



EPCHS Christmas Newsletter December 2018

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2018.

At the end of 2018 it is important that we reflect on what has been another very important year for our school.

There has never been a more important or demanding time to be leading and working in schools. Securing continuous improvement, developing great leaders and teachers, and giving our students and young people the very best start in life – this has been our task. This is why in 2018 we have developed a school led partnership school improvement model founded on professional peer review – led by a serving Ofsted Inspector.

In 2018 we have worked with 6 schools;

- Loreto Convent – Altrincham
- St Nicholas – Northwich
- St Thomas Moore – Crewe
- Chester Catholic High School

- St Chads – Runcorn
- Cardinal Newman – Warrington

We reviewed our provision for all our students Personal Development, Welfare and Safety in May and our Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment in November. I am very pleased to tell you that all the peer review findings have concurred with the schools own self review that we are a good school.

I would like to share with you some of the many highlights from these reviews;

- ✓ The quality of relationships in the school is a strength and has a very positive impact on students.
- ✓ There is relentless support for students to do their very best; teachers and other adults often go

above and beyond for the students and their families.

- ✓ The school has lovely children and a very talented and professional staff.
- ✓ Students appreciate being given responsibility for learning and opportunities for extending learning and they have many opportunities to be involved in leadership and extended ad applied learning activities.
- ✓ Our students are confident, polite and courteous to visitors and each other.
- ✓ Students work hard with the school to prevent all forms of bullying-they know how to report and seek help and support should they feel the need to report something.

(Headteachers welcome cont.)

- ✓ Students are safe and feel safe at all times. They understand how to keep themselves and other safe outside of school and the school has a dedicated and timetabled PSHCE programme to address relevant local issues.
- ✓ Safeguarding procedures are robust.

We are very proud of the findings from these peer reviews.

We will continue this cycle of reviews as complex and demanding times call for authentic and principled leadership. I believe that this is alive and well in our school as all our leaders work collaboratively with other schools in a spirit of collective improvement and ambition that will benefit all our students and their families.

I hope that as you look through our newsletter you will see many examples of how our school community has lived the school mission statement "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10.

Wishing you all a happy and Holy Christmas

Mrs C Vile
Headteacher

A Reflection for the Christmas Season

If you have food in your Fridge, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep.....
you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere.....
you are among the top 8% of the worlds wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.....
you are more blessed that the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation....
you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death....
you are more blessed that 3 billion people in the world.

If you can read this message.....
you are more blessed than over 2 billion people in the world than cannot read at all.

If you can hold up your head, with a smile on your face and are truly thankful.....
you are most blessed, because the majority can – but most do not!

Remember to count your blessings.

.....

Let us Pray

God our Father, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter,
we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us:
for the shining star and the angel's song,
for the infant's cry in a lowly manger.

We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little child.
We behold his glory, and we rejoice in His presence among us.

We are thankful for all the good things we have and enjoy,
which we count as blessings.

May we be Mindful of those less fortunate than we are,
and always strive to do what we can to make the world a better place.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

AMEN

STAFF UPDATE

We have a number of staff changes from January.

We say **Goodbye to Mr Gradwell** in the Math's department and wish him well as he takes up his new role as Head of Math's in Hartford.

Mr Wilmore our **Site Maintenance officer** is **retiring** and **Mr Jones** our **Lettings Officer** is moving on to a **new role**.

We have two **new staff** starting with us after the Christmas break; we welcome **Mrs Williams** (Business Studies and I.T.) and **Mr McLeod**, our new Site Maintenance Officer.

Mrs Edwards and **Miss King** are on **maternity leave**. Their classes will be **covered by Mr Wilmhurst** for Miss King and **Mr Robinson** for Mrs Edwards.

Magic Breakfast Club

Free Breakfast for all!

Everyone will agree that breakfast is especially important for young people to ensure their brains have the energy to think, learn well in lessons and give them fuel to exercise to keep healthy. We are keen to ensure that all of our students get a healthy breakfast each morning.

Our school is proud to be part of the National School Breakfast Programme from January 2019. We successfully applied to be part this programme which is funded by the Department for Education through the soft drinks levy and is delivered by the charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast, offering a free healthy breakfast at school to ensure students are settled and ready to learn.

Students will be able to enjoy a delicious, healthy, free breakfast of bagels, cereal or porridge each morning in the school canteen anytime from 7.40am up to 8.40am. All are welcome.

We hope you will encourage your son/daughter to take up this great opportunity and attend breakfast club each morning.



Delivering the National School Breakfast Programme

Geographical Association Worldwise Quiz

On Wednesday 5th December, Catholic High took part in a Geography competition at University of Chester against other schools within the local areas North West and North Wales.



7 students went and competed in 2 groups. Neha, Harvey, Leanne and Tia in one group and Becky, Niamh and Megan in another against a further 20 teams.

There were 8 rounds with 2 individual rounds of questions. You could pick a round to be the bonus round for the group to double your points, however you couldn't choose this in an individual round.

In the first half of the competition, we weren't that confident in our ability, but our confidence grew the more we realised we knew the answers with one group gaining near full marks in the 2nd half of the quiz which was great!

