

# Newsletter

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

APRIL 2021

Welcome to the  
Spring Newsletter

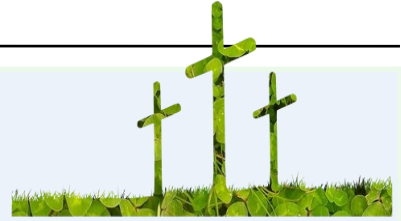


## 8<sup>th</sup> March International Women's Day

Celebrated in the RE Dept by looking at  
St Catherine of Siena

Catherine of Siena, a lay member of the Dominican Order, was a mystic, activist, and author who had a great influence on Italian literature and the Catholic Church. Canonized in 1461, she is also a Doctor of the Church.

***"Be who God meant you to be  
and you will set the world  
on fire"***



Dear Parents and Carers

Having reached the end of our Easter term I would like to thank you all for the support you have provided to your children and the school community in ensuring that the wider reopening has been as safe as possible for everyone. It has been a challenging term and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in following all the government guidance regarding staggered starts and finishes, year group bubbles, test and trace and face coverings. I appreciate that this has been a difficult time for everyone but I am very proud of the way that our community has worked together to support each other with these challenges.

I know that you will join me in thanking all staff in school for the way that they have supported our students with their home learning, the transition back into the school routines and all the support staff who were involved in the testing programme. 92% of our students took part in this and the process ran smoothly with students being supported through this so that they can confidently continue to carry out these tests at home. I am very grateful to the staff who gave their time to make sure this process was in place as I know that it offered reassurances to many students, parents and staff.

The return to school has been an anxious time for many students but they have responded beautifully to the transition back into face to face lessons. It has been a particularly anxious time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as there was so much uncertainty around how their grades were to be awarded. I am really impressed with the way that they have responded, in these last two weeks, with their first assessment window. I know that they will continue to work hard with their teachers to prepare for the second assessment window in May so that they can be confident that they achieve the grades that they are capable of.

I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Easter and I look forward to seeing the students and staff return, fully refreshed, after a well deserved break.

Take care  
Jo Love



**Christ the King**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy

Spring

Photography

Competition

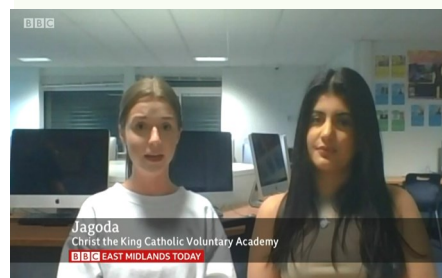
At the end of February Mrs Shardlow launched a photography competition open to all students with the theme of *Spring*. We know how difficult remote learning has been for many students and how negatively creative art subjects have been affected by the pandemic. The competition helped give our young people the motivation and opportunity to go outside for walks, take screen breaks and also moments to admire the beauty of the natural world – all hugely beneficial to our mental health and well-being.

The response was incredible, with students from across all year groups entering the competition. Furthermore, BBC East Midlands featured the competition and interviewed three students, Demi Omer, Jagoda Walaszczyk and Raphael Sloan as well as showcasing a selection of images on East Midlands Today on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**The competition was judged by school staff and Hannah McBride's image was the judged to be the winner, Hannah McCormack, Emily Johnson and Sammy Murphy came joint runner up.**

