

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Merry Christmas

FROM ALL OF US AT
CHRIST THE KING COLLEGE

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a long term for everyone, but we have navigated our way through it in partnership with you, and with your children at the centre of everything we do. Thank you for your continued support in working with us on so many levels. Our CtK family is blessed to have so many incredible young people and adults who exemplify everything we stand for as a community. Students numbers are growing (and in most Year groups) we are full or over-subscribed. This is positive on many levels.

This Newsletter captures some of the activities and events our students have engaged in over the past few months. The amazing array of activities is down to the passion and hard work of many of our staff who go above and beyond for so many of our young people.

Please make a note of the diary dates on the next page of this Newsletter if they apply to you. Please also note that the catering trial has now finished – here is the new [menu](#) for the next term.

Uniform:

- As mentioned last week, we will be speaking to students in the first week back about enhancing our uniform expectations and procedures. We need to improve how some students wear their shirts and skirts, and to reiterate our expectations about lanyards and blazers. I will send a separate letter out about this after Christmas.
- Ties are now on sale from our Compass shop for £8.00.

My *The Way, The Truth, The Life* award this week goes to Charlotte Keightley, an amazing young lady in Year 11. Charlotte's resilience and determination to overcome adversity and many challenges is simply incredible. Well done Charlotte!

I am always telling people how amazing our students are, but it is always gratifying when other people take the time to say this as well. Last week we had a Maths Workshop for some Year 11 students, delivered by an external organisation. It was a great success, with the organiser of the event saying this: *Your students were delightful – they worked really hard, were engaged, polite and friendly. Best group so far this academic year (and we have been into 40+ different schools so far). A real credit to you and your school. So please pass on our thanks to them.* High praise indeed, and well-deserved.

Inspired by last week's Language & Culture week, I leave you with some traditional blessings from around the world:

Go mbeannáí Dia duit
Dios te bendiga y que estés Seguro
Che Dio ti benedica
Que Dieu vous bénisse et vous garde
Нехай тебе Бог береже

Happy Christmas to you and your families.

God Bless and stay safe,



Mr Montrose

Diary Dates

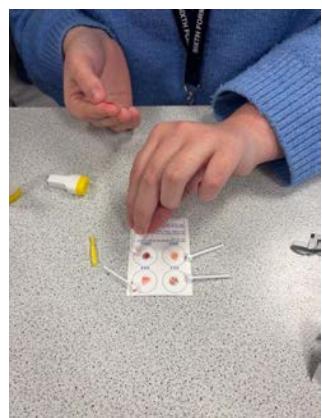
Tuesday, 6th January 26	Students return to school
Thursday, 8th January	Year 9 Remote Parents Evening
W/C 12th January & W/C 19th January	Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams
Thursday, 22nd January	Year 9 Teen Booster
Monday 26th January	Dance Live performance at Portsmouth Guildhall
Thursday 12th February	Year 9 Options Evening 5pm-7pm
Monday 16th Feb- 20th Feb	February Half Term
Monday, 23rd February	Students return to school

NEWS

Solent University outreach team visit

On Friday 7th November, Christ the King College hosted a team of research Scientists from Solent University. Whilst here, they allowed us to participate in a biomedical research programme involving blood types. We all used analytic haematology techniques to extract our own samples and determine our blood group.

Interestingly enough, in our small sample we did not have any students with the most common occurring blood type of O. As a member of the blood group type O, Mr Montrose gracefully stepped up to demonstrate his results to allow for a comparison.



We also used high powered microscopes to look at samples of cell cultures from healthy and infected examples. This allowed us to understand the difference in appearance and histology of these samples.

Thank you to all of the brave students (and staff) who participated in the lab.

Mrs Stuart



UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge 2025

On Thursday 10th October thirty seven of Christ the King's post-sixteen Mathematics students took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge.

Two of our students, Vincent Vaughan and Deepak Loganathan achieved a Gold Certificate in their age group and have subsequently been invited to take part in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo 2025 follow-on round, which will take place later this month. Only 8000 students nationally go through to this next round.

