



# Bulletin – Lent Term 2

I hope that you have all had a restful half term break. I wanted to say thank you to all who took the time to complete the parental survey last half term. We had 275 responses. We always appreciate you taking the time to provide us with your views as your feedback allows us to identify the areas that you, as parents, feel that we are successful in as well as the areas for further improvement.

We are pleased to know that your children **feel safe** in school, that you feel that **behaviour is good** and that students are shown how to **behave respectfully** towards others. It is also good to hear that you value the **Catholic Life and Mission of the school**. We were also pleased to see that there have been improvements since the last survey on your responses to the questions about knowing **what your children will learn** and how **well they are doing**.

The areas that you have told us that you would like us to improve are related to **communication** and your **involvement in the prayer life** of the school. We have just launched the Arbor app which, when you all have access to this, will make communication smoother. We have also recently appointed a second Lay Chaplain to work across our hub who has lots of ideas about how we can involve you in the prayer life of the school so we will be sharing these with you soon.

There are a small number of parents who expressed concerns of an individual nature. As the survey is anonymous, I am not able to contact you directly. If you have concerns, please can I urge you to contact the relevant staff member to discuss this. If you still feel that your issue is not resolved email **head@christtheking.notts.sch.uk** so that we can work with you to find a resolution. Jo Love

### Catholic Life and Mission

Our focus this term is obviously on our Lenten pledges. We will spend time in prayer on Ash Wednesday asking our students to focus their thoughts on how we can take part in the three challenges of Lent to pray, fast and give to others.

#### **Pray**

Students will be given the opportunity during form Acts of Worship to reflect on the stations of the cross. These are prayerful reflections on Jesus' journey to the cross. Staff and students in school have recorded these prayers and they will be made available on the website for any parents who would like to join us in these prayerful moments. (link)

#### **Fast**

Students are being encouraged to give something up during Lent to share in Jesus' experience in the desert at the start of his ministry. We are encouraging them to think about how fasting doesn't have to mean going without, it can also be a commitment to do more for those around them.

#### **Give to others**

There will be several fundraising events taking place this half term, including a non-uniform day, cake sales and much more. We encourage students to do what they can to support these events.

### Safeguarding

Last term we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week in school. The theme this year was **'Let's connect'**. Students were asked to reflect on the importance of the people in their lives who they have connections with. Miss Tyrrell, along with members of the School Council, led the school in an Act of Worship that reminded us that God created us to be in connection with others. He asks us to show love for others in these connections through the commandment to "Love our neighbour".

Events were organised throughout the week to show students how to build healthy connections with others, particularly reminding them of the importance of keeping themselves safe in these connections.

School council members offered sessions during the week to encourage us to speak to others and make connections, building new relationships with others within the community. Students were offered crafting and mindful activities as well as opportunities to use prayer and meditation to support their mental health. They also organised a bake sale to raise money for Place2Be, a children's mental health charity.

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## Behaviour and Attendance

### **Uniform**

Following the half term break, we still have several students who are not arriving at school in their full school uniform. If your child has grown out of their school shoes, then a replacement will be necessary. Blazers and ties are a compulsory item and MUST be worn at all times.

If you have any items that your child has outgrown and would like to donate it to school for other students to benefit from, then please drop it off at our school reception.

### **Conduct Curriculum**

We began this half term with our conduct curriculum lesson that celebrated the achievements of many students in school. We also issued reminders to students about our Classroom CARE Habits and Respectful communication. We paid particularly attention to how students conduct themselves within our community on their way to and from school. We appreciate your support with ensuring that your children make a positive contribution to our community, always conducting themselves in a safe and respectful manner, on buses and whilst walking to and from school.

### **Attendance**

Improved attendance continues to be a focus in school, and we encourage our students to attend school and aim for a minimum of 97% of the time. This is proven to have a positive impact on student outcomes. The school day begins at 8:45am and we expect students to be on the school site in good time to arrive at form at 8:45am.

### Upcoming Events

- 20<sup>th</sup> February Year 11 mock fortnight
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February Ash Wednesday – Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- 1<sup>st</sup> March Possible strike Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March Voluntary lunchtime Mass 12.00
- 6<sup>th</sup> March Year 13 mock week
- 8<sup>th</sup> March Year 10 Parents Evening  
*3:30pm – 6:00pm*
- 15<sup>th</sup> March Possible strike day
- 16<sup>th</sup> March Possible strike day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March Year 11 Intervention Evening  
*(invitation only) 3:30pm – 5:30pm*
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March Lindisfarne house mass 11.25
- 30<sup>th</sup> March Recognition lunch with HT  
Movie Afternoon – *Reward for winning House*
- 31<sup>st</sup> March Lenten Liturgy –  
*1pm at Good Shepherd Church*  
*Live link will be shared with parents*

### School Production

Thank you to those who came to support our production of Annie. It was a fantastic celebration of the wealth of talent at CTK. 86 students took part in the musical. They have been rehearsing for this event since October last year, being supported by Mr Akers, Miss Leask, Mrs Harvey and Mrs Stanley.

