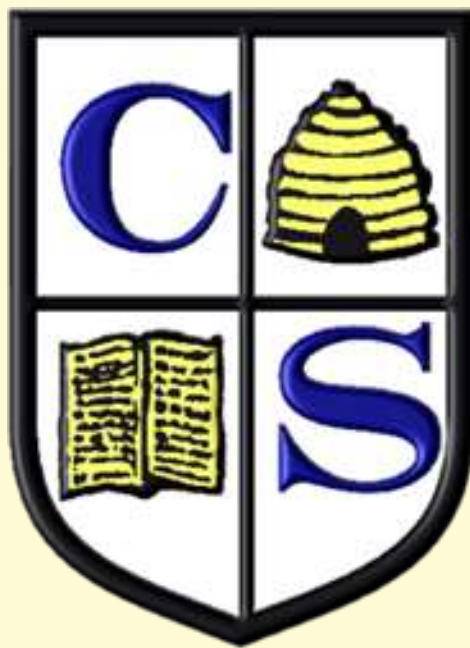




Artwork by Ted S, Year 7

# Clare Mount Specialist Sports College



# Newsletter

*February 2025*



[WWW.CLAREMOUNTSSC.CO.UK](http://WWW.CLAREMOUNTSSC.CO.UK)




YouTube



@ClareMountSSC



@ClareMountSSC

A decorative border of yellow and orange flowers, possibly Forsythia, surrounds the text on the page. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing green leaves.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite a snowy start to the year, our students and staff have achieved so much this Half Term!

In January we welcomed several members of staff in : Mr Jones, Mrs Cisarello, Mrs Abbatt and Mr Faithfull joined the teaching team and Mrs Mason joined our Admin department. We wish them well in their new roles with us.

We may only be half way through the school year but we are already making plans for September 2025, when our older students transition to 6<sup>th</sup> Form, College or Employment. With this in mind, our Year 11 students took part in a week of Work Experience this term and I am delighted to say some have even gained Saturday jobs from their time with employers. Meanwhile, we look forward to the Year 9 Options Evening when parents/ carers will have the opportunity to meet with members of staff to discuss subject choices for Key Stage 4.

Student health and wellbeing is always on our agenda and we are delighted to have been awarded Gold Status 'School Mental Health Award' once again this year by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools. Appropriately, we championed Children's Mental Health Week with the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' and end this half term with a fantastic student wellbeing day and an ever-popular disco.

As the days lengthen and the weather improves, we look forward positively to all next Half Term offers, in particular our fashion show at the end of the month. Please join us as our models strut their stuff on the catwalk to raise funds for our school and Newlife charity.

It only remains for me to wish you a healthy and happy Half Term break and remind you that children return to school on Tuesday 25th February.

Kim Webster  
Headteacher, February 2025

# #EVERYDAYCOUNTS

Dear Parent/ Carer

Our whole school attendance has fallen to 89.4% this year. This is below our aspirational target of 95%, which is what it was regularly pre-Covid.

If your child's attendance has dropped below 95% then we ask for your full support in addressing this, unless there is an exceptional circumstance (e.g. illness), and that you ensure your child is in school every day in order to help them achieve their full potential.

We ask that you try to arrange any dental or medical appointments outside school hours, but if this really cannot be changed then please let us know in advance if your child/ward is not going to be in school due to an appointment.

In keeping with the guidance from the Government and LA, we ask that parents / carers try to avoid taking holidays in Term time.

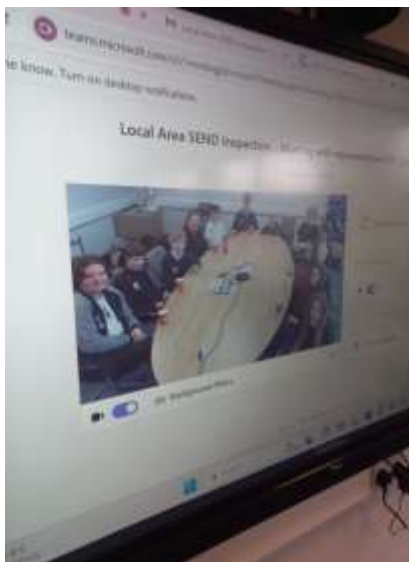
Mr Keefe

Deputy Headteacher



Visitors to Clare Mount regularly comment on how amazing our students are. Recently members of the School Council, and other pupils who had taken part in recent Department Panel meetings, were invited to speak to Ofsted as part of a wider assessment of SEND provision on Wirral.

The pupils spoke passionately about their hobbies and interests, their hopes and aspirations. They spoke about the difference their voice makes, giving examples such as naming the School Houses and explaining the meaning behind them, as well as the impact they have had on improving the school environment (e.g. requesting new shelters). Pupils also talked passionately about My Personal Best, Mental Health, Preparation for Adulthood and the school curriculum. They talked about the extra-curricular opportunities they get including residential trips like Kenya.



After listening to them speak, Tracy Stephen Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding, Wirral Children's Services, described our pupils as 'remarkable' and said "I want to join your school. You've made it sound amazing".

