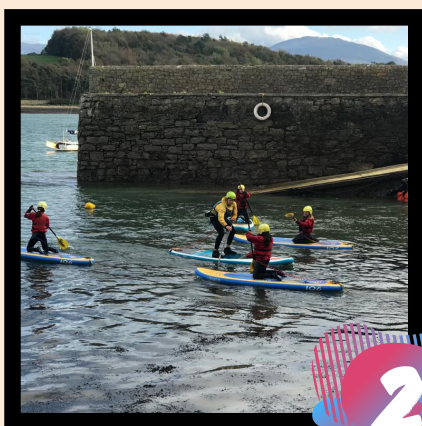




Inside the Issue

YEAR 7 WALK ON THE WILD SIDE.

Year 7 take to Conway
for a team building
residential!



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TROWLERS TROUP TRIUMPHS...AGAIN!

U16's demolish Upton
and make it through to
Round 2 of the Cheshire
Cup!



4

AWARDS EVENING SUCCESS!

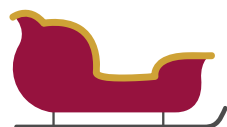
EPCHS welcomes past
and present students to
celebrate their
achievements!



7



"I HAVE COME SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND
HAVE IT TO THE FULL" JOHN 10:10



Mrs Viles Christmas message

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. The end of the year is a time to look back and reflect on the many achievements of our school family, especially for those students who are preparing for public exams next summer. They have had parents' consultation evenings, information evenings, university applications to submit, retreats to support them and finally pre-public exams. I have been so proud of their work ethic and focus and would like to take this opportunity to both praise the students and thank their parents and carers for their support and engagement.

There are few events in the school's calendar that fill me with more pride than our Remembrance service in the Chapel. Representatives from all forms paid their respects to those who gave their tomorrows for our todays, we should always show our immense gratitude to all of them. Our Advent charity work has allowed all students to put their faith into action and this culminated in a wonderful Christmas Market which all forms contributed to raising money for local charities.

For a number of weeks now there has been the sound of Christmas carols drifting across the school and at the end of the school day as our musicians and choir have been preparing for the annual Carol Service – another special evening in the life of the school. On the last day of term many of the pieces prepared for the Carol Service will be included in the Christmas Assemblies.

Finally, we look back on another year at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School with great pride and joy for the successes and achievements shown by all our students.

We wish all our families a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Mrs C Vile
Headteacher



A reminder to all students. The school canteen is open from 7.45am and begins serving a wide range of breakfast from 8am. This is a FREE breakfast and available to ALL year groups!

This term the governors have been reviewing the IT systems in the school. Our students live in an ever increasing digital world, so it is important that we prepare them for the world outside of school. We have recently advertised and appointed an IT manager who will look at our provision and ensure our systems are efficient and provide our students with the opportunities to build skills for the next stage of their lives.

From January we are starting the process of putting Clevertouch interactive screens in our classrooms, so that each department has top of the range technology to support learning. There is a planned programme to fit these monitors in the majority of classrooms by the end of the year.

We have recently updated one of our IT suites to include an island in the middle to accommodate more computers to allow improved access to our increasing intake of students. This review of IT classrooms is an ongoing process that our new IT manager will continue to ensure our students have access to the latest technologies.

The School Governors.





"MOSES WAS EDUCATED IN ALL THE LEARNING OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND HE WAS A MAN OF POWER IN WORDS AND DEEDS" ACTS 7:22

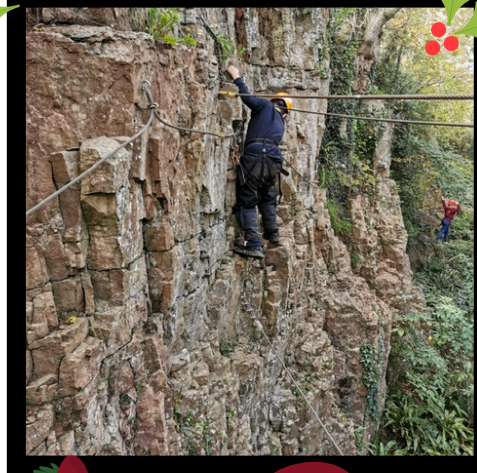


TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Conway is a fun and spectacular trip with so many challenges and activities. My favourite activity in Conway was the Raft building, basically what you had to do was use the least points as possible to make your raft. The items to build your raft cost points so we had to think very carefully about what we were going to use. My team all worked hard together and we ended up pulling off the victory, with the help of good planning, strength to build the raft and powerful knowledge of using a paddle. The hardest activity for me was the Rock Climbing because I was really scared and felt like I just couldn't do it, but with the help of the Conway Staff and my friends, I got onto the wall and completed the course.

