



Dates for the Diary

23rd January

Sixth Form Open Evening for all Year 10 and 11 pupils

31st January

Closing date for first round of interviews

4th and 6th February

Sixth Form Interviews begin

27th June

Applicants Taster Day

Dear Future Applicants and Parents,

As we approach the festive season, we are delighted to connect with you through this Christmas Newsletter. We are delighted that you are considering St. Christopher's as your next step after Secondary School. We would like to share with you, through this newsletter, some of the exciting things that have been happening this term.

It has been an incredibly busy term for all staff and students this year, filled with exciting opportunities, academic achievements, and much more. The Year 13 students are in the middle of their University and Apprenticeship applications. All sixth form students have just completed their Mock Exams and look forward to celebrating the festive season and unwinding after their hard work for some Christmas fun! We have held auditions for our school production of Frozen the Musical, sparking great excitement from both the students and friends of St Christopher's. All the students at St Christopher's are looking forward to watching the teacher's pantomime, which promises plenty of laughter.

We know interviews can be nerve-wracking, but do not worry! Our sixth form interview process is just a chance for us to learn more about you as a person. At our Sixth Form, we wish to see your passion, curiosity, and what you can provide to our Sixth Form as a person.

On behalf of everyone at St Christopher's, we wish you all a Happy Christmas. May your school holiday be restful and filled with happiness. We look forward to seeing you during the interviews in February.

Until then, stay blessed, enjoy a wonderful Christmas, and may the New Year be filled with exciting adventures and new accomplishments.

Isobel, Maryam, Sophie, Sebastian, Syed and Daniel



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

Sixth Form News

Pupils and students take part in Mock Trial Competition

In October, 14 students from Lower and Upper Sixth along with Year 11 St Christopher's CE High School pupils attended Burnley Combined Court to attend a Question and Answer with His Honor Judge Mathieson, a Circuit Court Judge.

As part of their preparations for the upcoming Bar Mock Trial, they were able to find out more about the role of a Judge, jury verdicts and what a good witness examination looks like. Students were then able to observe the work of the court swearing in a jury and beginning a Crown Court prosecution for Grievous Bodily Harm.

Upper Sixth student, Scarlett Lees said of the visit:

“The trip was a great experience and it helped to bring the law to life. We are now ever more excited and committed to our Mock Trial preparations.”

Then in November, the Bar Mock Trial Team and some A-level Law students took part in a Q and A with Barrister Olivia Muckherjee. Olivia has been assigned to the team to give support and feedback as the Barristers prepare their cases for the competition in December.

Olivia was enormously engaging, informative and inspiring. She told us about her own career path, what led her to specialise in family law, the reality of preparing for cases and the impact that difficult cases can have on legal professionals. Our students and team members from main school asked fantastic questions and Olivia was suitably impressed; commenting that she felt like she was being quizzed at a tenancy interview to join a chambers!

Our team braved Storm Darragh to compete in the Bar Mock Trial Competition at Preston Crown Court. They showcased incredible teamwork, critical thinking, and public speaking skills, winning two out of 3 cases!

A special thanks to Miss Smith, Mrs Flanagan, Mr Allen, and Miss Broderick for their support, and to the Friends of St Christopher's for covering the entry fee.

We're so proud of the dedication and professionalism of our students – the future looks bright!



MP Visits Sixth Form

It was a pleasure to welcome our new local MP Sarah Smith into the Sixth Form and main school back in September.

She had the opportunity to meet with our Headmaster and to chat with senior pupils and students. She was then taken on a full tour of both the school and sixth form, to get a real taste of what life at St Christopher's is really like.



A-level Results Success



I am delighted with this year's excellent set of A-level results. It has been a joy to witness the elation amongst so many students who have surpassed our high expectations.

Pupil attainment has been strong in all subject areas, especially in traditional academic courses. I am delighted that once again we achieved virtually a 100% pass rate and that the vast majority of students secured the top A*- C grades.

Taken together the performance of the class of 2024 represent a strong and impressive set of results.



“Following several years of hard work, resilience and determination from all my teachers, supporters and myself, I am delighted to be a stage closer to achieving my ambition to practice Architecture, in reading for a degree in the subject at Trinity Hall College, University of Cambridge after gaining A* A A A A.”

