

CHURCH LAWTON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER | MAY 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

I always tell our students how fast the year will pass in September, and I can see the look of incredulity amongst the sea of faces who are all silently mouthing:

"Oh, you adults know nothing, it is only September and Mr Scales is already telling us the year will pass very quickly". The education staff and students in 6th form were all nodding in agreement with me and before you know it Christmas has been and gone, Easter was a blur and we are now talking about exam timetables and next steps.

As we approach the Whitsun break, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on this busy and eventful term.

Staff Recruitment

The school has been very active with recruitment. I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Bradshaw, our new Occupational Therapist, and Miss Bryan, our new Assistant Psychologist. In addition, Mrs. Pepper has joined the Donaldson class team as a part-time teacher, working alongside Mrs. McCormick. We are excited about the expertise and enthusiasm these new colleagues bring to our community. We've also successfully recruited 6 new Learning Mentors, who will be joining us soon. We look forward to introducing them fully once induction and training have been completed.

Year 6 SATS Exams

Firstly, I want to offer a huge well done to our Year 6 students who completed their SATs during the week beginning 12th May. Their courage, determination, and hard work was outstanding. We are incredibly proud of how they approached this milestone, and I would like to thank all the Primary and Middle school staff as well as parents and carers who worked tirelessly to prepare and support them throughout the process.

Summer GCSE Exams

Our GCSE and BTEC exam season is also well underway, with a carefully structured programme in place to give every student the best opportunity to succeed. Thank you to the staff team, and especially to Mr. Smith, our Exams Officer, for ensuring this crucial time is so well supported. We look forward to celebrating our students' results in due course and will be sure to keep families updated. I'm proud to witness the support and understanding exhibited by our entire school community, creating an environment conducive to concentration and success.

Reaseheath College

Key stage 4 groups have continued to attend Reaseheath College in order to complete their studies within a wide range of vocational subjects. The year 11 group have now completed their studies and we can confirm did extremely well with their end of programme assessments. My sincere thanks to the staff at Reaseheath that instruct these students and to our staff who accompany and support these programmes.

Beyond the Classroom

Duke of Edinburgh participants have been practising for their final Summer Expedition, and our Adventure Learning programme this term has focused on the Social Farm. Students have embraced the opportunities to connect with nature and develop valuable life skills through hands-on learning. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Whitsun holiday. We look forward to welcoming students back for the final stretch of the academic year.



SUBJECTS & TOPICS

Karen Woodall, Deputy Principal

Special Events & Curriculum Days

8th May - 20th June: GCSE External Exams

Tuesday 17th June: The Big Bang Fair (KS3)

Wednesday 18th June: The Royal Cheshire Show for Middle school & Music Performance

Friday 20th June: Practice hike for DofE Silver Award

Monday 23rd June: Primary school trip to The Grosvenor Museum in Chester

Wednesday 2nd July: Whole school parents open evening (no appointments necessary)

Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th: DofE Silver & Bronze Expeditions

Monday 14th July: Alton Towers rewards Trip for secondary pupils

Donaldson

Maths - Statistics

English - Playscripts

Science - Animals including Humans

History - Local history study (Stoke potteries)

Art - Masks

IT - Digital Music

Shakespeare

English - Fiction - Wonder by R. J. Palacio, Non-Fiction - Malala Yousafzai

Science - States of matter - evaporation and condensation, the water cycle

History - Romans in Britain

RE - Judaism

Maths - Money, time, statistics

Art - Architecture and buildings, Romans

Computers - Critical, digital and media literacy

Geography - Our European neighbours

PHSE - One world

Darwin & Thompson

Maths - White Rose Maths- various units including fractions, decimals and percentages; geometry and angles; prime and ordinary numbers

English - Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief

Science - Light & Sound

History - World War One (independent study unit)

Geography - India

Computing - Critical thinking and online safety

Art - Resist techniques using salt, wax, tape and gutta/sharpie. Exploring the properties of water colour and silk paint (Thompson) OR

Life skills- individual learning targets and careers (Darwin)

Dance - Bollywood dance

Secondary English

Yr 8 - Romeo and Juliet

Yr 9 - Blood Brothers

Yr 10 - Power and Conflict poetry

Yr 11 - Exam revision

Secondary Science

Y8 - How science works, gas testing & environmental science

Y9 - Atomic structure & radioactivity

Y10 - Photosynthesis, aerobic & anaerobic respiration

Y11 - Exams

Secondary Maths

Yr 8 - Reasoning with Data

Yr 9 - Probability and data handling

Yr 10 - Using number and mathematical expressions

Yr 11 - Targeted Revision

Secondary History

Yr 8 – Who lived in British America

Yr 9 – Industry and Empire: Slavery

Yr 10 - Conflict and Tension: Historical overview

Yr 11 - Completed Exams

Secondary Geography

1st Yr GCSE - Resource management, Carbon footprints, Geographical skills and applications.