The rooms were absolutely amazing, my room was small, made to fit four people in, but it was perfect in size and definitely warm and comfy through the cold nights. The daily routine was perfect and no one felt ill or tired. The Staff at Conway were really polite and fun to be with and like I mentioned before, they were very helpful and encouraged everyone to be brave and strong. The cafeteria chefs were really nice and obviously knew how to cook, the food of which they provided was incredible. I wish I could go back to Conway just for at least one more night to experience all the excitement again

Eric - Year 7.



Aretha Frankinsence



EPCHS SANTA DASH

A number of staff got together afterschool in the Art department to create their own Christmas Wreaths, using a range of resources to make then decorate their stunning creations. This was a lovely chilled evening with festive music, refreshments and a chance to work with others. Well over £70 raised for charity. Well done all!
Mrs Moore

Mrs L Moore & Mr L Della Rocca took part in the Chester Santa Dash on an extremely cold and frosty morning. This was organised by local charities, The Hospice of the Good Shepherd and The Countess of Chester. They donned their fetching Santa suits and joined the other 2000 Santa's in the run around the streets of Chester. A really great festive event supporting local causes, we hope to see more EPCHS Santa's next year!





SO JESUS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, "MY TEACHING IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS WHO SENT ME." JOHN 7:16



EPCHS DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Health & Safety Award



This term the Design Technology department has introduced a new award for health and safety. The following students have demonstrated amazing health and safety practices. Congratulations! - **Mr Barry**

-  JACK - YEAR 84/TE2
-  SEREN - YEAR 9L/D3
-  PATRICK - YEAR 10A/D31

MR WALWYN'S TOP TIP OF THE TERM



"Measuring and marking out is the route to success!"



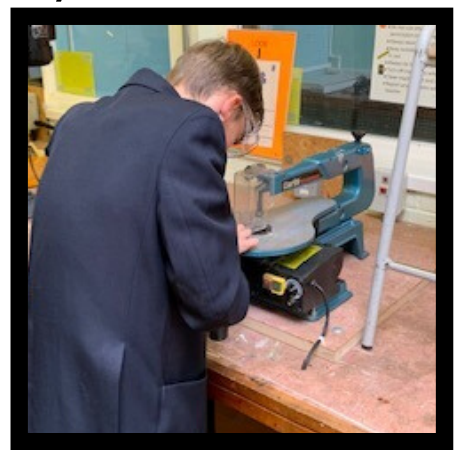
Design & Technology Club



Focus on physical disability

Over the past few months, Design Technology Club have designed and manufactured their own wooden toys, focusing on traditional manufacturing techniques. Their focus was to batch produce as a group, toys designed specifically for the fifth percentile I.E. children with disabilities. Well done to all the students involved!

- **Mr Barry.**



This term in Product Design

This term in Product Design we have been looking into the sustainability of materials and the properties of biodegradable materials. We have then put the knowledge we have learnt into practice within our practical work. I have developed many existing practical skills this year on machinery such as the vacuum former and disc sander but I have also learnt new skills on machinery such as strip heaters. I am really looking forward to continuing my journey in Design and Technology.

- **Reece (Year 10)**



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY CHRISTMAS DISPLAY TAKES CENTRE STAGE





*"THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM IS: ACQUIRE WISDOM;
AND WITH ALL YOUR ACQUIRING, GET
UNDERSTANDING" PROVERBS 4:7*



TROWLER'S TROOP

⚽ UNSTOPPABLE! ⚽

The U16's are through to Round 2 of the Cheshire Cup after a whopping 10-2 win over Upton Chester in December on their home turf. The 10 woman team were a player down but that didn't stop them! The goal of the game was scored by Paige, scoring a sublime header from an awesome corner whipped in by Maddison. Chanel scored four goals as striker. Woman of the match went to Kaitlin for a sensational performance on the right wing! WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

Mrs Trowler



School Games Winners!

The U16's 7 a side squad triumphantly won the annual School Games competition after a tense final match with Neston High School. The girls will now go through to represent the Ellesmere Port & Neston district in the district competitions in March.

