



## Headteacher's message

Welcome to the first edition of our termly newsletter. In our most recent parent/carers survey, it was suggested that we increase our communication with home and I hope this newsletter plays a role in doing so. Along with our Social media posts and letters home via MyEd, this termly newsletter gives a flavour of some of the wonderful things that have happened at our school over the past term.

My first term as Headteacher of St. Cuthbert's has been the proudest 15 weeks of my career. I am proud of our staff who commit themselves to creating the best life chances for our students every day. I am proud of, and grateful for, the support of our wonderful parent(s)/carer(s) in working with us to achieve the best for our students, and I am proud most of all of our students who never cease to amaze us in their achievements, positive attitudes, and commitment to their learning every day.

From our annual Awards Evening, to our weekly R5 Award winners, from our many sporting achievements to the strong set of mock examination results our Y11 students have achieved, there is a lot to celebrate from this term.

Please can I draw the attention of our whole community to our new school prayer which has been written by a number of our students.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas. May the celebration of the birth of Jesus fill you with hope and peace throughout this season.

Best wishes,  
**Mr Holland.**



Live life in  
all its fullness

John 10:10

School Prayer

Dear God,

We ask for the compassion  
to care for each other,  
the commitment to strive  
for excellence, and the courage  
to do the right thing. Help us  
to build a community where  
everyone can live life to the full.

Amen.

St. Cuthbert, pray for us.

## Catholic Life at St Cuthbert's

### Advent Service for Schools at the Liverpool Cathedral of Christ the King

Schools from across Liverpool Archdiocese were invited to attend an Advent service for young people at the Cathedral on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Our Chaplaincy Leaders represented St. Cuthbert's at this special event. Our students were treated to an afternoon of drama, music, reflections and readings. The service reminded us about the real meaning of Christmas and filled us with the joy, peace, love and hope of Advent.



### Year 7 Retreat Day

As a part of our transition program at St Cuthbert's, all of our new year 7 students get to take a day away from their normal lessons and experience a retreat day. We welcomed Rise Theatre to school in November to lead a day called 'The Happiness Show'. Our students watched theatre productions and took part in workshops. Our students were encouraged to think about what makes them special, what is important to them and what will make them happy in their futures.



### St. Cuthbert's Youth SVP Group

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a national Catholic charity that aims to alleviate hardship in all its forms within local communities. Our own Youth SVP branch follows the mission of SVP by **seeing** where the need is – **thinking** what they can do – **doing** something to help.

St. Cuthbert's Youth SVP group recently attended a conference hosted by St. Helens Youth Parliament called 'Feed the Need'. Our students spent the day looking at the causes of food poverty with St Helens and what goes on in the area to help. They then worked with other schools across the borough to work on a practical project that could help people experiencing food shortage. Our students were wonderful ambassadors for the school.





Since September, our Year 11 students have been working hard and making memories. Students recently completed their mock examinations in all subjects. Whilst our students were undoubtedly working hard to revise and perform as well as they could, they could also find time to achieve great sporting success and give their time and efforts to charitable causes. Ellie McC was awarded 2024 Coach's Player of the Year at her club Warrington Girls' Community Rugby League.

Our Senior Team were the main presenters at the Annual Awards Evening and delivered great speeches to really capture the spirit of St Cuthbert's. We so often say to our Year 11 students, 'be the best version of yourself that you can be' and we know that we have a wealth of gifts and talents amongst our cohort.

There are lots of events to look forward to in Year 11 and, in November, students received a 'Save the Date' card for the Year 11 Prom. This promises to be a fun filled and memorable event, but all students were reminded that their invitation to the Prom will rely on them reaching and maintaining high standards across school. Attendance, Behaviour, Engagement in Learning and lots of other things will be taken into consideration to ensure the best celebration possible.

As always, certain students deserve to be recognised for their hard work and efforts. Here is a spotlight on some of our Year 11s.

**Alicia S**, with her friends and the capable assistance of Mrs Dixon, held a 'Bake Sale' to raise money for charity. Alicia has held a bake sale for the past 3 years and is always thinking of ways that she can help others. Alicia really shows one of our core values, '**Compassion**' in the way she commits her time and hard work to give to people that need it.



Another student that shows great commitment and courage is **Ellie-May J**. As a talented singer and performer, Ellie-May has often performed within school at Awards Evening, mass and at most celebrations. Ellie-May recently travelled to Manchester to audition for Britain's Got Talent and, while this time she didn't progress any further, we certainly know that Ellie-May's Got Talent! She is certainly a shining star in the making!

As we reach the Christmas period, and look towards the new year, let's think of the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. A year in which Year 11 will complete their high school and St Cuthbert's journey, and a year that allows us to shape and direct the next steps in our lives. Let's all make it a year to be proud of!

### Miss Moa and Mrs Carvill

All of our Year 11 students are encouraged to attend revision sessions after school. This is the timetable. There will also be targeted revision for some students.

Week A	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Creative Media	Geography X band	RE	PE Y band H&Sc Y band
Week B				
	Drama Geography Z band PE Z band H&Sc Z band	English	Music Spanish	Computer Science

As we approach the festive season, it's a perfect opportunity to reflect on the incredible achievements and progress of our Year 10 students this term. This year has been one of growth, high standards, and community spirit, and we are immensely proud to lead such a dedicated and inspiring group of young people.

### Attendance

Attendance is a key focus for our year group, and we are delighted to report consistent improvements in this area. Our weekly 100% Attendance Club draws have been a highlight, with students eagerly waiting to see if their number comes up and choosing their favourite snack as a reward. This simple initiative has kept attendance at the forefront of everyone's mind, and the commitment shown by students and families alike is truly commendable.

### Behaviour

The high standards of behaviour demonstrated by Year 10 students have been exemplary. Week after week, our year group leads the school in achieving the highest number of positive Class Charts points, despite not being the largest cohort. This remarkable feat is a testament to the students' hard work and dedication to being their best.

To maintain these high standards, we've introduced exciting weekly rewards for R5 winners and top progress achievers. These rewards include early lunch passes and access to the coveted Year 10 Sports Hall Lunch VIP Club—a privilege students are eager to earn. The competitive spirit and enthusiasm to improve Class Charts points have been fantastic to witness!



### Community and Character

The spirit of community and character within Year 10 has shone brightly this term. A standout example is our Christmas card project, where students have worked together to create beautiful cards for residents of local care homes. This initiative has been a touching reminder of the importance of giving back during the holiday season.

Our collective Sacred Time assemblies continue to be a highlight, with students showing exemplary behaviour and a willingness to engage deeply with the Catholic ethos and mission of our school. These assemblies reflect the character and maturity our students are developing every day.

### 'Be Your Best' Motto

The year group motto, *Be Your Best*, remains at the heart of everything we do. Each week, the *Quote of the Week* challenges students to think critically about how they can embody this ethos. During form time, tutors and students explore the quote's meaning and set personal goals to meet the high standards we strive for daily.

### Celebrating Achievements and Looking Ahead

Trips have continued to play a significant role in enriching the students' school experience. From the success of Boreatton Park PGL earlier this term to the excitement building for the upcoming ski trip, these opportunities have provided valuable personal development and unforgettable memories.

In preparation for the crucial months ahead, we encourage all students to establish a strong revision routine. Revisiting learning regularly not only strengthens knowledge retention but also builds confidence in the lead-up to their GCSEs.

We are immensely proud of the individual successes our students have achieved this term. We've had students representing on both local and international sporting and performing stages, showcasing their incredible talents and determination. Others have demonstrated outstanding community spirit through fundraising efforts, and a special commendation goes to those who have achieved 100% attendance for the term—a remarkable achievement. Just as importantly, we want to recognise those students who, despite facing challenging circumstances at home, have shown resilience and strength by battling to attend school every day. Their determination and commitment inspire us all.



As we close this term, I want to thank you for your unwavering support in helping your child *Be Their Best*. Together, we are creating a culture of excellence, community, and character that sets Year 10 apart.

We wish you and your family a restful and joyful Christmas. Here's to another term of progress, success, and celebration in 2025!

Warm regards,  
**Mr. Arkell and Mrs Hunter**



As we moved into an important academic year for our Y9 students in September, Mr Platt and Mrs Lee encouraged all of the year group to be inspired by the year group motto: 'reach for the moon, even if you fall, you'll fall amongst the stars' and to demonstrate resilience and a positive mindset as Y9 began their journey towards upper school and their GCSE studies.

