



Bulletin – Lent Term 1

I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you many blessings for 2023. I am hoping that this bulletin will become a regular way for us to communicate some important pieces of information with you. The aim of it is to enable us to work together more effectively to support your children and their education. It will also allow us to share with you the work that we are doing in school to improve our provision so that you can be confident that we are continually working hard to provide the best education and care for everyone in our care.

As always, we would welcome any feedback or suggestions about how we can help you to support your child(ren). With this in mind, we will be carrying out another parental survey this half term. Please can I ask that you all take the time to complete this when it is shared with you. You will know from the feedback sent following the last survey that your views are used to inform our developments, so it is crucial that as many parents as possible have input to these developments. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Jo Love

Catholic Life

We ended last term with a wonderful liturgy at the Good Shepherd Church that had been organised by Lucy and the Chaplaincy Team. We hope that some of you were able to join us through the link we shared. We are looking for other ways to enable you to join in with our prayer life. We are hoping that when the newly appointed second Lay Chaplain, Charles, joins us we will have the capacity to do this.

Our Mission Statement forms the basis of all that we do which is why so much of the language we use in school is centred around our CARE Mission. Each half term we have a mission focus.

Last term each tutor group collected donations for food hampers. 30 food hampers were collected by Arnold Foodbank and will have been used to support many families in our local area over the Christmas period. Thank you, as always, for your generosity in supporting this.

This term Mrs Walton (Director of Catholic Life) will be launching our Mission Champions initiative. This will see us working with students to develop the opportunities for them to support and lead on the mission focus for each half term. A student voice activity last term told us that they would welcome more opportunities to put their faith into action and so we have responded by creating this opportunity for students to volunteer to lead this important aspect of our work. More information will be shared in our bulletin next half term when the Mission Champions have been chosen.

Safeguarding

Working with you to keep your children safe is one of our biggest priorities. We have a lot of information on our website that can be used to keep you up to date with the latest concerns to be aware of.

Many of the issues that we deal with in school begin with, or are made worse, by students misusing social media. I would urge you to talk to your children about safe and appropriate use of social media and the internet. I would also suggest that you regularly check your children's social media accounts so that you can be aware of anything that poses a risk to them or others. If you have any concerns, you can share them with your child's Achievement Leader who will work with you to take any necessary action in school.

Anti-Bullying

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group. Bullying is not tolerated in school, and we reminded students of this last term during Anti-Bullying week.

We have recently appointed 30 peer mentors to help us to work to put a stop to any bullying that does take place.

Bullying can be reported anonymously by emailing stop@christtheking.notts.sch.uk

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Behaviour and Attendance

Good behaviour and attendance are crucial to ensuring that your children make the progress that they are expected to. At the start of each term we remind students how they are expected to behave towards others to ensure they are successful, not just in school but in their future professional lives. Please can I ask that you support us in reinforcing these expectations with your children. If a sanction is issued to your child for a breach of the behaviour policy it is important that your child knows that you will support this as this is more likely to ensure that their behaviour changes which will allow them to learn effectively. Achievement Leaders monitor attendance daily and they will work closely with parents to ensure their children attend school regularly and on time. Please remember that you must provide school with a reason for any absences. Poor attendance and punctuality significantly impact on children's education so it is very important that we work together to ensure that your child's attendance is at least 97%. If you need any support with this, please contact your child's Achievement Leader.

Students are expected to be in full uniform at all times. If there are any issues, we do have some spare uniform in school. Please speak to your child's form tutor if you need any support with this.

Upcoming Events

6th January – *Feast of the Epiphany – Sacrament of Reconciliation and Voluntary Mass at 12pm*

10th January – Year 11 Careers Lesson (P2)

11th January – Year 7 Careers Lesson (P3)
Year 8 Options Evening 6-7.30pm

W/C 16th January – GCSE Music Exam Recordings

18th January – An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip
(Years 10-12 Drama students)
Year 10 Careers Lesson (P5)

25th January – Year 8 Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

26th January – *Canterbury House Mass (P3)*

26-27th January – Y12/13 Mock Art Exam

30th January – Catholic Life Lesson – whole school (P1)

1st February – Intermediate Maths Challenge
(Y9, Y10 & Y11)

3rd February – *Sacrament of Reconciliation and Voluntary Mass at 12pm*

6th February – Year 10 Briars Visit – all week

6th February – *Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day Week*

7th February – Primary Visit to watch school show – Annie
School show 7pm

8th February – 6th Form Parents Evening 3.30-6pm
School show 7pm

9th February – School show 7pm

Assessment and Feedback

We have introduced progress booklets to Year 7 & Year 8 students which allows them to record feedback from their teachers about what they are doing well and what they need to do to improve. Please take some time to look through this with your child and ensure that they understand how to make the necessary improvements in their work.

