

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Exploring Christ the King Sixth Form



"Change
your thoughts,
and you change
your world."

NORMAN THOMAS





Welcome to Christ the King Sixth Form

I am proud to share with you the second edition of our 'Beyond the Classroom' Sixth Form magazine, written and edited by our wonderful Sixth Formers. Once again, our students have worked incredibly hard in putting this together. I hope it gives you a taste of what it is like to be a Sixth Former here at Christ the King.

Our Sixth Form is at the heart of our school community. We are proud of how the young people in our care mature into independent, empowered and passionate young adults ready to make a difference to the world.

Our mission is 'To provide the best education and care we can for all members of our living faith community': I hope that the articles here provide you with a flavour of how our Sixth Formers help to shape our school community and some of the opportunities they have to flourish here at Christ the King.

Our Sixth Form is a special community and it is such a privilege to work with such committed young people every day.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.

Neil Reddington
Head of Sixth Form

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Catholic Life at CTK Sixth Form

A defining element of our sixth form that makes us stand out from others in the area is our strong Catholic ethos that each student, religious or not, contributes to. Our mission statement of 'CARE' is at the centre of all we do as a school. This stands for community, achieve, respect and encounter and it captures the sense of our school.

Community - Our school community prides itself on its diversity and acceptance of all people. We are one community and each person has a role in our school to make it the best it can be. Our sixth form makes up only a part of Christ the King and we have a responsibility to be role models for the lower school, showing them how to behave and the values they should aspire to live out. We do this in a number of ways such as through charity events, reading at mass and leading clubs across the school.

Achieve - Achievement is an extremely important part of our lives as sixth formers. Of course, we aspire to achieve the best grades possible but we also focus on personal achievements. We hope that each student uses their abilities to have a positive impact on our community. We aim to use our talents to contribute to the common good, developing our critical thinking skills, moral reasoning and an appreciation for education.

Respect - Respect is a crucial part of Catholic Life. It is about recognising the value of every person and treating them accordingly. We as sixth formers are expected to treat each person with respect and promote a culture of inclusivity. Attending a Catholic school, we are taught that each and every person was created in God's image and likeness, meaning each person has an inherent worth, influencing us to build a community of respect.

Encounter - This is the most central aspect of Catholic Life at Christ the King. We believe that each student should have the opportunity to find and experience God in their lives. We are encouraged to develop our faith through encountering God in our everyday lives. To do this, we have mass in school, which sixth formers regularly attend and lead parts of. As well as this, we help others in our community to encounter God's love, such as through the SVP food parcels, which we collect, and being attentive and open to the needs of others especially those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We try to follow the example of Jesus in all that we do.

Catholic Life is at the centre of all we do. We embrace our mission of CARE and try to live this out in all elements of our lives. We set an example for others through our attitude and have learned to serve people and treat others how we would want to be treated, promoting inclusivity and diversity.

- Olivia Brogan





Chaplaincy at CTK Sixth Form

During this past academic year, Sixth Form students have been involved in many activities within Chaplaincy and the Catholic life of the school here at Christ the King. From using their drama and music skills during the Advent and Lent Liturgies to helping with the Year 9 retreat days and the parish flower festival – there are many ways to get involved.

We welcome members of the Sixth Form to join the Chaplaincy Team. It is a welcoming and vibrant team that is open to all students. You do not have to be Catholic to join, it is open to people of all faiths - you just need to want to help the school community. You may help with the prayer life of your form or the school, assist with fundraising activities or take on responsibility by leading groups within the Chaplaincy Team and



showing them how our faith can help us
succeed through school life.

Every year, the school join the Nottingham Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes and students from years 11-13 are encouraged to come and be part of this amazing experience. We arrange fundraising activities in the school and parish to help with the cost of the trip and to raise awareness of the Pilgrimage. Once in Lourdes, we meet up with students from other schools across the Diocese and take part in many different activities such as mass in the Grotto and torchlight processions assisting the elderly and infirm who are also part of the Pilgrimage.

