



Christmas Newsletter

Chryston HS Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December. Entertainment was provided throughout by some of our very talented musicians in the school. We enjoyed a large variety of stalls offering many festive 'must have' items. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this a wonderful event bringing our school community together at this time of year. Particular thanks to our Parent Council and to Miss Renicks for their work and organisation. The school raised approximately £1,500 – many thanks!



CHS Christmas Concert



Our Assembly Hall was bursting at the seams on Tuesday evening (5th Dec) as parents, grandparents, staff and pupils came along to be entertained by the incredibly talented pupils of CHS at our annual Christmas Concert. These events really do showcase how amazing the young people of our school are – there were many proud family members in the audience and also some very proud members of staff. Huge thanks to all who led, supported and attended this event, and of course to the pupils who performed. During the concert we were also entertained by ten budding actresses. Rachel Malcolm (S2) wrote a short play called 'Happily Ever After'. The happy minion Grumble tried to make the worst party Aurora has ever had – and featured some of our most loved (and feared) Disney characters. This was a great display of talent and confidence, all young people involved were either S1 or S2. Well done and congratulations to: *Rachel Malcolm, Julia Strachan, Annabelle Cochrane, Emma Troup, Hannah McIntyre, Sophie Leslie, Laura Palmer, Trudi Reynolds and Abbie Barbour.*





S1 Christmas Party

Over 100 S1 pupils danced last Monday evening away (11th December) in our Assembly Hall which was marvellously festive. A special visitor came along to help the pupils get into the Christmas spirit, Santa even stayed to feature in a number of 'selfies' or more appropriately at this time of year 'elfies'! Everyone enjoyed a mixture of traditional ceilidh dances and more modern party dances. Huge thanks to the PE department for preparing S1 in classes over the last few weeks and for organising and running the party. Also, thanks to pupils for coming along and to all other members of staff and S6 pupils who volunteered to attend and help out on the night.



CHS Christmas Card 2017

Well done Cameron Paton (S4) who has designed our school Christmas card for 2017. Following a competition as part of our Pupil Forum programme, Cameron's design was voted our winner – well deserved! Cameron's card will be seen not just across our local community but also across North Lanarkshire Council – as a school we send them to friends, colleagues and partners as we wish them well over the festive period and into the New Year. Thanks Cameron!



Charity Work (Committees)

The Community Links committee recently organised a Christmas Harvest Food collection for a local foodbank. The pupils involved were - Shannon Donald, Eilidh Mackintosh, Dawn Russell, Ciara Lennon, Sarah Craig and Holly Sutherland. The pupils should all be extremely proud of their hard work and effort to help out others at Christmas – a terrific example of one of our core school values (Compassion).





Additionally, the Charity Committee organised a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December to raise money for Save the Children. They managed to raise £235.60. A huge well done to all involved in promoting the event and collecting the money in. The pupils involved were Rebecca O'Donnell, Rowan McMeechan, Amy Alston, Jennifer Rice, Saskia Smillie and Erin Clarke.

Another Charity Committee are holding a senior dance on Monday 18th December, profits raised from the dance are going to buy Christmas presents to give to a local foodbank. This is the 2nd year a school committee has organised this and the pupils have worked very hard to pull it all together. The pupils involved are Aimee Dallas, Chloe Jackson, Lauren Cairns, Ashton Colvan and Adele Bristow.



More great charity work took place as organised by a group of S6 pupils ultimately raising £640.46, donated to Prostate Cancer UK. In addition to a coffee morning some senior pupils and staff were brave enough to have their legs waxed as part of the proceedings – ouch! Well done everyone involved and to all who donated to this worthy cause.

Sleep in the Park

Miss Gibson, Miss Kane and Ms McLaughlin accompanied 13 senior pupils to take part in 'Sleep in the Park' – an event raising money and awareness for Social Bite, a charity helping the homeless. Our team from CHS braved the elements as they spent a night sleeping out in Princess Street Gardens, Edinburgh where temperatures dropped to -5 degrees. In doing so they appreciated how difficult this was to endure. They did however get some entertainment throughout the night including music from Liam Gallagher and Amy McDonald. They should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved, particularly the sum of money raised which was in excess of £3,000 – well done everyone involved.





Book Week

Book Week Scotland 27th Nov - Sunday 3rd Dec was celebrated in the school with a book swap. Pupils were encouraged to bring in books they were happy to part with and swap them with another pupil. A book lunch with reading and hot chocolate and biscuits took place on Friday 1st December with pupils enjoying a treat while reading their books. Quiet reading took place during English lessons in the library and we had a visit from storyteller Lea Taylor to our primary 7 Reading Bridge pupils.



