

CHURCH LAWTON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY
2025

AN AMBITIOUS SCHOOL
FOR AUTISTIC
CHILDREN



OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a world that works for autistic children and young people, by providing an exceptional educational offer, so that they achieve success now and are well-prepared for adulthood.

COURAGE
DETERMINATION
TEAMWORK





PRINCIPAL NOTES

Paul Scales

As we reflect on the first half of this academic year, I am delighted to share the remarkable achievements and progress made by our students at Church Lawton School. In this first edition of our 2025 newsletter, I am thrilled to highlight some of the fantastic accomplishments and ongoing initiatives within our school community.

Work Experience

Church Lawton School is proud to celebrate the success of six students who recently took part in a unique work experience opportunity at De Vere Cranage Hall Hotel. During the Annual Cheshire and Warrington Careers Leadership Conference, these students gained an invaluable insight into careers in the hospitality industry.

Working alongside the professional team at De Vere Cranage Hall, the students played a key role in ensuring the smooth running of the event. Their responsibilities included serving food and beverages, keeping the dinner service on schedule, and maintaining the high standards expected by the hotel.

Feedback from conference delegates was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the students for their professionalism, hard work, and impeccable manners.

They were a true credit to the school. We are incredibly proud of their achievements! Church Lawton School remains committed to providing its students with meaningful work experience that prepares them for their future careers.

Autism Accreditation Award

We are incredibly proud to announce that Church Lawton School has received its second consecutive Advanced Autism Accreditation Award. This prestigious recognition is a testament to the dedication of our team and our continued commitment to excellence in autism education, ensuring that every student receives the best possible support. You can read the full report by [clicking this link](#)

'Your Futures' SEND Careers Fair

Church Lawton School has been a key partner in shaping the forthcoming Your Futures SEND Careers Fair at Congleton Leisure Centre on Wednesday, 26th February 2025. This event will provide valuable information and career pathways for young people with SEND. There will be a dedicated session for parents and families, and more details will be shared soon by the Cheshire and Warrington Careers Hub.

Parent fines for term-time holidays rose by almost a quarter

The number of fines issued to parents for unauthorised term-time holidays increased by almost a quarter in the past academic year. This represented an increase of 24% compared with the previous academic year, according to data released by the DfE. 91% of the total penalty notices issued were for unauthorised holidays.

Please can parents and carers ensure that they do not take children out of school during term for a holiday. The school is unable to authorise these absence requests and the Local Authority of Cheshire East have made this very clear on their website.



SUBJECTS & TOPICS

Karen Woodall, Deputy Principal

Special Events & Curriculum Days

4th March - 3.30pm-5.30pm: Open Evening

20th March: Options Evening for Year 9 Parents (Options to be returned 3rd April)

1st & 2nd April: Parents Evening

4th/5th/18th/19th March: Catalyst Museum Science trip

Donaldson

Maths - Length, height & perimeter.

English - Author study; Martin Wadell.

Science - Living things & their habitats.

History - Events beyond living memory; Titanic

PSHE - Digital Well-being.

Art & Design - Artist Darrell Wareham.

RE - Easter; focussing on the Easter story, traditions & why Christians celebrate.

Shakespeare

English - Poetry; Walter De La Mare.

Science - Living things & their habitats.

History - Anglo Saxons.

RE - Christianity.

Maths - Following White Rose maths.

Art and Design - Anglo Saxon wood carving, clay sculpture & sketching.

Computers - Data logging.

PSHRE - Sustainability; Earth & climate.

Geography - Our local area.

Darwin & Thompson

Maths - Yr6 - Fractions, decimals, percentages, perimeter, area & volume.

Maths - Yr7 - Solving problems with times & divide equations.

English - Yr6 - Writing for a range of purposes & different audiences.

English - Yr7 - Narrative poetry.

Science - Evolution; animals including humans.

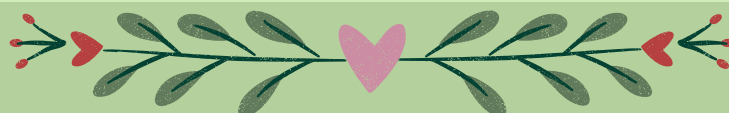
History - Mary Anning & Apollo moon landings.