This is a huge achievement for these young mathematicians. Christ the King College is extremely proud and excited for these students and to see how far they can go in the competition.

Other notable achievements from the competition were:

Silver certificates: Boris Hare and Finn Woodford.

Bronze certificates: Abigail Fancourt, Thea Ricketts, Amber Cousins, Oliver Flood, Nathaniel Wells, Martha Debuse, Xander Craggs, Ebosetale Abhulimhen-Iyoha, Andy Luo, Dylan Walker, Matteo Marengo, Lewis Edgerton, Imogen Rayner, Eric Williams and Jared Tout-Walters.

Certificates of participation were also awarded. Miss Inglis and Mr Gifford are thrilled with the level of participation and how well the students performed. Well done!

In another exciting development happening later this month, Ryde Lift is hosting a UKMT Mathematics Team Challenge for our younger students. Team Challenges are usually hosted by mainland schools, so having one in our community where travel will be minimal will give students the opportunity to compete against other Island schools and peers.

More news on this and other UKMT challenges later.

National Poetry Competition



Congratulations to **Chloe** in Year 8, who was selected as a runner-up in a national poetry competition run by YoungWriters.co.uk. Chloe's poem was one of just five winners chosen from over 7,300 entries — an incredible achievement! Here's what independent judge Mark Grist had to say about her work: ***'Chloe, this piece is thoughtful and beautifully observed. It captures a moment of growing up with honesty and grace, and the voice feels wonderfully real. I love the title, by the way – it***

really packs a punch at the start. The use of colour and imagery is strong and memorable. Well done!

Memorial Ceremony

On Thursday 6th November, 12 students representing Christ the King attended the Field of Remembrance Service at Carisbrooke Castle, having been invited by the Lord-Lieutenant. Two students from each year group, including our head boy and head girl, laid a cross in memory of those that have served. A wreath was also laid on behalf of all from Christ the King at the Warrior statue in the Princess Beatrice garden. The students were a credit to themselves and the wider community showing exemplary behaviour and respect throughout.



MPs Visit



Students at Christ the King College were visited by local MP Richard Quigley on Friday 28th November. He joined a Politics class in the Sixth Form before leading the Year 12 Enrichment session. During these times, Richard responded to a wide variety of questions from our students (and enthusiastic staff!), covering everything from his favourite foods to the nitty-gritty of the recent budget, or life as an MP to his vision for The Island. In the afternoon, he met our newly appointed Form Rep team and once again took questions (from potholes to pollution) and encouraged them to take part in democratic processes, whether that is in school as on the House Council or beyond.



It was a privilege to have him come along, and we look forward to his return, as well as hosting politicians from other backgrounds and parties as part of our mission to enrich the life of our students and ensure they are informed enough to be great future citizens.

Max and his rats

Max (year 9) is a young carer and supports his father who is being treated for cancer. Max is a remarkable young man who has recently taken to volunteering at the Hospice with his pet

rats. He does this in his free time during the holidays; and patients and staff (who are initially reluctant and nervous around the rats) are really enjoying Max's visits. He has even got nervous patients holding and petting the rats!

Max was also recently contacted by a local charity and was offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to fly a plane from Sandown airport..

Dad feels that Max should be mentioned in this newsletter for his resilience and the difference he is making in the community whilst supporting his parents at home.



Pearl of Africa Choir



We welcomed The Pearl of Africa Choir into Christ the King College on Thursday 27th November. After performing to staff, the choir had a tour period 1.

Thank you to those who were involved in putting on a science demonstration, or allowing them to look around your classrooms. It is interesting to note that head teacher, Aunty Anet, was making

notes at times, in order to take some ideas back to Uganda that she could use or pass on to her teaching staff. During the rest of the day, there were 3 workshops that were delivered to 4 year 7 classes, plus a few others, such as 6th formers.

The Pearl of Africa Choir also performed to students during a rather wet lunch break and 6th form students during their assembly time. At the end of the day, we relaxed, making more noise in the auditorium and hanging out with 6th form students. This was followed by a pizza dinner.



