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January 2017

First of all, a warm welcome back after the Christmas break and to the January Edition of CTK News. I hope that you had a restful break with family and friends and are ready for the opportunities of 2017.

As I mentioned previously, CTK News is now a monthly newsletter and I do hope that you will take the time to read the items. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the new punctuality initiatives and I am pleased to report that the students have responded positively.

It will soon be Lent and during this time it is a great opportunity for reflection about our own faith and perhaps a chance for spiritual renewal.

I very much look forward to the special celebrations that will be organised at this time!

Kind regards  
**Carlo Cuomo**



## SCIENCE NEWS - Royal Society Top of the Bench Competition

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, four of our students - Isaac Dixon Year 11, James West Year 10, Ava Webb Year 9, and Alicja Kwiecinska Year 9, attended the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench Competition at the University of Derby. Out of over forty schools that entered the competition, we were one of 15 that made it through to this regional final.

After being put through their paces in a tough subject knowledge round and a practical and mathematical skills challenge. It was a pleasure to see students putting their subject knowledge and practical skills into an industrial context, with the company Lubrizol providing the challenges that students had to complete, which involved creating an oil based lubricant that had a specific viscosity.

The students did themselves and the school proud and finished in second place, just a fraction away from the overall winners from Nottingham High School. The students, whilst being from different year groups and not knowing each other, worked collectively as a team and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Dr Crook and I were incredibly proud of their achievement. Isaac Dixon has also given his version of the day, as he got to see lots more than the teachers.

**Adam Blazewicz-Bell**  
*Director of Learning of Science*



## ROYAL SOCIETY TOP OF THE BENCH COMPETITION

On Saturday 21st January, instead of having a nice lie-in in a warm bed, four students from Christ the King, myself included, decided to get up early, put on their uniforms and travel to school, still bleary-eyed and half-asleep. No, we weren't losing our minds; we had a noble task to undertake in Derby. We were to represent Christ the King at the regional round of 'Top of the Bench', a chemistry competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. After having passed Round 1 (a quiz which we did in school), we found ourselves in the top 15 schools in the East Midlands (right up there with Nottingham High School and Grantham Grammar School!), being asked to take part in a day of chemistry at the University of Derby.

The Christ the King team consisted of two excellent Year 9 students, Ava Webb and Alicja Kwiecinska, an outstanding Year 10, James West, and myself, Isaac Dixon (Year 11), and we were pleasantly surprised to have reached the second round. After having arrived at Derby and having been told a bit about the day, our accompanying teachers, Mr Bell and Dr Lissenden-Crook, (and all the teachers from the other schools) left the room to do teacher stuff, I presume, leaving us to do a quiz on chemistry. The quiz was in two parts, one of which was aimed at the two Year 9 students in each team, and the other of which was more suitable for the Year 10 and Year 11 in each team. I can't say what the Year 9 quiz was like, as I didn't do any of the questions on it, but the one which James and I attempted was very challenging!

It wasn't the usual questions which we get at school, e.g. 'Draw the electronic structure of silicon and state the charge of the ion.' - no, they were much more interesting than them (well, they were to me!). They were more like puzzles which were chemistry based (when I say puzzles, I don't mean wordsearches!). They told us some information about something, then asked us to deduce things, like the shape of a molecule or the colour of the sparks an element gives off when used in a firework. James and I almost finished the quiz completely, just leaving a couple of questions which we didn't have time for, but we weren't particularly confident – we thought we'd made a lot of mistakes. It was good to hear that Ava and Alicja felt that they'd done pretty well, though, and we presumed that other schools would have found it similarly challenging.

The next task was introduced by the sponsors, Lubrizol (a company which started out making oils and lubricants, but have since expanded to make all sorts of products which you use every day). As their main product is lubricants, our practical task was based on them. We had to make a lubricant with a specific thickness – it had to take an air bubble 6 seconds exactly to travel from the bottom of a test tube containing it to the top. After initially panicking a little, we soon got into it and had timed the travel of an air bubble through each of the four liquids which we were given (water, syrup, and two mystery liquids) separately.