Geography - Earth from space.

Computing - Web page design.

PSHE - Thompson - cooking & Darwin - Sex & relationship education.

RE - Islam.



Secondary Maths

Yr 8 – Standard form. Units of weight & measure.

Yr 9 – Money. Reasoning of problems & transformations.

Yr 10 – Ratios, fractions & percentages.

Yr 11 - Transformations & revision.

Secondary English

Yr 8 - Around the World poetry.

Yr 9 - Climate change poetry.

Yr 10 – Macbeth.

Yr 11 – English Language papers 1 & 2.

Secondary History

Yr 8 – Did the Enlightenment fuel the American Revolution?

Yr 9 – Industry & Empire.

Yr 10 - Restoration England 1660-1685.

Yr 11 - Revision - Conflict & Tension; The Gulf & Afghanistan.

Secondary Science

Yr 8 - The universe & resistance.

Yr 9 - Bioenergetics & digestion.

Yr 10 - Organisation & electricity.

Yr 11 - Past paper practice & revision.

PE

Primary- Fundamental skills.

Middle – Net/wall games preparation.

Secondary- Net/wall games.

BTEC Sport - Unit 6; Leading sports activities.

Secondary RE

Yr 8 – Human rights; Religious expression.

Yr 9 –Buddhism.

PSHE

All - Brainwaves curriculum

KS3 - FGM

KS4 - Drug awareness

Secondary Business Studies

Y10 GCSE - Human resources.

Life Skills

KS3 – Cooking skills & All About Me.

KS4 – Good sleep & personal hygiene.

Future Skills

Budgeting & banking.



Secondary Computer Science

Y8 Gamma - HTML.

Y9 Epsilon & Delta - Python programming, Data representation & Computational logic.

Y10 - Computer networks, connections & protocols. Memory & storage.

Y11 - Revision.

Secondary Art & Design

KS3 groups – 1. Textiles, embellishing items. 2. Photography; Composition & colour.

GCSE Year 1 - 2D mixed project around the theme of 'Abandoned Places'.

BTEC Year 2 – Unit 2 External; Research for final assessment.

GCSE Year 2 - Explore their chosen externally set assignment.

GCSE Photography – 'Out on Location' Using photography equipment.

Music

Lower School - Applying songs learnt in class to the ukulele. Playing simple melodies, notate & read from the stave, performing duets, solos and in groups.

Yr 8 & 9 - Set up & record foley sound for a silent episode of Pingu. Using studio equipment.

BTEC - Preparing for Unit 1 exams and continue coursework for Unit 7. Creating a soundtrack to an advertisement for a holiday company.

Secondary Geography

Yr 8 – Influencing the environment.

Yr 9 – Weather, climate, weather maps, components of weather, features of the UK.

Mock Exams

As we approach the second half of the Spring Term, our students are preparing for important assessments, including:

- Mock SATs exams for Year 6 students
- GCSE and BTEC Mock exams for Year 11, 12, and 13 students

Adventure Learning

Middle (Thursday pm) and Primary (Friday pm) – Swimming.

KS3 – Cycling along Tissington Trail – Date to be confirmed.



SAFEGUARDING

Lorraine Clegg, Designated Safeguarding Lead

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ANIME

Anime, which originates from Japan, is currently one of the most popular sources of entertainment in the world. This style of animation goes back to the mid 20th century, with a broad audience ranging from children to adults. Known for its epic stories, anime often crosses over with video games and other avenues of pop culture via adaptations or spin-offs – such as Cyberpunk: Edgerunners, an anime web series based on the popular video game, Cyberpunk 2077. The most common intersect, however, is manga: a form of graphic novel from which most anime is adapted.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some people assume that anime is safe for children purely because it's animation. However, a large amount is actually geared towards adults, often featuring swearing, graphic violence and nudity. Many anime series follow dark storylines, such as Cyberpunk: Edgerunners, which has swiftly become known for its extreme gore, sexual content and disturbing depictions of mental health conditions.

COMMON CROSSOVERS

It's easy for children to get drawn into anime through its many crossovers into video games, such as Fortnite and Call of Duty, while anime art styles are often used for other products, due to its popularity. Titles like the RPG Genshin Impact may look quite cute and accessible, but its loot-box mechanics can introduce young players to behaviours that have much in common with gambling.

DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE

It's easy to mistake anime graphics for a sign of harmless, child-friendly content. This style (big eyes, colourful hair and cute voices), however, can disguise some extremely adult themes. Yandere Simulator, for example, strangely resembles a child's game at face value, thanks to its art style, but in reality it features incredibly dark themes such as murder, kidnapping and torture.

ROBLOX REPRODUCTIONS

There are hundreds of user-created Roblox games which take their inspiration from anime and manga. While many of these titles will be perfectly age appropriate, there are some that prefer to focus on the storylines of adult and horror anime. Death Note, for example (based on the manga and anime series of the same name) would probably be extremely disturbing for most younger players.

MATURE MANGA

The majority of anime is adapted from manga, a form of Japanese comic book. Manga usually features an age rating on the back cover, and it's worth bearing in mind that just because it's a comic, that doesn't mean it's suitable for youngsters. In fact, most popular manga leans heavily towards darker subject matter, which is unquestionably aimed at an adult audience.

ADULT THEMES

Hentai is a type of manga, anime and video game which revolves around characters engaging in explicit sexual encounters. While anime of this kind is usually only found on pornography sites, some gaming platforms – such as Steam – do allow the sale of these titles (referred to as 'H-Games' in the community) and even feature them on the front of their store page when sales are on.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Despite all the problematic content, there's still a lot of anime out there which is completely child friendly. Pokémon and One Piece are all long-running anime shows which have family-friendly stories and content. Make sure you check for age ratings and content warnings on streaming platforms when deciding if a particular anime series is suitable for your child.

IT'S NOT JUST TV

Anime is most often in the format of a TV series, but it is also presented as films. Studio Ghibli is often referred to as 'the Japanese Disney' due to the quality and number of films they produce. Most of their movies are fine for children, though they often feature more mature subject matter than western animation: Grave of the Fireflies, for instance, is set in Japan during the Second World War.

WATCH WITH YOUR CHILD

Anime covers a multitude of topics, so it's easy to find something that the whole family can enjoy. Anime shows typically involve action and adventure, superheroes, romance, comedy and much more. Watching this content alongside your child isn't only a way to spend quality time together – it will also help you to spot quite quickly if there's potential for any difficult topics to arise in the show.

CHECK GAMES' FEATURES

Often, crossovers with video games simply involve using anime characters as 'skins' to modify the appearance of characters while playing (as in Fortnite, for example). If your child's interested in an anime-inspired game that you're unfamiliar with, however, look online at the game's features and for any content warnings to gain a clearer idea of what your child might be exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Updegrave is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. His work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Sudostry, Pocket Gamer and YOUTAC. He has reviewed more than 60 games and products over the past year.



National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://archive.org/details/cognitivevalues000dunse/page/78/mode/2-up> | <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/136918X.2016.1268526>
<https://www.citides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 31.05.2023

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Here at Church Lawton School we want our pupils to thrive and become responsible, respectful and safe learners. By bringing your child to school, you are helping us to do this!

Where possible, please make any Doctor, Dentist or Medical appointments either before or after school hours.

If appointments are during the school day please hand in a copy of your appointment card or letter to the school office, or alternatively, a screenshot via email.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility, and it extends beyond the school gate so please talk to us and tell us why your child is not in school.



Please telephone school by 8.30 a.m. every morning your child is absent, and state the reason for the absence.

LOOK ON MCAS AND SEE WHERE YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE FITS INTO THE CHART BELOW.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Why attendance is important...

BELOW 90%

- *Significantly reduced chance of success!*
- The chances of obtaining five good GCSE grades (grade 4+) is **almost halved!**
- Possible **risk** of fines and court action!

SERIOUS BUT VERY RARE

95% - 90%

- Up to **one month** of school missed!
- Below 95%: On average, a drop in at least one GCSE grade in **every** subject!

WORRYING

100% - 96%

- High attendance leads to **improved achievement!**
- You are giving your child the **best chance** of success!

MOST STUDENTS ACHIEVE THIS

There are 175 non-school days in the academic year -

That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, go shopping and to other appointments.