At the end of the October half term, the Y9 pastoral team asked form tutors to nominate students who had started the year off in the right way, demonstrating excellent attitude and engagement to learning, alongside fantastic punctuality, attendance and standards of behaviour. The following students were recognised at the end of term assembly by their form tutors: **Julian K 9SJS, Kendall T 9SJS, Jayden-James M 9EPN, Laila M 9EPN, Tulusha G 9SWR, Amelia W 9SWR, Alice H 9ADY, Daniel N 9ADY, Ruby C 9HBN, Chen W 9HBN, Halexandria B 9HSR, Laura A 9HSR and Evie C 9DAS** – a massive well done to those students for starting of the term in the right way!

At the annual school awards evening in November, Mr Platt and Mrs Lee were tasked with selecting a 'Student of the Year' and 'Ambassador of the Year' for the previous academic year, which is always a difficult decision as so many of the year group are deserved of the awards and it takes serious deliberation to select the winning students. **'Student of the year'** went to **Stephanie P**, who exemplifies everything we want our students to demonstrate on a regular basis – perseverance, engagement, dedication and effort, all at a consistently high standard – a truly outstanding role model for our students. **'Ambassador of the year'** went to **Alex C**, who faced extraordinary challenges this past year but did not let these circumstances hold them back on their school journey - whether that is facing challenges academically, coping with the pressures of school life or managing the recovery from a serious illness, the student has never given up and shown us all what true strength looks like.

There have been a number of extra-curricular events that some of the Y9 students have participated in across this first term which has been amazing to see. The Y9 boys football team took part in the annual 7 a side tournament at Ruskin Drive, displaying excellence in attitude and teamwork across all of their games. The Y9 boys' rugby team participated in the St Helens 9 a side tournament, going through the whole tournament undefeated whilst displaying fantastic character and determination. The Y9 girls' rugby team were also undefeated in their central venue tournament, demonstrating fabulous talent and attitude throughout. Finally, the Y9 girls football team were successful in their St Helens Cup match, defeating Rainford 4-0 and advancing into the semi-finals. It has been a tremendously successful term for our Y9 sports teams and they represent themselves and the school in an exemplary way. Outside of school, **Freddie H 9ADY** has recently been selected to represent St Helens Schools u14s Rugby Union and recognised as the North-West player of the year – a fantastic achievement for the effort and commitment that Freddie regularly applies to his preparation and training for rugby.

A group of our Y9 students were selected for the 'Design and Build' project at Peasley Cross Hospital which was funded by GRAHAM construction and A+B engineering. The aim of this initiative was to make a difference in the local community and it reflects the St. Cuthbert's school values of: Compassion, Community, Courage and Commitment. The students were able to develop their leadership and teamwork skills, alongside developing an important understanding of sustainability. Our students worked in small teams and were asked to pitch their ideas about renovating the patient and visitor garden at the hospital to a Dragons' Den. The 'Miracle Makers' were the winning team and were awarded their prizes at a presentation at Mossley Hill Hospital in Liverpool, and also took a tour of the ongoing development at the hospital.

There has been so much that the students have been involved in so far this academic year, and they continue to make Mr Platt and Mrs Lee so proud in the way that they conduct themselves. From all of the Y9 form tutors and the pastoral team, we would like to wish you a joyful and Merry Christmas. Thank you for all of your support, we hope to begin the next part of the Y9 journey in a positive way.

**Mr Platt and Mrs Lee**



## What's been happening in Year 8?

Our year 8s have had an exciting start to the academic year with a brand new year team including a new HOY, AHOY and Form Tutors to get used to: it's great to learn about each other together!

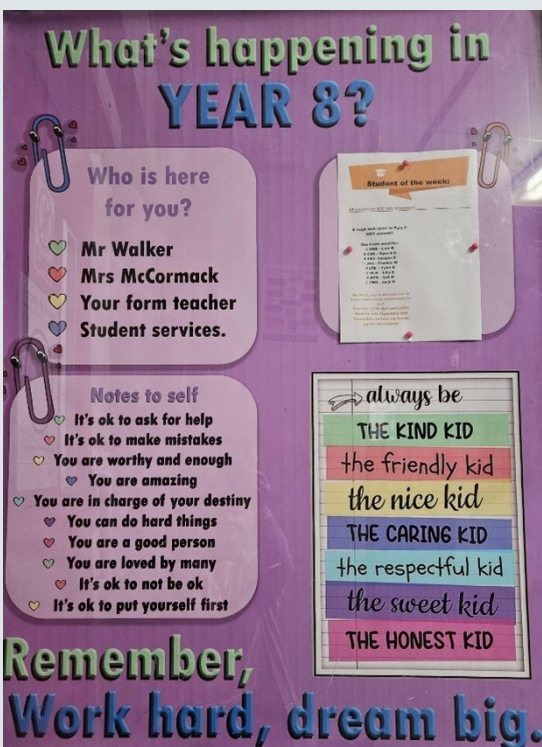
Standards across our school community are high, as are our expectations for all of our students. September 4th saw our Year 8s returning to school representing both the year group and St Cuthbert's with pride - dressed smartly in full uniform, and eager to learn.

Mr Walker, our Head of Year, welcomed us in our first assembly together and set out his expectations for our Year group: a firm commitment to positive behaviour, a conscientious attitude to learning, and to always be striving for excellent attendance and punctuality. Underpinning all of these expectations is a shared focus upon living out our school values of **Community, Compassion, Commitment and Courage**.

This Autumn term has been a long, and a very full one, we have been busy ...

**October** saw us being represented by three Year 8 students at the St Helens School Awards –one Year 8 student won in the Young Carers category!

**November** saw us celebrating the achievements of many of our St Cuthbert's students at our Annual Awards evening – where we celebrate our pride in our students who are regularly going above and beyond in demonstrating our core values by showing kindness and compassion to all others, having the courage to continue to



strive to overcome obstacles and setbacks in their personal lives, showing ongoing commitment to learning, achieving, making progress, and undertaking activities that enhance our school community.

Our whole Year group enjoyed the terrific 'SMASHED' performance where we met several characters whose lives had been affected by alcohol misuse. It was an excellent and extremely insightful production, that had a huge impact upon our understanding of the problems that people can experience.

**December** – saw Year 8s undertaking work experience days within the Art and PE departments, the Library and in the Design and Technology Department. We will also be looking forward to our Christmas celebrations and rewards for excellent attendance and Class Charts points!

Throughout this term our Year 8s have been busy attending and taking part in an array of clubs and activities: rugby, football, netball and basketball. They have been enjoying singing lessons, Brass Band club and Drama club, learning British Sign Language, helping out in Chaplaincy and enjoying Breakfast with God in our Chapel.

8BBE delivered an excellent and thought-provoking assembly in Collective Sacred time. We're looking forward now to the one being delivered by 8EBY!

We have awarded numerous R5 HOY and Form Tutor awards to those students who always make an effort to learn, to help others and give back to our school community. One Year 8 student will be spending Christmas giving out coats to the homeless. We appreciate and celebrate you!!

Now we look forward to celebrating Christmas together and, in January, our retreat to Savio House.

Look out 2025, here come St Cuthbert's Year 8s!

**Mr Walker and Mrs McCormack**





## Year 7 arrive in style .... Nearly a term over already!!

What a wonderful start the new Year 7s have made here at St Cuthbert's; it is hard to believe that they have nearly completed their first term already.

We, as a year 7 team, have been delighted to welcome our new students and try to get to know them the best we can. We are also on a mission to spread positivity and hope as they embark on this huge part of their educational journey.

Here at St Cuthbert's we have strong values around faith and kindness and we try every day to ensure God is present in the way we work and deal with all students and families. In year 7 we are very clear with the routines we have and even in the short space of time the students have been here, the majority have worked positively with us to ensure we, as a year group, are working together to make sure each school day is as fruitful as possible.

We make no apology for having high standards with regards to uniform, footwear, equipment and homework. We want to establish excellent habits that will carry through for the five years they are here. In September, when all students lined up on their first day, all students presented 100% the correct way. Although we understand that issues arise as the year goes on, we fully expect that such standards are generally maintained throughout the year and beyond. We will continue to focus heavily on such standards after Christmas.

With all this considered, we are delighted with what we have seen so far. You should be very proud of your son/daughter. We are currently flying high in the Class Charts league, with Year 7 leading the way in the majority of areas with many new students not having a single negative point; quite an achievement we believe. We have a regular winner of our R5 award who attends a breakfast with the Headteacher each week and our form tutors give out rewards and prizes each day themselves to students who work hard or are seen to be making extra effort. We are also incredibly proud to see so many of our students attending after school activities in a range of areas, especially sport. The P.E staff inform us that we have a very talented bunch who are capable of competing at a very high level. Many students have already been out to represent the school and achieved positive results; long may it continue!