In the evening we had over 75 people attend the concert. There were plenty of happy faces and great feedback. The choir was amazing, especially when they brought children and students forward to dance with them. Trustee Robin and headteacher Anet, have asked me to pass on their gratitude to making them all feel so welcome.

They felt that the balance of the day was ideal. Some of you might recall that a Ugandan student 'Mary-Faith' was with us two years ago. Due to the funding provided by the Molly and Paul Foundation, Mary-Faith has passed her A Levels and is now at University. The education she has received and the money raised, has helped her to get ahead in Uganda from potentially different outcomes.

I found lunchtime a bit of an eye-opener. The Canteen served rice and chicken. The shocker was that chicken is usually eaten on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday by the children if they are lucky. How many of you are like me and eat chicken several times a week? We hope to be able to welcome the Pearl of Africa Choir next year, visas dependant.

If you would like to donate to the charity, or find more out about the charity, please look at the following link:

<https://pearlofafrica.org.uk/index.php/donate/>

Antarctica Flag Competition 2025

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who entered the Antarctica Flag competition.

The Geography department had the difficult decision of narrowing down the entries to just 8, which would go on to form our Christ the King College Flag of 2025.



Congratulations to the following students whose final designs were chosen;

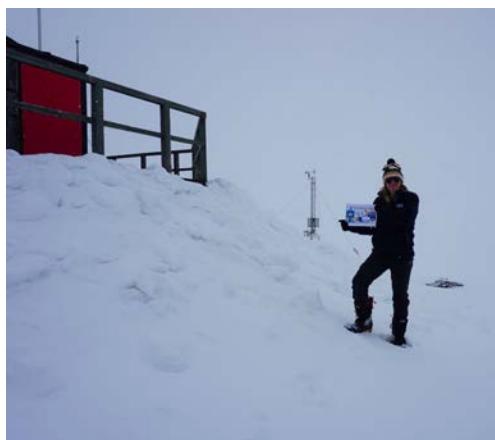
Liliana
Harriet
Maia
Grace
Lily
Zachary
Emily
Liam

Our flag was taken to Antarctica by Jack Farr. Jack is a meteorological observer with the British Antarctic Survey. The photo was taken at Fossil Bluff following the servicing of a weather station. To find out more about Fossil Bluff visit this link:

<https://www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/sites-and-facilities/facility/rothera/fossil-bluff>.

We look forward to taking part in this competition again next year.

Well done Year 7.



Isle of Wight Radio Toy Appeal

Once again we are proud and humbled by the generosity shown by our students and their families.



Our community at Christ the King College have been able to give a selection of toys to [Isle of Wight Radio](#) toy appeal, along with a donation of £350.



Then we visited the [Isle of Wight foodbank](#) to give our collection of donated food items.

Thanks to you we have been able to help many of our local families that need our help this Christmas.

Thank you to you all ❤️

Year 9 Geography Trip to London



The Geography department were delighted to take 62 Year 9 students to London recently for an extra-curricular trip.



In the morning, we walked along the South Bank before enjoying a trip on the London Eye, to appreciate the scale of London. This

was followed by a trip to the Natural History Museum in the afternoon, with a particular focus on their tectonics exhibits.

Well done to all the students for their excellent conduct throughout the day, and thank you to the staff who support the trip.



Dance Live rehearsal

Thank you and well done to the 70 students who came to school on Saturday for an all day Dance Live rehearsal. The day has enabled them to complete sections of choreography and develop their performance skills.

Well done everyone!



CAFOD young leaders



This week marked the launch of a campaign for CAFOD with our Catholic Young Leaders. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. Most Catholic schools around the country fundraise for CAFOD to help promote opportunities for those less fortunate than ourselves. We have a newly formed group of Sixth Form students who are our Catholic Young Leaders. Before half term they had a training day with CAFOD and have been set the challenge of raising awareness of CAFOD and to pick a charitable cause to support.

The students felt it important to raise awareness of water shortages to those living in Ethiopia and fundraise £750 for water provision in a town in Ethiopia with CAFOD. This week, CAFOD young leaders spoke to several year groups about who they are, what they are hoping to achieve and why they are doing it. For the remainder of the academic year, they will be looking to work with other students to achieve their goal. Please keep them in your thoughts and / or prayers as they seek to help others who are desperate for things that we might take for granted.