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

Cheshire East Free School Meals

Email: freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5012

Unsure about eligibility? We urge you to check and please inform school.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx



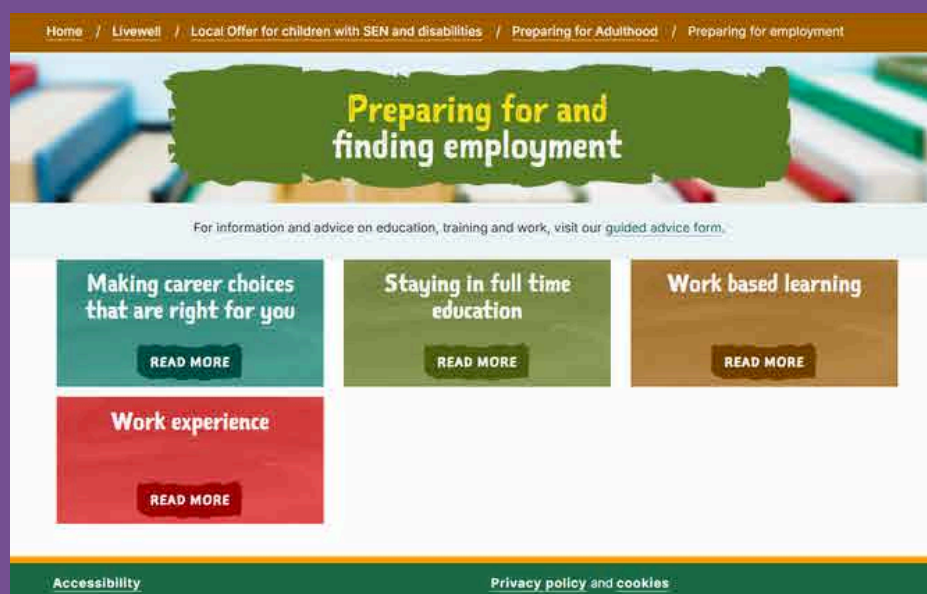
Family hubs support children and young people from 0-19 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

Each Local Authority has it's own Family Hub website you can access through a simple online search.



Below is a link to Cheshire East Family Hub. Specifically a page to support you with planning for the future.

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities/preparing-for-adulthood/preparing-for-employment/preparing-for-employment.aspx>



USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

Space4Autism

[What's on at Space4Autism in February 2025?](#)

We have a number of parent/carer courses coming up over the next few months, check out our **Training Programme Brochure here** and email training@space4autism.org if you would like more information and to book.



Below is a link to Vysion Parent Workshops, held in Congleton.

<https://www.visyon.org.uk/parentworkshops>

SCHOOL NEWS

AUTISM ACCREDITATION AWARD



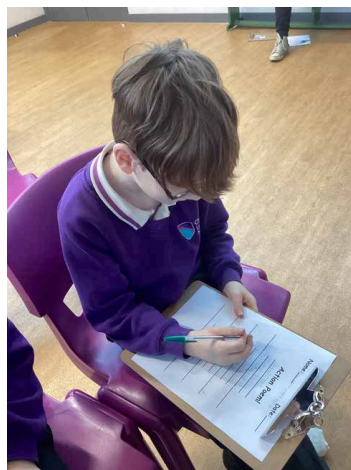
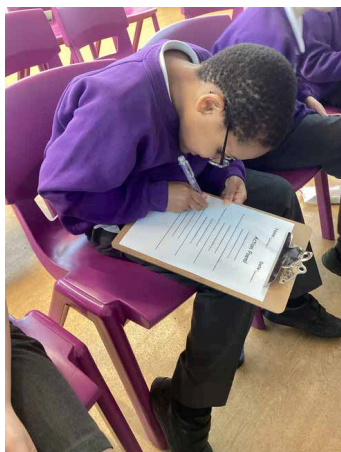
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US FOR PARENT FORUM



A VISIT FROM PROFESSIONAL POET IAN BLAND



WE RAISED FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK, WELL DONE!!



Adventure Learning

A fun half term to start 2025!

The lower school pupils are thoroughly enjoying swimming activities at their respective leisure centres this half term.

