, its early pioneers and milestones, and the roots of 'Modern Feminism'. The lecture finished on a triumphant note, celebrating the empowerment of women across the globe. What a great way to finish the series!

We are grateful to all the staff and students who have contributed and attended over the series, and look forward to welcoming everyone back for 2024-25 for what promises to be yet another, culturally enriching, intellectually stimulating, and thought provoking series.



## Work Experience

On Wednesday afternoons our students who 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 volunteering in 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>



## Sixth Form Sporting Success

2024 has been a successful year for Sixth Form Sport with Netball and Football teams being introduced this academic year.

The Netball Team have finished the year undefeated whilst showing class and quality. They started off with a fantastic win and strong team performance against St Wilfrid's (25-21), followed by wins at QEGS Blackburn and Darwen Aldridge Sixth Form. All games had some great individual performances with plenty of debuts for the team too!

The Football Team have two remaining fixtures of their league that includes Ormskirk Sixth Form and BRGS to name but two from the total of seven teams. Through the season they posted some impressive results with the best being a 5-2 victory against Haslingden High Sixth Form. They need to win one game to secure they finish the league as champions.. A fantastic achievement for the school in their first year entering.

These teams have also allowed numerous A-level students to access competitive sport on a regular basis and film their performances to aid in assessment that will contribute to their qualification.

Well done to all involved and we're looking forward to next season! A special thanks to Mr Watts and Miss Layfield for managing the two teams.



# Spirituality



## New Groups

This term our sixth formers have started their own Christian Union which is growing quickly and meets on a Wednesday lunchtime.

The initial impetus to start the Christian Union came from the students themselves and they have shaped the creation of and material for the group. Exactly how it should be! This is in addition to our main school Christian Union that continues to thrive and meets on a Friday lunchtime.



## A Students View 2

Hi, my name is Darcy and I am in the Lower Sixth studying Psychology, Law and Music as my A-level subjects.

When I left Ribblesdale High School, I didn't know many people as only two of my classmates came with me. However, everyone was lovely and helped me feel included. I have made so many friends in all of my classes, especially music.

Music is a huge part of my life inside and outside of school. In school, there are many extra-curricular activities involving music, such as the Jazz Band and Cantores Choir, which I am a part of along with many of my friends. In the choir, we learn lots of varied styles of new music that helps us to develop our musical skills and for many builds confidence in singing and the ability to read music. I also have singing lessons in school with my teacher Mrs Howarth and am currently working towards my Grade 7 singing. I not only enjoy this as a hobby but it will help me in the future to pursue music as a career.

Developing my singing skills is very important to me as I sing at Blackburn Cathedral as a Junior Choral Scholar. As a part of this, I have been able to develop my musical abilities and this compliments my studies at school. I have exposure to a wide range of choral music from varying traditions. Being a Junior Choral Scholar gives me many amazing opportunities to show my skills in concerts, performances, radio and television and work with many professionals.

Along my musical path I have had much support from the Head of the Sixth Form and my music teacher, Miss Davies. Being a part of St Christopher's is wonderful and I couldn't see myself anywhere else.

## Sixth Form Worship



February saw the whole of Sixth Form gather together for a Eucharist to celebrate Candlemas - The presentation of Christ in the temple marking the end of the Christmas season. Our Chaplain Rev. Paul McNally led the worship with some great singing from Cantores.



Cantores from Year 12 and Year 10 were in action again in March at St George the Martyr, Preston to lead the worship at the Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Blackburn.. They sang some lovely music through the evening. Well done to them all.



The Sixth Form met at the end of term for an Easter Reflection on the Passion of Christ, read by a group of students followed by an Easter message from our Chaplain the Rev. Paul McNally.

# Foundation Pathways

## Lucas Heads to Downing Street



Lucas with the East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group outside Number 10

**Our student, Lucas, took a trip to Number 10 to help support the East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group for World Down's Syndrome Day.**

In his role as Chair of the IChoose Board, he was personally invited to meet with Dr Liam Fox MP, Maria Caulfield and The National Down's Syndrome Policy Group.

Looks like he had a great time and helped to raise more awareness for the campaign.



## Gingerbread Socks Prove to be a Popular Treat



**While Lucas was away, Gabriella was in the Hub selling Gingerbread Socks to raise money in the run up to World Down's Syndrome Day.**

Thanks to her efforts and the kind generosity of students and staff she managed to sell all the socks raising at least £40 in the process!

## Year 13 Thrived in Their Work Experience Placements



Lucas at Wax and Beans Café in Bury



Summiya loved every minute at Accrington Stanley



Luke spent his time in the School Kitchens

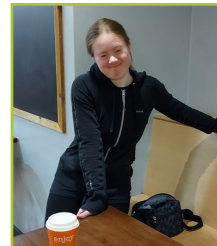
**Our Year 13 students were out on work experience placements during March.**

They were working in all kinds of environments from Accrington Stanley Community Trust to Wax and Beans Café, Hyndburn Leisure Centre to our very own Reprographics Dept.

Well done to them all and thank you to all the businesses for giving them these experiences, they've thoroughly enjoyed their time with you!



Izzy was hard at work in Reprographics



Hyndburn Leisure Café welcomed Esme for the week



Amy enjoyed helping at St Mary Magdalen's School

## Tasty Treats and Extra Skills



**At the start of the Spring Term Pathways were doing work on Functional English communication and social skills.**

As part of the course, the group requested a visit to Kaspas Desserts in Blackburn to practise ordering their own food and drink. It was also a useful trip to practise their money skills.

Well done to them all. The desserts look delicious!

# Foundation Pathways

## Sponsored Walk

At the beginning of the year the Foundation Pathways group did a sponsored walk to raise money for Guide Dogs UK for the Blind and raised £260.

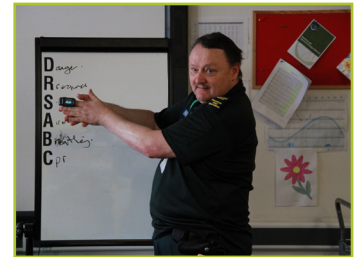
In March Mr and Mrs Booth from Guide Dogs for the Blind visited the group to be presented with the cheque for the money raised and to give us some information on the work of the charity.



## Emergency First Aid Lessons

In Life Skills lessons the students have been looking at how to help others in an emergency situation.

As part of the lesson we were fortunate to have First Aid trainer Dave Wyld visit the group to give us all some training and advice on how to deliver First Aid. This included how to use the defibrillator correctly.



## Oscar is the Star of the Show

The students enjoyed spending time with Oscar over this term. They had the opportunity to interact, with our school dog, learning about correct handling, hygiene and behaviour around animals.

Time with Oscar will be included in their Personal and Social Development lessons. The aim of this initiative is to build students' confidence and compassion and develop their understanding about personal safety around animals.

It's also a treat to spend time with Oscar, it helps everyone to relax.

“THE SIXTH FORM PROVISION IS EXCEPTIONAL.” SIAMS REPORT 2024



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