High Sheriff Court Competition!

The day was 6th December, 2025. Both the prosecution and defense teams had been practicing for a month now, and it all led up to this day. Our Defence team, composed of Amber Cousins and Darcey Morgan as the lawyers, Bonnie Watson as the defendant, Vlad Ignatenko as defence witness 1, and Finnian Hall as the usher, were on at 9:30 sharp. Up against the Island VI, the defence team had successfully managed to gain the verdict of not guilty. After a successful cross-examination, examination-in-chief and



speech from both lawyers, it was evident that the team had prepared to the best of their abilities. While there were slight difficulties with the witness's cross-examination, in the end, they were both able to swiftly recover and stand their ground.

Moving onto after lunch, at 2pm, the prosecution team, composed of Phoebe Arnold and Helena

Szymanowska as the lawyers, Vincent Vaughan as prosecution witness 1, Melvina Namirimu as prosecution witness 2, and Anthony Fuoss as Court Clerk, were against Ryde Private. The jury had ended up coming to the verdict of not guilty, however this is not a measure of their talent, as Judge Kerry Maylin had given them excellent feedback, highlighting their strengths. An amazing cross-examination was



conducted, and it was clear that the examination-in-chief was well practiced, as well as the speeches delivered from both lawyers. The witnesses also did an excellent job in standing their ground against the opposition.

The jury, composed of Aria Melody-Bamford, Bethea Wells, Florence Wells, Hannah Buckthorpe, Kelechi Maxwell-Opete, Lyla Peach, Mariella Penn-Sampler and Rose Green, as well as the bonus members of Amber Cousins, Bonnie Watson, Anthony Fuoss, Finnan Hall and Melvina Namirimu, the jury declared the final case between Cowes and The Bay of not guilty.

Overall, all the teams had gained a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to experience what it would be like to be in court. A few have come out of this with the aspirations of going into law, and others can agree that even if they don't want to go into law, that it was still a memorable experience.

Now, at 4pm, the judges gathered and tallied up the scores they had given. In 3rd place was The Bay, in 2nd was Cowes, and in 1st.. WAS CHRIST THE KING! The team gathered and celebrated, taking a photo with the judges, which you can see below. Thank you to Mr Hare and Mr Russell, the two teachers who had given up their time to assemble a team together, as well as the organisers of the High Sheriff Court Competition!

Christingle

Our annual Year 7 Christingle service has come around once again. There was lots of excitement in the classrooms during period 4 as students prepared their Christingle oranges and rehearsed a couple of songs for the Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church period 5.



You will see from some of the photographs that there is something about holding an orange with a burning candle that brings so much joy to everyone. Either that, or it is the anticipation to eat the sweets when we have finished! Either way, we are on the third week of Advent. The Church remembers the theme of joy at this time in preparation for remembering the birth of Jesus.



We had a very happy afternoon and remembered that Jesus said 'he was the light of the world'. We pray that this season is bringing you much joy at this time. A great big thank you for the many teachers involved in making this afternoon special for our Year 7 students.



Food Technology

Congratulations to our amazing KS3 Food Technology students! Your hard work and creativity have truly shone through in this term's projects. Over the last few weeks, we've seen incredible progress in knife skills, food safety, and nutritional understanding. From mastering the perfect roux to balancing flavors in a curry, these students have truly done themselves proud.



We are so proud of your achievements and can't wait to see how you continue to grow in this exciting field! Keep up the fantastic work!

Incredible technical skills on display from our Year 10 GCSE Food students!

They've been mastering complex doughs this term, exploring gluten development in bread, science of shortening in pastry and the intricacies of pasta making. High-level precision and fantastic results. The corridors have smelled amazing, and the results tasted even better! Our future food influencers in the making!



Mt Batten Christmas carol service

Christ the King College were honoured to support the Mount Batten Christmas Carol Service at Newport Minster on Wednesday 17th December. The Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, Newport and Carisbrooke primary schools and the Mount Batten choir were part of leading the congregation in this festive time.