Mrs Trowler

Tranmere Rovers FC Annual Tournament

'EPCHS took on a host of schools from the Wirral and Ellesmere Port area in the annual U13's 6-A-Side competition. The girls played some quality football throughout the tournament with Freya and Olivia winning players of the tournament for EPCHS Year 7 and Ella and Kiera winning for Year 8!

Miss Lodge





THE ONE WHO IS TAUGHT THE WORD IS TO SHARE
ALL GOOD THINGS WITH THE ONE WHO TEACHES
HIM." GALATIANS 6:6



B MAJOR... INVOLVED IN MUSIC THIS TERM!

The Music Department have seen record numbers of students attending their extra-curricular clubs this half term. Music Technology club, on a Wednesday lunchtime, has been at full capacity. Students have commented on how lovely and attractive the newly refurbished classroom is, with new benching, a fresh coat of paint and attractive wall displays. Thirty IMacs with GarageBand installed on them are now accessible to students which gives them the ability to record and produce their own music at a professional standard. I would like to thank all the students for attending these extra-curricular activities. I would also like to stress that giving up your time and being committed to these clubs does have its rewards. Students that attend these clubs know what they are but please, if you are interested in more information about joining these clubs please see myself. - **Mrs Byrne**

UPCOMING at EPCHS

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| EPCHS Got Talent |
| Christmas Carol Service & Assemblies |
| Christmas Masses |
| Choir busking at Port Arcades |
| Performances at local Care Home |



HARK! THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT SINGS

On Tuesday evening we held our annual Christmas Carol Service. We heard from the gospels, sang carols and Christmas songs. The Drama Department also prepared extracts from "Flint Street Nativity" to give the evening a humorous and light hearted feel. A big well done and congratulations to the members of the choir, Drama students and staff for a tremendous evening of prayer and Christmas fun. - **Mrs Byrne**

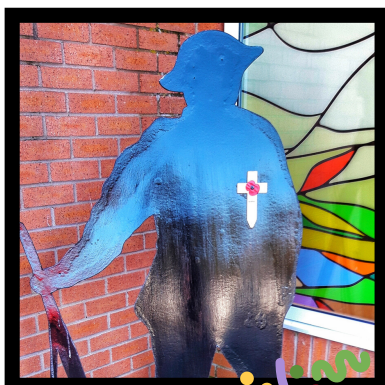


TICKETS ON SALE EPCHS GOT TALENT!



On Monday 16th December sees the return of the Music Department's Annual EPCHS Got Talent competition. Over the last few weeks Mrs Byrne and a panel of student judges have been watching auditions. Students from years 7-11 have been showing off their skills. Mrs Byrne and her helpers have seen quite a range of talents from singing, drumming to comedy acts. The evening event showcases the top ten acts and this is when the competition really "hots up!" The ten finalists have to perform their act in front of judging panel consisting of students and staff plus in front of a live audience. Please come and support the students. Tickets start at £2 for students and £3 for adults. Doors open at 6:45pm and the show starts at 7pm. - **Mrs Byrne**





CONGRATULATIONS

Canon Niall!

On Monday 17th October Fr Niall Mullaley – Parish priest for Our Lady's Ellesmere Port – was inducted into Shrewsbury Diocese's Chapter of Canons. Thus Fr Niall, now Canon Niall, has been recognised by Bishop Mark for his years of service and superlative work.

Though historically the Chapter of Canon's traditionally discussed and informed Church leaders of authentic Catholic doctrinal practise, the role was reduced following the second ecumenical council of the Vatican (1962-65). This vocation now requires Canon's to place a yet more profound focus on prayer and service within their ministry. Perhaps a Canon's most privileged role within modern Catholicism is the relevant Chapter's assemblage when discerning, and presenting to the pope, an appropriate successor following the retirement or death of a bishop.

Ant - Chaplin.

NOVEMBER A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

As the Catholic Church distinguishes the month of November as a period of remembrance and prayer for the souls our deceased brothers and sisters, our school observed this special month of commemoration in a number of pertinent ways.

Firstly, we encouraged students and staff members to place names of deceased loved ones into our school's Remembrance Book. This book was then placed in a prominent position within our chapel, and displayed during weekly year group Mass'. Furthermore, it was prayed over daily by school chaplains – Ant and Pat – and by members of our student '10:10' chaplaincy team.