- Vicky, Lay Chaplain

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Students from our Sixth Form, current Year 12s and those joining our Sixth Form in September, are planning, and preparing to go to the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage this summer. This annual event sees hundreds of people from across the Diocese journey on pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in the South of France. It is an incredible opportunity for us young people to help serve the sick and less able members of our community whilst also meeting new people and growing in our faith.

When the opportunity came up, we were all very eager to sign up. We have all attended our local catholic residential centre, the Briars, and that has had a profound impact on all of us in many different ways on our faith journey.

This is why when the opportunity to go to Lourdes came up, we knew it was something we were drawn to as we would love this opportunity to grow in our faith further. On our visit to Lourdes, we will be able to see many significant places for Our Lady such as The Grotto and to take part in a Torchlight Procession and of course, support the sick, elderly and disabled in attending and taking part in these too.

Over the past few months, we have been actively seeking fund raising opportunities. We have been working hard applying for many bursaries and writing to people all over to spread the word of our pilgrimage and ask kindly if they would assist with our fundraising. We ran an in school bake sale and non-uniform day which has enabled us to connect more as a community with the lower school as well as contributing massively to our fundraising progress.

We have been involved regularly with our local parish - The Good Shepherd Church. We have been regularly attending mass on Sundays where we have been serving teas and coffees after mass, speaking to the parishioners during mass to tell them about our pilgrimage and also holding a bake sale after mass to fundraise. This has helped with our funds for Lourdes, and we have all really enjoyed meeting new people and members of our parish.

- Karis Louttit

My Experience as Head Student

The race for the role of Head Student was thrilling and competitive. Those of us who competed for the position delivered speeches, put up posters advertising ourselves and gave pitches to the students and teachers.

I created a video to be played to all forms, and created a PowerPoint slide of myself stating the plans I would implement if I was successful. I also delivered a speech in front of teachers and students. For me, it was an exciting time, and I was proud to have been a part of it. Everyone at CTK was involved in the Head Student process, whether it was running for the role, putting up the posters or voting for the candidates demonstrating a sense of community.

The friendly competition between candidates was a real talking point in the school, which was exciting and a fun time for everyone involved. Thankfully, I was able to demonstrate my skills as Head Student strongly enough to gain a majority vote, and was elected as one of the two Head Students – I was overjoyed! My peer, Joshua Radford, filled the other Head Student position through equally excellent campaigning skills and tactics, and we now work together to improve the school.

As one of the Head Students, it is my responsibility to set a good example for all here at CTK and hopefully be someone that anyone can come to for help, with questions and for advice. Part of the role is planning and then delivering speeches during act of worships, assemblies, and Open Evenings. For example, I had to speak in front of a large crowd of parents and students at the Year 6 Open Evening, giving my honest opinions on why I love this school. I also spoke in front of a huge crowd at the Sixth Form Open Evening, sharing my reasons for joining the CTK Sixth Form to complete my A-Levels. As well as these major events, I speak in front of smaller crowds in school time and deliver to all year groups about several different topics, for example: Sixth Form to Year 10s and 11s, the CTK Mission Statement, the importance of kind actions, mock exams and many more.

For all these different examples, I had to take the time to plan what I was going to say to deliver the messages in the best way possible to appeal to the different audiences.

Other activities as Head Student involve setting up meetings with teachers and other students about new ideas we could implement into school time and activities outside of school

to benefit the people here at Christ the King. I have also been involved in charitable events such as helping with cake sales as well as the soak the teacher and Head Student Day where mean people threw sponges at my head to raise money for Children in Need.

Overall, although my focus is on thriving in my A-Level subjects to acquire top grades, I am really happy that I was able to have this opportunity in my life. Even though the tasks I must fulfil as Head Student require a lot of thought and time, I am always open to giving up my free time to complete activities and tasks to be the best Head Student possible and help those here at CTK, as it is my job as a lead figure in this wonderful school.