It was lovely to hear local people involved in the works of the hospice create and read their own poems, helping us to engage in reflecting through verse and prose on different aspects of Christmas. The Christ the King College worship band performed beautifully, having five percussionists, seven singers, two acoustic guitars and one bass guitar.



Many thanks to Christ the King College staff and Lieutenant Luke Furlong from the Salvation Army in making this a great opportunity for our students. The band were even asked for an encore whilst people had refreshments after the service. The energy the band brought was lovely to see.

Maths Revision Day

Earlier this week, selected year 11 students took part in an all day Maths Revision Workshop with Twenty Twenty Learning. The aim was to boost students' confidence and help prepare them for their final mathematics examinations. Students' feedback was really positive - they found the day really useful, and enjoyed it!



We are also incredibly proud of how well the students reflected our values throughout the day, with this feedback from the external provider:

"Helen has asked me to say how delightful the students were – they worked really hard, were engaged, polite and friendly. Best group so far this academic year (and she has been into 40+ different schools so far). A real credit to you and your school. So please pass on our thanks to them."

Well done to all of the students involved!



Rugby Academy

Josh has just received the amazing news that he has been accepted on to the under 15 foundation programme with Bath Rugby Academy.

Congratulations Josh we are all incredibly proud of you and your commitment and dedication to be able to achieve this amazing opportunity.



Cross Country

The annual Cross Country Relays event at Medina took place this week, bringing together teams from across the Island for a competitive and enjoyable afternoon of running. The event followed a relay format, with each team made up of four runners.

We were able to take 32 very enthusiastic students to the event. All team members delivered strong performances, maintaining a consistent pace and supporting one another both on and off the course. Most teams



secured 4th place in their year-group events, except for our Year 10 girls' team, who achieved an impressive 2nd place in their age category. Every student pushed themselves and worked hard for their teammates.

The event provided a great opportunity for students to showcase their endurance, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all who took part, and thank you to Medina for hosting a well-organised and enjoyable competition.

Netball

Year 10 recently took part in an exciting netball tournament hosted at Cowes Enterprise College, delivering an impressive display of teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the afternoon.

From the first centre pass, the team worked well together, showing great communication and good movement across the court. Their hard work paid off with several victories against their opposition, demonstrating both defensive strength and attacking creativity.



Across the tournament, every player contributed to some outstanding passages of play, whether through intercepts, quick transitions, or accurate shooting under pressure. The team spirit was evident, and their positive attitude never wavered.

After a series of competitive matches, the Year 10 team finished in a well-earned fourth place overall, a result that reflects both their progress and their commitment to playing as a united team.

Well done, Mariana, Ano, Monique, Molly, Anjali, Rosie, Grace & Faith.



The Year 9 Netball Team delivered a great performance at last week's tournament, demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination. The team battled through several closely contested games that resulted in well-earned wins and draws. These matches highlighted their resilience and ability to stay composed under pressure, with every player contributing to strong team performances.

Overall, it was a fantastic afternoon of netball, and the Year 9s should be extremely proud of their achievements. Their positive attitude, teamwork, and skill development were clear to see, and they continue to make excellent progress as a squad.

Well done, Indie, Tinie, Obehi, Fran, Anh, Neve, Daisy, Crystal, and Christina.

Football

Success for our Year 7 Girls Football Team

On Wednesday afternoon, our Year 7 Girls' Football Team travelled to Medina College for the annual indoor 5-a-side tournament.

The team delivered a brilliant performance. In attack, Georgia, Nina, and Matilda put the opposition goalkeepers under intense pressure with intricate combinations, accurate and powerful shooting. In defence, Evie showed great determination and excellent game awareness, stopping the opposition in their tracks. In goal, Evalyn was as dependable as ever, combining confident shot-stopping with fantastic distribution.

After a hard-fought competition, we are delighted to report that the team emerged victorious, taking home both the medals and the trophy.

The girls should be incredibly proud of their efforts, demonstrating superb team spirit and a strong determination to succeed.

