



THE CATHOLIC HIGH  
SCHOOL, CHESTER  
CHRISTO FIDELIS

Christo Fidelis

## Newsletter March 2016

### In this issue

- Discount Bus Tickets and travel from Wrexham page 2
- Ski Club page 3
- Sports News page 4 and 5
- World Book Day page 6
- Pursuit of Excellence page 8
- New School WiFi page 9
- Communications page 10
- Fund Raising and the PA page 11
- The Big Sing page 12
- Dates and events page 13

Dear Parents and Guardians

Mr Murray

### WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER

As we break for the Easter holiday it is a good time to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us through his suffering and death on the cross, but also the hope and joy we find in His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We have distributed Mass times for some of our local churches to the students, and I would urge you to make time for Mass on Easter Sunday morning. It celebrates the most significant moment in our Christian faith.

### FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR EXAM STUDENTS

Once the Easter Sunday dinner is over all of our examination students should be focussing on their revision timetable. We do have students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 who have external examinations coming up and they will be making certain their revision is all it should be. Mind-maps, flip-cards, lists, bullet-points – whatever strategy works best. For Year 11 and 13 in particular, they do need to make the most of this opportunity to secure the best possible grades.

### OFSTED CAME TO SEE US – AND THEN WENT AWAY AGAIN

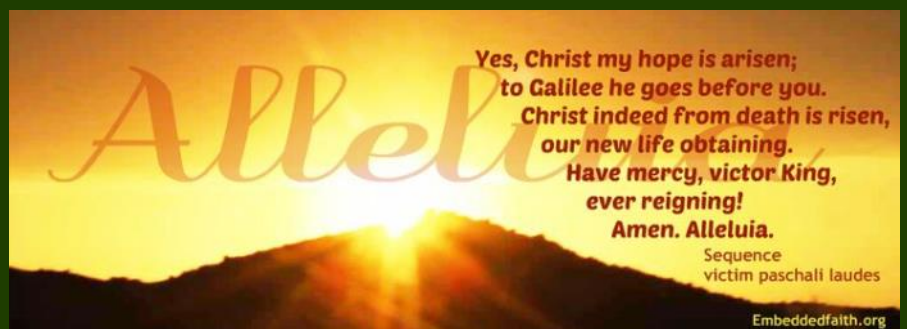
We are now waiting for the publication of our letter from OFSTED following the inspection on March 15th. Until that is approved by their quality control department I can say nothing about the result. However, I can say that parents and students were brilliant in the things they said about the school. When the letter is published I will be able to give you more details, but the feedback about our school 'family' was tremendous. Thank you.

### FUNDRAISING IS NEEDED NOW

As you will see in this newsletter we need to fundraise very quickly and with real determination if we are to meet our target so we can start building the all-weather pitch. This will make such a difference to the students and the community, so please get on board.

Mr Murray

Head Teacher



# Transport

To

Cheshire West & Chester Council

## Bus tickets for young people

**Discounted tickets available from Aintree Coachline, Arrowebrook and Stagecoach**

**Stagecoach** now offer 50% discount on all fares for young people up to their 19th birthday, and with weekly unlimited travel tickets also available there's never been a better time for young people to get about the Chester, Ellesmere Port and Merseyside areas.

**Chester weekly ticket\* £5.00**  
\*excludes school bus 51

**Cheshire and Merseyside weekly ticket £6.80**

**Teen to Town** is a day ticket priced at **£2.00** offered by Aintree Coachline on services 41/41A between Chester and Whitchurch, and 272 between Ellesmere Port and Neston. It is also offered by Arrowebrook Coaches on their service 26 that operates between Guilden Sutton, Chester, Upton, Wervin and Ellesmere Port.

**Teen to Town** is available after 0930 Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and school holidays for young people up to the age of 19.

Looking for ways to travel around the borough? Be it on foot, train, bike or bus, download the free **itravelsmart** app from the App Store or Google Play

For further information, phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

**itravelsmart**

www.itravelsmart.co.uk

Cheshire West and Chester

**New Bus service....**from 24 April the number 22 bus service from West Kirby to Chester will benefit from a number of route changes to include Willaston Village with further amendments to the timetable

	outward	Return
West Kirby Station	702	1636
Irby Road, Somerset Road	712	1626
Heswall Bus Station (Depart)	720	1619
Gayton, Glegg Arms	723	1617
Parkgate Square	731	1609
Neston, Brook Street	737	1605
Neston Holmcrofts	743	1557
Willaston, Nags Head	756	1545
Two Mills, Welsh Crossroads	802	1538
Mollington, Banastre Hotel	809	1529
Chester Bus Exchange	819	1522

## Wrexham County Council's position on Post 16 Transport with effect from September 2016.

As from September 2016 there will be NO TRANSPORT provided by Wrexham County Borough Council for students STARTING Post 16 College courses, this includes Coleg Cambria - Wrexham, Bersham, Llysfasi, Dee-side & Northop sites, Walford & North Shropshire College, Reaseheath College & ALL schools that offer 6th form.