I would recommend to any students who plan on staying at this school for Sixth Form to be brave and run for this position in the future, as it has opened a new aspect for me here providing me with even more experience of working as a leader.

- Sam Williams

“ I now have even wider experience working as a leader and as part of a team, both invaluable life skills. ”



CTK Children in Need

On November 17th, our Sixth Form hosted the Annual Pudsey Day Charity Event, in which the Sixth Form raised money for Children in Need. As usual, the Year 7 to Year 11 students were granted a non-uniform day in return for a donation to the charity. The Sixth Form handled the stalls and led events throughout the day. Together we ran Soak the Teacher, a Bake Sale, Guess the Sweets in a Jar, and a Raffle.

Soak the Teacher is a pretty self-explanatory event. Teachers are lined up on stools and students pay to throw wet sponges at "willing" victims. Occasionally, a student would pay £10 for a bucket of water to be thrown and/or poured over a teacher of their choice.

This year the lineup was joined by one of our head boys Sam, who joined at the last minute as one undisclosed teacher had to pull out. Very honourable considering his friends and fellow Head Student were staffing the buckets. Mr. Lightfoot, on the other hand, didn't volunteer to get soaked this year but did, however, contribute heavily to egging on the students and eventually donated a bucket to soak Mr. Hudson. To sum it up, it seemed that Mr. Hudson was the main target for the sponges this year and that our Head Student was the target of the bucket pours - our female volunteers got off nicely with not as many students targeting them!

The Bake Sale was a huge success as it brought in most of the money. A mix of homemade and shop bought cakes were donated by many members of the Sixth Form to be sold at first break and lunch. This year the cakes were so

popular that we ran out very quickly, especially the gluten free chocolate cake - I didn't even get a slice!

It wasn't only cake that was being sold, as there was a selection of brownies, cookies, and donuts for sale too. Most treats started at the price of 20p and increased in price based on how they looked and who baked them! What can I say, some of us in the Sixth Form like to bake as a hobby so surely those cakes would taste better than Asda's?!

The Sweeties in a Jar challenge was a hit with the lower years, with mostly Year 7 to Year 9 students having a go at guessing the correct number. It was 20p per guess, so I supposed the risk of 20p for a jar full of sweeties was quite appealing to those seeking a big sugar rush.

It was later revealed that the jar held 117 sweets! This number changes every year as we use different sweeties and sized jars, just to shake things up a little and keep you on your toes. We wouldn't want to make this challenge too easy.

The raffle this year was small but full of fun as all the prizes had been donated by members of staff and fellow Sixth Form students. The gifts ranged from chocolates to candles to deodorant so there really was something for everyone there.

We raised a grand total of £803.07 for Children in Need, beating last year's total. We are very proud to have contributed to a good cause and can only hope for such a fun, loving event next year.

- Ava Jones and Imogen Moran





Sixth Form Retreat

In September, we were given the opportunity to take time off from our respective courses to connect with other students in the Sixth Form we didn't necessarily know through our Retreat Day. This day also helped to strengthen our connections to God as we enter a new year and new academic experiences.

At first, we participated in games such as building a cardboard car - which was then rigorously tested on different terrains - or constructing paper towers with the intent of making the strongest. All the activities we completed were individual and fun and had a great focus on meeting and talking with new people.

This was incredibly important, as many have joined, and we are becoming a Sixth Form community and shows just how important it is to branch out to those you may not have spoken to before.

“ These factors show just how important it is to branch out to those you may not have spoken to before. ”

After a break of juice and biscuits we then moved onto a brief catechesis on what the Eucharist is, why it is so important, and, most interestingly, a brief history of Eucharistic miracles. This was a very informative and interesting segment of the day and it really helped to educate us on some parts of the Eucharist we might not have known before.

We then proceeded to participate in the solemnly enlightening Service of Adoration, where the host was placed in the Monstrance, and we were invited to bow our heads and listen to some music whilst reflecting on God's presence.