So much has happened in such a short time. We will continue to communicate with you as often as possible, but we must mention our recent Year 7 in house retreat day. A day where all year 7 came off timetable and were given the opportunity to take part in a joyful day giving us ways and ideas how to spread God's love amongst us. Outside providers came and commented on how polite and dedicated our students were. Another mention must go to Ms Carter and Mrs Macavoy who have established a KS3 BSL (British Sign Language) group. They meet every week with students at lunch time and we have been overwhelmed by the number of students interested and taking part. This is a wonderful way to ensure inclusivity is a high priority for all students at St Cuthbert's.

On behalf of the whole year 7 team, including our dedicated form tutors, can we please thank you for your ongoing support and we hope to maintain, and build, good relationships as the academic year progresses.

May you have a joyful and restful Christmas.

**Mrs Dawber and Mr Heywood**



# Year 7—How are our students settling in ...

**This term we celebrate Year 7 completing their first full term with St Cuthbert's and we are really proud of how well they have settled in!**

**Here is what a few Year 7 had to say about their first term here:**

*Starting at St Cuthbert's felt like stepping into an exciting new chapter. I knew this was the place I was going to flourish and truly be me. The atmosphere is welcoming and there is a strong sense of community that makes you feel at home, even on the first day! The teachers aren't just teachers – they're mentors who really care about your work and how well you succeed.*

**Cerys H – 7APK**

*I think I have settled in really well at St Cuthbert's. At first, I was a bit worried about starting a brand new school but now I've got used to it and I'm really enjoying it; it has boosted my confidence a lot. I have had so many opportunities to meet new people and make new friends. The school is amazing at giving awards and recognition; our teachers love to give rewards!*

**Alex G – 7APK**

*St Cuthbert's is a warm and welcoming school that has made me feel as though I've been part of it for years! Lessons are intriguing and I am inspired every day. I've met so many genuine and kind hearted people and I have noticed how hard my lovely teachers work for us. I will cherish every moment here and look forward to trying lots of new things.*

**Leyla B – 7MMY**



Some of our Y7s attended the Pantomime this week



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# Senior Team

Hi everyone,

We are the Senior Team for 2024/25 and we are:

**Head Students:** Olivia R and Abbie W.

**Senior Team:** Nikita V, Jessica C, Maria J, April P, Charlie M and Alicia S.



You may have seen us around school or presenting at Awards Evening or being a part of many school activities. We are a committed group that want to drive improvements on behalf of all St Cuthbert's students. We have been particularly busy in the first term as we really wanted to make a mark as well as leading by example, and working hard for our recent mock exams.

Mrs Jones invited us to be a part of the interview process for the Student Council and, as we will be working closely with the student council and listening to them, we jumped at the chance. This was a fantastic opportunity for younger students to get involved and have their say, and we enjoyed meeting you and hearing your ideas.

# Curriculum area - R.E.

We had an exciting start to the year in RE as we welcomed Miss Burke and Mr Patten to the department.

In September, we launched the new curriculum across all of KS3. This curriculum is approved and directed by the Bishops of England and Wales. It covers lots of topics which give our students a deep knowledge of the Catholic faith and its history. It also allows them to see how religion can still impact on the world today and to consider their own world view.

We paused this curriculum temporarily during Interfaith Week so that we could cover some lessons based on other world religions. Our classes enjoyed learning about different beliefs, festivals and traditions from Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

We were pleased with how well many of our Year 11 students approached their mock exams with maturity and commitment. We would like to remind you and them that intervention/revision sessions are available after school on Thursdays and there is a drop in available also on Thursday at lunchtime.

Philosophy Club on Fridays have proved popular. Students that attend grapple with 'big questions' such as "What is reality?" and "What are the limits of science?" Sessions this half term have been led by Glenn Skelhorn from the Royal Institute of Philosophy. Students who have completed the course should receive a certificate and book at the end. We thank Glenn for his time and hope students continue to enjoy the sessions.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and working alongside you and your children to help them make progress and to enjoy their learning. We would encourage students to get involved in the different activities we have available within the RE department and Chaplaincy groups.



## Lourdes 2025 Pilgrimage: Calling all Year 10 & Year 11 students!

Be part of something special. Every summer, hundreds of young people from Liverpool travel to Lourdes. It is a pilgrimage of service, faith, fun and friendship. It is a life-changing experience!

Lourdes is a town in the south of France. In 1858, a young girl, called Bernadette saw visions of Our Lady. Since then it has become a place of great healing and comfort for many.

### APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

**WHEN: 23rd July - 1st August**

**AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY: [liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk](http://liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk)**

**COST: £710 (reduced by fundraising)**

**£100 deposit to secure your place.**

**£100 off for young people who have completed the Faith in Action Gold award!**

Follow **Coach 9** on social media to get an idea of what we get up to in Lourdes. Alternatively, speak to Miss Burke or email her for more information on [bburke@stcuthberts.com](mailto:bburke@stcuthberts.com) on how to get involved.

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Deposit paid at time of application **£100**

**JULY 23 - AUGUST 1**  
For ages 15 (or in year 10) - 22

Apply online from 7th October

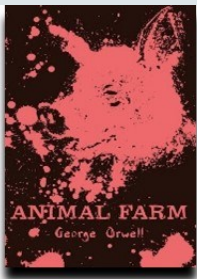
Apply at:  
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# Curriculum areas — English

## What's new in English for 2024-2025?



In English, we are fortunate to read many books, plays and novels, which introduce us to a range of different characters and settings, and in doing so, introduce us to people we have never met and places we have never been to, all designed to deliver important messages to our students. This year we have launched our new Key Stage 3 curriculum, in Years 7 to 9, which centres around a range of high-quality, engaging novels.

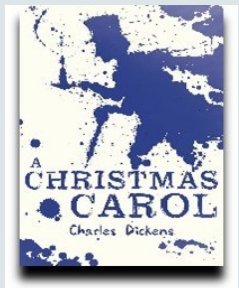
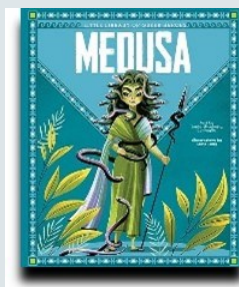
In Year 7, students have been focusing on the origins of story telling by reading and analysing a range of myths from various cultures, with a particular focus on Greek myths. In Year 8, students began the year with a focus on *Shakespeare's The Tempest*, before reading *Animal Farm* by *George Orwell*, closely analysing the characters and themes introduced in Orwell's classic novel and understanding the message it gives about Power and Corruption. Year 9 have been studying Gothic Literature beginning with a focus on *Wuthering Heights* by *Emily Bronte*, before moving on to read a more modern-day classic *The Woman in Black* by *Susan Hill*.

The texts chosen for the new scheme of learning are designed to challenge our students, due to the recognised standard of stylistic quality they offer, their cultural or social significance, and their intellectual value. They also expose students to a range of ambitious vocabulary, which helps to improve their reading and their skills as a writer, as they are able to use their newly discovered vocabulary, to improve the quality of their own writing.

Meanwhile, in Key Stage 4, our Year 10 students have made an excellent start to their GCSE studies. We are currently reading *A Christmas Carol* by *Charles Dickens* (an appropriate text to read at this time of year) which forms part of the English Literature GCSE syllabus. Students have been grappling with the transformation of Scrooge, which is an important message in the novel, and a poignant reminder to us all as a Christian community to be more caring, at this time of year.

Year 11 have already undertaken a full set of English Mock examinations (4 papers in all) and should be commended for the way they approached these exams, as should their teachers, who worked tirelessly to mark these exams, whilst also managing the day-to-day teaching of lessons. A series of intervention and revision sessions will now be introduced in January, in response to Mock examination results, in preparation for the next set of mock examinations and the GCSE exams in the summer.

It has been a really busy and successful start to the year and we look forward to the new year and the new novels we will be introducing our students to.



## Phonics

A big well done to all the students who are new to, or are ongoing in their learning journey, by taking part in the Abigail Steel Phonics Reading Programme. We continue to be impressed with the dedication, enthusiasm and effort you are showing in developing your phonic knowledge to enable you to improve reading fluency. As we all know, reading is an important lifelong skill and there are many stages involved that contribute to becoming a confident and fluent reader. Improving your reading ability, by using a phonic approach also supports with writing and spelling. As the famous quote by Dr. Seuss from the book; "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!", states; "*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*"

**Mrs Morris**



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# Curriculum areas - Mathematics

We have been absolutely delighted by the incredible efforts our students have put into their personalised Sparx Maths Homework this year.

An impressive 441,602 questions have been answered correctly, 3282 hours of personalised learning completed and 416 students have improved at their timetables.