**Congratulations to all students who entered some amazingly inspired work!**

Mrs Shardlow

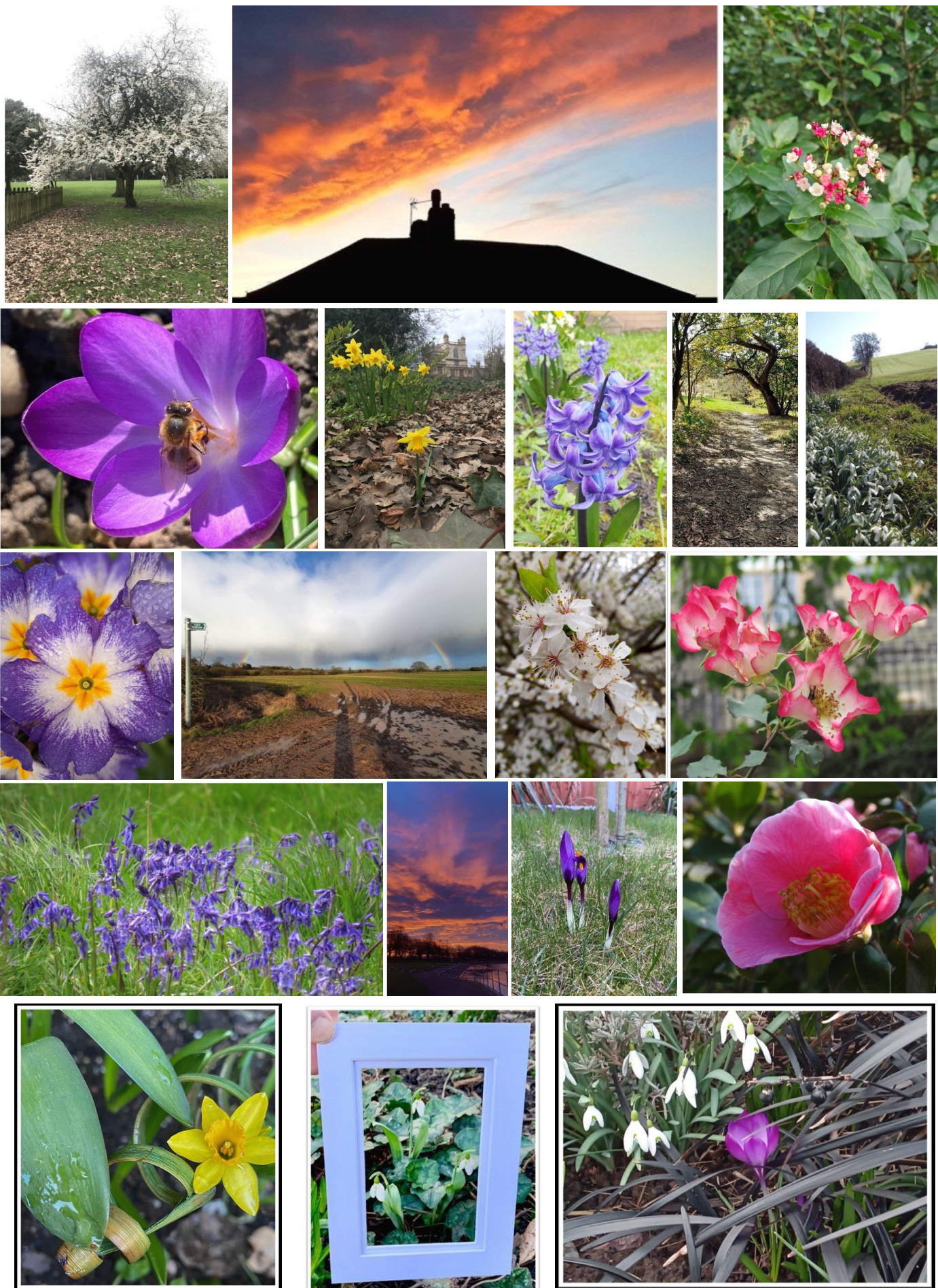


Hannah receiving her Winners Certificate.





## Spring Photography Competition – A Selection of the Entries





### Holocaust Memorial Day

During lockdown some of the Year 10 and 11 students experienced an online talk from the London Jewish Museum live on Holocaust Memorial Day. Artefacts were discussed in light of memories by survivors who work with the museum.



Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event explored the theme of Light from Darkness. Survivors and Holocaust Education Speakers Joan Salter and Ruth Barnett shared their testimonies and reflect on the importance of Holocaust Education today. This was followed with a candle lighting reflection and prayer. This event was delivered by zoom.



Mrs Walton

### Dancing her way to the World Cup!

Everybody at Christ the King wishes to congratulate Sofia Costello on her astounding achievement for qualifying in the World Cup Dance finals with a solo piece.