Chris Chilvers (Burnley)

Our students deserve all the praise and acclaim that they will receive and I wish them well, from those who achieved a string of A* and A grades, to those who made great progress and overcame challenging circumstances. They are a wonderful group of well-rounded young people I am thrilled that so many have chosen to continue their studies at prestigious universities such as Cambridge, Durham, Exeter, Lancaster and York, 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 and seeing you at the many events around the local boroughs.

We hope you discovered everything you needed to about life in our Sixth Form and A-levels. If not we are holding a further Open Evening on Thursday 23rd January. Please do come along with any questions you may have or if you would like a second look around.



We hope to see you at careers events from January onwards. Please do come and ask us about the Sixth Form and the A-level subjects on offer.



We had a great day at the Amazing Accrington's Futures Event where we met all Year 11 pupils from across the borough.

Students Become Heroes

The Hero Project is a nationwide programme run by the blood cancer charity, Anthony Nolan. Their mission is to educate 16 to 18-year olds about stem cell, blood and organ donation, and show them that they could help save a life. Together, we can give every student the opportunity to learn about their lifesaving potential.

Chris and Jean, trained Hero Project volunteers, delivered a presentation about what stem cell, blood and organ donation involve, why they matter and how our students can become lifesaving donors if they wish to. After the presentation, our students can join the stem cell register in-school. This is a 5-minute sign-up and students could be contacted in the future to save a life.

This is about giving ourselves selflessly to others and being courageous advocates for others and the common good.

We are delighted to announce that our recent Anthony Nolan Recruitment Drive added 36 students to the stem cell donor register, offering hope to those in need of lifesaving transplants.

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers—Jean, Chris, and Darren—whose efforts were instrumental in helping our students sign up.

Joining the stem cell register is a powerful way to potentially save a life, and we are incredibly proud of our students for stepping forward to make a difference.



Geographers Test Theory in the Field



Students in Upper Sixth Geography were collecting their data for their NEA in Manchester.

They visited Manchester City centre (CBD); stopped at New Islington; Openshaw and Audenshaw to conduct questionnaires, environmental quality surveys and clone town surveys to help achieve the aims of their investigations.

The other set of Lower Sixth Geography students visited Lytham Sand Dunes where they measured how vegetation developed as you advance through the dune.

The focus was to see if human activity had a detrimental impact on dune development and ecosystem.

They will be comparing their data with a protected sand dune system in Formby.

Fieldwork allows them to put theory learned in the classroom to the test!

Politics Students Interview Local MP

We were delighted to welcome our recently elected Hyndburn MP for a Q and A with A-level students.

Sarah Smith MP was extremely forthcoming about how her life has changed since she entered Parliament and we were so interested to learn about her role as National Mission Champion for Opportunity which she passionately believes will help local young people. Sarah shared her views on the Whip system, the House of Lords, the work of Select Committees, and the forthcoming Assisted Dying legislation and our students of both Law and Politics learnt so much.

Laiba Ali, a Year 13 Politics student said;

“Sarah provided a great insight into the working life of an MP and is a advocate for young people, especially those with an additional needs. It felt significant to be able to have a political discussion with our elected representative and certainly helped to bring alive what we have been learning in the classroom”

Miss Smith, Head of A-level Politics added;

“We are so grateful that Sarah took time out of her very busy schedule to meet with our students, they asked her great questions and she gave thoughtful and entertaining responses which have brought the subject to life.”

Extracurricular

The Lunchtime Lectures



A packed out room for Miss Newborough's 'Booktok Made Me Read It' lecture

Our Lunchtime Lecture series is as popular as ever in this first term of 2024-25.