The whole Maths department has seen an improvement in students knowing and remembering more. We hope all students are proud of what they have achieved so far this academic year and would like to thank parents and carers at home for the support they have given.

You may have seen on our socials that we celebrate class and student of the week each week. It has been lovely to see so many students become involved in some good-hearted competition. There have been many excellent individual performances, but here are the top 3 performers in each year in terms of XP (the electronic rewards given for completing Compulsory Homework, XP boost, Target and Independent Learning) as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.



Yearly Leaderboard This academic year		
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1st Gabriel W (67,910 XP)	1st Isam Farabi R (11,981 XP)	1st Neville N (17,459 XP)
2nd Ella C (57,518 XP)	2nd Pryia K (8,530 XP)	2nd Inioluwa A (14,718 XP)
3rd David O (14,684 XP)	3rd John P (8,276 XP)	3rd Richard O (12,456 XP)
Year 10	Year 11	
1st Oluwatamilore A (17,379 XP)	1st Nathan L (13,933 XP)	
2nd Jake M (12,857 XP)	2nd Jessica C (12,833 XP)	
3rd Klaudia G (12,526 XP)	3rd Ruby H-H (10,978 XP)	



# Curriculum areas - Science

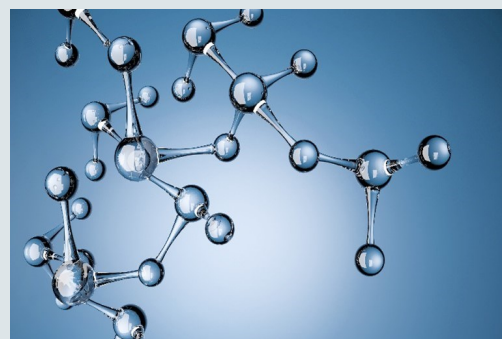
The Science topics we have been studying this half term link to exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers that students can consider for their future.

**In Physics, Year 7** have been learning all about energy and electricity which inspires interest to consider aspirational careers in our ever-evolving energy sector, as we transition to using more renewable energy resources (away from finite non-renewable resources) and designing innovative engineering solutions to global challenges. Engineering, maintenance, control engineer of national grid infrastructure, project management of energy networks and web development roles.



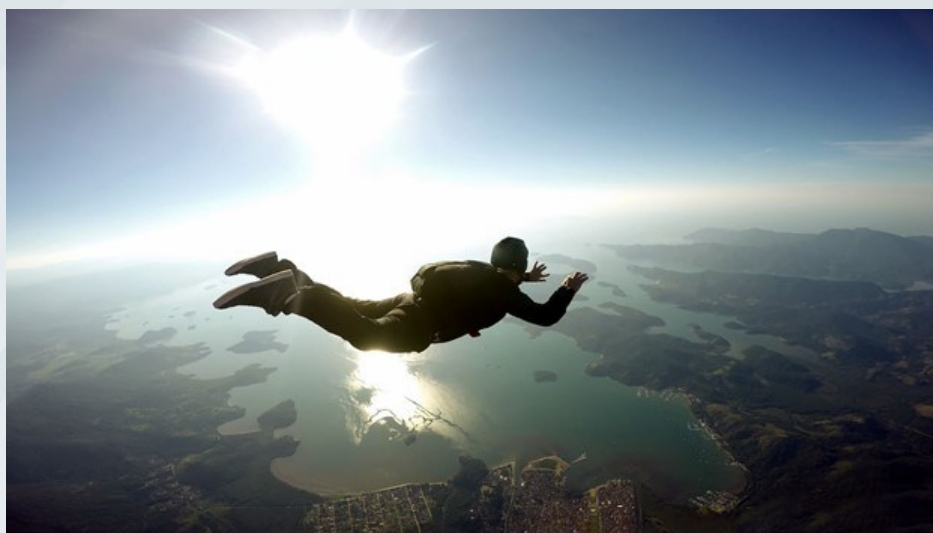
**In Biology, Year 8** have been studying reproduction and digestion which links to commercial plus NHS careers in; medicine, nursing, midwifery, fertility, nutrition, dietician, digestive disease specialist, food scientist and oncology opportunities.

**In Chemistry, Year 9** have been learning all about the reactivity series of metals which links to shortage careers in chemical engineering across a wide variety of industries. Metals make up most of the periodic table of elements and never more have they been so useful, especially with the development of more efficient batteries and the displacement of metals in industry.



**Year 10** have been studying a chemistry topic that unpicks the mechanics of chemical bonding and structures of substances, detailing the types of bonds formed between non-metals and between metals and non-metals. Chemical Engineer, Materials Scientist and Research Scientist are all prestigious careers that this topic links to.

**Year 11** have been studying forces and motion, a physics topic (either side of the mock exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics), which links to careers such as; Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Car Design, Racing Car Driving, Police Force, Space Scientists or Technologist, Science Teaching and many more.



After Christmas, the Science department have a few experiential learning trips planned, taking learning outside of the classroom, aiming to enrich students with fresh perspectives of the subject and to develop a greater appreciation of its application in the wider world around them.

# Curriculum areas - Art

This term has been an exciting and inspiring one for our Art students, with a wide variety of projects that have showcased their creativity, technical skill, and individual expression. Here's a look at some of the work our students have been doing in Art:

**Year 7** students embarked on a personal journey with their 'All About Me' portrait painting project. This project encouraged them to explore their own identities and express their uniqueness through portraiture. Students used a variety of media, including watercolours, fine liners and coloured pencils to create striking self-portraits. Each piece was a reflection of their personalities, interests, and aspirations, showcasing their emerging skills in composition, colour theory, and brushwork.

In **Year 8**, students dived into the world of Cubism, one of the most influential movements in modern art. Inspired by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, students explored fragmented forms and multiple perspectives in their paintings. By deconstructing objects into geometric shapes and experimenting with abstract composition, Year 8 artists developed an understanding of abstraction and spatial relationships.

**Year 9** students focused on art appreciation this term, developing a deeper understanding of different artistic movements, styles, and techniques. Each student researched an artist or art movement that inspired them and created artwork reflecting their findings. This project allowed students to delve into the rich history of art, examining works from Renaissance to Contemporary art.



Jenny Saville inspired study  
by Yr11 student Lilli B

The 'Distortion' project for **Years 10 and 11** provided an opportunity for students to explore the manipulation of form and figure through distorted imagery. Building on their previous knowledge and skills, students experimented with techniques such as surrealism, abstraction, and digital manipulation to create dramatic distortions of the human form and other subject matter. This project pushed students to think outside the box and embrace a more conceptual approach to their work, exploring themes of perception, emotion, and identity.

Our **extra-curricular Art Club** continues to be a popular space for students to explore their creativity outside the classroom. The club provides a relaxed and supportive environment where students of all ages can experiment with new techniques, work on personal projects, and collaborate with fellow artists. From painting to digital art, the Art Club offers a wide variety of mediums for students to explore, helping them develop their artistic skills in a fun and inspiring way.



# Curriculum areas - Music and Drama

## Music

### A huge thank you to our amazing students

First and foremost, a big thank you to all our wonderful students for their hard work and dedication this term. Your enthusiasm and effort have been truly inspiring, and we are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

### Key Stage 3 Highlights

**Year 7:** Students have been exploring vocal techniques and developing their instrumental skills on ukuleles and keyboards.

**Year 8:** The focus has been on The Blues and Reggae, with students learning to improvise and perform iconic songs like *Three Little Birds*.

**Year 9:** Students have been travelling through *The Decades*, studying music genres such as Rock and Roll, The British Invasion, Disco, Synth Pop, and Britpop. A special mention goes to 9bEa1 and 9bEa2 for their outstanding performances of *Wonderwall* by Oasis—some of the best Key Stage 3 renditions Mrs. Dixon has ever seen!

### Community Performances

This term, we've had the pleasure of sharing our music with the community, including a wonderful performance at the Christmas Light Switch-On. Thank you to our committed singers who made this event truly special.

### Music Celebratory Showcase

We're thrilled to announce our *Music Celebratory Showcase*, taking place on **January 22nd at 6 PM**. This is a fantastic opportunity to shine a spotlight on the incredible talent we have here at St. Cuthbert's. Whether you're a soloist or part of a group, we'd love to see you perform! If you're interested in taking part, please see Mrs. Dixon in MU1 to sign up.



At St. Cuthbert's, we take pride in celebrating the musical talents of our students, and this term has been no exception. Thank you for making it such a memorable one, and we look forward to seeing what the next term brings!