2nd Yr GCSE – Revision of all topics

KS3 – Farming, development and economy.

Secondary RE

Yr 8 – Combined with History: faith in the new world

Yr 9 – Ethical Issues

Secondary Business Studies

Y10 GCSE - Continuing with Business Operations.

Secondary Computer Science

Y8 - Variety of projects using the Scratch programming environment

Y9 - Considering "computational thinking" in relation to problem solving

Y10 - Transitioning from Entry Level to GCSE computer science, looking computer network security

Y11 - GCSE Examinations

PSHE

Brainwaves curriculum. PSHE day – LGBTQ+ including rainbow festival activities

Life Skills

KS3 – Travel training – travelling by train and baking.

KS4 – Independence plus work – in the community

Future skills – CV's and interview skills.

Secondary Art & Design

KKS3 groups – 1. Textiles, embellishing items. 2. 2D drawing techniques – tone, texture & form. 3. Designing a theatre set.

1st Yr GCSE – Working on their second project on 'Self-identity.'

2nd Yr GCSE and BTEC - Working on individual art projects.

Photography – Exploring Macro photography and editing techniques.

Music

Lower school - Performance practice, using drums, guitars, ukuleles and percussion to practice performing as a group, improvising solos, composing new tunes and following a conductor. Middle school will be performing at the Cheshire Show.

KS3 - Using Logic to record and produce a pop song, looking at each instrument one at a time. We've covered drums and drumming, beat production and will move on to bass, guitar and keyboards.

BTEC - Have taken the Unit 1 exam. Completing first year coursework.

Food Tech

BTEC Level 1 – Summer baking – cakes and biscuits.

BTEC Level 2 – Summer baking and salads.

German

Y8 – Oracy – Role plays **Y9** – Oracy – Picture cards **Y10** - Vienna **Y11** – Friendships

Adventure Learning

Middle (Friday am) and **Primary** (Friday pm)– Sunflower Farm outdoor activities. Outdoor climbing wall in school for everyone.

Secondary – Trip to Buxton country park and Pooles cavern.



SAFEGUARDING

Lorraine Clegg, Designated Safeguarding Lead

PC Andrew Cornall recently delivered an Online Safety Workshop for parents in school. He has shared the emojis below to help parents identify possible hidden messages/meanings in their child's online communications.

EMOJI'S EXPLAINED

FROM SECRET SLANG TO CODED MESSAGES, EMOJIS ARE OFTEN USED TO CONVEY MEANINGS THAT PARENTS MIGHT NOT RECOGNISE. UNDERSTANDING THESE HIDDEN MESSAGES CAN HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS AND ENSURE OPEN, INFORMED CONVERSATIONS.

DRUGS RELATED	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cannabis	Cannabis	Cannabis	Joint
	MDMA	MDMA	Heroin	Heroin	Meth	Mushroom	Ketamine
	Gassed	Lit	Dealer	Dealer	Dealer		
VIOLENCE	Weapon	Weapon	Weapon	Crime	Crime	Murder	Murder
			Threat	Locked Up	Snitch		
SEX	Penis	Penis	Genitalia	Bum	Vagina	Vagina	Nudes
	Porn	Orgasm	Orgasm	Oral Sex	Lust	Lust	Anal Sex
	Intercourse	Fingering	Playful	Horny	Lets Hump		
SELF HARM	Cutting	Cutting	Burning	Trapped	Sad	Down	Anxious
EXTREMISM	Neo Nazi	Neo Nazi	Neo Nazi	15 Extremist	15 Extremist	Far Right	Not Eating
INCEL CULTURE	Red Pill	Black Pill	Hopeless	Emotional Detachment	We are klops	Extreme Masculinity	Power
	Lone Wolf	100	Incel	Incel	Incel	Anti-Women	Anti-Women
HEARTS	Love	Horny	Friends	Interested	Loyalty	Platonic	Pretty
							Trust

ecp KIDSONLINENWORLD



Apply sun cream before
coming to school each
morning

**DON'T
FORGET!**



Please make sure your
child has a sun hat and
water bottle in school
each day



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!