Mr Keefe



This year, we had 15 new work placements for Work Experience Week. We had lots of different job roles including PE Technician's, Retail Assistants, Classroom Assistant, Fitness Instructor Assistant, Body Workshop Assistant, Trainee Retail & Sales Assistant, and a Trainee IT Engineer , plus many more!

We have had excellent feedback from the employers this year:

*"We really enjoyed having Freddie here for the week. He engaged well with the work he was given to do, and the workshop staff found him to be responsive, polite and personable.*

*Every task he undertook was completed well and he had no issues with asking for guidance when he needed it. He has good technical skills, good communication capability and his polite, friendly outlook made him easy for everybody to deal with.*

*Feedback from everybody here was excellent and we have now included Freddie on our 'part time workers' list. We will be in touch with him to explore the possibility of some casual work with us in the future."*

*"I was pleased with the work and effort that Seth put into his week of work experience. His willingness to learn and complete the task that was set to him was outstanding. Seth's time keeping was brilliant. He would go for lunch at 12 and be back at 1255 ready to start again at 1pm. Seth was confident and would ask questions regarding the task that was set. I would employ Seth based on this week of work experience."*

*"Nick was an inspiring, gentle and hard working member of the group, and showed great maturity. Nick followed instructions moving around the sites and responded really well to adults. Nick was an absolute pleasure to take out on work experience, a valued member of the group, and is to be congratulated for his resilience and his ability to inspire others"*

*"Theo was a delight to have at Fender ,Theo was in our year 5 class and the teacher said he was enthusiastic and was full of ideas and shared his knowledge with the class. Theo was smartly dressed, punctual and very approachable . Theo shared a loved of World War two with our class teacher and that was the subject she was delivering. We hope Theo enjoyed being in Fender as much as we did having him here . We wish you all the luck in the world Theo for your next challenge "*

Well Done Year 11; you have made us very proud!  
Miss K Magnall WRL Coordinator and Miss Webster



Top row: Zoe at Leasowe Primary; Oscar at Empowered Gym; George School Food Tech Dept



2nd Row: Lewis at Moreton Carpet Shop; Joe at the Entertainer in Birkenhead; Logan at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



3rd Row: Dylan Co-op Academy Woodslee Primary; Theo Fender Primary School; Seth at Activity For All



Bottom Row: Lewis at Castleway Primary; Jack at Sainsbury's in Heswall



# FASHION SHOW

27th February 2025

6pm - 8pm

Clare Mount Specialist

Sports College

Birket Ave, Wirral

CH46 1RA

Tickets

£4

Tickets are available to purchase in  
the Newlife Moreton store or Clare  
Mount College.

Profits from ticket sales will be split between Newlife the  
Charity for Disabled Children and Clare Mount Specialist  
Sports College.





The Charity for Disabled Children

**We are delighted to announce Clare Mount's first fashion show, in conjunction with Newlife in Moreton. Newlife was founded 30 years ago to ensure that disabled and terminally ill children get the best possible start in life and have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Our students will be taking to the catwalk, modelling the latest fashions whilst raising money for our school and Newlife's charity.**

Doors open at 5:30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February. There will be opportunities to buy items from Newlife on the night, as well as a raffle and some refreshments. Tickets cost £4 and are on **sale from the school office or in Newlife's store in Moreton Cross.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Neill

# Save the date....



Friday 7th March 2025

# Sparkle Day





Our drama students have been very creative using props and costumes to create individual scenes and then developing stories to perform to others. This has boosted their confidence and the finished plays were fantastic! We have also begun preparing for the Shakespeare Film Festival. We will be filming our own version of Coriolanus (who is a tiktoker!). Over 50 students auditioned and we have now started rehearsals.

Mr Gore



In drama lessons we made use of green screen technology to make our own mini movies. The students were very creative and all the films deserve an Oscar!



Mr Gore



# Music

Our music focus for Year 8 this Half Term has been the ukulele. Students now know some chords and can play some well known songs. Our Year 9 students have been putting together their own bands with keyboards, bass guitar, drums and vocals. They sounded fantastic!

Mr Gore





## Duke of Edinburgh Students Go Green!

Duke of Edinburgh students have been doing their bit for the environment taking part in a number of voluntary litter picks at Birkenhead Park. This is a great example of how our students give back to the local community and support the wellbeing of others, ensuring local parks and wildlife can be enjoyed in all their wonder. In addition, students get a chance to develop teamwork and leadership abilities, build empathy and feel empowered to lead change.



Good job Year 11!

Every  
little  
helps



## Year 10 Rowing Competition

Clare Mount's Year 10 pupils delivered a dominant performance in their recent indoor rowing competition against Clifford Holroyd School, Liverpool. The event featured a four-minute individual race and an exhilarating relay showdown.

The competition was fierce, but Clare Mount's rowers rose to the challenge. Taylor H demonstrated exceptional stamina and determination, qualifying second fastest in the heats before delivering an outstanding performance to claim victory in the final. Alfie A also secured a place in the final and fought hard to earn a well-deserved bronze medal.