This was a uniquely calming experience that served as a fitting end to a very enjoyable day at Good Shepherd Church.

- Niamh McDonnell-Brookes



Cambodia Fundraising

Cambodia fundraising events for the Advent Term kicked off with a non-school uniform day, a bake sale at break and lunch, plus a raffle for a variety of hampers, including stationary hampers, spice hampers, self-care bundles for both men and women, as well as confectionary and artsy hampers.

As winter approaches, we are taking advantage of the chilly weather by introducing a hot chocolate sale during lunchtime where students have the option to have cream and marshmallows on top.

Now that our flights have been booked and confirmed, the deadline feels even closer, so we have been utilising an alternative method of fundraising - sponsorships. We have been emailing local businesses for any donations (whether that's money or prizes for future fundraising events)

and in exchange we will put their logo on our tops and tag them in our social media.

The Cambodian school's journey to fundraise for the Camps International trip is not just about raising money; it's about fostering a sense of community, teamwork, and global awareness. Through these diverse fundraising events, we are not only financing this adventure but also learning valuable life skills, including teamwork, communication, and the power of community engagement.

- Ariadne Doel



Charity Penalty Shoot Out

An unconventional twist - students versus teachers. The usually harmonious beginning of the academic year transformed into a spirited competition, pitting educators against their pupils in a friendly but competitive atmosphere.

Laughter echoed through the fields as teachers showcased their hidden talents and students demonstrated their creativity. This unique shoot out not only fostered a sense of camaraderie but also dismantled traditional hierarchies, allowing both teachers and students to appreciate each other beyond the classroom setting.

It became a memorable prelude to a school year where collaboration, teamwork, and mutual respect were not just taught in lessons but demonstrated in the spirited rivalry that marked the beginning of their shared journey.

- Joshua Radford



Geography Trip to Blencathra

The day began painfully at 4:30 in the morning. After an hour of preparing myself, triple-checking to ensure I had all the necessary items (some of which I didn't end up needing), and hauling my suitcase across the rigid floor, I finally found the not-so-sweet comfort of a coach. At an unexpected moment during our travels, we encountered two camels casually strolling around in the fields of Northern England.