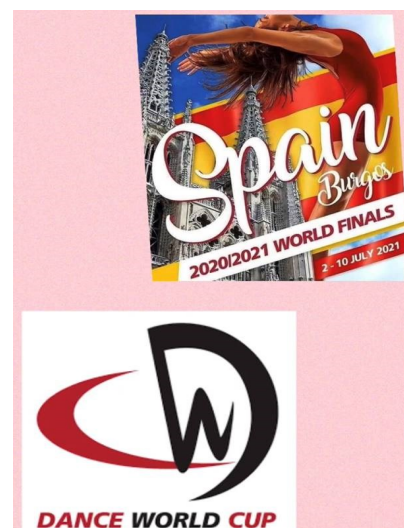
A very happy Sofia said,

***'Last year I qualified for the Dance World Cup 2020. I have since auditioned for 2021 and we got the results back yesterday. I was not expecting anything as this time I had moved up an age category to the 14-17 group and would be up against some amazing dancers.'***

***'My mind was pretty set in believing that I hadn't got in - even my dance teacher said it would be very hard, given the opposition.'***

***'I was recently contacted by my dance teacher who proudly told me I had got in with one of my solos! I burst out crying, I was so overwhelmed.'***

***'For me it's a massive achievement as last year I got in part of a trio (dancing with other girls from my dance school) and this year I have got in as a soloist!'***



This is a fantastic achievement and we will all be rooting for her when the finals take place.



***So Alicja, you've been offered a place to study Medicine and the University of Oxford next year, you must be over the moon.***

I am absolutely overjoyed. When I found out about it I couldn't believe it was true-even now getting emails from Oxford Undergraduate Admissions seems unreal. It's been a lifelong dream for me so it's taking some time to set in.

***Have you always known that you wanted to study medicine? What has inspired you?***

Medicine has always been a natural choice for me. I spent a lot of my childhood in hospitals but the doctors always made the environment feel like home to me. I was always mesmerised by their knowledge and ability to change people's experience and save their lives. They were my childhood heroes and I have tried to emulate them ever since.

***You're hopefully going to one of the top Universities in the world, Oxford. What has the process been like in applying there?***

The process of application seemed really daunting at the beginning. It seemed like so many factors to take care of and make sure that they were of the best quality. Doing the UNIQ Oxford Summer School really helped me- they broke down the process into small manageable chunks and explained which parts to prioritise. When it came to actually doing it, it wasn't as stressful and I'd say I even found it interesting. The extra things I've had to do was another admission test in November called the BMAT and I think just fine tuning my personal statement to show how much passion I have for the field.

***Have there been extra things that you've had to do to get an offer?***

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***What did you have to include in your application? What was the interview like?***

The application process was the same as for other universities. The only additional part in picking Oxford was choosing which college I would like to attend at Oxford. I picked The Queen's College. It was the interviews that was the biggest difference and something I had to put a lot of my efforts into. Oxford interviews are unlike any other, but the way I thought about them to calm my nerves was that they were "conversations about medicine". Looking back on them that's all they really were- questions were asked of me but I was not expected to know any medical knowledge beyond A-Level content. The most important part was to be receptive to their comments and show that I have potential to be taught. Interviews are meant to mimic tutorials which are one of the things that really drove me to apply to Oxford. They are sessions with a tutor and only 2 or 3 students. They are testing your thought process but if you are truly enthusiastic about your subject it's a great experience as you get to speak to academics who have worked in the field for a long time.

***How have CTK supported you with the application process?***

As I took 3 sciences, I was spending most of my time at the Science department. All of my teachers showed me great support, reassuring me that I could come to them with any problems and always encouraging me to strive for the best. All the sessions that we did for CPSD that were getting us ready for university, and that explained the UCAS process, were very helpful.

***Did you find the distance learning a challenge?***

Distance learning has definitely been challenging. The self-motivation component was definitely something I struggled with at first. It was so important to plan your time out correctly and keep a good work-rest balance. As difficult as it was I think overall it was a great preparation for the life of a university student as it taught me how to be independent.