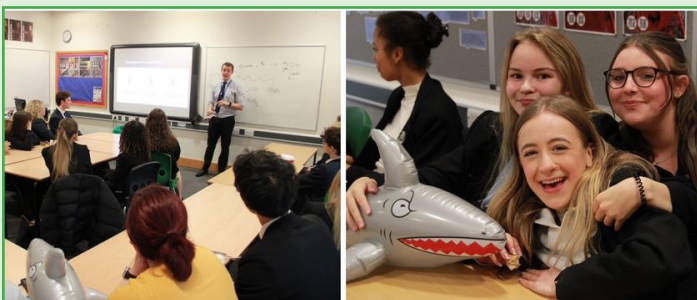
The Lunchtime Lectures are a chance for students to find out more about subjects that are of interest or a passion of our staff. These lectures are also linked to our A-levels and can be of help with their studies. Miss Newborough started this years series with a fascinating insight into the phenomenon that are feminist retellings of popular stories, in this lecture she focussed on 'Greek Myths'. The students packed out the room and it was great to see a number of Year 11s from main school attend. We also had a special lecture from one of our current students, titled 'Will the NHS Collapse?' led by Jason Zhou from Upper Sixth.

This first term has seen lectures on:

- Moon Shot or Long Shot: The Fight to Cure Cancer
- Fantasy Football: The English Premiership
- US Election Update: How Trump Won.

We have more planned for 2025, with a few of the posters visible below. You can find out more about the lectures by following this link:

<https://bit.ly/40vn9ND>



Students Attend Youth Climate Conference



The Sixth Form Eco Team had a great time at the inaugural 'Lancashire Youth Climate Conference', hosted by The Blackpool Sixth Form College and Lancs Can.

It was fantastic to see groups from all over the county attend from such a wide variety of educational/youth work settings. Our students found the event useful and enjoyable, making the most of their time by socialising with other guests, visiting stalls and winning the Eco Challenge Bingo!

Their three actions for the sixth form and main school are to:

1. Ban single use plastic
2. Introduce more plants into the sixth form library
3. Make the roof garden a more inviting and welcoming space for students

Eco representatives from the sixth form also travelled to Westminster in November to share their sustainability ideas with MPs and business leaders. This was courtesy of Solar for Schools and also included a guided tour of Westminster by Sarah Smith MP.



Armistice Day



All students took part in the two-minute silence to mark Armistice day.

Libby B from Upper Sixth played the Last Post on the Viola in the main school reception, with the Sixth Form students being able to watch the service at the Cenotaph.

St Christopher's remembered them!



Braking Point

Students attended a presentation 'Braking Point' on driver awareness and safety in November.



The presentation by 'Performance in Education' was thought provoking and challenging as they encouraged all young drivers to think carefully about safety, being distracted when driving and not drink driving. This was brought to us courtesy of Lancashire County Council.

A great presentation and so very worthwhile.

Finding Truth in a Media Driven Age



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

In October we held our Sixth Form Spirituality day, a wonderful opportunity for all of our students to be off timetable and focus on our theme of 'Were to find truth, spirituality and wisdom in a media and surveillance-driven age in the 21st century.'

Students benefitted from a range of sessions, supporting our theme delivered by a combination of our own staff and some of the very best experts in this field. The day was drawn to a close by Rev. Paul McNally, our Sixth Form chaplain, leading us all in a Eucharistic act of worship.



We have won 'The United Kingdom of Frozen' a national competition and we will represent the North West of England in the first full production of Frozen the Musical. Exciting times!

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CE HIGH SCHOOL
PRODUCTION OF

Disney
FROZEN
THE WEST END MUSICAL

26TH - 29TH MARCH 2025 | 6PM
MAIN HALL, ST CHRISTOPHER'S CE HIGH SCHOOL, BB5 4AY

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE IN THE NEW YEAR.
KEEP CHECKING BACK FOR MORE DETAILS AS WE
ANNOUNCE THEM.

Business Students Tour Lancaster University



Our students recently had the incredible opportunity to visit Lancaster University Business School, where they met with experienced lecturers and explored the vibrant campus.

The day offered valuable insights into university life, from attending introductory lectures to gaining a first-hand look at the dynamic learning environment and facilities. Students engaged with current students and the faculty, inspiring them to envision their future academic journeys and the possibilities a business degree can open.

This visit has sparked new ambitions and broadened their understanding of the diverse, supportive community awaiting them in higher education.

Sustainability in Textiles



Year 12 Textile students took part in a workshop based on visible stitching organised by the British Textile Biennial.

The focus was to create darning techniques to mend worn clothing. The work was inspired by the artist Flora Collingwood-Norris. A fantastic opportunity to gain traditional techniques that can be applied to much loved clothing.

The importance of sustainability within the textile industry is a vital subject and informing the next generation.