Following the individual races, all rowers took part in a thrilling relay event. Clare Mount's teamwork and spirit shone through as both their teams outpaced the competition, convincingly securing first and second place. Their unity and perseverance were evident as they powered through to a comprehensive victory over Clifford Holroyd School.

Despite some initial reservations about participating, every Clare Mount pupil gave their best effort and, in the end, all competitors proudly walked away with a medal. The event showcased the resilience, sportsmanship, and talent of the team, marking a fantastic achievement for the school. Congratulations to all who took part!

Mr Stanley



# TABLE CRICKET



Year 11 GCSE PE students have been honing their skills in table cricket, a fast-paced and inclusive sport that has added an exciting new dimension to their practical coursework. Over the past lessons, they have spent time learning the rules, developing their techniques, and refining their strategies.



From batting precision to tactical field placements, students have embraced the challenge, demonstrating great enthusiasm and teamwork. Many have been surprised by the level of skill and strategy required, making each session both engaging and rewarding.



The class has particularly enjoyed the competitive elements of table cricket and is now looking forward to testing their abilities in an upcoming match. With their skills improving each week, the anticipation for a real game is building.



Well done to all the students for their dedication — bring on the competition!

Mr Ritchie



# French

## Year 7

This half term, the year 7s have been describing themselves and others. They loved playing *Guess Who?*, using their French to ask and answer the questions.



## Year 8

Our year 8s have been expressing opinions about their hobbies. They really enjoyed conducting a survey where they practised their speaking and communication skills.

## Year 9

Pupils in year 9 have been practising real life situations of being in a French town and participating in active learning activities, where they gave each other directions around the school.



## KS4

Year 10 have been creating comic strips about their topic of food and drink and year 11 are hard at work preparing for their GCSE exams!

The French eat *crêpes* (pancakes) on the 2nd February to celebrate *La Chandeleur*, or Candlemas.



On *Mardi Gras*, when we celebrate *Shrove* (Pancake) Tuesday, they eat *crêpes* again, along with *gaufres* (waffles) and *beignets* (donuts).



# Eco-Club & Interact



# Join Forces!

Members of the Interact and Eco Club joined forces during Big Schools Birdwatch to make birdfeeders in a bid to attract more species to our school grounds. Students used oranges as the base and then mixed a combination of mealworms, nyjer seeds, seed mix and fat. It was messy work, but the students really enjoyed it! This is a great example of how students at Clare Mount work together to make a difference to our environment and help to protect local wildlife.

Mrs Hargreaves





Clare Mount have been offered an exciting opportunity to be one of just 16 schools across the UK taking part in a 'Wilding Schools' project, part of SOS-UK's Green Schools Revolution work, funded by the #iwill Fund.

The aim of the project is to wild 30% of Clare Mount school grounds by 2030 with students learning and leading on the creation of the Wilding Plan for our school. This is not only an amazing opportunity for us to increase biodiversity in our local environment but an important opportunity for our students to become leaders and environmental change setters. The initial stages are well underway with our Eco-Ambassadors attending an assembly delivered by SOS-UK and communicating whole school the aims of the project. Students have also attended an onboarding workshop and completed a skills map.

Mrs Hargreaves

### Assembly: An Introduction!

### Inside the Boardroom!





A new community group COSMOS, which stands for Community Of Send Mothers Obtaining Solutions, has now been set up to establish “a community voice” for families and children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

The mums behind the group, Cheryl Richardson, Lizzie Keown, and Jess Ryan, have decided to come together with five others to help the council bring about positive changes across the borough.

The group was looking at helping to get parents out of that and turn their experience into something positive.

Later this year, the group is hoping to start establishing hubs across the borough and working with current council services. These will aim to reach families across Wirral with the aim to help point parents towards the right support and feedback to Wirral Council.

COSMOS have been working closely with the council’s SEND services including children’s services director Elizabeth Hartley who are keen “to work with parents and look at what people want to see” with “that passion and drive to make things better”.

[To find out more about COSMOS, click here.](#)

## LGBTQ+ Support Group

Are you a young person who identifies as LGBTQ+?

**Did you know that there is a weekly  
LGBTQ+ Support Group session at The Hive?**

**If you would like to come along please email  
[LGBTQ@thehiveyouthzone.org](mailto:LGBTQ@thehiveyouthzone.org)**



If you are not a Hive member but you are interested, please also email





# Arts Award Film making Workshop



KS3 Arts Award students took part in a fabulous filmmaking workshop with Hi Impact and Mrs Courtney.

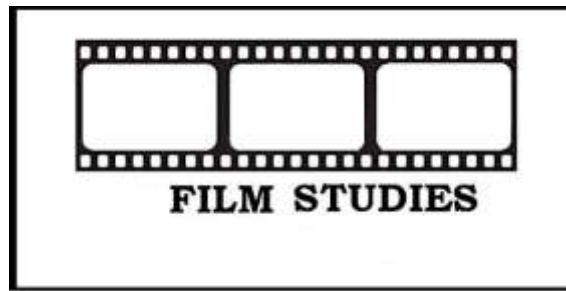


As part of their *Take Part in the Arts* section of the course the students learned about clay sculpting, onion skinning and editing using iMotion and iMovie.