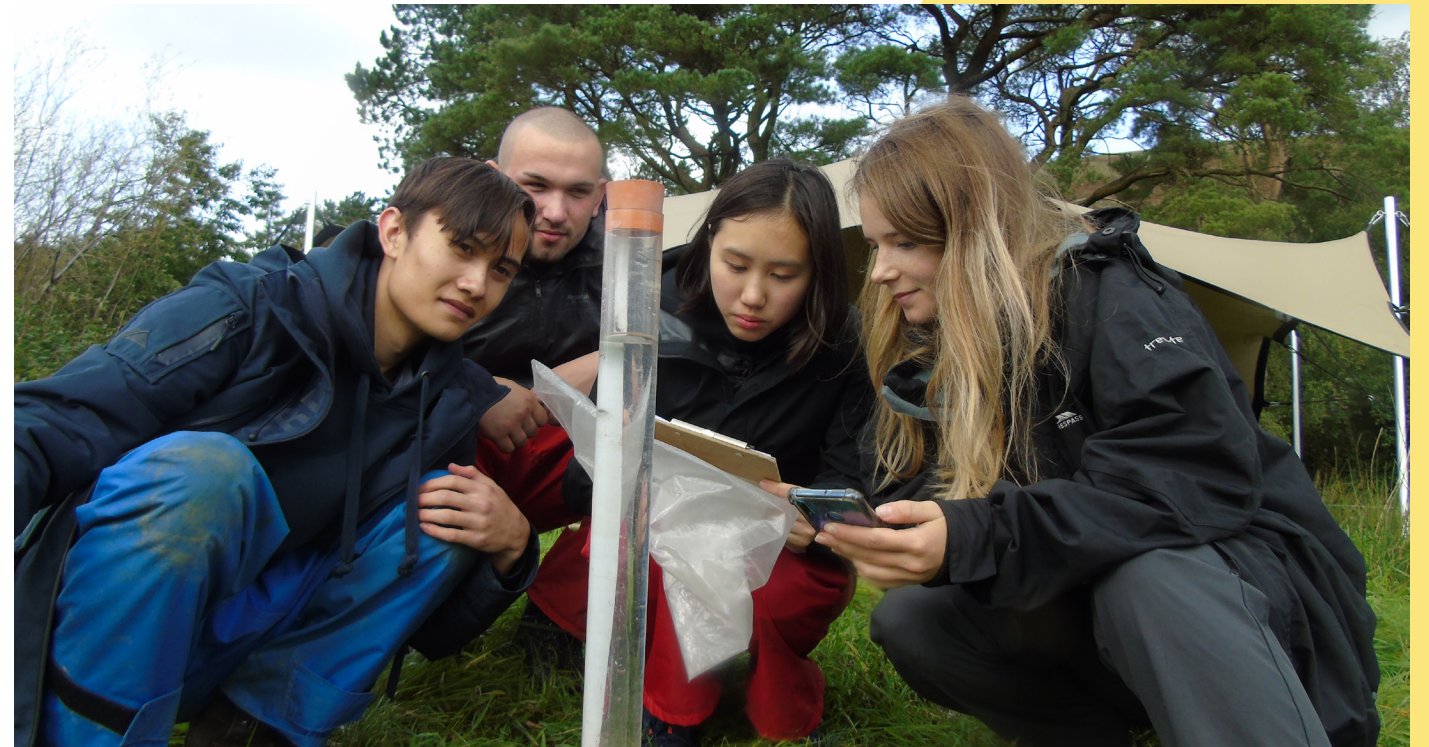
Despite the storm, the experience of staying in the Lake District was wonderful. It provided myself and my fellow geographers with the opportunity to delve into the physically-taxing aspects of geography, fieldwork, and data collection. Over the first four days, our schedule consisted of pilot studies in the three main components of A-Level Geography: Water and Carbon, Coastal Landscapes, and Changing Places – all contributing towards an NEA of our choice.

On the first day, we were greeted by a very nice tutor named Sam, who soon took us to the hill of Blencathra to explore Water and Carbon, amidst several RAF jets flying above us. The second day brought us to the cold Cumbrian coast, accompanied by our tutor's peculiar fear of horses, an event that led to her hiding while we formed a barrier to shield her. On the third day, we conducted a pilot study in the small town of Keswick, walking from the vibrant town centre down to the scenic Lake Derwentwater.

The accommodation where we stayed throughout the week was a charming centre that resembled the typical British countryside, boasting vibrant beauty in both nature and architecture. After each day, we retreated to our building's common room, engaging in card games, and watching movies. During this time, we met and spoke to other students from All Saints, a school that is part of our Trust, an encounter that allowed us to connect and bond more with members of our community.

As the fieldwork concluded on the second-to-last day, each person went to a location of their interest, working towards their NEA. I chose to go to Keswick to conduct a study on crime in the town. Overall, my time spent there was highly enjoyable, providing me with the independence to conduct my own personal research and collect data from various places and people. This greatly contributed to the development of my NEA. At the end of my stay in Keswick, I had the opportunity to enjoy some shopping and a nice hot latte.