If your child is in Years 9-13, they should be able to answer these questions based on feedback from their teachers. Please talk to your child about their work. If you have any concerns please contact their class teacher who will be able to support you.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum are a group of volunteer parents/carers who meet regularly with the Senior Leadership Team to support us in developing our provision so that we can best meet the needs of all students. Our current focus is on improving communication, enhancing our enrichment offer, raising funds to support the student visit to Cambodia in 2024 and developing the range of books available in our LRC. If you would like to volunteer to join parent forum please email

head@christtheking.notts.sch.uk

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Student Learning Journey

Our website contains information about each subject that we teach and the topics that will be covered during each half term. Each subject has recently created a student friendly curriculum journey document that maps out the topics that your child will study during their 7 years at CTK. Please take some time to have a look at these documents and discuss with your children what they are learning in school. This will allow you to have conversations with your child about the topics they enjoy learning about as well as the ones that they may find more challenging. These can be found on our website. <https://www.christtheking.notts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/>

Enrichment Opportunities

We emailed all parents last term to ask for your support with developing our enrichment offer. Thank you to those who have already responded and volunteered to support us. If you feel that you have any skills, experiences that you could share with our community and have not yet completed the feedback form could I ask you to do this by the end of this month so that we can begin to make plans to develop our enrichment offer. Thank you for your support with this. <https://forms.office.com/e/OKVFAfZq5M>

Staff absence and Cover teachers

Some parents have expressed concerns about the number of lessons last term that required supply teachers. I want to assure you that we do everything that we can to get the best teachers in school to cover for staff absences. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of teachers available, and this can make it very challenging. This is not an issue that is exclusive to CTK but one that is faced by many schools in the local area. Be assured that we continue to do all we can to address the issue so that your children are receiving the education they deserve.

How can I support my child?

We are often asked by parents what you can do to support your child's learning. We are currently working on a document that will help you with this and we will share it with you this half term.

In the meantime, we would encourage you to support your children through the dialogue you have with them regarding the learning that takes place in school and supporting them with homework activities that they are given.

Homework is set every night and should be written in your child's planner. If you have any concerns or questions about homework, please contact their Achievement Leader in the first instance.

Reading

Our Tutor reading programme enables all students to access a broad range of reading material, irrespective of their own reading level. The programme involves the tutor reading to students twice a week during tutor time. Tutors model key aspects of reading, such as pace, pausing, tone and expression.

Each department supports reading by recommending, wider reading material specific to each subject. This information can be found on our website in each curriculum area. It will allow our students to explore areas of interest and further their knowledge and understanding.

Vacancies

We currently have a number of support staff vacancies in school that we have been unable to recruit to. These vacancies inevitably have an impact on the smooth running of the school and so we are hoping to recruit to them as soon as possible. If you know anyone who might be interested in applying for one of these roles please can you direct them to <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies/> where they can find out more.





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Pupil Premium Funding the cost of living crisis

The cost of living crisis is affecting everyone in different ways. We are wanting to support all in our community in whatever ways that we can.

Uniform – if you have any items that your children have outgrown but that is still good quality perhaps you could donate that to school? If you need uniform, then please contact your child's tutor or Achievement Leader and we will see what we can do to support you with this.

Free School Meals – If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible to claim free school meals for your child. We know that parents are often reluctant to claim this as they are concerned others will know about it but as we operate a cashless system the meal would be claimed in the same way as if it was paid for using the squid account. Please make this claim if you are eligible as it provides access to other types of support that will allow your child to take part in enrichment activities and school trips. To find out if you are eligible please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Little Acts of Kindness Fund – Our Trust has set up a fund to offer financial support for families and this fund can be used in a variety of ways. If you would like to find out more about this please look on the Trust website <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/our-trust/little-acts-of-kindness-fund/>.

You can email head@christtheking.notts.sch.uk if you need to make a claim from this fund.

Careers Education

This term our students will have access to a range of careers interventions through our bespoke careers curriculum.

On Wednesday 11th, January we will be having our year 8 options evening from 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

As part of this our year 8 students will be taking part in an 'Options Morning' that will allow them to explore subjects that they may not have been exposed to during year 7 and 8 as well as having a careers focus in each of their subjects where students will explore career opportunities linked to each subject.

As part of our careers curriculum year 7, 9 and 11 will have a bespoke careers lessons as well as having a careers session specifically aimed to support our year 9 students with SEND.

Our careers advisor Sean Panting will continue to have 1-1 careers meetings with our year 11 students to help them prepare for their next steps in their education.

Sixth Form

During each academic year, our sixth form students take part in the 'CTK Care Charter' where each student logs the hours that they volunteer within the school community. The students lead on activities such as paired reading, delivering extra-curricular clubs, supporting students in lessons and mentoring students from younger year groups. Rewards are given out at the end of each academic year based on the number of 'logged' hours that students undertake. Students then use this information to support their applications for Universities, Higher-Level Apprenticeships or part time work during their studies. Our sixth form students have also led a number of fundraising activities with the rest of the school, raising over £800 for Children in Need through events such as 'Soak the Teacher' and homemade bake sales.

With the help of their form tutors, our Year 13 students have recently submitted their UCAS and Higher-Level Apprenticeship applications. In recent weeks, students have had interviews at institutions such as Cambridge University and other Russell Group Universities. We are extremely proud of our sixth form students and wish them the best of luck in preparation for the next steps in their education.

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