During the lead up to Remembrance Sunday, and Remembrance Day (11/11), our History staff informed students (via assemblies) of the distinct significance of our nation's annual Remembrance traditions. Also, members of our Art and Design Technology departments beautifully decorated the Main Hall and front of school with Remembrance Day displays. Our school Chaplain Pat, organised a touching Remembrance Day service in the chapel. In attendance were student members representing each Form Group across all year groups, as well as a number of available teaching staff.

Many thanks goes to all students and staff members who contributed in any way towards commemorating both our deceased loved ones and troops throughout this significant month

Ant - Chaplin.



A FOOL DOES NOT DELIGHT IN UNDERSTANDING, BUT ONLY IN REVEALING HIS OWN MIND." PROVERBS 18:2



FLYING HIGH WITH THE RAF CADETS

When I joined the RAF Air Cadets at the age of 12 I had no idea what opportunities were in store. It's a serious commitment to be a cadet - but once you've experienced it you wouldn't have it any other way. Now at the age of 18 I am a Flight Sergeant at 1123 Hooton Park Squadron and have been on an abundance of adventurous training camps, courses and a trip overseas to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. I have also completed BTEC qualifications in Aviation studies, Leadership and Instructional skills. The pinnacle of my Cadet career was completing the ACPS (Air Cadet Pilot Scholarship) in Dundee two weeks ago. The concentrated flying programme was over two weeks and culminated in a solo flight in a light aircraft on the last day. I would like to thank school for supporting me in allowing the time off to complete the course. I was very lucky to achieve the solo flight as the pass rate is only 25%. This was a fantastic experience and one I will never forget. I managed to fly most days despite the Scottish weather and learnt basic airmanship and lots of safety procedures, including how to recover from a stall at 5,000 feet. On one day luckily I managed to complete 14 'touch and go' training procedures which really helped consolidate my training. As a cadet you'll have the opportunity to do things that others only dream about. If you are up for fun, adventure, incredible experiences and making new friends and most of all to give you the edge in life then join the RAF Air Cadets. The sky is quite literally the limit. Photos below of me in an Aquila A211 light aircraft at Tayside Aviation in Dundee.

Matthew - Sixth Form Student



R.E ADVENT EXPERIENCE

In the run up to Christmas, the RE department have been working with students to reflect on the importance of this time of year. In RE lessons, students have been working hard discussing the true meaning of Christmas for people all over the world. To further their ideas, students have also been taking part in Advent reflection experiences in the Chapel. During these sessions students were encouraged to think about the main themes of advent: love, hope, joy and peace. Students reflected on Bible passages and thought about how they show these themes in their own lives. We have had fantastic engagement from students who enjoyed the prayerful atmosphere and the chance to develop their learning outside of the classroom!

AWARDS EVENING SUCCESS!

The school's annual Presentation Evening was held at the Civic Hall on 21 November. It was a wonderful evening when we celebrated the achievements of our students, past and present. The evening started with an amazing drumming performance, swiftly followed by two wonderful music and dance items from 'Matilda'. We were delighted that many of our year 13 and year 11 leavers were able to join us to mark their exam achievements this summer. Current students also received awards for both achievement and effort. Our special guest speaker was Michelle Mitchell who is the CEO of Cancer Research UK – and a local 'Ellesmere Port girl' who gave us an inspirational address. We were joined by Canon Niall Mullaney as well as the Mayor of Ellesmere Port, Councillor Michael Edwardson who was accompanied by Councillor Gareth Gould. The evening finished with another fantastic number, this time 'Let's go fly a kite' from Mary Poppins, when the stage was filled with flags, song and dance. All in all, an evening to celebrate.





"MOSES WAS EDUCATED IN ALL THE LEARNING OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND HE WAS A MAN OF POWER IN WORDS AND DEEDS." EDUCATION 44:7:22



YEAR 7 CRIME INVESTIGATIONS



Year 7 have had a fantastic week working as crime investigators with Cheshire Police officers. Team building skills, leadership and questioning have all been developed. Well done to all, you were amazing!