Although we didn't win, we had a great evening out of school and have felt a lot more confident in our own ability within Geography.

By Becky Jones



TOP OF THE BENCH

On the 16th November four budding Chemists from years 9 to 11 took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual 'Top of the Bench' competition.

Fred, Jamilah, Harry and Eleanor had the task of completing a poster, the theme of which was Chemistry in our area, prior to the competition date, which they then presented on arrival at the competition.

The competition day saw Jamilah, Harry, Eleanor and Fred battle it out against other schools from across the Wirral and Cheshire areas. A Chemistry practical test involving great skill, knowledge and team work was completed with 100% accuracy, alongside Chemistry based test on key areas of the Chemistry curriculum.

The overall outcome for the day was fantastic; Harry, Eleanor, Fred and Jamilah saw their hard work pay off gaining the winners position for the Wirral heat and coming away with their own prizes and certificates.

This is a great achievement in itself, as we as a school have not been overall heat winners in previous years of attending the competition. Our excitement continued on the 3rd of December when we received notification the Eleanor, Fred, Jamilah and Harry had been the top scoring team in the three North West qualifying heats and have been put through to attend the National Finals of the 'Top of the Bench' competition to be held in March 2019 at Birmingham University.

A massive well done to Fred, Jamilah, Harry and Eleanor and a great way to end 2018 in Science.

River Alyn

Our classes began our journey by getting on a big bus. We were on our way to the River Alyn where we were going to different stages of the river to measure depth, width, speed, rock size and rock shape. When we got to our first destination we got split into groups of about 5 then collected the equipment we needed and made our way down to the river. Once at the river each group spread out along it and started their investigation. Our first part of the river was high up in the upper course where the water was shallowest.

The first thing each group had to do was measure the channel width. Using a tape measure one person from my group held one end at the point where the water meets the bank one side of the channel. Ensuring the tape wasn't twisted another person went to the other side of the river and measured to the point where the water meets the bank directly opposite. We would write our results down in our booklets.

The second thing my group did was measure channel depth. There would have been some variation in channel depth across the river so it would not be representative to take a single measurement of depth.



So instead we took a number of measurements. How many measurements you would take would depend on the variability of the channel depth and width of the river channel. We divided the width by ten. E.g. Width 1.20m $1.20/10 = 0.12\text{m}$ or 12cm. Using this to measure at 9 equally spaced points across the channel. With a metre ruler we measured from the water surface to the river bed. To ensure accuracy we turned the metre ruler so that the narrow side of the ruler faces into the flow of the river. For each result there was a space in the booklet to write our number down.

The third thing my group did was measure velocity. Using a floating item such as dog biscuits, we could calculate the velocity using the formula $\text{Velocity} = \text{Distance}/\text{Time}$ linking Maths into our Geography lessons. We would write our results in the booklet.

First you:

- Measure out 5 metres downstream.
- Place the floating item in the water at the upstream end.
- Start timing when you let go of the floating item.
- When it reached the end of the measured stretch we stopped timing.
- We then repeated it three times and calculated the mean time (Maths again in a Geography lesson?!?!).

We also measured the velocity using a flowmeter which is basically a stick with an impellor on which turns as the water flows past.



After we finished all the methods above at the location, we packed our equipment up and went to two other parts of the River Alyn where we repeated the same process and each destination. As we went further down the river through the upper course to the upper part of the middle course, the river got deeper and wider and the shape and size of the rocks got more eroded and rounded.

After we finished at all three locations and we had collected all the results we needed, we got back on the bus and went back to school.

It was a really enjoyable trip and we learnt a lot to help us embed our understanding of the topic learnt in class.

Under 14 School Games District Champions.

Congratulations to the Under 14 Girls Football team who defended their title as the Schools Games District Champions!

They won all their games against Neston, Helsby, Whitby and the Academy to represent the district in the Level 3 competition in 2019.

The girls got off to a winning start when Chanelle Aston scored in the dying seconds of the first game against Neston. In the remaining games the girls upped the tempo and won all remaining matches comfortably – well done to Maddie Murphy, Marcie Fields and Eden Cooper who got their names on the score sheet.

Great job girls!



SCHOOL CHOIR ON TOUR AROUND ELLESMERE PORT

During this term the school choir have been very busy, rehearsing and performing at local venues within our community and in school.

Recently they visited and performed for the residents of Hollymere Residential Living. Here they spread Christmas joy by singing and performing traditional and popular Christmas Carols and songs.

In addition to this they have performed at the local Port Arcades raising money for the Music department and local charities.

Furthermore, in school the choir have performed at EPCHS Got Talent, Christmas Masses, Christmas lunch and Christmas assemblies.

Well done to all members of the choir for their outstanding commitment and singing this term.

Chaplaincy Events since September

A Welcome Mass for the new Sixth Form took place on 6th September and for the new Year 7s on the 13th. Every Wednesday throughout the term mass is celebrated for a year group on a rotational basis. We are grateful to Fr Niall Mullaly, Fr Louis Maggiore and Deacon Tony Hung as they provide both Sacramental and moral support for students and staff alike.