All pupils have continued to build confidence in the water, improve their swimming strokes and most of all... just enjoy being in the water! We have some excellent, strong swimmers and others are growing in their ability week by week.

Well done to all the pupils that got Swimmer of the Week, we are super proud of you!



The KS3 pupils have been to Kilnworx Climbing Centre. They explored bouldering and a variety of climbing walls. This has built confidence in their own abilities, and taught them various skills and techniques such as tying the 'figure 8' knot when belaying each other.

Lots of fun and a great skill to have!



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

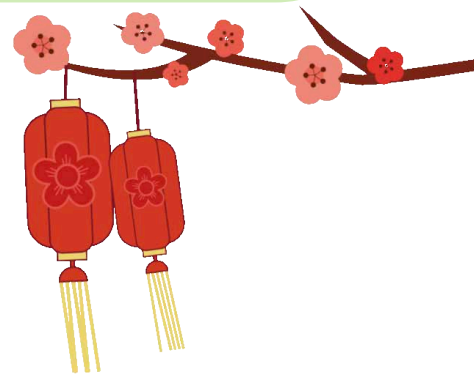


In January, all Church Lawton staff engaged in an Anti-Racism Workshop run by award winning speaker, Elisha Soanes.

Elisha delivered valuable training and a powerful message to all involved.



Donaldson have been celebrating Chinese New Year. They tried different foods, watched dragons dancing, and learnt about Chinese culture and traditions.



PRIMARY

DONALDSON

In English, we have been reading traditional stories with alternative endings. The pupils wrote their own stories and read them out in assembly.



In our Quality of Life studies, we have developed skills to help our families around the home.



SHAKESPEARE

In Shakespeare class we have been exploring another planet. Everyone has been a researcher and the classroom has been our spaceship.



Our focus in humanities is Anglo Saxons, we have been weaving and started making a class Anglo Saxon village.



In science we have been looking at sound. We made our own musical instruments to explore how sound travels.



MIDDLE

ENGLISH

In English. Year 7 have been studying Edgar Allen Poe's narrative poem "The Raven". We have made storyboards on Canva and written a diary entry from the perspective of the raven. Y6 used a popular music video (David Guetta - Titanium ft. Sia) as inspiration for some descriptive writing.



LIFE SKILLS

Darwin class have been making some delicious dishes. We made cupcakes, Mac and Cheese and Veggie soup. The children showed some excellent cooking skills.

Thompson were covering Reproduction as part of the PHSRE and Science curriculum.



MATHS

Maths has been slightly different for each set – some of the children have been working on fractions and decimals. Whilst others have focused on problems involving time and timetables as well as Standard form.

SCIENCE

Science, has continued to be very practical, both in class and in the Science Lab. The children have been looking at acids and non-acids, together with testing for different gases using both the glowing splint and squeaky pop method.



KS3

LIFE SKILLS

In Life Skills, the KS3 students have been travel training. Here they are checking the timetable in preparation for a return trip to Costa in Alsager. The students planned their travel and budgeted for their bus fair snack at Costa.



Here are some year 8 students catching up on current affairs in their independent reading lesson.



CREATIVE

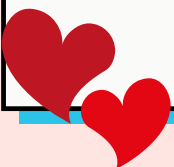
In creative lessons this half term, year 8 students have started to learn some photography skills.

Year 9 Epsilon students have been looking at mark making and drawing techniques, whilst year 9 Delta class have been learning how to weave.

Here is Kane's wool weaving.



Evie had moved on to the next step, here is her willow woven fish.



KS4

COLLEGE

Despite a tricky start to the term with some snow days and wild weather, Key Stage 4 students have been making great progress and engaging in exciting opportunities.

Several students have started their interviews for college and sixth form, taking important steps toward their future education.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 students are continuing to make excellent progress on their courses at Reaseheath and Zach recently passed his Health and Safety exam with flying colours for his Animal Management course.

In our art options lessons, KS4 students have been hard at work on finishing off their projects. The BTEC level 2 group have been constructing and designing theatre sets within their 3D unit, here's Zack's take on Juliet's balcony from Romeo and Juliet.