Senior Phase – CHS Enhanced Curriculum

We are very proud of the work of all pupils who are currently engaged in our Enhanced Curriculum (Senior Phase). This is a new initiative in the school, motivating and engaging young people in vocational and employability programmes. Featuring plumbing, painting and decorating, horticulture, fitness and soon – beauty, amongst other skills. Keep up the great work everyone – well done to all pupils, staff and partners involved in the success of this initiative so far!

Maths – Professor McBride

'On Monday 13th November we had a very special visitor in the Maths department. Some of our S2, S3 and S4 pupils were treated to a very inspirational talk from Professor Adam McBride from the University of Strathclyde.





CHS 'Waste Not, Want Not Café

Miss Shields (Home Economics) has struck up a partnership with a local Tesco store who are supporting us by donating food for us to use in another new initiative – our 'Waste Not, Want Not Café'. A group of S4 pupils have been cooking three course lunches and serving them to members of our community on Tuesday lunch times since October. So far they have provided hospitality for staff, colleagues in Education (NLC), elderly members of our community and our team of invigilators. The team have made a terrific start to this and all of our visitors have been extremely complimentary about the standard of food and service. Well done everyone involved!

Group Dance

The S1 and S2 dance club recently attended the North Lanarkshire Dance Development Show. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to display their talents and pupils felt the event was a fun, enjoyable and exciting experience. Their future goal with the help of the senior students who help lead the club is to create a winning group dance performance for the North Lanarkshire dance competition in 2018.



Biology Trip

In November the Advanced Higher Biology class spent two days at Forth Valley College enhancing their biology practical skills.

Last week (12th /14th December) the Higher Human Biology classes will attend the Biolab at University of Strathclyde, to further develop their practical skills.

Shoebox Appeal



The school recently sent over 100 boxes away as part of The Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. These will be sent to children in places such as Haiti, Romania and Ghana. Thanks to everyone involved in such a terrific cause.





NLC Christmas Concert

As a school we are very proud of all of our pupils who recently performed in the 2017 NLC Christmas Concert. Well done everyone involved.

New Attendance Procedures

We are in the process of introducing new attendance monitoring procedures and I hope you will bear with us while we iron out teething problems. Outlined below are the new procedures for your information:

1. If your child does not attend class period 1, the class teacher will mark him/her not in class.
2. A text message will be sent to the main parental contact stating "(Child's name) did not register at school this morning (date).
3. You should reply to the text message.
4. Upon receiving your text, the register will be changed to the appropriate absence code.

Advantages

You will be able to be alerted if your child is not in school and you think they are.

At a stage in the near future, we are hopeful that you won't need to provide an absence note for the pupil forum teacher. Many notes become lost forever in bags or blazer pockets. More information will follow about this in due course.

Pupil Support teachers will see your messages sooner and be able to act on them quicker if there are any concerns.



Disadvantage

If the register is not completed, you may receive a text message. If you do, reply to the text or phone the school. We do make mistakes but we will learn from them.

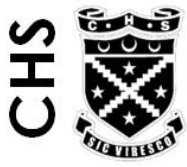
If you would like to give us your opinion please email attendance@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk

More information will be provided by the school about our procedures in due course.

Upcoming Dates/Events

- S4/5/6 Assessment Fortnight (formerly known as prelims) begin on **Wednesday 10th January** – pupils have been given Assessment Timetables and information about good practice in and during exams
- Parent Council Meeting – **Wednesday 17th January, 6.30pm**
- S2 Reports to Parents – **Thursday 18th January**
- S4/5/6 Assessment Fortnight Ends – **Wednesday 24th January**
- S4/5 Parents Information Evening, 6.30pm – **Thursday 25th January**
- S2 Parents Information Evening, 6.30pm – **Tuesday 30th January**
- S2 Parents Evening, 4.15pm-6.45pm – **Tuesday 6th February**
- February Mid-Term Holiday – **Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th February**
- INSET Day 4 – **Wednesday 14th February**





#WeAreChrystonHighSchool



Staffing Updates

We wish the following members of staff all the very best as they move on to pastures new after Christmas. They have all contributed so much to our school and community and they will be missed:

Miss Forsyth (RE) – promoted to a new PT role in New Zealand

Miss Bell (Maths) – heading to a new teaching role in East Lothian

Miss Shields (Home Ec.) – heading to a promoted post at Kilsyth Academy.

We wish each of them all the very best.

We look forward to the following members of staff joining our school in January:

Mrs Millett (Maths), Ms Reilly (Maths) – we wish both, all the very best.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Chryston High School, we wish you a happy, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



If you have any future success/news you would like us to be aware of please contact us at the school.