### **What A Levels have you studied at CTK Sixth Form and how will they help you with medicine?**

I study chemistry, biology, physics and maths. Biology forms the foundation of the first years of medical school as we are taught the basics of how the body works and how things go wrong. Chemistry is important in understanding biological processes and reactions that take place in the body as well as how drugs work. Maths will definitely help me with my problem solving abilities which are so important, both in exams at university as well as when I'm working as a doctor, whilst physics has helped me to apply concepts I've learnt about to the real world.

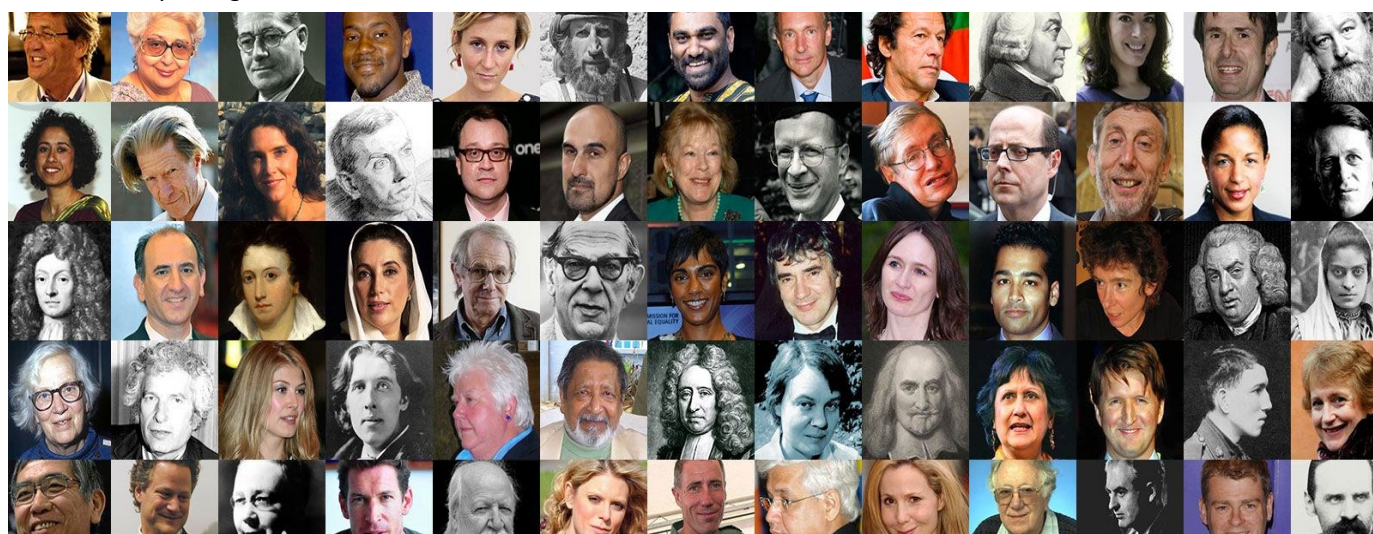
### **Finally, what have been your best memories of your time here at CTK Sixth Form?**

There are many great memories from CTK Sixth Form so it'd be difficult for me to point out single experiences. However the answer I would like to give is that I will definitely fondly remember my time here. The best memories are in the mundane-day to day free periods and lessons. People - students, staff - is what makes this sixth form what it is. The sense of community is so strong in the sixth form that every day I feel comfortable and happy to be here. I will definitely miss CTK.

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## **Famous Oxfordians**

Twenty-eight British Prime Ministers have been educated at Oxford University. Of which, 13 were educated at Christ Church, 3 at Trinity, 4 at Balliol, 2 at Brasenose and one each at Hart Hall (now Hertford), Jesus College, St Hugh's, St John's, Somerville, and University College.



Throughout its history, gifted men and women have studied or taught at the University. This includes no less than 28 British Prime Ministers, 30 international leaders, 55 Nobel Prize winners, plus 120 Olympic medal winners. Poets, Writers, Judges, Comedians, Broadcasters, Chefs, Athletes, Actors, Lawyers, Economists, Scientists and so many other talented people have passed through Oxford's doors; many of whom are recognisable from the images above.