## Drama

### A Musical Afternoon to Remember!

Last month, Year 10 students joined their peers from the music department on an inspiring trip to Cowley College to watch a production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The afternoon was a resounding success! Students were captivated by the engaging performances, toe-tapping tunes, and imaginative staging. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre and explore the connection between music and drama. The students thoroughly enjoyed the outing, with many leaving the theatre buzzing with ideas and inspiration for their own creative projects.

### Celebrating Student Achievement

We, as drama teachers, couldn't be prouder of the dedication, creativity, and talent our students continue to show in class. From bold performances to thoughtful scriptwriting, they're proving that the future of theatre is bright! Every scene they create, every line they deliver, and every character they embody showcases their hard work and enthusiasm. Keep it up, everyone!

### Get Involved in Drama Club!

For students looking to explore their love for performance further, the Drama Club is the perfect opportunity! Whether you're interested in acting, directing, or helping behind the scenes, there's a place for you. To join, see Mrs. Parkinson for details. Let's keep the creativity flowing!

### Year 10s Devising Journey

Year 10 students have recently started their devising work, diving headfirst into the exciting world of original theatre-making. They're exploring themes, creating dynamic characters, and experimenting with staging techniques. We can't wait to see the innovative and thought-provoking pieces they bring to life in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Drama department, and as always, break a leg!

# Curriculum areas - Geography

We are overwhelmed by the positive start our years 7 students have made in geography, focusing on their map skills during term 1A. In term 1B the students are now learning about their local area and how important St Helens is, and was, to the development of the UK.

Our year 8 students have made a fantastic start to the year. Last term they studied the importance of UK rivers and how they are managed to stop the impacts of flooding. This term they are understanding our economy and the decisions involved in making economies grow to their full potential.

The year 9 students have started the year off by studying how ice has shaped our landscapes here in the UK and across the globe. This term they have started to understand the concept of development and the way in which development is measured. An exciting opportunity for the year 9 students is coming up to take part in a project with "The Young Green Briton Challenge". Information was given out at an assembly on the 22.11.2024. with students able to take part in this exciting opportunity in the new year.

A massive well done to our Y10 students who have made a positive start to their GCSE studies in geography. Tackling their first taste of a GCSE paper with their KAT last term focusing on natural hazards, they put in great effort. This term the students have been studying ecosystems in the UK, the tropical rainforest and hot desert biomes.

Our year 11s put in great efforts completing their first mock of the academic year. Our revision sessions have started for their GCSEs. These will cover weaknesses from the mock and go over key knowledge from year 10. These sessions are on a Wed Week A for Miss Langan & Miss Lomax's classes and on a Week B Tues for Mr Thorpe's class. Well done to the students who have been attending those. Please keep in mind that all year 11 revision and revision homework is posted weekly on the Google Classroom as well as the Seneca and carousel platforms which your class teacher will set.

The logo for the Young Green Briton Challenge. It features the words "YOUNG", "GREEN", and "BRITON" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. Below "BRITON", the word "challenge" is written in a green, cursive script font.



# Curriculum areas - History

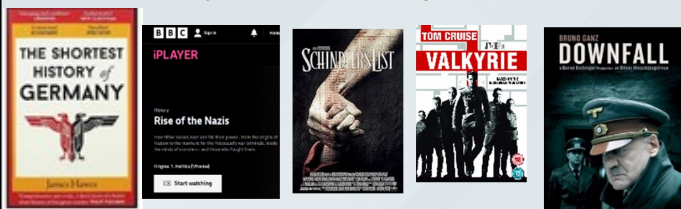
This has been a very exciting term for the History Department.

Please see below what your child has been studying, and ways in which you can support them.

Year		Key learning question	Content covered	Questions to ask your child
7	Term 1A	What is history and what has the Ancient World done for us?	In this topic students explore ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, ancient Rome and ancient Britain to assess what the ancient world has done for us.	What did the Ancient Greeks do for us? How did the Romans change Britain?
	Term 1B	How dark were The Dark Ages?	In this topic, students explore how dark the Dark Ages really were. We investigate St Augustine and Christianity in Britain and the Silk Roads as a trade route.	What evidence is there to suggest that St Augustine was successful in Bringing Christianity to Britain?
8	Term 1A	How did the Renaissance effect our modern world?	In this topic, students explore the origins of the Renaissance in Italy and how new ideas such as Humanism developed.	Why did the Renaissance originate in Italy? Why was the Printing Press an important invention?
	Term 1B	Why did the Modern World begin in the Tudor period?	Students investigate life in Tudor England and the reign of the Tudor monarchs and changes to religion in England.	Why did Henry VIII break away from the Catholic Church? Why was Mary I known as Bloody Mary?
9	Term 1A	How did WWI provide an opportunity for women?	In this unit, students investigate how women campaigned for the right to vote. We investigate the origins of WWI, and how WWI provided an opportunity for women.	How did women campaign for the right to vote? What caused WWI? Why was WWI known as 'The Great War'?
	Term 1B	Why was Germany 'bound hand and foot by peace treaties'?	Students investigate the end of WWI and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles. We explore how the peace treaty was a key cause of WWII.	Why did France want to punish Germany so harshly after WWI? What did Germany lose because of the Treaty of Versailles?

## Year 10 History students

Year 10 students are following the EDUQAS GCSE History specification. The first topic we are covering is Germany from 1919-1991. We provide all revision resources for students, but below we have noted some books, films and documentaries which may help to expand your child's knowledge of the topic area.

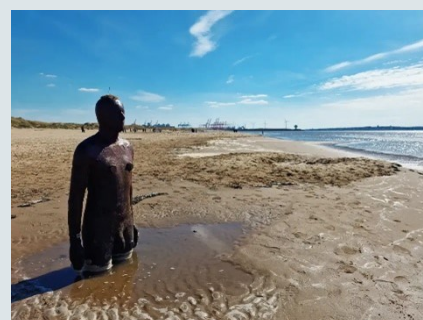


## Year 11 History students

Year 11 have been hard at work this term. We are currently studying the Elizabethan England topic area, which is our final topic of the GCSE course. **At this stage it is important that your child is regularly revising at home.** Students have been given revision guides and knowledge organisers to use independently at home. We would greatly appreciate your support in monitoring that these are being used. **Over the Christmas break, all year 11 history students have an important homework task to complete which will help them to improve their grades.** This should take roughly one-two hours. Thank you for your support.

## Looking for a family day out over Christmas? Look no further!

The beach at Crosby is full of artefacts that date back to the time of World War 2 and beyond. Liverpool was bombed during the Blitz and as part of the clean-up process for the city, the rubble from buildings that had been destroyed was gathered up and deposited in the sea nearby to act as defence against sea weathering and erosion. For this reason, Crosby beach earned its nickname 'Blitz Beach'. If you visit Crosby beach you will find piles and piles of rubble on the sand which has been washed up over time. Old brick work, masonry from buildings, ceramic tiles and ceramic bathroom fittings as well as lots of sea glass can be found, all of which have a lovely smooth exterior due to it being tumbled in the sea for years and then eventually being deposited on the beach. It's a lovely glimpse into local history which allows your imagination to run away thinking up stories about where these washed-up artefacts came from.

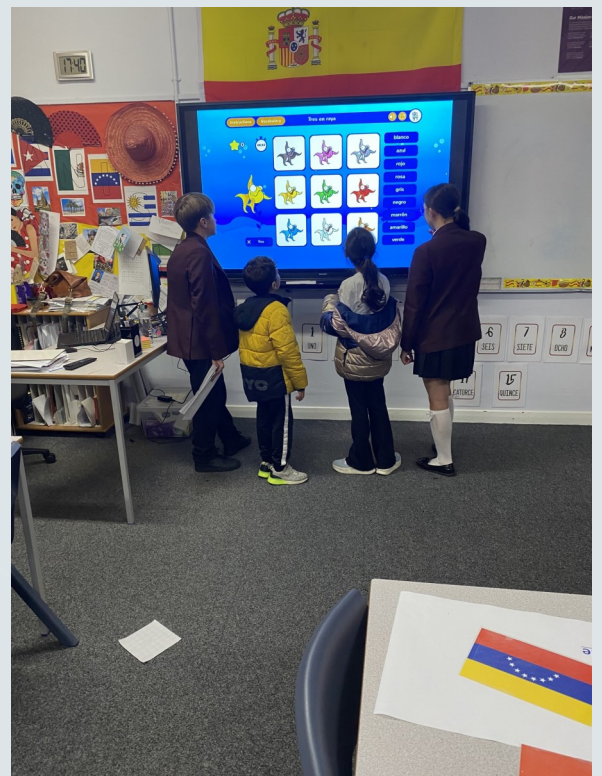


<https://www.visitsouthport.com/listing/crosby-beach/24456101/>

# Curriculum areas - Spanish

This half term, Mrs Hudson has been to visit some of our local primary schools to provide some Spanish lessons to year 5 and 6. The children really enjoyed learning some new Spanish phrases, (and meeting Pedro the Bear!) in preparation for their Spanish experience here at St Cuthbert's. We look forward to seeing you all and teaching you Spanish in Year 7!