- Matthew Weston



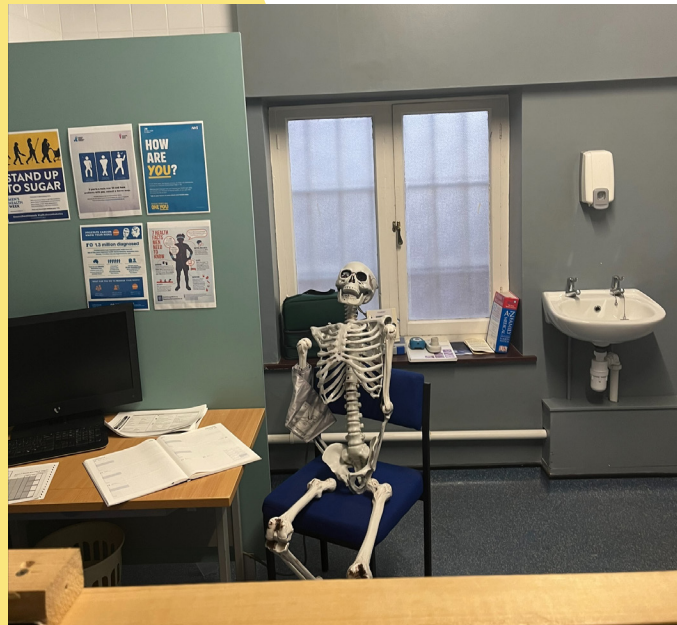


Trip to Shrewsbury Prison

Year 12 and 13 Psychology and Sociology students took a trip to Shrewsbury prison. Our day involved a guided tour of the now closed prison.

After a break for lunch, we learnt about the Kray twins followed by a scavenger hunt. We were able to go around the prison and find answers to a crosswords relating to prison life and the discipline they enforced. This allowed us to learn about punishments and criminal behaviours.

- Isabel Hammond



Metamorphosis by the Frantic Assembly

As an A level Drama group, we went to see the play Metamorphosis by Frantic Assembly, a play about a man being overworked to the point he transforms into a monster. We travelled to the Curve theatre in Leicester early in the morning and, thanks to Mrs Stanley's great driving, made it just in time for a workshop with the actors that would be taking up the lead roles in the play.

They told us their methods for learning their lines effectively and managing performance anxiety, something that we all took notes from and have used to help ourselves in our personal A level performances. They also talked us through their set design, which was very impressive, featuring a moving roof light and walls that characters could walk through. There was an opportunity for a question-and-answer session at the end, which allowed even more insight into the actors and how they develop as actors, a very interesting and valuable session for the whole group.

After the session concluded, we took a trip to M&S and picked up some snacks to prepare for the start of the play. Percy Pigs in hand, the play began and throughout we saw a brilliant display of physical theatre, with amazing lighting effects too.

A personal highlight was the shadow effects as the main character, Gregor, transformed into a monster. And while his physical appearance didn't change, the shadow behind him took the form of a large insect- a very impressive technical display which left the audience in awe.

The play was an emotional rollercoaster which had a very sad twist at the end. The journey home was full of discussion on the many different techniques in the play that impressed us.

- Joshua Radford





Sixth Form Football Match

The CTK Sixth Form boys started their campaign in the Sixth Form Cup, lining up against a formidable Carlton le Willows side in the very first round. Our side, strapped for numbers, welcomed them to our fortress. We set out as the underdogs and were pegged back by an unfortunate goal. A dire attempt at a clearance on the edge of the area from Warsop let their striker away with a shot, deflecting into the side netting.

Resisting a lot of pressure and showing positive signs on the counter (with Louttit showing their centre back the weight room) we made it into halftime with just a 1-0 deficit. A motivating half time team talk from the gaffer, Mr Riding, saw us take to the second half determined to redeem our slow start. The effort was soon rewarded as a driving run from



our left wing back, Nehra created a shooting chance. Gifting a player of that calibre a golden opportunity proved too punishing. With a rifled left footed effort making the far side netting bulge, the celebrations were loud but brisk, the squad all knowing that we had a job to do, and it was now in our hands.

Carlton le Willows went on to develop a spell of midfield dominance as we rotated our squad, seeing plenty of shots from outside the box. These ranged from a mile off target to deflecting for a few corners, comfortably caught, parried, or headed away by Radford and the back line. Unsuccessful efforts clearly discouraging Carlton le Willows as frustrations began to show.