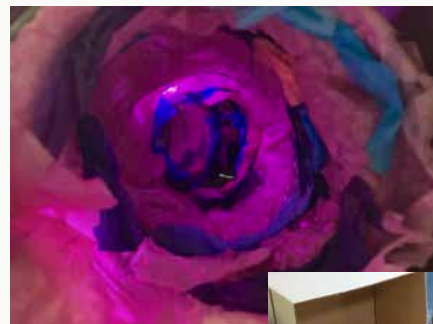


WORK EXPERIENCE

A special mention needs to be given to Elliott, Doug, Luke, Charlie, Harry and Will. They were invited to serve food to attendees at a career conference at Cranage Hall. This was an extremely daunting task, it was very loud, crowded and busy but they all rose admirably to the challenge and were fantastic representatives of the school. They did us proud!



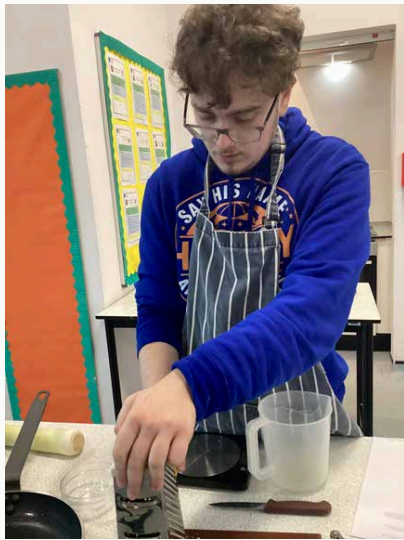
Meanwhile our Year 1 GCSE group have been working towards their final pieces within their 'Abandoned Places' unit. One of our students has been influenced by Tim Burton's Coraline.



AUSTEN

GCSE PREP

Austen form have continued to work hard towards their GCSE exams and will now be spending more time within lessons focusing on exam topics, preparation and techniques.



FOCUSSING ON WELL-BEING

We have recently implemented a new form timetable involving insightful non-curriculum learning topics, allowing students to spend time on their own personal well-being and activities encouraging integration with others, to bring the group closer together.

COLLEGE & WORK EXPERIENCE

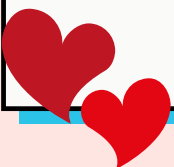
Students continue with their additional college studies and work experience.

The year 11 catering course at Reaseheath has resumed and students will be working on their coursework and preparing for their catering practical exam.

Mechanical engineering students are also preparing for their final exam in health and safety.

We would like to praise Harry and Charlie for their exceptional behaviour and attitude towards the work experience trip to Cranage Hall. Staff at Cranage highlighted how professional they were and were very grateful for their input at the conference.

Charlie, has really settled in to work experience at Headways Charity shop in Alsager.



Recipe Time

Theme: Food from different cultures.



Kofta Burger & Sauce

Ingredients:

500g Lamb mince

1 onion (Coarsely grated)

1 clove of garlic (Chopped)

3 tbsp Garam Masala

Garnish: Coriander, tomato, red onion and red cabbage.

4 Pitta breads

Sauce

Oil

Onion

Garlic

Tinned tomatoes

Tomato puree

Bay leaf

Oregano

Brown sugar

Equipment:

Weighing scales

Knife

Chopping board

Grater

Measuring spoons

Bowl

Baking tray

Saucepan

Blender (optional)

Instructions

1. Mix lamb, onion and garlic together in a large bowl, add a pinch of salt.
2. Pat the mix in to 8 small burgers.
3. To cook, heat the grill to high, add the burgers to the grill pan and cook for 5 minutes on each side or until cooked through.
4. Pile the accompaniments on to a platter, so everyone can construct their own!

Sauce:

1. Heat oil in a pan.
2. Add onion and salt, cook until the onion softens.
3. Add garlic and fry for 1 minute.
4. Add tinned tomatoes, puree, bay leaf and oregano with a tbs of sugar.
5. Simmer until thickened, and blend if preferred.

Our BTEC students thoroughly enjoyed making these recipes and hope you will too!



YOU'RE INVITED!

STUDENT FUNDRAISER

We're raising funds for
Prom!

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2025
1:30 - 2:30 PM
CHURCH LAWTON SCHOOL

Enjoy a variety of baked goodies,
student run stalls and
refreshments to help raise funds
for Prom. We hope to see you all
there!