The Spanish department is also planning a trip to Barcelona in October 2025. Students in Year 10 who have opted to take Spanish GCSE this year and Year 9 students who have shown an interest in continuing with Spanish at GCSE have been given the opportunity to participate in the trip. We will visit La Sagrada Familia, a sacred church that has been in construction for over 100 years and is yet to be completed, the old town of Barcelona, La Boquería traditional market and Port Aventura theme park, alongside trying out Spanish food and Tapas and practising our Spanish language. We are really excited to be able to share this experience with our students.





# Curriculum areas - Technology and Food

## Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Class Triumphs in Sensory Analysis Challenge

In a delightful and educational turn of events, the Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition classes took part in hands-on sensory analysis sessions that left students and staff buzzing with excitement. This challenging yet fun activity involved tasting and comparing a variety of popular snacks, drinks, and fresh produce, all with the aim of honing their sensory testing skills. The students approached the task with great seriousness and enthusiasm, learning about the intricacies of evaluating food products based on their taste, texture, smell, and appearance.

The session began with a much-anticipated taste test of different brands of Jaffa Cakes, a beloved snack that sparked lively discussions. Students took careful notes, evaluating the sponge, the chocolate coating, and the tangy orange filling in a blind tasting format. "It was amazing to see how small differences in texture and flavour can make such a big impact on what we like," said one student. The exercise helped them understand how sensory tests can provide valuable insights into food product development and consumer preferences.

The next challenge involved comparing different digestive biscuits—a staple in many households. Students examined the texture, flavour, and sweetness of two brands, using their sensory skills to find the odd one out. This activity not only enhanced their understanding of sensory analysis but also encouraged critical thinking and attention to detail.

The much-loved "Coca-Cola Challenge" followed, where students were tasked with distinguishing between regular Coca-Cola and Coke Zero; the sugar-free version. Each student closely observed the appearance, aroma, and taste of the drinks, taking care to note even the slightest differences in sweetness, carbonation, and aftertaste. "It was harder than I thought to pick out the differences between them," one student confessed, "but it helped me learn just how important all the sensory aspects are in creating a product people love."

Throughout the activity, students were guided in the use of various sensory tests, such as triangle tests, ranking tests, and hedonic scales. They also learned the importance of controlling variables to ensure fair and accurate results, a skill that will prove invaluable in their GCSE.

"This activity was an absolute success," said Mrs. Holden-Locke, the Food Preparation and Nutrition teacher. "It allowed students to apply theoretical knowledge in a fun and engaging way. They were able to experience first-hand how sensory analysis plays a crucial role in food development and how it can shape consumer choices."

The lesson not only provided an enjoyable learning experience but also gave students an opportunity to develop a greater appreciation for the subtle differences in everyday food and drink products. For now, however, the Year 10 class can look back on their successful sensory journey, knowing they've learned something new and had a lot of fun in the process.





# PE and Whole school sporting achievements



**YEAR 7 RUGBY** - We have had a fantastic start to the year, with more than 30 boys out each week training. The Year 7 rugby team won their game in the St Helens Cup against St Augustine's. This was a massive win for the boys! Player of the tournament goes to Noah K. The courage and teamwork was brilliant to see with some incredible tackles and try scoring opportunities were made.



**YEAR 10 GIRLS RUGBY** - Another amazing year begins with the Year 10 rugby squad playing in a tournament against some of the local schools. With great determination and power, these girls brought home 3 wins and a draw. All the girls worked tirelessly and fought well. Keep up the hard work, girls!



**Y8 RUGBY TOURNAMENT** - The Year 8 boys were very much looking forward to their first rugby tournament and enjoyed playing numerous games against the other schools in the borough.

Connor A took the role of captaincy very seriously: organising the lads on the pitch and creating try scoring opportunities. Max L scored an outstanding full length try by outpacing the defenders after he skipped through a gap in their defence. However, after an all round superb performance Nathan B was awarded the player of the tournament. Every player put in a full shift and were a credit to the school.

**YEAR 9 BOYS RUGBY TOURNAMENT** - A strong St. Cuthbert's Year 9 team continued their winning ways and were unbeaten in the St. Helens Town Tournament which took place on Hard Lane. The squad was on a full rotation so every player got a chance to play in their favoured position and some players were given the opportunity to try other positions too. This dedicated attitude was shown throughout the tournament by each and every player. However, Freddie H stood out with his tremendous tackles and great sportsmanship. He thoroughly deserved being made player of the tournament. With continued commitment at training these boys have got an exciting season ahead of them.



**YEAR 10 AND 11 GIRLS FOOTBALL MAKE IT TO THE FINAL** - The 26th November was a very exciting night for the girls as they were in the semi final of the St Helens Cup against Rainford. All the girls played exceptionally well, working tirelessly for one another. They came together as a unified team and showcased superb individual performances throughout the match. Even though the girls only had a team of 8, they managed to keep a clean sheet securing themselves a place in the final. Well done, and good luck for the final!

**YEAR 7 FOOTBALL** - The Year 7 football team recently participated in a local tournament, providing a great opportunity for the players to develop their skills, work together as a team, and face competitive opposition. Player of the tournament was Oliver B. He played in multiple positions and displayed fantastic leadership in their first ever games for St. Cuthbert's. The lads only tasted defeat once and it was great to see them build on that result and show excellent character across the other games. Their performance was a positive reflection of their hard work and development.





# P.E. and Whole School Sporting Achievements

**YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL** - The lads delivered an excellent performance in the recent 7-a-side tournament, showing skill, determination and teamwork throughout their games. The attacking unit was relentless, with Jacob S and Dylan W leading the charge. Frankie W and Reece S were sharp and tireless, keeping a high work-rate up front. Oscar H and Max L included a large amount of creativity during their play and had great visions. In defence, Henry H, Adam J and Alfie W made crucial tackles and maintained their composure under pressure. Tyler S was a standout, pulling off incredible saves to keep the opposition at bay. The Year 8 team should be immensely proud.



**YEAR 10 BOYS FOOTBALL** - These boys have developed into a strong force to be reckoned with. A thoroughly enjoyable tournament but special mention must go to Igor F. Igor played with unbelievable determination and enthusiasm across each match. Amazing with the ball at his feet, Igor makes sure he is always doing his defensive duties and is always strong in the tackle. A very well-deserved player of the tournament. A great team performance by everyone. Well done year 10 boys.



**YEAR 10 and 11 GIRLS FOOTBALL** - The 26th November was a very exciting night for the girls as they were in the semi-final of the St Helens Cup against Rainford. All the girls played exceptionally well, working tirelessly for one another. They came together as a unified team and showcased superb individual performances throughout the match. Even though the girls only had a team of 8, they managed to keep a clean sheet securing themselves a place in the final. Well done, and good luck for the final!



## **YEAR 8 BASKETBALL -**

Our Year 8 team showcased tremendous spirit and skill at the basketball festival hosted by Hope Academy. Led by captain Finnley S., the team demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and determination throughout the competition. Finnley's leadership on and off the court was exemplary, motivating the team to stay focused and competitive in every match. The players worked hard defensively, making key stops, while the offense displayed creativity and flair, leading to some well-executed plays. Although the results didn't

always go our way, the effort and camaraderie shown were commendable. Well done to all involved!



**YEAR 7 NETBALL** - As the Year 7 Netball team takes its first steps into the world of competitive sport, the focus is on building a strong team dynamic and nurturing the skills that will define their journey ahead. There has been noticeable progress in fundamental skills such as passing accuracy, footwork, and positioning. The girls have worked on their individual areas of improvement during training sessions, which has positively impacted their on-court performance. In goal attack was Cerys H, playing a pivotal role in setting up attacking plays, often assisting in goals and making smart passes to create opportunities. She contributed significantly to the team's offensive success with several crucial assists and key shots.

**YEAR 10 and 11 NETBALL** - On 27th November, the girls played at Sutton Netball Festival, competing against a range of local schools. Each player brought something unique to the team, whether it was through scoring crucial goals, making interceptions, or linking play, every player had moments that displayed their skill, teamwork, and dedication. Player of the Tournament was Lucy S, as she was a standout in defence, intercepting plays from the opposition and making key blocks. Her ability to read the opposition's attacking strategies made her an asset, especially during high-pressure moments. Another key player was Evie C (stepping up from year 9), in goal defence, making several crucial interceptions and blocks, preventing opponents from scoring. All the girls played amazingly, and we are super proud of you all!