While I was writing up the results of this experiment, the others were busy mixing the liquids together carefully, adding small amounts of each at a time until they had something which took roughly six seconds. When compared against the reference test tube, it was slightly out, so in the last few minutes, they added just the right amount of syrup to slow it down a tad, and it was perfect. Exactly six seconds. In the final part, each of the fifteen teams had to select two of their members to demonstrate that their liquid met the results, and to hand in the paperwork. After the practical was finished, we were informed of the current top five schools from the quiz only. We were immensely surprised and glad to hear that we were in second place!

After an intriguing demonstration by a doctor at the University of Derby involving glowing liquids, green flames which didn't go out and liquids whose colour cycled through the spectrum, followed by a full cold buffet, we waited anxiously for the results to be announced. We were behind schedule, so the ceremony was quick. Everyone got a certificate for participating, but when they got to the final three, and we hadn't yet been mentioned, we were hopeful and nervous simultaneously.

The fact that we were in the top three in the East Midlands was enough, but when we found out that we were in fact SECOND, we were elated! Of course, to get through to the national round would have been amazing, but we were grinning from ear to ear nonetheless. We were presented with our certificates and some gifts, then the first place was announced, Nottingham High School. They were awarded with a trophy and a place representing the East Midlands in the national round, so the very best of luck to them in what will be, judging by the regional round, a very difficult challenge!

Overall, we had a brilliant time; we exercised our brains, got to see some cool experiments and carry out our own one, got plenty of free food, and, as a bonus, came second.

Not what I usually do on a Saturday morning...

**A report from Isaac Dixon  
Year 11**



## DRAMA NEWS -

### Year 13 showcase their last ever performance!

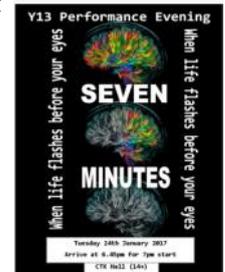
Y13 showcased their last ever performance on Tues 24<sup>th</sup> January. The students have worked incredibly hard to create what I think is an outstanding piece of A Level Theatre. The students involved are Bria Anderson, Sam Jones, Niamh McDonagh, Riley Ashworth, Shazaib Manzoor and Keaton Sharpe.



Y9 drama students are excited to be going to see 'Touched' at Nottingham Playhouse. They will also get the chance to meet award winning actresses, Vicky McClure and Aisling Loftus in a Q & A session organised just for schools. Y10 theatre trip to see a matinee performance of 'Woman in Black' is on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Thank you to all students who auditioned for Drama Academy. Well done to you all. If you weren't successful this time, please keep trying on the next round of auditions.

Congratulations to those who achieved a place this time and we look forward to welcoming you on 31<sup>st</sup> January.



Good luck to Sam Jones with his upcoming auditions for Drama school!

**Louisa Stanley**  
**Drama Teacher**



## FOOTBALL ACADEMY NEWS

### Nottingham Forest Player Visit

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, the 24 students who are part of the school's football academy had a player visit from Nottingham Forest first team player, Matty Cash. The sessions run on a weekly basis and they are delivered by Nottingham Forest Community Coaches. As a reward for the students' hard work over the course of the year, Nottingham Forest organised



for Matty Cash to come and visit the boys, taking part in coaching part of the session.

Nottingham Forest also brought along their media department and Demarni Bingham (Year 9) was interviewed as if he was a first team player. The media team also created a video about the afternoon which can be found on Nottingham Forest's club website. We would like to thank Nottingham Forest for this opportunity and congratulate our students on the progress they have made so far this year.

**Andy Riding**

**Head of Department**

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS -

### Inspiration from Design Museum Visit



Inspired by visits to the Design Museum in London over the years and the engagement that students have with items that are 3D and interactive, the Design & Technology department are changing their classroom environments to further engage and entice students to questions what is around them!



The new exhibition will be in place for a few months before moving forward. It also promotes sustainability. The boards are past Art exhibition boards and all the items on display were no-longer required by their owners yet still demonstrate Industrial Design features used daily.

This leaves only the Technician, Mr Johnson, wondering what else his department will bring in!

**Mr Bull**

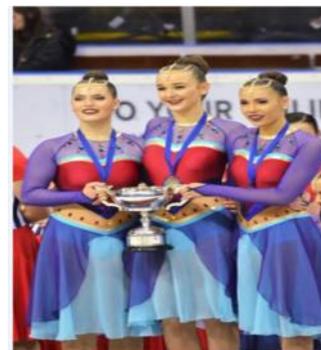
**Head of Technology**

## **BETHANY WARNER YEAR 12**

### **Icicles' Synchronised Skating Team**

This weekend Bethany Warner and her synchronised skating team 'Icicles' defended their British Championship titles for the fifth year running. They had two really amazing skates which scored highly over the two days. Their short program on Saturday was skating to 'Forever young' and Sunday's skate was to 'Bollywood'. Both performances had the audience in awe as they scored a combined total of over 114 points! Bethany has now gone to Salzburg to get the final scores needed to qualify for the Junior World Championships. We wish them all lots of luck .