PARENT FORUM

This term has seen the Parent Forums' continuing to be a success at EPCHS. The Parent Forums' allow Mrs Jones and her team to discuss with parents key issues and events taking place at EPCHS. This term saw the Police and Sergeant Paul Davis speak with Parents about the signs and symptoms of the very current danger of 'County Lines' affecting teenagers and young people in Ellesmere Port. Miss Smith delivered a very informative session on Hegarty Maths discussing the rationale and benefits of the Hegarty Maths programme. Miss Smith was able to show parents how to navigate around the website and how parents can be supporting their child using Hegarty Maths. Parent Forums' run throughout the year and are hosted in the conference room at EPCHS. Mrs Jones plans the sessions from 5.30pm and provides tea/coffee and biscuits from our lovely canteen. The next Parent Forum is on 12th March 2020 and will be discussing 'Improving your child's attendance'. Miss Rogers our Education Welfare Officer will be on hand to answer any questions and to provide support for any parents/guardians wishing to improve their child's attendance to school. Mrs Jones will be presenting on the emotional barriers to school non attendance. If you wish to find out any further information with regards to the Parent Forums please contact Mrs Jayne Jones on j.jones@email.epchs.co.uk

Through Their Eyes.



The English Department have been working with students to enter the Young Writer's poetry competition 'Through Their Eyes' with a chance to win £100 and to have their work published. The closing date is 18th October and is open to everyone aged 11- 18 years old.

Students had to write a poem in the first person from the perspective of anyone or anything, thus 'Through Their Eyes'. They needed to think about what atmosphere they needed to create, for example, tense, happy or scared and how that person or thing would speak, for example with a dialect, accent or in Non Standard English. They had to consider whether the poem was based on truth or rooted in imagination. Students could also use a range of poetic techniques and structures in their poem. We had a fantastic response from students in years 7 to 11 and fingers crossed that we will have some winners! Further details are on www.youngwriters.co.uk or please see Mrs Southern, English Department in C20.

Example

Poem:

Ice Ice Baby

You put it in your drinks in pubs.

Little cubes of my home.

Melting away.

In your so important gin.

My mate got eaten thanks to you.

He had no ice to stand on.

It's hard being a penguin when your home is in a glass in a pub in London.





"SO, WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRINK, OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."
CORINTHIANS 10:31



History Department Visits

Quarry Bank Mill

As part of their GCSE History studies, year 11 have to study a local historical site. Students and staff visited Quarry Bank Mill in November this year. At the site students learn about its origin, changes over time and reasons for this change, as well as the different groups of people who lived there over time.

The North West has a tradition of cotton spinning and weaving and is where the Industrial Revolution began; Quarry Bank Mill is now a National Trust site and one of the best preserved factories in the world, so the students were able to gain a lot of knowledge and an understanding of the cultural capital associated with the site, which is on our doorstep!

The year 11 students engaged well with the site and were enthusiastic, listening intently to what they were told and asking questions, as well as answering them to solidify and confirm the knowledge that they gained in class.



Chester Arts Fair!



The Art department were recently invited to participate in the prestigious annual Chester Arts Fair, held at the Chester racecourse over the weekend of 15th to 17th December. We had a stand in the schools section, where selected students work from Year 9 to 13 was on display for the public to view. There was a competition element to this exhibition and at the prize giving ceremony on the Sunday, 2 students work was recognised. Congratulations to Felicia Yr 10, highly commended for her detailed Fish drawing and then to Isabella Year 12, for her Year 11 GCSE Art exam tree painting, who won the online voting People's Choice Award. There was some fabulous feedback and comments about the standard of the work and we look forward to participating again next year. Thank you to all students who contributed to the exhibition.

Mrs Moore

Sixth Form News December 2019

Mrs Cavanagh & Mrs Henderson

It has been another busy half term which has seen sixth form organise lots of exciting things. Sixth form ran a pumpkin carving session for lower school it was a lovely experience for all involved and lots of lovely pumpkins were made. We completed two hampers which were raffled off at the Civic Hall at our annual Certificates Evening the money raised was for Greenpeace our chosen charity. Well done to Hannah Ditchfield and Ivan Balaba for the excellent delivery of their Head Boy and Head Girl speech. The sixth form council decided that it would be nice to invite local pensioners from our parishes to our carol service and to lay on a lovely lunch, in order to do this they raised money from a cake sale which funded the cost of providing food for our guests. We had such a lovely morning with our local pensioners and sixth form students waited on our guests with turkey and cranberry rolls, Scones with jam and cream, Christmas cake and mince pies. It was a lovely day and the sixth form involved were a "credit to the school". We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Quiz, Christmas Jumper Day and visit to the Manchester Christmas Markets in our last week. We wish all our sixth formers and their families a very happy Christmas.