Appointments.

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.

Illness.

Here is a handy guide provided by the NHS : -
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Request for Leave.

All requests for leave should be emailed to office@churchlawtonschool.org.uk
Forms can be found on MCAS under important documents.
Only requests that are an exceptional circumstance will be authorised, please be reminded that family holidays are not an exceptional circumstance and will be declined and referred to the local authority.

Please refer to our Attendance and Punctuality Policy for further information regarding term time holiday requests – point 6.5

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.



: ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW :

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Why it is Important to Attend School Regularly?

- To give your child the best possible start in life
- They will be able to keep up with their work
- They will achieve better results
- They will develop friendships and social skills

The government has set a target of 95% attendance for all pupils. This rate allows for periods of illness or particular circumstances when absence from school is unavoidable. We want your child to attend school regularly as this supports their learning.

Some Key Attendance Facts:

- Attending 90% of the time or less will have a serious effect on learning.
- One day's absence every two weeks will give 90% attendance.
- Up to the age of 16, 90% attendance will mean losing over a year of school

How close is your child to 100% attendance?

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 sessions	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 sessions	Good
10 days	95%	50 sessions	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 sessions	Concern
30 days	85%	150 sessions	Significant concern

Parent Fines for term-Time Holidays Continue to Rise

The number of fines issued to parents for unauthorised term-time holidays increased by almost a quarter in the past academic year, local government data has revealed.

This represented an increase 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 holiday, the school is unable to authorise these absence requests.

SCHOOL NEWS

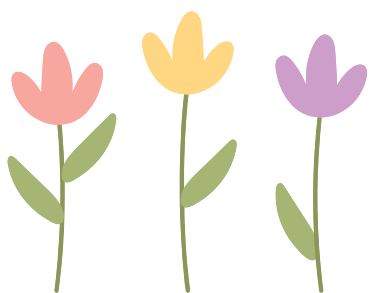
VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



LOWER SCHOOL
FAMILIES WERE
INVITED TO JOIN THE
CELEBRATIONS



WE ATE CAKE AND
PLAYED TRADITIONAL
GAMES FROM 1945



Liberty Academy Trust Transforming Lives Conference



You are invited to join us for a day of learning, sharing, and networking at our inaugural Liberty Academy Trust Conference.

The theme is 'Transforming Lives' and we will be exploring different approaches and initiatives that have transformed lives within our Schools.

Scan the QR code to find out more and book your free space as a Parent/Carer!

SCAN ME



Networking
—
Workshops
—
Keynote speakers
—

Inspirational Speakers:



Emeritus Professor Des Hewitt

Emeritus Professor Des Hewitt is a Member for Liberty Academy Trust and was previously Head of Primary and Early Years Teacher Education at the University of Warwick.



Margaret Mulholland

Margaret is a Member for Liberty Academy Trust and advisor on SEND policy for the Association of School and College Leaders and Whole School SEND Project Director leading an evaluation for the Education Endowment Foundation.



Dr Nicola Crossley

Dr Nicola Crossley is the current CEO for Liberty Academy Trust. Her specialist interest areas are Autism and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SMEH).

Date: Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Time: 9am - 4pm

Venue: Online

Attendees: All Education staff

Questions and booking: info@libertytrust.org.uk

www.libertytrust.org.uk



**One free Space for
parents/carers
with a child
attending a
Liberty Academy
Trust School!**

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Pride

What we discussed during Pride Month in June:

What was the last LGBT+ story you heard? (eg. book, TV show, in-person, film)

What does celebrating diversity mean to you?

How can we provide support to our LGBT+ friends in a safe and helpful way?



How will you be celebrating diversity this week?

How can we encourage others to take a stand for LGBT+ rights?

How many different experiences of being LGBT+ have you heard?
How will you ensure you hear more diverse stories?

How will you improve your allyship to the LGBT+ community?

Primary

Donaldson

As part of our Quality of Life curriculum, Donaldson wrote instructions and made scones ready for our VE Day party with parents and families.



We have done our Adventure Learning at the Social Farm. Donaldson class went bug hunting and found lots of different insects and even some toads!



In Science we have been learning about plants and their life cycles. We went up to the allotment to plant our own sunflowers and peas; these are growing nicely in the warm weather.

Shakespeare

In Shakespeare class we have been looking at poems by Walter de la Mare. The children used a shadow puppet theatre to read and act out the poem The Listener.



We have been busy planting our vegetables that we grew in science.