Then the ball dropped to our centre half, and captain, Jackson. Driving into midfield with an unstoppable run, the ball was sprayed forward. Tidy feet and formidable physicality from Blaj saw a Carlton midfielder watching from the ground as Head Boy Williams was set away down the right flank. Options in the box made the keeper anticipate a cross and defenders hurry to cover a man. Yet the confidence of Williams meant another goal with a drilled shot to the far post.

Suddenly, Christ the King had this game by the scruff of the neck, with the fans on the sidelines being sent into raptures as Williams' effort nearly took the net off. Carlton's time wasting came back to bite them as we held onto our lead.

McBride, Hackett and Alexander were a few faces who were rotated into the game. Not dropping an ounce of quality in place of their counterparts and reflecting the solidarity in the squad. Despite efforts at

mind games with some fruity language thrown at our team, it didn't encourage us to falter. Instead, a long ball claimed by Radford was quickly distributed to Nehra, a switch to Williams down the right wing caught Carlton off guard; leaving every defender stood watching as a floated ball fell on the head of our number nine Louttit at the back stick.

A cushioned, Shearer-esque header nestled into the net. Elation consumed the pitch and despite a late Carlton goal, the squad was filled with belief and the full time whistle soon sounded in unison with the cheers of the underdogs, who had proven even our own doubters wrong. Now through to the next round we will hope to progress further in the tournament and go as far as we possibly can. Goal scorer Nehra described the game as a "slow start where we grew into the game and held off pressure well to achieve the win, up the CTK!"

- Joshua Radford and Sam Williams

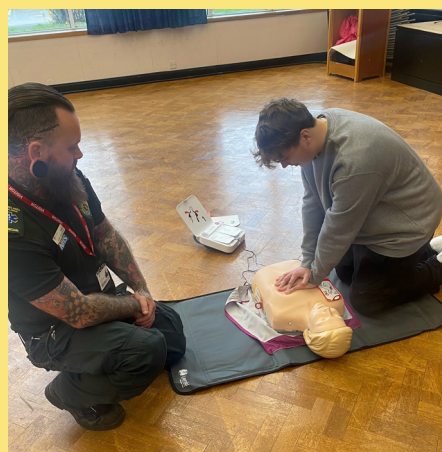


CPR Training

During our Year 12 CPSD lessons, we were lucky enough to have a member of the East Midlands ambulance service come in to teach us about CPR. Over the hour lesson we had the opportunity to practice chest compressions on a dummy and use a defibrillator in a fake scenario. We also learned the process before starting CPR and how to judge if it was safe to do so.

Overall, this was a beneficial experience as many of us didn't know how to perform CPR. It has prepared us for any situation in the future where we may need this. This great opportunity has also helped us to understand how important it is to stay calm in stressful situations.

- Megan Shaw



Visit from MP Tom Randall

As part of our enrichment timetable, CTKs Sixth Form was visited by Tom Randall, Gedling's MP since 2019, who took the time to come into our school to talk to us about his role in the Government.

Tom spoke to us about the importance of an MP in our day-to-day life and how they help their communities. He then proceeded to talk about his role in parliament, where he sits in the House of Commons and what he must do in there.

It was very useful for us as British Citizens and being MP for Gedling, we could understand how we can help Mr Randall in parliament through contacting him via email about any questions or concerns which we would like to be brought up in parliament.

Tom then gave us the opportunity to ask any questions which we had thought during the event, further helping us understand his role.

- Luke Needham

Braking Point

A theatre company came in to perform a play for Year 12. The name of the play was 'Braking Point' and revolved around the sobering topic of driving under the influence.

It was centred around a year in the life of three Year 13 college friends. Over an array of short and snappy scenes you got to intimately know them, their ambitions, who they liked, their family life and their individual life experiences, before a shocking ending in which they were involved in a car accident after a results day party – a harrowing example of an event that should have marked the beginning of their new life; excitement turned into an event that would physically or psychologically damage them forever.