**Catherine Negus**  
**Teaching Assistant**



## **ISABELLE TAYLOR YEAR 8**

### **Camber Sands Dance Competition**



Belle attended Camber Sands Weekend Competition near Folkstone representing DTA 'Dance technique academy'. This was a World Qualifier in Freestyle. She came 2nd in Solo and 4th in slow, qualifying in Solo. She is now Intermediate in Solo .

Isabelle came 2nd in u14 out of 128. It means she has moved up into an intermediate - (the picture of her in black and feathers).

She came 4th out of 178 children u14. She didn't qualify but danced beautifully. She came 4th in 'street' out of the 180 u14 -that's the fun one!

**Paula Taylor**  
**Parent**

## **MUSIC NEWS**

Christmas at Christ The King has been busy within the Music department. CTK had not had a Christmas Concert in over 10 years, so I decided that it was about time we celebrated this festive time of year with a wonderful extravaganza of music performed by all years. Highlights included a drum duet by Jack Sedghi-Langham and Eris Popakonstantinou, Santa Baby by Lianne Nismal, piano solos from Elizabeth Harrison, James Cureton and Isabelle Taylor and many other popular and classical performances.

Year 11 Music student performed a beautiful ensemble version of 'Somewhere Only We Know' and 'Say Something' with Joe Cousins, Ally Bartley, Elizabeth Harrison, Poppy Scoffings and Elijah Shekete. Lennon Bradley and Demarni Bingham brought the house down with Chris Brown and Craig David.....this even got Mr Cuomo dancing....if we can call it that!!!

Sixth form students really brought the spirit of Christmas to life with their wonderful readings of 'Twas The Night Before Christmas. It was a festive concert that was thoroughly enjoyed by all and will feature again next year!

Also general music news:

- Chiara De Vivo passed her Grade 5 Singing exam with distinction
- Luiza Troccolo passed her Grade 5 Singing exam with merit
- Ethan Wilson-Blair passed his Grade 5 trumpet

**Kate Harvey**  
**Head of Music**

## ART NEWS

### Art Exhibition – St James Hotel, St James Hotel, 1 Rutland Street, Nottingham 'Humans' – GCSE and A Level work — February 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 – March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy has always been extremely proud of its students' artistic talents. This year we are delighted to be able to showcase an impressive selection of work to the wider public at St James Hotel, Nottingham and we hope that these images will provide you with an insight into the Creativity of our students whilst appreciating the student's hard work and dedication to their craft. This is a great opportunity for the students so please try to call in, see the students work and maybe enjoy a coffee whilst admiring the artwork. The art work displayed is a mixture of Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 artwork.

#### Year 11 'mixed media' portrait project.

Our students have developed their work based on the theme of portraiture and have been encouraged to explore and refine a range of different media such as acrylic paints, watercolours, pencils, collage and photography. They have responded in individual ways looking at different contemporary and more traditional artists for inspiration. Students have had the freedom to depict themselves, their family members, their peers or popular icons.

#### A level 'Personal Investigation' project.

A level students have created work from their own individually chosen themes. Inspiration is drawn from human emotions, hopes and desires, personal histories and a sense of place. Students have extensively researched artists and other aspects of popular culture. The result is an impressive array of the final outcomes of their projects including photographs and paintings.

#### Exhibiting Artists and Photographers:

##### **Year 11 GCSE Art**

Desiree Agboni  
Lauren Akers  
Grace Cooney  
Jedidia Muchina  
Eloisa Oldham  
Bruno Truben  
Alexandra Bartley  
Zong Tao Wang  
Ellie Oakes

##### **Year 12 Fine Art**

Eugenia Hamilton  
Diarmuid Webber

##### **Year 13 Photography**

Lauren Avery  
Oliver Cole  
Seamus Parr

##### **Year 13 Fine Art**

Shirin Hassanali  
Katie Healy  
Megan Rowley



#### HISTORY



**John McGahey**  
*Head of Art*

## NEWS—WW1 DAY

On January 11<sup>th</sup> our year 8 students took part in a day of workshops about WW1. They had time in the Chapel with Joe Hopkins creating a liturgy on Remembrance, time in the IT room researching local soldiers and those who had the same surname. Dr Malik from the Sherwood Practice came in to talk to students about his family's involvement in WW1 and how people from his birth place in India were involved in the war.