Students spent the morning devising an alien invasion narrative and creating characters. They then used their imagination to bring the clay to life.

Mrs Courtney



## GCSE Film Studies - Camera Skills Workshop

GCSE Film Studies students have had camera skills workshops this term. They have learned about camera shots, angles and movements and applied their knowledge using a tripod and dolly.

Students are perfecting their practical skills ready for the filmmaking coursework they are about to start next term.

Students learned how to secure the camera on the tripod, use all functions of the tripod to allow for smooth movements. They also learned how to capture shot types and angles ensuring good composition and framing.

Mrs Courtney



# KS4 Futsal Tournament

The KS4 Futsal Tournament has been a resounding success, showcasing not only the sporting talent but also the outstanding spirit of resilience, sportsmanship, and good humour exhibited by all participants. The tournament has been well attended by students across all four houses, each showing immense dedication and enthusiasm throughout the competition.

From the very first match, it was clear that the tournament would be a closely contested and exciting event. Players demonstrated excellent teamwork, skill, and commitment, making it a thrilling experience for both participants and supporters. The level of sportsmanship was particularly notable, with students respecting the game, supporting each other, and maintaining a positive attitude, regardless of the outcome.

All four houses—each with their own unique strength and energy—provided fantastic

support to their teams, creating a vibrant atmosphere throughout the tournament. The passion for futsal was evident in every match, with students encouraging their peers and creating an environment that promoted both healthy competition and camaraderie.

As the tournament progresses, the final matches are set to take place on Wellbeing Day, offering a fitting end to a competition that has truly embodied the values of resilience and sportsmanship. The results will be shared following the conclusion of the finals, and we look forward to seeing which house will emerge victorious.

A huge thank you to all those involved, from players to spectators, for making this tournament such a memorable and enjoyable event. We can't wait to see the exciting conclusion on Wellbeing Day!

Mr Weights

# KS3 Futsal Tournament

## Away trip to Ridgeway High School

The Clare Mount SSC KS3 futsal team made the exciting away trip to Ridgeway High School for a highly anticipated futsal tournament, showcasing incredible resilience and determination throughout the competition. Representing our school was a true honour, and the boys did themselves proud, facing tough opposition in challenging conditions.

The away court was slippery, but the Clare Mount players adapted quickly, adjusting to the tricky surface and setting themselves up for an impressive performance. Despite the early challenges, the team picked up the pace and soon took control, playing some excellent futsal with flair and precision.

The Clare Mount A team truly excelled, finishing first overall in the tournament. Their player of the tournament was Jacob B, whose no-nonsense, front-footed competitive spirit made a massive impact. Jacob's commitment and leadership on the court inspired the whole team and were instrumental in their success.

Meanwhile, the Clare Mount First Team also had an exceptional run, finishing in third place. The team was outstanding throughout, consistently putting their opponents on the back foot. It was their ability to dominate in attack and defence that shone through. However, a series of drawn matches ultimately saw them finish just shy of the top spot, securing the runners-up position. The player of the night for the first team was Rocco D, who was simply commanding and incisive, playing a crucial role both in midfield and attack.

A special mention goes to Kenzo M, who, on his return to his former team, finished as the tournament's Golden Boot winner with 3 goals. Kenzo's skill and clinical finishing were key factors in the team's success.

Overall, it was a fantastic evening of futsal, and the Clare Mount boys displayed the true spirit of the game. Their teamwork, determination, and individual performances made this a memorable tournament. A massive well done to everyone involved – we are all incredibly proud of your efforts! Keep up the great work!

Mr Weights



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 have been exploring Steampunk designs in Design Technology lessons. Pupils have researched the movement, finding out about how science fiction and technology from the 19th century were blended influencing design. From their research, pupils were inspired to design and make their own hat, designing all manner of exciting machinery and decorative features for their product. Well done Year 7!



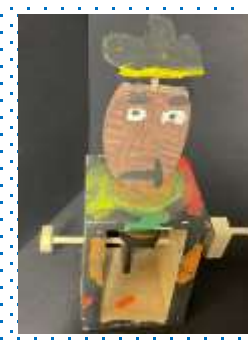
# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

## Year 8: DT Mechanical toy



"Fantastic work from our Year 8 students, designing and creating their own unique mechanical toys! They've explored mechanisms, movement types, and how to convert motion between parts—all while showing incredible resilience and determination. Well, done! #DesignTechnology #STEM #CreativeMinds"

Mrs McBurney



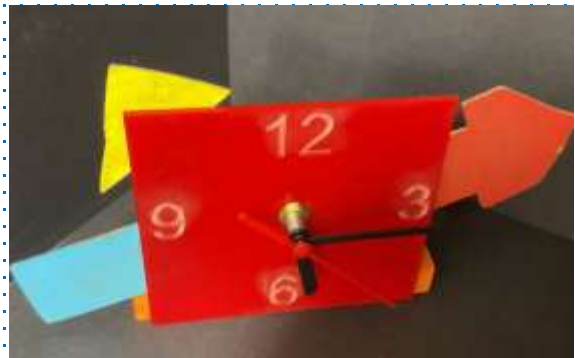
# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 9 Memphis

"Fantastic effort from Year 9, diving into the bold and vibrant world of the Memphis design movement! Their creativity shines through in their unique Memphis-inspired clocks.