We invited the Year 6 students from our partner primaries to come and watch the dress rehearsal and those who were able to come had a brilliant time. It was great to see so many parents, grandparents and friends come to support the event. We enjoyed hearing the positive comments that were shared by all who attended the show.

We are very proud of all the students who got involved performing on stage, playing in the band and supporting backstage to ensure that everything ran smoothly. We know that these events are a crucial part of our student's development and so we are very grateful to all the staff who worked so hard to make sure that the students had a wonderful experience.

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## Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations

This half term, our Year 11 and Year 13 students sit their last set of mock exams. We have been supporting them in school to prepare effectively for these.

This is their final attempt to practice their revision and exam techniques. If you have children preparing for these exams, please encourage them to engage fully in the experience so that they can learn from it. They will be given feedback from their class teachers. They should pay close attention to this feedback as it is this part of the process that will have the biggest impact on their success in the final exams later in the year.

## Anti-Bullying

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group. Bullying is not tolerated in school.

We remind students regularly about the importance of speaking out against bullying. Our survey showed that you believe that the school works effectively to stop bullying. We want to remind you that bullying can be reported anonymously by emailing **[stop@christtheking.notts.sch.uk](mailto:stop@christtheking.notts.sch.uk)**

## Open Mornings

Some parents commented in the survey that due to Covid they had missed the opportunity to come into school. This has left them feeling quite disconnected from their child's experience. We have reflected on this and decided that we would like to offer the opportunity for parents to come in to have a tour of the school. To ensure that these visits do not disrupt the learning of our students there will need to be limits to the number of parents on site at the same time. If you would like to take up this offer, then please contact the school office to book an appointment. The visits are being offered during the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## Sixth Form

Since the end of last half term, every student in Year 11 has had a Post-16 meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Sixth Form. These meetings are set up to support our students in making the right decision for them with regards to their next steps in education, training or employment.

Naturally, during these conversations, a large number of students outline their desire to remain with us in the sixth form as they appreciate the supportive community here at Christ the King. A large number of students also reference the expert teaching that they receive during their time with us and feel that as our teaching staff know their strengths and best ways to learn, it makes sense to extend their journey with us as they move into Post-16 education.

## Homework

This is a reminder that homework for Year 7 and 8 takes the form of knowledge organiser activities. Each student has been given a folder which contains the required knowledge organizer, but this can also be found on the school website underneath the 'curriculum' tab. Homework for students in Years 9-11 is set on a regular basis by the class teacher and should be written in your child's planner.

Students who have not yet applied to the sixth form but do intend to stay need to make sure that their applications are handed in by 6th March to ensure that their subject choices are considered when creating the option blocks for Post 16. If you have a child in Year 11, please discuss this with them to ensure that they have handed in their application.

We are currently updating the Post-16 section of our school website to give a true representation of our sixth form. However, if you have any questions about this area of school, please feel free to contact Mr Reddington (Head of Sixth Form) at **[nreddington@christtheking.notts.sch.uk](mailto:nreddington@christtheking.notts.sch.uk)**

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## Communication

In response to feedback from the Parent survey last year and the Parent Forum group we have recently launched the Arbor app/Portal. Please can I urge you to download this, if you haven't done so already. When all parents are engaging with this then it will allow us an easy means of communication between home and school. For this to work effectively we do need the majority of parents to be able to make use of it. If you have any questions about how to install this then please contact the school office.

## Chaplaincy

We finished half term with a trip to the Briars with Year 10. The students who came had a fantastic experience. The theme was 'Chosen' and the students reflected throughout the week on their goals and how God valued each of them as individuals. Each morning, a different group of students planned and led morning prayer which enabled them to grow in confidence in both planning and leading prayer. They had small group time which involved both activities and reflection.

The trip was a mixture of reflection and social time. On the final night, the students had a 'formal dinner' followed by Bongo's bingo. They enjoyed a range of activities including a walk in Derbyshire countryside and games on the Briars ground.

We're looking forward to the upcoming half term. Especially the Year 8 trip to the Briars in April, the day trip to the Catholic Conference 'Flame' in London and our end of term Liturgy.