September 21st is designated as the annual United Nations International Peace Day. Here in school Peace prayer spaces were set up in the Chapel for students to visit, and members of the Sixth Form gathered peace pledges from the students. At the same time we initiated the idea of establishing a Peace Garden in school and we are aiming to complete this project by Remembrance Day next year. A competition to design Peace Poles for the Peace Garden has been launched in the DT department, and we are hoping to secure some funding from the Woodland Trust to help complete the project.

Assemblies in November commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War and we held a Service of Remembrance in the Chapel, with representatives from every class, staff members and Fr Niall present. Students and staff led prayers and laid red and white poppies at the foot of the willow cross outside reception amidst the display the Art department constructed. Miss Byrne played the Last Post adding an extra poignancy to the occasion.

Cameron Harris, Year 9 represented the school, at the Remembrance Parade in the Civic Square on 11th November, by reading a poem at the Cenotaph. Several other students took part with their selected cadet troops or squadrons.

Students and staff were invited to write the names of deceased family members into our Book of Remembrance, and this had pride of place in Chapel throughout November and was ceremoniously placed in front of the altar during mass.



Advent Assemblies took place during the first week of Advent and on the second Sunday of Advent students from the school were invited to attend the Family mass in the parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea. Several students led the readings, prayers and music during this mass.

Advent Prayer Spaces were made available for classes to visit during the 2nd week of Advent.

Our Christmas celebration on the 18th December will be shared with Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School in the afternoon and with parents in the evening. The Christmas Masses will take place for students and staff on Wednesday 19th December.

The redecoration of the Chapel is taking place thanks to the site staff and this will further enhance this 'sacred space' as a focal point within the school.

Thank you to Fr Niall and Fr Louis who have given great support to this by providing a new Ciborium, Lectionary and altar cloths and the diocese has provided us with a new Tabernacle.

Thanks also to the site staff who kindly set up the Hall for Mass every week.



Year 8 Peace Workshop

Year 8 Forms attended a Peace Workshop in the Chapel, led by Miss Breen.

Students took part in a range of activities including creating prayers for peace and evaluating famous quotes about peace.

It gave students a chance to reflect on current world issues such as war, as well as discussing what they can do to create peace in their own lives.

The students said they enjoyed the day and being given the chance to seriously consider important issues.



Year 13 A Level Theology Revision Day

Year 13 A Level Theology students attended a revision day at Upton Hall School to help them prepare for their A Level examinations in summer 2019.

This was led by Mark Lambe who is former chief examiner of the Educas examination board as well as the author of Theology text books and revision guides. Mark took students through a number of topics from both the Philosophy and Ethics modules.

Students said that they thought the day was really useful and looked forward to attending another revision day with Mark in the spring Term.



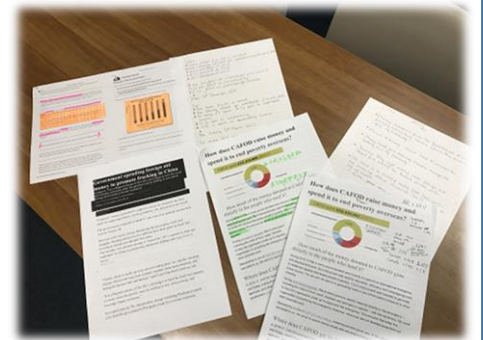
Sixth Form General RE

This term Sixth Form have been investigating, analyzing and discussing the topic of 'Christian Peace Makers'.

During the unit students learnt about modern, historical, local and international conflict and Christian Activism and the unit ended with the topic of Charity.

Students spent time independently researching the topic of 'Brits should give more to International Aid' before completing a class debate where all students built on their collaboration, critical thinking and public speaking skills.

Students enjoyed the topic and look forward to completing more whole class debates in the spring term.



Presentation Evening 2018

Our Presentation Evening was held on Thursday 22nd November at the Civic Hall in Ellesmere Port.

We celebrated the achievements of our students who took their GCSE and A Level examinations in the summer. We also celebrated the achievement and effort of other students.



Our guest speaker was Mr Ben Thomas. Ben is a former student of Ellesmere Port Catholic High School.

During his time here he captained the the basketball team and took them to several National Schools' finals and also represented the school in five European competitions.

Ben is now the head coach of the Chesire Phoenix Basketball team who play their home games at the Ellesmere Port Sports Village.

The Mayor of Ellesmer Port Councillor Karen Shore, also attended the event.



As part of the evening our Performing Arts department entertained us with musical items from 'The School of Rock', 'Matilda' and 'Blood Brothers'.



EPCHS Mini-Market

On Friday 14th December, students took part in a Mini Market. Each form group was responsible for setting up and running a stall, to raise funds for their chosen charities. The students had to set up their stalls ready for the opening time and tidy up at the end of the day.

As you can see from the pictures there was a variety of stalls selling many different products from sweets and cakes to mock-tails and Christmas baubles. Father Christmas even made an appearance. The students really enjoyed the day (as did staff).