#DesignTechnology #MemphisStyle #CreativeMinds"

Mrs. McBurney





I am Logan, and I am currently in Year 11, working towards my GCSEs. I plan to stay on in Sixth Form to complete a couple of BTEC courses.

Since 2022, I have been a proud member of the Air Cadets. I enjoy being part of the cadets because it gives me the chance to learn new skills, work as a team, and take part in special events. One of the things I enjoy most is supporting the cadets during Remembrance Day. I feel proud to take part in the ceremonies and help raise money by selling poppies with the other air cadets.

Being part of the cadets has helped me grow in confidence and develop leadership skills. It has also given me opportunities to take part in exciting activities and meet new people. Alongside my love for history, I enjoy learning about the traditions and values that the air cadets uphold.



This half term we have supported lots of our Year 11 pupils with their applications for college courses. All pupils attended an **'Interview and Application' session run by Mrs Spencer and Miss Magnall** in January. Pupils were talked through the college application process and then given hints and tips about how to be successful at interview.

This session was followed up with a Mock Interview Workshop. Pupils were put into pairs and given a list of typical college interview questions. Both partners had the chance to be the interviewer and interviewee.

The feedback from the session was really positive with lots of students saying they felt better prepared and more confident about their upcoming college interviews.

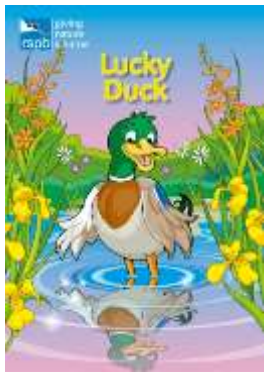
Congratulations to the students who already have a college place secured and Good Luck to all those attending interviews soon.

Mrs Spencer



# Big School Birdwatch 2025

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January saw the return of the Big School Birdwatch at Clare Mount Specialist Sports College. Students participated in lots of different ways by doing a spot of birdwatching on our school grounds, reading bird themed books and making bird feeders. This also tied in nicely to our health and wellbeing week - spending time in nature is always great for wellbeing!





The Year 10 sports leaders have demonstrated exceptional leadership and enthusiasm while delivering indoor athletics sessions to Year 4 pupils from Leasowe Primary School, under the guidance of Mr. Weights and Mr. Jones. The cross-school collaboration has proven invaluable, as it not only allows the young leaders to hone their coaching and communication skills but also fosters a strong sense of community between the two schools. The Year 10 students have worked diligently to engage the Year 4 pupils, providing them with a fun and supportive environment to improve their athletic abilities, while also acting as positive role models. Their professionalism and energy have been instrumental in making these sessions enjoyable and impactful for the younger students.

The success of this initiative has highlighted the importance of building connections with the local community, and we are excited to continue these efforts with Year 5 pupils next half term. As we prepare for basketball sessions, we are confident that our Year 10 leaders will continue to inspire and motivate the students, further strengthening the partnership between the schools. The experience of working with younger children is invaluable for the sports leaders, allowing them to develop not just their coaching abilities but also their leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. We look forward to what promises to be another successful collaboration in the coming weeks.

The Year 11 sports leaders have shown an exceptional level of commitment and dedication as they work towards completing their coaching log books, while also providing invaluable support to our Year 7 pupils every Friday. Their involvement has not only helped the younger students develop their skills, but it has also allowed the Year 11 leaders to gain valuable coaching experience and reflect on their growth. Additionally, several members of the group have gone above and beyond by volunteering their time to mentor and coach the KS3 futsal teams. This extra effort demonstrates their passion for sports and their willingness to take on leadership roles, as they continue to nurture the development of younger athletes. The impact of their hard work and dedication has been incredibly positive, and they serve as excellent role models for the next generation of sports leaders.

Mr Weights

# FORM

An integral part of the 6th Form curriculum is preparing our students for adulthood and for that time when they leave us and go on to pastures new. Over the past half term, Clare Mount 6th Form students have been working with National Citizen Service (NCS) to develop their employability skills. To support their learning, students have had the opportunity to attend sessions in school led by three different guest speakers.

## Barclays Bank



Nick from Barclays Bank spoke to students about finances and banking. He talked about his role driving the Barclays Bus in the Community and how important it is to be aware of your own finances.

## Department for Work and Pensions

Anita from DWP spoke to students about potential careers, earnings and qualifications needed. The session involved a Q&A where students were able to ask questions and seek advice.



## State of Mind - Mental Health



Phil Veivers, former professional rugby player from Australia, spoke to students about how he struggled with his mental health during his career. He talked about the importance of resilience, communication and knowing when to ask for help.