First we helped fill the vegetable planter and then planted and watered the seedlings.



Our humanities topic of The Romans has allowed us to make a Roman mosaic.



Middle

Music & Dance

We were very fortunate at the end of last term to be invited to a workshop at Congleton Town Hall lead by Love Music Trust. Working as an ensemble we produced our own sounds and learnt some new songs. There are some talented musicians in Darwin and Thompson who can keep the beat, play and follow a rhythm, sing and dance. This term we have been joined by Ron, a qualified dance instructor, and he has been showing us some cool moves. Dance is a great way to keep fit and flexible as well as a form of artistic expression.

Gardening & Other Life-Skills

Darwin have made a start on the allotment plot this term, clearing the beds from last season and planting new seeds for this year. We are hoping some of them may bear fruit before the end of the year.

Thompson class, meanwhile, have focused on their own individual targets. Can't tie your shoe-lace?- let's show you how! Never changed a light bulb or put batteries in a toy?- here, you can fix this!

The two classes will swap roles after half-term.

Art

After gardening, Darwin like to do art. This term has been about resistance techniques. Resistance techniques involve using a material to block the medium e.g paint, creating patterns and designs by preventing colour reaching certain areas.



Adventure Learning

Adventure learning has moved to The Social Farm. The children have fed the animals, including the lambs, chicks and even alpacas



Secondary

Exam season has now begun and we wish all the students the best of luck!

This month we have celebrated VE Day by hanging the British flag, watching an educational video on VE Day, listening to 1940's music, playing a game of marbles (a traditional game from the 1940's) and eating "fish and chips" in crisp form to re-enact the celebrations people held on VE Day, whereby they ate fish and chips!

Some of our students have recently or will soon be moving to their new work experience placements. Charlie is enjoying his time at Port Vale.

The BTEC Level 2 Food Tech class have all completed their practical assessments and the final products were beautifully presented and were very tasty. The students really challenged themselves and showed amazing cooking skills.

Some of our year 10 students have been volunteering in our allotment during their break times. Their commitment to improving the shared space and working as a team is great to see.

In Life Skills, Gamma class have been looking at clothes labels and how to wash them. In the photos you can see the students sorting and reading the labels to see what cycle they would need to use on the washing machine. They did a great job!

If your child is doing this at home, feel free to email a photo of them to us, we'd love to see them putting their learning into action.

Meanwhile, the year 9's have successfully learnt how to sew buttons back on clothes and turn up trousers. We've now got back onto our first aid topic too, including dealing with both minor and severe head injuries.



PE

Middle and Secondary

This Term, all Middle and Secondary students have been focusing on Cricket. They have learnt the basic rules and skills of cricket such as catching, throwing and batting and then putting all their ability into a games situation.



Btec PE

Our Btec PE students have been looking at unit 6 and had to create and deliver a sports coaching session to the rest of the group. They have learnt about the different coaching styles and techniques of coaches from the professional game and take their knowledge into their own session.



Next term, all students will be looking at Athletics and Rounders.

As we approach the warmest term of the calendar, please make sure that your child brings plenty of water and wears sun cream.

Theme:
Summer Tastes



Ingredients:

- 130g unsalted butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
- 125g white chocolate, chopped into chunks
- 100g soft light brown sugar
- 100g golden caster sugar
- 2 free-range eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 200g plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- A pinch of salt
- 150g fresh raspberries
- 25g alternative to flaked almonds

Equipment:

- Baking tin
- Weighing scales
- Saucepan
- Bowl
- Whisk
- Fork
- Sieve
- Measuring spoons
- Mixing spoon
- Large spoon

Instructions

Grease and line a 20cm/8in square tin with baking paper. Set aside 25g of the white chocolate for decoration.

Melt the butter with half the remaining white chocolate in a bowl, either in the microwave or suspended over a pan of simmering water. Tip into a large bowl and leave to cool for 2–3 minutes.

Add both types of sugar to the melted butter and whisk for 2–3 minutes until the mixture is thoroughly combined and slightly paler in colour.

Add the eggs and vanilla and mix again to combine.

Sift the flour and baking powder into the bowl, add the salt and mix again to thoroughly combine. Fold in the remaining white chocolate chunks.

Fold in 100g/3½oz raspberries. Spoon the mixture into the tin and level the surface. Scatter with the remaining raspberries and flaked almonds.

Bake for about 30 minutes 160C until firm, risen and golden brown. Leave in the tin to cool completely.

Have a great half term!