# Special Educational Needs

## Our Provision

Special Educational Needs present in many different ways, and it is vital that the support we put in place helps students and addresses this.

Provision is individual to each student, depending on their needs and the presentation of their difficulties in school.

Provisions available at St Cuthbert's include:

- An Individual Education Plan (IEP), that is shared with all staff
- Our specialist SEN teacher, who works with specifically identified groups of students
- Access to sensory equipment, if required
- Social Skills group work or 1:1 sessions
- 1:1 support from a keyworker supporting targeted needs
- Access arrangements
- Completion of AQA Unit Awards to support curriculum progress and to develop life skills

Every child is different, so the support every child receives is different.

We strive to work with key stakeholders such as parents, carers and external agencies to ensure we are implementing the right adjustments to allow every child to achieve.

## SEND Drop-ins

This academic year we have introduced SEN drop-in sessions.

These are aimed at giving parents and carers the opportunity to nip into school and have an informal conversation with a member of the SEN Team.

All are welcome to attend. Your child may already be known to the SEN team, or it could be you have some concerns you would like to discuss.

### The drop-in sessions for Term 2 are:

Monday 3rd March 2025, 11:30-12:30

Wednesday 21st May 2025, 11:30-12:30

## We Need You!

Every child who is on the SEN register requires a review each term. This involves discussing what is currently working well, any areas of concern or for development and an agreement between the child, parents or carers and school about an action plan to address these.

Keep an eye on My Ed for the SEN review questionnaire and invite on the following dates next term:

•**Year 7:** 27th January 2025

•**Year 8:** 10th February 2025

•**Year 9:** 24th February 2025

•**Year 10:** 3rd March 2025

•**Year 11:** 24th March 2025

## Get in Touch

Scan the QR code and complete the form detailing your enquiry.

Once this has been reviewed a member of the SEN Team will make contact with you to discuss your query in more detail and develop a plan that will support the student.

Alternatively, you can send an e-mail to: [helloSEND@stcuthberts.com](mailto:helloSEND@stcuthberts.com)

SEN Parent & Carer Contact Form





# The Melrose Centre

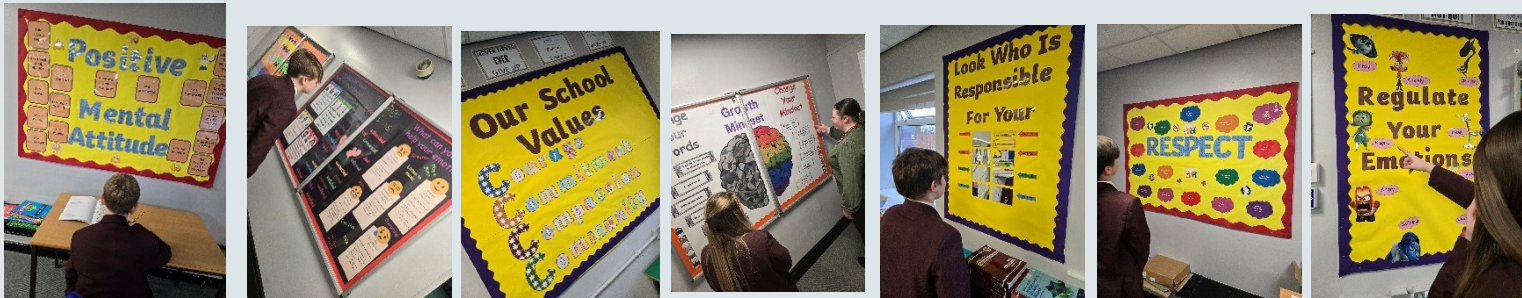
Mrs Brookes and the Melrose Centre staff support all students within the Melrose Centre.

Behaviour support is key in ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity within their educational setting and for their personal growth.

All staff make it their priority to ensure that students learn from their mistakes by having restorative conversations with staff and understanding how to make the right choices.

Students take part in Personal Development sessions while working in the behaviour base to re-educate them.

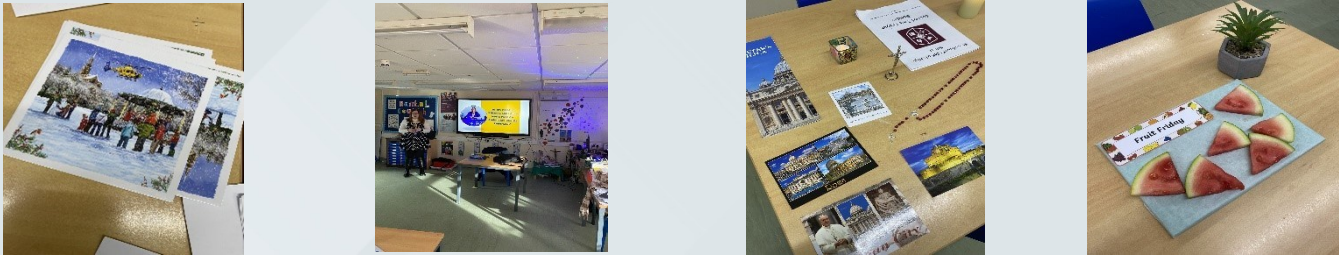
Here are some displays students can read and learn from when in the behaviour base



Mrs Cleary and Mr Costello work within the Appropriate Provision (AP).

Appropriate Provision supports young people by providing specialist places for those who would benefit from spending time away from their current mainstream school or who present with such needs that cannot/can no longer be met in a mainstream school environment.

Benefits of Appropriate Provision: personalised learning, smaller class sizes and holistic support.



The students in our AP have been participating in charity work, working with the Northwest Air Ambulance Charity via NCS.

The students have created their own style of Christmas Cards to raise money for this amazing charity.

AP students benefit from Sacred Time - where they ask for the compassion to care for each other, the commitment to strive for excellence, and the courage to do the right thing.

On Fruit Friday, we have a chance for AP staff and students to reflect on their week and to try new and exciting fruits that will tickle their taste buds.

# The Farne Centre

**Our Farne Centre provides a wealth of support for our students. Here are some of the services we offer:**

**1-2-1 mentoring support** – students attend The Farne to access 1-2-1 support for various reasons. This is done through a referral system in school from pastoral staff. Students usually have a weekly meeting to discuss worries or issues that they have identified.

**Group work** - group work sessions also take place in The Farne, covering a wide variety of topics including social and emotional support. These sessions also take place weekly for students who have been identified by pastoral/SEN staff for needing some extra support.

**EDClass** – is a new online platform, used in exceptional circumstances, where students can access curriculum work with qualified teachers on hand to support them. Students working in The Farne will have access to this and work independently on academic tasks. This programme is DfE accredited.

**Transition support** - The Farne staff are involved in the transition process from year 6 into 7, and year 11 into Post-16. Students identified as possibly needing support in year 6 are offered additional transition support. This involves students coming into school to do some extra settling in activities in The Farne and getting to know the staff who they will work with when they start in year 7. Transition support for Post-16 includes college visits to specific areas that the students would like to look at in preparation for applying to college.

**New starter support** – If a student joins St. Cuthbert's during the academic year, they will initially start in The Farne so that we can welcome them and allow them to complete assessments before they are fully integrated enabling them to receive a smooth and positive transition.

**Young Carers support** – The Farne offers 1-2-1 support for identified Young Carers in school. Our designated Young Carers Lead, Ms Tierney, is on hand to support students, enabling them to talk about their caring role.

**Attendance support** – for some of our students, getting into school can be challenging. In order to support these students, they may be based in The Farne working on a bespoke package.

**Break and lunch drop in** – students have access to board games, laptops to do homework. They also enjoy chatting with friends in a quieter environment. Support from mentors is on hand if anyone is needing to talk to someone if they have any issues or worries.



## Promoting Mental Health In School

Here at St Cuthbert's, we are extremely committed to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. We have regular year group assemblies surrounding mental health awareness, encouraging students to speak up if they are in need. Our pastoral team support our students to ensure they are receiving the highest level of support available. We also have our Farne Centre team who provide a comfortable, safe and peaceful space for students, offering advice and guidance and helping with a variety of issues. In our 'Personal Development' curriculum, we look at topics such as Mindfulness to ensure students are aware of different ways that they can look after their mental health and wellbeing. We encourage our students to take the '5 Steps to Wellbeing' through: connecting with others, being physically active, learning new skills, giving to others and by paying attention to the present. If anyone is struggling inside and outside of school, we also have numerous resources on our 'Extra Support' section of the school website (under Students section), including phone numbers and how to reach them.