Mr Rice

# BASKETBALL!

The basketball team was invited to a tournament at Woodchurch High School. The tournament was attended by numerous local secondary schools and competition was evidenced by the pleasant rivalry amongst the players. All eyes were on the Clare Mount squad as they entered the sports hall, resplendent in their new kit and boasting a history that was unfamiliar with a loss. They soon took the floor against the Observatory School, displaying the tenacity and skill set that had enabled their flawless winning streak.

From the tip off Hayden Fand Aaron E stamped their authority on their respective positions. Throughout the tournament Aaron's dexterity at the point position allowed him to feed teammates in a manner that exploited the defence, encompassing our entire roster of offensive players. When not dishing the assists he proved himself to be the sharpest of sharp shooters, frequently shooting beyond the arc and stretching the defence. This enabled Hayden to dominate the inside. His ability to create second and third chances increased the rapidity of scoring and wore down their defensive rebounding.

Hayden showcased his strengths at all 5 positions on the court, flaunting a diverse scoring ability. The rest of the squad contributed in equal measure with pronounced results. Warren T was indomitable as a defensive rebounder. Michael M was a creative outlet, filling both lanes in anticipation of fastbreak buckets, compounding his hard work with a deft skill set around



the basket. Kenzie Y showcased an ability to facilitate and ability to disrupt the most purposeful attacks with aggressive hustle and defensive sacrifice. Issac F, as always, deployed a composed game, allowing him to poach baskets at crucial moments during the tournament

The ever steady Olivia S showed her composure, whilst defending key players, nullifying threats and capitalising with an unwavering contribution on offense.

The tournament was encapsulated by the infectious joy of Caidean H, who's contribution to the game is unmeasurable. The joy that Caidean dispersed amongst his teammates and coaching staff actualised itself in our results. Once again, Clare Mount Basketball team, represented themselves, their families and their school with the utmost integrity and passion, coming away with an unblemished record of 4 wins, and zero losses. We are immensely proud.

Mr Campbell

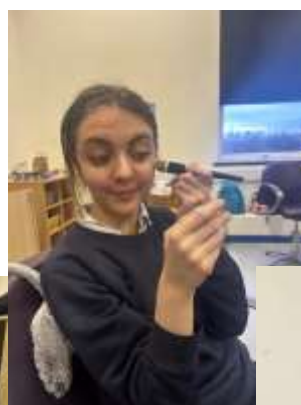




Every Wednesday after school Miss Broughton, Mrs Shaw and Miss Quinn open the salon for our lovely young ladies. We have been learning lots of new skills whilst making new friends.

We recently asked for donations of skincare and makeup items from our local community and are extremely grateful for everything we have received. If anyone has anything they would like to donate then please drop it into our school office.

Mrs Shaw



# The Salon

## community night



**Wednesday : 3:10 - 4:30**

- Haircare
- Nail care
- Make up
- Meet new friends

If you would like to join in  
the fun please sign up  
online



# Learning Outside the Classroom

Since September, pupils from the Alternative Curriculum have been taking part in exciting and challenging climbing sessions at Activity for All. Over the course of these months, each pupil has demonstrated remarkable resilience and strength, both physically and mentally, as they tackle new obstacles and push their limits.

The climbing sessions have provided an excellent platform for pupils to develop essential skills, not only in climbing but in teamwork and communication. By working together to complete tasks and support each other through challenges, they've been able to build stronger bonds and a sense of camaraderie. The support and encouragement within the group have been inspiring, with pupils helping one another reach new heights—literally and figuratively!

Each week, the pupils have faced new climbing challenges, which have not only improved their physical strength but also boosted their self-confidence. Completing each task, whether it's conquering a difficult climb or helping a peer, has been a huge accomplishment for everyone involved. These experiences have shown just how far the pupils have come, proving their ability to persist and succeed, no matter how tough the challenge may seem.

We're incredibly proud of the pupils' progress and the positive attitude they bring to each session. Their determination and growth are a testament to their hard work and the supportive environment created by both staff and fellow pupils.



Mrs Willis

# Learning Outside the Classroom



This term, our pupils have been embarking on an exciting series of walks along the stunning Wirral Coastal Pathway, offering them a unique opportunity to connect with nature, explore local landmarks, and work on essential social skills. The beautiful coastal views are just the beginning; the real focus is on building friendships, engaging with staff, and learning how to navigate the local environment together.



The walks are more than just a physical activity; they're an interactive experience where pupils can socialise with each other in a relaxed setting. Whether chatting with peers or collaborating with staff, each journey is an opportunity to strengthen relationships, improve communication, and develop a sense of community. Pupils have shown great enthusiasm in engaging with one another, helping to create an inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels supported and valued.



In addition to the scenic route, the walks also take pupils through local shops, where they get a chance to practice real-life skills, such as making purchases, budgeting, and interacting with local shopkeepers. This hands-on experience helps build confidence and practical knowledge in everyday situations.

Staff have been guiding students through these interactions, ensuring they gain both independence and social understanding.

Mrs Willis

# ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

Our pupils are really enjoying our visits to Eureka science museum on Thursday mornings. We have learned a lot about the human body and how it works, the environment we live in and how things in our homes work.