On Shrove Tuesday, our Sixth Form students supported the Good Shepherd Church Parish Pancake Celebration. They were in charge of toppings and tidying up and had a fantastic time with our local parishioners, receiving brilliant feedback for their work and earning several hours towards their CTK CARE Charters.

## CTK School Council

To support the work of the Eco Team in school, this term the School Council will be organising a (RE)LoveOurStuff event, which will take place during the last week of term. This will allow us to develop our mission as Stewards of Creation, help cut our carbon footprint as well as make us think about the impact of fast fashion and textile waste.

Initially, the School Council will be organising a pop-up secondhand store, offering preloved uniform. To do this they will need your help and support. Could you please send in any preloved uniform donations, including PE kit, into school, either with students directly or drop it into the recycling tub in reception. Hopefully this will go a little way to help us reduce the 1.4 million school uniform that are thrown away every year as well as help us with the increasing cost of living that we are all experiencing.

If this proves to be successful, their aim is then to run this each term and extend it to include non-uniform items too.

After the school council will be looking to launch our Get Loud on Litter Campaign, the aim of which is to review the litter situation in school as well as make us all think about the amount of litter that we all produce and how we can dispose of this more effectively.

## Careers

This half term we have a busy schedule in our careers curriculum including individual careers lessons in Years 9 and 11 and a bespoke lesson for our Year 9 SEND students, as well as our usual 1-1 careers advice for Year 11 students.

We also have careers week from 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 3<sup>rd</sup> March. During the week, students can sign up to lunch time sessions with a wide variety of employers and universities. There will be 10 sessions running throughout the week.

Finally, can I encourage all Year 10 students to complete their work experience sign up before the Easter Holidays. Support with this process can be found on our school website.





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### Reading

The last two weeks of half-term saw students in Year 7 and 8 complete STAR reader tests. Several students made impressive gains in their reading ages to demonstrate their passion for reading, and all students should now have their latest ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) number written on the front of their purple reading diaries to help them choose their next book appropriately. Students and parents can use [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to check that book levels are in line with student ZPDs.

So far this year, students in Year 7 and 8 have managed to successfully pass 778 reading comprehension quizzes on Accelerated Reader which sees them accumulate in excess of 32,000,000 words and, if we include Year 8's statistics from last year, the total raises to an even more impressive 74,000,000 words over almost 2,000 quizzes. Currently leading Year 7 are 7W, with over 8,700,000 words, and 8A, who are on a mind-blowing 23,000,000.

Of course, there are students who are making extra special efforts to increase their reading ages (or maybe they just love books?!) and our most recent Reading Millionaires are Kitty Dickinson, Torres Wong, Fiona George, and William Sinclair who have all been issued with special badges to acknowledge their efforts. Naturally, an extra special mention must go to Maia Ritoridis who is our latest Reading Multimillionaire and she has been issued with a golden reading badge to celebrate her being only the 6<sup>th</sup> student in the current Key Stage 3 who has reached this spectacular landmark!

Finally, a huge thankyou to all parents who are supporting their child's learning by encouraging reading – whether it's through reading with them or to them, speaking to them about what they are currently reading, or helping them to set and achieve targets related to their reading – it really does make a massive difference to their academic progress and life chances.

### Inclusion

On Wednesday 8th March 2023 the Inclusion Team will be hosting an afternoon tea for the parents of students who have special educational needs from 2:00pm – 4:15pm. Feel free to drop in for a cup of tea or a slice of cake and the opportunity to see our SEND department and staff. At 2:15pm and 3:15pm, Danielle Eddyshaw, our Inclusion Manager, will give a brief overview of the Inclusion Department and the purpose of the afternoon tea which will happen each term. Please email Katie Hoole if you would like to book a place [khoole@christtheking.notts.sch.uk](mailto:khoole@christtheking.notts.sch.uk).

Starting from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Inclusion Team will be offering SEND surgeries for parents to discuss any concerns that may have regarding their child having special educational needs. Appointments will be available every Wednesday between 3pm-4:30pm. Please book your initial appointment with Katie Hoole [Khoole@christtheking.notts.sch.uk](mailto:Khoole@christtheking.notts.sch.uk)

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Sarah Purdie and Trudy Carlisle as our Lead Teaching Assistants. They will continue to develop our provision and curriculum in supporting our students with special educational needs.

Following 3 years of hard work, our Year 11's have successfully been awarded their bronze and silver ASDAN Award and are on track to achieving their gold award. These students will also be part of hosting the afternoon tea.

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