Any new starters for September requiring transport are advised to contact the COLLEGE / or school that they are to attend and make enquiries. Free Transport that is currently provided by WCBC to students who applied on or before September 2015 will continue until their 19th birthday if required, but they must re-apply by completing the Post 16 Transport Application form available on the Council's website or from the Contact Centre, Lord Street.

This is also the case in transporting students to and from any Post 16 establishment to study for A levels in partnership with the school & college. Again they must re-apply – with the application in this instance coming direct from the school as before. [Any who currently have transport will continue but any new ones from September will be the responsibility of the school / college to arrange transport]

**David Bithell**

Transport Planning Officer ITU [Transport Co-ordination]



01978 729770



Environment Department, Wrexham County Borough Council, Abbey Road

## Ski Club

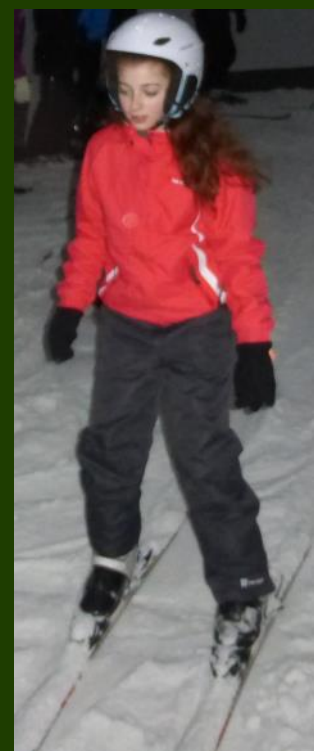
Ski Club – Wednesday 10th February 2016

Its already our third visit this year to the Chill Factor, Manchester and the new ski club is proving very popular with places all going within the first three days of advertising! A coach full of very keen 45 students from Years 7 to 13 and four staff had instruction on the beginners slope or recreational skiing on the main slope.

For some students this was there second time and they were able to go to the top of the beginners slopes on the travellator and ski all the way down on their own. The new beginners group had their patience and resilience tested, but did superbly well. The recreational skiers (students who've had at least six hours instruction or one week's skiing) are able to ski independently on the main slope and practice 'bending their knees and parallel skiing'.

The next club will be taking place on Tuesday 15th March. It's a great introduction to skiing at a more reasonable price before taking the step to go on our annual ski trip to the Alps at Easter. Thank you to Mrs Davies, Mrs West and Ms Philips for accompanying us on the trip.

Mr Green



## Sports News

The Girls Year 7 football team finished 4th at the Chester & District Tournament. A fantastic team performance led by captain Cara Owen. Well done girls!



### Year 8/9 Basketball Season 2016

It's been a couple of years since we've had such a dominant team at this age group. Undeclared all season long they have only got stronger every game they played.

CHSC 33 – 26 QPHS, CHSC 67 - 15 Kings, CHSC 38 - 23 Upton, CHSC 51 - 20 Christleton, CHSC 48 – 24 Bishops Blucoat

Squad: Aaron Uzunali (Year 7), Noah Vickery (Year 7), James Pickering, Josh Fever, Nadim Haque, Matthew Brayne, Ben Owens and Ben Jones. Finally can I say a huge public thank you to Adil Haque, Kaan Uzunali and Megan Davies for helping out as table officials every Wednesday all season.

Mr Green

### Year 7 Boys Basketball Chester & District Tournament Winners!

The boys have been training every Thursday 3-4pm since October half-term and were well drilled for this year's tournament. With numbers and commitment being so high we selected two squads; CHSC Phoenix and CHSC Wildcats. Also we had a number of officials and leaders from Years 9 & 10 who I couldn't have run the tournament without. So a big thank you to Kaan Uzumali, Megan Davies, Adil Haque and Josh Fever.