The main part of the day was based in the hall with Jason King. Jason bought in a vast amount of memorabilia and students were able to dress up in the clothing and take part in role plays, along with using their imaginations to create stories surrounding the History behind the artefacts. Our students found this day very enjoyable and found it an

exciting way to learn about WW1.

**Danielle Brown**  
*History Teacher*



It was great to be able to bring 50 Year 8 students up to the Briars for a week long retreat. It may seem quite odd for out of the whole year we decide to bring a group of Year 8 students to the Derbyshire countryside in January. We could bring them in the summer when it is definitely shorts and t-shirt weather, but we don't, we bring them now in 4/5 layers weather.



This is because the Year 8 students are just about to pick their options. For most of them this will be the first time that they think about what they would like to do in the future. To think "What am I good at?" "What do I enjoy?" "This may mean choosing something completely different from their friends, to decide what is best for them rather than for their friends or parents. Therefore, five days away to explore our faith through games and activities comes at a perfect time.



Our retreat was focused on encouraging the students to want to make a Difference. In their small groups they explored themes of forgiveness, global issues, having courage to speak up for what is right, and supporting one another. The small groups are led by a member of the Briar's team and are created to separate friendship groups; not to cause trauma, but to establish new relationships, to change the environment the young people may be used to.

Our three full days had particular themes; Tuesday – The Call, Wednesday – The Future, Thursday – The World. On Tuesday the day was focused on responding to the Call of Pope Francis to young people when he became Pope: 'Have courage. Go forth. Make noise.' Now you may think the last thing you want 50 12 to 13 years olds to do is encourage them to make any more noise. The noise the

Pope wants them to make is the noise of speaking against the problems in the world and speaking up for those in need, correcting those who are doing what is wrong and spreading the Gospel. They explored this - by sharing their own thoughts and feelings about themselves with one another, taking the time to listening is important when making noise. It helps you consider what is important to you. How do you want to be perceived?



The Future on Wednesday began with a fun game called the *Game of Life* where points could be won for trying out different activities such as going to the Briars gym, the Chapel, the Briars Factory, the Briars School and the Briars Café. Each venue had different tasks for people to do; the harder the task the more points earned, but the more they did the more points they got. The game was aimed to show that we get out what we put into life,. If we want to have a great experience we need to be open to do more, and that the more interesting life is the one that is balanced. From this they focused on what brings them true happiness and celebrating this. The day finished with a reconciliation service, before you can move on you have to let go of what has been holding you back. The service was based around letting God mend us but to get this point home the groups decorated flowerpots and then we smashed them with bats! They then had to put them back together and what was



connected was beautiful, unique and because of the cracks was a perfect t-light holder. The brokenness made it possible for the light to shine out. Many of the students took the opportunity to partake in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Thursday was focused at looking beyond us, particularly to Bolivia. CAFOD are working closely with Bolivia and the lack of water there, again through a game involving water. The game was rigged so that some had it easier than others, highlighting the real life situation in Bolivia and how we take water for granted. They made a promise of how they will be more

responsible with water. Thursday evening was a time of celebration with Mass, Roast Dinner, a talent show and Disco. The talent show was of a very high standard, piano playing, ukulele, harmonica, guitar, singing and dancing until the staff got up that is... It was a fantastic week because of the hard work of the Briars, staff and team and the willingness of our students to give everything a go. My hope is that they will continue to be as courageous and open hearted as they were this week. I'm very grateful to Miss McKee, Mrs Felstead, Mr Mellor, Mr McKay and Mr Farrell for giving up their time to make it all happen. They were great sports at getting involved in it and showed great care for all the students above and beyond what was required.