Trying to beat AI robot



We tested our fears





**SATURDAY  
15 FEBRUARY  
2025**

**11AM - 3.30PM**



**FUTURE  
YARD CIC  
75 ARGYLE ST  
BIRKENHEAD**

**ZINES & COMICS FROM  
LOCAL CREATORS**

**COMICS WORKSHOPS,  
PANELS & TALKS**

**COMICS  
YOUTH<sup>CIC</sup>**





## INCLUSION LIVE 2025

Our fourth Inclusion Live week took place between Monday 27 January and Friday 31 January 2025. Each day we hosted a free online session which gave access to SEND inclusion content for all practitioners.

Inclusion 2024 is a programme funded by the Department for Education which aims to improve the quality of schools' physical education and school sport provision for pupils with SEND working with PE leads, teachers, SENDCos and teaching assistants.

Since 2022, we have hosted Inclusion Live week. Last year, over 800 people registered for the live virtual content, which was delivered by expert practitioners and young people with a focus on best practice of the inclusion of young people with SEND in PE, school sport and physical activity. The aim of the week was to develop greater knowledge, competence and confidence to provide meaningful and inclusive opportunities for young people with SEND.

Inclusion Live 2025

Sessions from Inclusion Live will soon appear here:

<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/inclusion-live-2025>

Pupils from Clare Mount, Orrets Meadow and Wirral School Sensory Service all featured in films presented in these sessions:

A practitioner's guide to inclusive physical activity - Resources and recommendations





A comprehensive guide to key resources and training for delivering inclusive physical activity, with expert contributions from The FA, Activity Alliance, Swim England, and Youth Sport Trust's Lead Inclusion School Network.



Move like me - Creating inclusive physical activities for young people with SEND

Featuring Professor Brett Smith and an interactive session demonstrating how to create activities, focusing on strength and balance to meet the UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines for young people with SEND.

The dates are a guideline for parents, carers, pupils and families for when the films are put in the Youth Sport Trust website. We will share these through the school website over the coming weeks.

Well done all involved (Chloe, Mia, Libby and Carter) and especially thanks to the year 7 team, Orrets Meadow and Wirral School Sensory Service for their support and participation as well as Ms Worwick in the School Office and parents, carers and families for returning their media consent forms quickly.

Jon White



# Clare Mount Rugby Stars Steal the Show at Caldy RFC

On a beautiful Saturday morning in early February, 18 Clare Mount students and 6 staff visited Caldy Rugby Club to see the visit of Sale Sharks for a Premiership Cup clash.

On arrival at Paton Field, home of Caldy RFC, the boys took part in a 40 minute touch rugby match in front of the ever-growing crowd before lining the entrance to the pitch to welcome both sets of players into battle.

The quality of running, passing and defending as a team shown by all the Clare Mount students was a joy to behold and we were all privileged to watch the game of top-quality first-class rugby that followed.

In the big match, watched by a large, lively crowd - supporters of both teams - Sale ran out winners 28-14 despite a spirited showing by Caldy who fought back from 14-0 down at half time to 14-14 early in the second half.

Another magnificent day, experiencing top class sport for our Clare Mount students!

Further, exciting rugby events are happening for our students later this year:

On 10th February, Tom from [www.starscheme.co.uk/](http://www.starscheme.co.uk/) will be attending Clare Mount to provide coaching sessions for our students, supported by Wirral's Rugby Development Officer, Sam Olle. Then on April 3rd this year, our senior boys team will be travelling to Leicester to participate in the annual Premiership Rugby national SEN rugby festival!

Mr Byrne



## Clare Mount Dominate at Greenbank Football Competition Once Again!

Clare Mount proved their footballing excellence once again as they stormed to victory in this year's Greenbank Football Competition for Key Stage 3. Entering the tournament as defending champions, they faced high expectations—but they rose to the challenge in style.

From the first whistle, Clare Mount showcased incredible teamwork, determination, and skill. Their attack was relentless, scoring an impressive 18 goals across the tournament. Equally impressive was their rock-solid defense, which did not concede a single goal, making them undefeated champions for the second year in a row.

The team's outstanding performance was a true display of their hard work and unity. With every pass, tackle, and goal, they demonstrated why they are the best. Congratulations to Clare Mount on another well earned victory!

Will they make it three in a row next year? Only time will tell!



Mr Ritchie

# Football Tournament

On Friday 7th February - Clare Mount's Year 11 Football team (Seth, Joel, Dylan, Lewis, Charlie and Troy) played in a 5aside football tournament against Alt Bridge and Abbots Lea at Greenbank Sports Academy.

The boys completely dominated the group stages playing some fantastic football. They won every single game, beating both teams on three separate occasions. Between them the boys scored a total of 26 goals and only conceded 3 demonstrating their dominance in the competition going into the final against Alt Bridge.

Unfortunately, the curse of cup competitions struck in the final. Clare Mount hit the woodwork three times and Alt Bridge's goalkeeper was their saviour as they clung on to claim a 1 - 1 draw taking the game to penalties. After both sides converted all penalties the game was taken to sudden death. Fortune was on Alt Bridge's as they won the penalty shootout to become the tournament winners.