Results: League A: CHSC Phoenix 13 - 6 Christleton, CHSC Phoenix 8 - 2 Kings, CHSC Phoenix 12 - 0 Upton.

**CHSC Phoenix Group A Winners**

League B: CHSC Wildcats 2 - 6 Blacon, CHSC Wildcats 0 - 2 Bluecoat, **CHSC Wildcats Third Place in Group B**

The CHSC 'Phoenix' progressed through to a Semi-Final place against Bishops Bluecoat and won 8-2. It was a very nervous start for our boys and it took until at least three minutes into the game before they conceded the first basket. A couple of timely substitutions and individual brilliance swung the game in our favour. After now becoming Semi-Final winners, we were due to play Kings School in the final. It was a lot closer affair than the group stage game and it was like two heavyweight boxers trading punches blow for blow. We took the lead and then extended to 4-0 before Kings got a consolation basket 30 seconds from the end of the game.

Well done boys and I can't wait until next season. CHSC Phoenix Chester & District Champions 2016!

## Year 7 Rugby Off to a Flying Start

The year 7 boys' rugby team has been on top form this term. After a loss to a very strong Bishop Heber team in their first game they have recorded back to back wins against Christleton and Tarpoley.

The boys came out on top in a thrilling 47-32 victory at Christleton where both teams played some fantastic running rugby. Captain Noah Vickery led from the front with 6 tries and there were also tries for Cai Roberts, Luke Harding, James Phelan and a well struck conversion by Oliver Davies.

A superb team performance produced a 26-7 win against Tarpoley, one of our toughest opponents. Noah Vickery again crossed the line but the win was set up by our powerful forward pack. Pack leader, Joe Walton was outstanding in the loose as was Cai Roberts and Ben Forrester and Charlie Watts dominated the scrums. Dylan Williams and Sam Hewson ensured quality ball from the line out and Ben Hartley and Vernon Pritchard tackled superbly.

This squad of players have demonstrated an excellent attitude in all their games, showing the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. Well done boys!

Mr Cross



# World Book Day 2016

Everyone got into the spirit of World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March with some brilliant costumes from pupils and staff as they dressed as their favourite book characters.

This year we had winners for the best costumes from each year group and congratulations to the following for their wonderful efforts:



For Yr 8 Tamsyn Brocklehurst as Queen of Hearts



For Yr 10 Jenna Kiernan as Fairy Godmother

For Yr 7 the winners were Lucy and Kate Allport as Thing 1 and Thing 2

Winner for Yr 11 was Emily Burton as Edward Scissorhands



Winner for Yr 9 was Shannon Brown as Goldilocks



Winner for Yr 13 was Francesca Noro as The White Queen



The winner for best costume for Yr 12 was Conor Jones as Pikachu from Pokemon



This year we had to award a joint winner for the best dressed department as Science and the Teaching Assistants were both outstanding:

Science Department were all dressed as characters from Toy Story:

World Book Day Celebrations continued all day with Mr Bottom providing a World Book Day Quiz for students to do during form times and teachers took time out of their lessons to read extracts from the short story "The Sound Machine" by Roald Dahl to their classes at each lesson during the day.

We also ran a 'Design a bookmark competition' the week leading up to WBD and the winners were announced on the day, they were:



- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Robyn O' Reilly (8L)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jasmin Kalappurayil (7J)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Monique Shaw (7F)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Chloe Dudley (9T)

And the Teaching Assistants were characters from Peter Pan:



### Leap Year Birthday

29th February was a special day for Daniel Richards of Year 11 as he celebrated his birthday which comes around every 4 years. He was presented with a card from Mr Murray which had been signed by his teachers and friends.



## Year 11 Pursuit of Excellence Day – Thursday 25th February 2016

The whole of Year 11 have started their final push towards the GCSE exams this summer. During the day Year 11's have been in different groups in the Main Hall. They have been around revision technique, stress management and a Growth Mindset. Next week will be the start of the staff mentoring for some individual students on a weekly basis which will hopefully give them the guidance and support in the final few weeks leading up to their exams.

Mr Green





## New School WiFi System and our next steps

We believe that every student should be given access to a higher level of learning through the use of IT. For learners and teachers alike, it is important that each student fulfils their potential, which is why we want to enhance the way our students use technology.