You gotta see just how the consequences of this seemingly innocuous decision had a profound impact on them.



After this performance we then participated in a workshop, which aimed to improve our general knowledge surrounding the harsh realities of driving under the influence. This segment was also very well-executed and informative. It promoted our interaction and helped us to understand some of the common misconceptions surrounding these situations.

It was a very valuable and interesting performance and workshop that helped to shed light on some aspects that are often not widely taught.

- Niamh McDonnell-Brookes



Applying to University

My aspiration has always been to become a veterinarian. Since being a child and growing up with access to a farm and the many animals on it, I have always been involved in the industry and watched the vets who came on site to see our animals, and this inspired me to follow their footsteps. Through help from school, I was able to gain work experience in a vet's practice and this only solidified my goals further.

After listening to visitors during CPSP trips to Nottingham Trent University and the UCAS fare in Sheffield (and a lot of free stuff from hoodies and bucket hats to many rubbish pens and badges) I made a clear decision in my mind on which universities I wanted to apply to. Mr Reddington and the tutor team are with you all the way through your application even while you are receiving decisions.

Veterinary and medical courses require a lot of information and interviews along with your UCAS application, so I had to send off my application before the early UCAS deadline which was the 16th of October. Since sending my application I have had many forms to fill out and tasks to complete so my universities can learn more about me before they decide on whether they would like to offer me a place.

The first step is to fill out your information on the UCAS website which takes less than an hour and then you need to write your personal statement.

4000 characters is not a lot of space to talk about yourself and tell these universities everything about you, but after a couple drafts and help from your form tutor you can write the perfect personal statement and it's ready to send off.

Once you send off your application and have paid the £30, it gets sent to Mr Reddington who can ensure everything is perfect and officially send it off to UCAS. Once this has happened you will receive some thank you emails from your universities (don't worry as this can sometimes not be an immediate response) and if they require it, you will be sent documents to complete and portals to join. Eventually, if your course needs it, then you will be offered an interview.

Once you have provided the information required then your university will eventually send you offers, sometimes this will be quick and sometimes you will be waiting for a while so my advice it to keep checking your emails and don't have lots of unread ones so that important emails can't be lost in the mess. The UCAS website is very easy to navigate, and you can easily keep track on your applications.

- Ellie Saunders

My Top 10 Study Tips

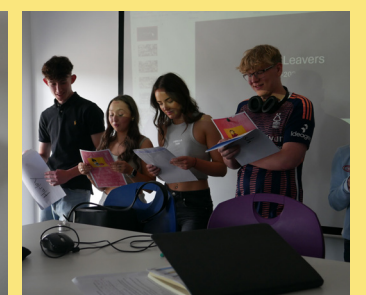
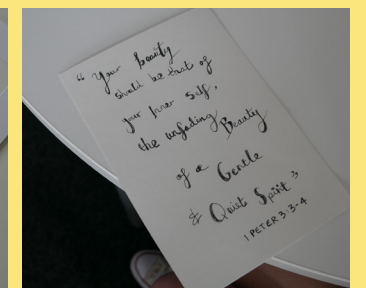
Here at Sixth Form, independent study is essential to achieving the top grades you should aim for. Whilst the step up to A levels is big and learning is not easy, it is manageable if you build on your good habits from GCSE and allocate more of your time towards study each day. So here are my top tips to help you smash your exams.

1. Keep all of your notes well organised
2. Don't leave revision to the last second
3. Always talk to your teachers if you are unsure about anything
4. Do all your homework when it's set
5. Revising with your friends keeps it fun for you
6. Flash cards are quick and easy to make while still being effective you can always go back to them
7. Use some of your free periods for studying (you still need to have fun)
8. Switch off your tech while you revise or use apps and websites given by your teachers
9. YouTube will always have videos on everything you need
10. Take regular breaks to help it all settle in

- Luke Needham



GOOD LUCK YEAR 13!





GOOD LUCK YEAR 13!