### New School Counsellor

From September, we welcomed our new full-time School Counsellor, Miss Jeffers, who is here from 8am until 4pm every day. She offers drop-in sessions for the first and last hour of the day for students who need urgent support, and has half an hour/1-hour appointments during the school day with students who have been referred. Since September, Miss Jeffers has worked with 56 students on an appointment basis and handles our referral process.

### Mindfulness Group

As well as holding drop-in sessions and scheduled sessions, Miss Jeffers runs a 'Mindfulness' group on a Monday at 3pm until 4pm. There are different activities taking place every week in this group. For example, we look at coping strategies for anxiety, and mindfully being able to ground ourselves when dealing with overwhelming thoughts. We are looking for new members for this group so come along, everybody is welcome!



**stcuthberts.com**

COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY



Each year The Farne Centre provides a range of opportunities for our students to explore the broader community. These experiences include trips focused on independent travel to city centres as well as smaller college visits, all designed to help students prepare for adulthood.



Visits to Acorn Farm offer our students with special educational needs (SEN) and social, emotional, and mental health needs (SEMH) an accessible way to build essential life skills while enjoying a hands-on experience with nature.

Animal therapy has been shown to provide comfort, reduce anxiety, and enhance emotional wellbeing. During our farm visits, students have the chance to interact with animals such as rabbits, chickens, and goats and other farm yard animals. Guided by trained representatives, these interactions help students learn to care for others, build trust, and develop empathy in a natural and rewarding setting. The physical and emotional benefits of interacting with animals supports students' ability to connect with others, work through challenging emotions, and develop

their confidence.

Another valuable aspect of our farm visits is meeting the adults with disabilities who work in various roles around the farm. These representatives, from animal caretakers to grounds keepers, are not only vital to the farm's operations but also serve as wonderful role models for our students. By seeing adults with disabilities succeeding in meaningful work, our students see first-hand that everyone can contribute in unique and important ways. These role models demonstrate resilience and self-belief for our students, showing them the diverse ways, they can pursue their own goals.

Our students benefit from a blend of structured activities and independent play time on the farm. After spending time meeting the animals and learning about how they're cared for, students are given free time to explore safe, designated play areas. Structured activities allow students to discover new interests, practise active listening and taking turns when handling animals. Facilitating time for play promotes social communication, making good choices and being a part of a team. The farm's supportive environment enables our students to safely step outside of their comfort zones and feel a sense of freedom and exploration.

Through these farm visits, our students are building skills that will serve them in all areas of life. By connecting with animals, students are learning compassion and responsibility. By meeting inspiring representatives, students can see the various ways people contribute to community, and through structured play students organically practice important social and life skills. We hope this gives you a glimpse into the wonderful experiences and growth opportunities our students are gaining through these visits.





# Annual Awards Evening

On Thursday, 7th November 2024, students, parents, and staff gathered at St Anne's & Blessed Dominic Church for the highly anticipated St Cuthbert's Annual Awards Evening. This event, a celebration of academic achievement and personal growth, was a testament to the dedication, hard work, and resilience of our students throughout the year. The ceremony highlighted the core values of **Commitment, Courage, Community, and Compassion**, which are at the heart of our St Cuthbert's vision.

The awards ceremony began with a welcoming address by Mr Holland, who emphasised the importance of **commitment** in all areas of life. This value is at the foundation of St Cuthbert's philosophy, where students are encouraged to give their best efforts, both in their studies and in their extracurricular pursuits. As each student came forward to receive their certificate, it was clear that their commitment to learning had been unwavering. From outstanding achievements in mathematics and science to exceptional efforts in the arts and languages, the students were recognised for their pursuit of excellence.

The second core value highlighted during the evening was **Courage**. The students who were recognized for this award demonstrated the bravery to face difficulties head-on, whether it be overcoming personal challenges, tackling a difficult project, or participating in new and unfamiliar activities.

The awards ceremony also celebrated the importance of **Community**, another value that resonates deeply within St Cuthbert's. Our school is built on the idea of collaboration, support, and shared success.

Finally, the value of **Compassion** was woven throughout the evening, with several students being recognised for their kindness and empathy toward others. Whether it was offering help to a peer struggling with their studies or supporting a fellow student through a difficult personal time, these students exemplified what it means to care for others.

The St Cuthbert's School Awards Evening was not just an event to celebrate academic success, but also to honour the personal growth and values that shape our students. The evening was a reminder of how commitment, courage, community, and compassion play integral roles in building not just outstanding learners, but well-rounded individuals ready to contribute to the world around them.

As the evening concluded, the students, parents, and teachers left St Anne's Church with a sense of pride and inspiration, knowing that the core values of St Cuthbert's School would continue to guide them in all their future endeavours. Mr Holland also marked and thanked three members of staff, namely Mrs Kay, Mrs Carney and Mr McAuley for 25 years plus commitment to our school.



Winner of the  
Yr7 RE Curriculum Award  
Ryan A-S.



Winner of the  
Community Award  
Laila M



# Key Dates - Spring Term 2025



<b>Monday, 6th January 2025</b>	School reopens at 8:30am after the Christmas holiday
<b>Thursday, 9th January 2025</b>	Year 11 Parents' Evening
<b>Week of 13th January 2025</b>	Y8 trips to Savio House
<b>Wednesday, 22nd January 2025</b>	Music Concert
<b>Thursday, 30th January 2025</b>	Year 9 Parents' Evening
<b>Friday, 31st January 2025</b>	St John Bosco Feast Day
<b>Friday, 7th February 2025</b>	Employers Market Y7-10
<b>Monday, 10th February 2025</b>	Y11 Mock exams commence (until Friday, 28th February)
<b>Friday, 14th February 2025</b>	School closes at 3pm for the half-term holiday
<b>Monday, 24th February 2025</b>	School reopens at 8:30am after the half-term holiday
<b>Monday, 24th February 2025</b>	Y11 Mock exams continue (until Friday, 28th February)
<b>Thursday, 27th February 2025</b>	Year 9 Options Evening
<b>Monday, 3rd March 2025</b>	Year 10 Mock Exams commence (until Friday 7th March)
<b>Friday, 4th April 2025</b>	School closes at 3pm for the Easter holiday
<b>Tuesday, 22nd April 2025</b>	School reopens at 8:30am after the Easter holiday

Our full term dates are also available on our school website here:

<https://www.stcuthberts.com/media/10597/school-term-dates-2024-2025-st-cuthberts.pdf>



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COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY

## CAREERS Year 9 Design & Build Project

A group of our Year 9 students worked diligently on a Design & Build Project at Peasley Cross Hospital which was funded by GRAHAM Construction and A+B Engineering to make a difference within our local community. This initiative truly reflects St Cuthbert's school values, and we are immensely proud of the way our year 9 students rose to the challenge. As well as developing key skills in leadership and teamwork, students also gained a valuable insight into the wide range of roles within the construction industry and the importance of sustainability. They pitched their ideas to a Dragons' Den comprising of representatives from GRAHAM Construction, A+B Engineering and Mersey Cares Charity. On the day of the build, students worked alongside over 40 volunteers to renovate the patient and visitor garden and bring the winning design to life. Students were later invited to a presentation and site tour of the ongoing redevelopment at Mossley Hill Hospital in Liverpool. Congratulations to 'Miracle Makers' who were awarded with their prizes at the presentation.

## CAREERS Year 11 High Achievers Event

On Wednesday 18th December a group of our year 11 students spent the afternoon participating in masterclasses at Cronton College sampling activities from the "High Achievers Programme" and "Tomorrow's Programmes" which are exclusive to Cronton Sixth Form College. It was a fantastic opportunity to gain an understanding of subjects such as Medicine, Psychology, Law, Business, Engineering and Teaching.

## NEET—Year 10 Next Steps Programme

Some of our Y10 students have enrolled onto this exciting programme which will support them throughout KS4 and into their first 6 months of their Post 16 journey. These bespoke sessions are delivered by Elevate and focus on raising awareness of what opportunities are available in terms of Education, Employment and Training.

# Pupil Premium

## What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium funding is used to ensure that all students, regardless of background or financial situation, achieve the best quality education and reach their full potential.

Your child may be eligible for pupil premium funding and free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit.

QR CODE



The Pupil Premium is used to benefit all students at St Cuthbert's so please take a moment to scan this QR code to check your eligibility or visit <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

## Uniform Bank



Please email [uniform@stcuthberts.com](mailto:uniform@stcuthberts.com) if you require any items from our school uniform bank. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

Items of school uniform and PE kits in good condition can be donated at Reception and students will be awarded ClassCharts points.



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