The education sector has redefined the way students learn with digital tools. Reliable WiFi networks are a must when delivering curriculums, learning assessments, and educational content. The demand for Gigabit WiFi is being fuelled by the need for wireless bandwidth in and out of the classroom, and the influx of increasingly powerful WiFi devices to access online class material, enable student collaboration, research for student projects, and many other online activities.

However with this influx it became apparent that our existing wifi system wasn't up to the job. Following a significant investment the School has future-proofed its wireless network by using Ruckus Wireless meaning staff; visitors and the demanding students now enjoy a reliable, safe and school-wide WiFi network.

With the new system. Students and staff have access to a WiFi service across the school, which when combined with our IT infrastructure means they can access their desktop on any device wirelessly, anywhere in school. Our new system also allows us to control the network with the ability to easily and effectively define a user or a device-specific access policy to optimize network performance and keep user traffic secure.

### What next....

The next step on our journey is to research the opportunity of offering parents access to leasing schemes for laptops.

Normally when you buy a laptop you would go to a store (e.g. Tesco) or buy online. Typically when you do so, you get a standard laptop with a standard 1 year warranty. This normally includes cover for internal faults to the device under a standard limited manufacturers guarantee. You would then buy a case separately. When you buy through the school, you would lease a device, purchasing through an online 'portal.'

As you would be buying a device for your child via an educational programme, you are exempt from VAT, so you would pay 20% less for the purchase or the actual device. As an educational provider, the package would offer you a fully comprehensive insurance plan (via an external insurance company) and an extended warranty (provided by the device distributor) for the entire lease period (e.g. three years). The programme will allow you to spread the cost into smaller monthly payments.

Further details will follow but in the meantime, if you have any question please contact [Mr Gauller, Assistant Head.](#)



# SIMS In Touch Parental Communication System

Our new communications system is called SIMS InTouch and requires no action on the part of parents other than to inform the school of changes to their email addresses as they occur. When communications are sent by the school, parents will just receive an email. There will be no need to register with or log in to another system. Please look out for these messages.

## SIMS in Touch—what's it all about?

### SIMS InTouch

SIMS InTouch uses SMS and email technology to enhance and modernise our communication system. Through adopting this package we can engage more effectively with parents and students, keeping them fully informed of everything related to school life, whilst ensuring staff members are always up-to-date, wherever they are. All necessary upgrades to our system have been made and following a period of collecting parents' e-mail addresses the system will be used from 25<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **The benefits of the new system are;**

**Keep parents, students and staff members informed**— InTouch will allow parents and students to be instantly informed, from sending open evening dates to unexpected school closure notifications and school timetables. It will allow us to automatically notify parents of any Behaviour for Learning incidents on a daily basis rather than phoning/e-mailing individual parents.

**Save time**—InTouch will reduce the amount of printed communications that need to be sent home which will save on postage, ink and paper costs. It also enables us to immediately contact home without the delay of posting mail.

**Stay on top of attendance and lateness**—SIMS InTouch makes it easy to handle absenteeism by immediately recording unauthorised absences, including the parent response, and pulling this information automatically from our management systems. This allows us to contact home and deal with absence issues straight away.

**Improve Communication Logs**- As all correspondence is sent through the InTouch package any contact with parents will automatically be logged against the student's profile.

**Schedule messages**- We will set scheduled text or email communications to be sent out in advance, whether it's about an upcoming school trip, parents' evening or school closure. We can also attach pdfs, allowing larger documents such as newsletters to be shared easily.

**Send timetables and exam results electronically**—We can send out timetables, exam schedules, results and reports electronically to students, staff and parents. Improved scheduling features means that exam reminders can be scheduled in advance, instead of staff having to come into the school to send out the message.

The combined benefits of this system are significant. The increased capacity to involve parents with their child's education is significant and can only improve behaviour and attainment in school. Parents have commented positively on the increased communication this year and the InTouch package will improve this further.

N Cross  
Assistant Head

## Fund Raising and the Parents Association

The aim of the PA is to create a partnership dedicated to supporting the school to provide the best education for your child. We also want to offer an opportunity for the school to communicate with parents and for parents to learn more about the school.

### Where have we used the previous money raised?

Over the last few years monies raised have been used to support a range of funding requirements for your children.