**Joe Hopkins**  
**Lay Chaplain**

## Extra Curriculum Timetable

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
<b>Breakfast</b> Morning Grace in the Chapel	<b>Breakfast</b> Polish club Morning Grace in the Chapel	<b>Breakfast</b> Morning Grace in the Chapel	<b>Breakfast</b> Polish club Morning Grace in the Chapel	<b>Breakfast</b> Morning Grace in the Chapel
<b>Lunchtime</b> LRC open ICE open - story time in LRC Fashion Club Year 7 Boys Volleyball CSE Technology Backgammon E15	<b>Lunchtime</b> LRC open ICE open - craft Polish club U8 Boys Dodgeball - All Years - Sports Hall GCSE Technology Rock School GCSE German Handwriting Club Science Club Senior Choir	<b>Lunchtime</b> LRC open ICE open - sewing club Girls Dodgeball –All Years Boys Basketball Years 7-8 Team Practice Glee Club Fashion Club Year 8-10 Gardening Club Beginners Italian Games Club - AP room	<b>Lunchtime</b> LRC open ICE open Polish club U8 Gardening Club Girls Volleyball - All Years Girls Basketball - All Years Homework Club in ICE Games Club - AP room	<b>Lunchtime</b> ICE open - Film club Backgammon E15 American West Study Group Boys Basketball Years 10 & 11 Games Club - AP room
<b>After School</b> Drama Club Homework Club Chess Club - Inclusion English Revision for Yr 11- E4	<b>After School</b> Maths Revision for Year 11 –R4 Netball - All Years Table Tennis Academy GCSE Child Development Rock School Homework Club GCSE Technology Drama Academy GCSE German ICE– Revision/Study Group	<b>After School</b> Girls Football All Years Homework Club Boxing	<b>After School</b> Sports Fixtures Inclusion Sports Homework Club Gardening Club ICE - Sports Club GCSE Technology GCSE Italian GCSE French Support CTK Band	<b>After School</b>

### **Homework Club**

How can you have a social life and still get all of your school work done?

The after school study programme at Christ the King was set up for students to get a start on their daily homework assignments but also provides a quiet area in which they can prepare for their subjects.

The programme has become very popular with students who also enjoy group study. Through after school study we can help promote the importance of responsibility, managing time and developing a positive attitude to learning.

We would like to encourage anyone who has homework, or would like to use the facility for personal study, to visit the quiet, friendly atmosphere on offer, which is equipped with computers, printing, internet access and all of your study resources, including the expertise of a member of staff.

The After School Study Club is supervised by Mr M Ward and runs from the end of school until 4:30pm every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (during term time only) in the Learning Resource Centre.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE NEWS

### 'Glastonbury Goes Global'

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, two teams of Year 9 students from CTK, one Spanish and one French, participated in a "Glastonbury Goes Global", a business language competition organised by the Business Language Champions and held at The Joseph Whitaker School in Rainworth. Students were competing against several other local schools. The students had to complete a sequence of tasks, designed to promote the use of spontaneous language, which is a key component of the new GCSE course.

Out of nine teams in all the CTK Spanish team came second and received individual prizes. In addition two students from the French team, Eimear Gallagher and Demarni Bingham, received individual awards for effort and attitude. It is to be hoped that we can build on this success and organise a similar event for students next year. Special thanks to Miss Soleirol for organising the trip and to Mrs Henley, Mr Wilson and Fraser Sanders for accompanying the students.

*Heather Dennis*

*Modern Foreign Languages Teacher*

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### Is Your Child Entitled To a Free School Meal?

Eating well at the right time is proven to have a significant impact on the learning and the ability to concentrate of young people. It is extremely important that young people are well equipped for school and ready to learn. One contributing factor to this is eating healthily. At Christ the King, we understand the financial difficulties that some parents experience on a daily basis and we would like you to consider applying for a free school meal, if you think you are eligible.

If you are entitled to one of the following benefits, you may be entitled to claim:

- income support
- income based jobseeker's allowance
- income related employment support allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- child tax credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 guarantee element of state pension credit



Because we are a cashless school, all students in receipt of a free school meal remain anonymous and the information is treated as private and confidential. There is no longer the need to feel that there is a 'stigma' attached to students in receipt of a free meal.

You may or may not be aware that claiming your entitlement to a free school meal also now guarantees your child access to additional funding which could help with the purchase of uniform, school equipment and contributions to school trips.

If you live in Nottinghamshire visit the County Council website or call 01623 433009.

If you live in the City of Nottingham visit the Nottingham City Council website or call 0115 915 4084.

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