Thank you to Andrea Westall for leading the session.

D of E: Gold Expedition

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



To complete the expedition they spent four days and three nights camping (including a wild camp). 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 threw everything at them!



Sporting Success

Not only do we have a our Football and Netball teams, we also have a number of students who are performing in a number of sports at a competitive level...

Becky from Upper Sixth took part in a Cricket Sixes Tournament in Granada over the half term.

She was there with her team, The Guardians (West Lancs), who won the plate competition with Becky being awarded the 'Fair Player of the Tournament' award. Becky played with Granada for one match.



Congratulations to Grace in Upper Sixth who has been selected for the Girls PDG programme which is part of the England Rugby Pathway.

Grace is studying A-levels in Law, Politics and Psychology. She has a busy schedule with all her sporting commitments.



Holly has just finished her debut cricket season playing for NW Thunder Academy (Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumbria), which is one level below Thunder, the professional team.

Playing as wicket keeper/batter, she has excelled at keeping in matches around the country, including making her debut for Lancashire Women's XI and Thunder 2nd XI.



Our Sixth Form Netball Team had their first competitive match in their new league earlier this term against Sandbach School.

This is a brand new team in a really competitive league so we are really proud of the team performance. The final score was 29-44 to Sandbach but some excellent netball played by all our students.

Another huge thank you to Northbridge Vending Company Ltd who sponsored our entry into the league and have provided our students with a great opportunity to play high level competitive netball.

Student Success

We are delighted that Darcy Tayler, one of our A-level music students has been offered a conditional place at Leeds Conservatoire of Music to study Singing from Autumn 2025. Darcy is also waiting to hear from Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and at Birmingham conservatoire after her auditions there. This is hugely exciting for Darcy who hopes to have a future career singing both Opera and Oratorio. Well done Darcy!



Meet two of our Medical Applicants. We have six students who have interviews at prestigious medical schools in January and we want to wish them all the very best as they approach their interviews. They have had months of preparation through our Pathway to Medicine programme and all have secured interviews. Students also have interviews and offers for Veterinary Science, Pharmacy and Dentistry.

Prospective Trips

In the coming academic year (2025-26) we have the following trips planned, amongst several others!

- Iceland 2025
- Washington and New York 2025
- Music Concert Tour: Italy 2025/26
- Paris Business and MFL Trip 2026

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

Work Experience

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

We currently have students working in junior and secondary schools to compliment the teaching programme and others gaining valuable work experience 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>

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.

Pathways Enjoy a Day Out of the Classroom

The Lower School PSD group were learning about personal safety whilst out in the local community.

Whilst out in the community, students identified potential hazards, were assessed crossing the road as part of the Road Safety element of the programme and developed social skills at the local park.



Arts and Crafts

Mrs Lane ran the first arts and craft session at the start of the term as part of the Foundation Pathways Enrichment programme.

The students had the chance to make new friends whilst making and developing their origami skills.

Fundraising for Macmillan

Our students were busy selling coffee and cakes for Macmillan in the North West for the 'Macmillan Coffee Morning' in the Hub and doing a grand job at it!

There was plenty to choose from and the portions were fantastic (we had to go for seconds).



Foundation Pathways

Careers Fair Visit

Before the half-term break all of the Foundation Pathways students went to Blackburn with Darwen Careers Fair to explore what the local business and apprenticeship courses had to offer.

The students spoke to a number of people from different service providers, which gave them a real insight into what the different jobs entailed, the entry requirements and the application processes. They all said that they found the trip extremely beneficial and now have a good understanding of the different opportunities available to them.

Whilst there, they all independently ordered their lunch at McDonald's whilst socialising with their peers!



Work Experience

The Year 13 Foundation Pathways students had a fantastic two weeks on their internal work experience placements!

They have been learning about their new role and responsibilities, whilst developing key employability skills.

We would like to say a massive thank you to St Christopher's CE High School staff for giving the students these opportunities so that they can all explore the world of work in a safe and nurturing environment.

Staff Success

We'd like to congratulate Mrs Lane on being awarded the Teaching Personnel 'TA of the Year'.

This is a thoroughly well-deserved award for a member of staff who is both respected by colleagues and pupils alike!



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