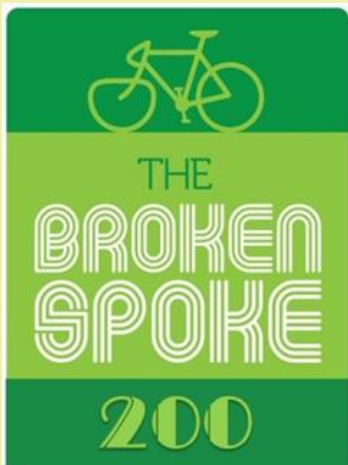
As parents of a child at the Catholic High School, your involvement with the Parents Association is very much welcome. If you want more information about what we do, when we meet and how you can get involved please e-mail [office@christofidelis.org.uk](mailto:office@christofidelis.org.uk)

Please follow us on Twitter. To join, simply scan the box or link to [@pa\\_chs](https://twitter.com/pa_chs)



**Date for your Diary: Sport Event followed by the Dance Night with music by the Jazz Band, Friday 29th of April. BBQ and bar will be open - see next page for details**

## Fund Raising for our Hockey Pitch



The cost of the Hockey pitch is approximately £450,000. However our fundraising target is initially £140,000. This will allow us to complete the works as we have an opportunity to finance the remaining costs. We also have a submitted a bid to Sport England for £110,000 leaving just £30,000 to raise if the bid is a success allowing us to go ahead.

Our big summer event.....

The first Sponsors [Urban Roots](#), [Dataspire](#) and [BM Digital](#) have generously come on board for our event next July; The Broken Spoke Sportive – with a difference – the only event of its kind will be limited to only 75 riders who will depart Chester on Saturday 2 July 2016 and follow a route through north Wales before crossing the border and finishing day 1 in Ironbridge. Day 2 will see us depart and loop back through East Cheshire before arriving back in Chester, two days and 200 miles later - over 6 stages. Fully supported, all meals, bespoke Jersey and accommodation for a minimum donation of £222). For more information and to enter please visit: [www.christofidelis.org.uk/Fund-Raising](http://www.christofidelis.org.uk/Fund-Raising)

If you would be interested in sponsoring the event please contact Mr Gauller on 01244 981611 or via [gaulers@christofidelis.org.uk](mailto:gaulers@christofidelis.org.uk)



There is an easy way to support our Hockey Pitch aspirations by simply texting CHSC15£5 (or any other amount) to 70070. With your help we could create a fantastic resource for our students and the local community.

# Rounders Tournament and Dance night—ENTER NOW!!

Friday 29 April sees our inaugural annual Rounders Tournament kicking off at 4pm.

The tournament will be finished by 6pm. Players and spectators are then invited to a post match Chili supper in the dining hall whilst leaving enough time to prepare for the dance night. Doors open at 7.30pm with music, raffles, auction together with a late bar.

To enter the rounders event teams of 10 are invited to enter for £50 per team or £5 per individual. Entries for the rounders tournament also gives access to the dance night. Alternatively, tickets for just the Dance night are also £5.

All proceeds will contribute to our hockey pitch project. Please complete and return the entry form below to the finance office here in school by Friday 22 April

## Rounders Team and Dance Night—ENTRY FORM

Team Name.....

Team Captain Contact Tel.....

Email.....

	Name	Rounders £5	Chili £3	Dance only £5	Total
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
	<b>Total</b>				

Please return with payment to the Finance Office, The Catholic High School, Old Wrexham Road, Handbridge Chester CH4 7HS

# The Big Sing



Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 we welcomed 300 students from seven primary schools from across Chester to The Catholic High School, Chester for a singing extravaganza. The theme for the day was "Reach for the Stars". After a morning of rehearsals together with our own international Swing Jazz Orchestra the students were ready to entertain. Proud parents arrived in their droves and with a packed hall the lights dimmed and the show began. Parents came to watch and marvel at what had been achieved while the room shook to the sound of 300 singers lifting the roof.



St Patrick's Day, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March welcomed a further 200 students from our partner primary schools. Following a similar day of practice but with an Irish theme, the event culminated in a spectacular evening 'gig' attended by very proud parents. A wonderful time was had by all.





## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2016

Term Closes Thursday 24 March  
Easter Holidays 25 March - 8 April

### Summer Term 2016

Summer Term Opens 11 April  
Early May Bank Holiday Monday 2 May  
Half Term 30 May  
Opens 6 June  
Closes 15 July closing at 1pm  
Summer Holidays 18 July - 2 September

Old Wrexham Road  
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Chester  
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[www.christofidelis.org.uk](http://www.christofidelis.org.uk)

Mr Murray can be contacted by via:  
[murrayj@christofidelis.org.uk](mailto:murrayj@christofidelis.org.uk)