Clare Mount were very unfortunate not to win and the defeat will have been a painful one for the boys to take especially in the circumstances. The boys should hold their heads up high. Mr Jones and Mrs Shaw were extremely proud of how they played and how they represented the school. Experiences like these are hard to take but the boys will learn more from the defeat and its important they take this experience to help develop character and perseverance.

Mr Jones





The young volunteers have shown remarkable dedication and hard work as they pursue their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) awards, making a significant impact at a variety of community-based projects. Their efforts at Prenton Rugby Club's community garden, Birkenhead Park Rangers, and Nanny Sharon's Alpaca Farm have not only benefitted these local organizations but have also demonstrated the volunteers' commitment to making a difference in their community. Whether planting, maintaining, or caring for the animals, their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved have been commendable. Additionally, the rowers learning to row at Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club have shown impressive perseverance, embracing the challenge of learning a new skill while also developing their teamwork and discipline. Their hard work is a testament to their determination to succeed and grow, both as individuals and as part of a team. These experiences are helping them develop important life skills that will serve them well in the future, and their contributions are deeply appreciated by all those involved.

Mr Weights



# Term Dates 2024 - 2025

| Autumn Term 2024               |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Open                           | Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024<br><i>*School closed to students Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (Inset day).</i><br><i>Year 7 &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Form commence Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</i><br><i>Years 8 to 11 commence Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</i> |
| October Half-term              | Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024   |
| Open                           | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024<br><i>*School closed to students Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Inset day)</i>  |
| Christmas break                | Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025  |
| Spring Term 2025               |   |
| Open                           | Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025   |
| February half-term             | Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025   |
| Open                           | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025<br><i>*School closed to students Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (Inset day)</i>   |
| Spring Break                   | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025  |
| Summer Term 2025               |   |
| Open                           | Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025  |
| May Bank Holiday               | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025   |
| May Bank Holiday and half term | Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025   |
| Open                           | Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025*<br><i>*School closed to students Monday 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 (Inset days)</i>   |

*Inset Days (School closed to students):*

*Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September*

*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024*

*Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

*Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025*

*Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025*

# THE HIVE

HiveAbility at The Hive Youth Zone



At The Hive Youth Zone our mission is to be fully inclusive and accessible to give every young person the opportunity they deserve.



## HIVEABILITY - AGES 8-25

Every Sunday - 10am-2pm

A unique, multi-activity session in a safe environment encouraging fun and independence.



## SUPER 1'S CRICKET - AGES 12-25

Mondays (Term time) - 5pm-6pm

Free inclusive cricket sessions.



## HIVEABILITY 16+ - AGES 16-25

Every Tuesday - 6pm-8pm

Employability, life skills, wellbeing, cooking and lots of fun.

☎ 0151 705 8000

🌐 [www.thehiveyouthzone.org](http://www.thehiveyouthzone.org)

📍 The Hive Youth Zone, Bright Street, Birkenhead, CH41 4EA.



Registered Charity No. 1163183 | Company No. 9267940



An OnSide Youth Zone

### Our Approach

Here at The Hive we have worked to remove any barriers that may prevent young people from joining in with any activities.

Our approach is to be inclusive of all abilities, yet specific enough to cater for everyone.

£5 annual membership

50p  
per session



SCAN TO JOIN!

## Provision, opportunities and facilities

The following is a list of some of the provisions we have in place that allow us to work towards our vision:

- Staff trained in approaches to behaviour and awareness
- Dedicated, fully equipped sensory room
- Lift to upper level
- Structured activity sessions (open to all but also closed groups where appropriate)
- Access to ear defenders, sensory activities and quiet spaces when needed
- Accessible toilets
- Hygiene Suite with tracker hoist and bed.

# THE HIVE

## FOR 13-19 YEAR OLDS



SCAN TO JOIN!

We are Wirral's Youth Zone - making sure every young person in our community has somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone trusted to talk to.

Our universal senior sessions are for all young people aged 13-19. Seniors with an additional need or disability can also come to our HiveAbility 14+ session (Tuesday 5-8pm) or our HiveAbility Sunday session depending on their needs. Upper age limit is 25 on a case by case basis.

### SESSION TIMES

THURS 4PM - 9PM (SENIORS)

FRI 4PM - 10PM (SENIORS)

☎ 0151 705 8000

🌐 [www.thehiveyouthzone.org](http://www.thehiveyouthzone.org)

📍 The Hive Youth Zone, Bright Street, Birkenhead, CH41 4EA.



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An OnSide Youth Zone

# THE HIVE

## Find Your Passion!

You'll find more than 20 activities on every session – from climbing and sport to cooking; art and wellness to real-world chances to build your skills and work experience... and a tonne of fun in between. You can even volunteer as a young leader, and try your hand at supporting our junior sessions!



- Rooftop football pitch
- Gym
- Salon
- Skate park
- Games and challenges
- Chill-out zone
- Hive café



### What happens on my first time at The Hive?

We'll give you a tour and, if you're not coming with friends, we can buddy you up with other members who'll show you around and help you find your feet. Our friendly youth workers will find out what you're into and can help you find activities which might be right up your street.



If there's something you particularly want to do, just let us know!



An OnSide Youth Zone