### **Coping with Lockdown by Sixth Form Head Girl Floran Steeples**

Lockdown has been a challenging experience for all of us. My initial reaction in the first lockdown was anxiety over how this would affect my learning and also my A Level grades. To begin with it was a challenge as I adjusted my home space to become my work space. I found that regular breaks and going out for fresh air helped me maintain a good sense of mental well-being.

Christ The King provided support with regular phone calls home and emails, keeping in contact with us all, from my tutor and Head of Sixth Form. My teachers supported my learning as much as possible and admirably adapted to the challenges that came with remote learning.

Regular zoom calls with my friendship group helped me catch-up with my friends and discuss any struggles and concerns we shared. Knowing I wasn't alone in this experience helped me cope and gave me the opportunity to grow in these unprecedented times.

Being back at school has been a relief. The support from our subject teachers has equipped us to face any obstacles we must overcome in our journey preparing for university.



### Musical Instrument Making



Some of our students have had fun in the Music Department making 'Junk Instruments'. They used items including plastic bottles, elastic bands, cardboard tubes, dried beans, and anything else they could find, before decorating their creations beautifully with wonderful bright colours. The images show they made plenty of shakers and even an elastic band guitar!

It was a great and fun-to-make exercise, whilst being environmentally aware and also reusing items from around the home. They sounded fantastic to!



### Froggy Fun!

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have made and participated in an Origami Frog Race. The race consists of folding paper into the shape of frog, which can then be made to 'hop' when it's tail is pressed!



The overall winner was David Olusesan. He is now the proud owner of the CtK Frog Race Medal.

We have shown #CtKcares by recycling paper to make bookmarks and many of our students chose to gift these to some of their teachers.



Mrs Walton



### YEAR 8 VIRTUAL BRIARS RETREAT

Unfortunately, due to the circumstances that we found ourselves in, Year 8 were unable to go to the Briars for their annual retreat. However, the Briars team kindly offered to 'live stream' into school and lead the Year 8's in a virtual retreat.

The Briars team, as always, brought fun and enthusiasm into our faith, along with a lot of reflection and thought in how students could still enter a time of prayer.

Year 8 thoroughly enjoyed this, and many staff also found the experience a lovely way to spend part of the day.

In these testing times it really was a beautiful and prayerful virtual retreat, all about our journey through Lent.



### #CTKCARESRETREAT



### CAFOD WALK FOR WATER

This year, CAFOD's Lenten campaign has been the 'Walk For Water Challenge', where we have been challenged to raise money and log our steps to raise awareness for those who are less fortunate than ourselves and do not have any or easy access to clean water.

Our students were challenged to log all their steps over Lent to get the biggest total that we can! Each form received an empty water bottle to fill with their spare change so that we can try and help those in need.

Students were told the story, below, about Abdella in Ethiopia:

***Abdella is 23 and he has big dreams. He dreams of starting a small business. He dreams of starting a family. He dreams of having his own home. He dreams of the day he won't have to walk ten hours to get water.***

***Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive and he could start on the dreams he has for the rest of his life."***

Students have been incredibly kind during this time and the count will be taken soon for our grand total of money raise and steps logged. Keep an eye on our social media sites

### CTKCARESCAFOD





### A Kind Donation!

A very kind member of the Good Shepherd Parish managed to get hold of some statues of Our Lady of Fatima and she kindly donated one to each of the schools within our hub, Saint Oscar Romero Hub. Caroline Smith boxed one along with some rosary beads for each school. With Caroline's generous gift we have created a prayer focus area, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

*Our Lady of Fátima or Our Lady of the Rosary, is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary as She appeared in apparitions reported by three shepherd children at Fátima in Portugal. These Apparitions occurred on the 13th day of six consecutive months in 1917, the first on 13 May and the last today, 13 October 2017. Her message was one of hope, repentance and conversion for the whole world.*

**Here is our statue, proudly displayed in the entrance to the Regis Block and Sixth Form area.**



**Christ the King**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy

follow us:   

0115 955 6262

[office@christtheking.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@christtheking.notts.sch.uk)