



*Front cover: The programme of our recent performance of 'The Wrong Way Round'. Mr Gore, Ms Smith, Ms Newton and team put together a fantastic performance.*

*Read all about it further on.....*



Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's been an incredible term. Amongst many of the highlights has been the students' spectacular performance of 'The Wrong Way Round', which wowed audiences last week. Our students were complete stars and we cannot thank the 'production team' enough for their hard work in putting the show together.

Year 7 families have participated in our Family Welcome programme this term, to help students develop the skills they need to thrive in school. At the other end of the school, Parents and Carers of students Year 9 and above attended our Next Steps event in November, in planning for life beyond Clare Mount.

Our Humanities Department put together a poignant Remembrance Day Assembly and we were fortunate enough to be given a poppy display by West Kirby Women's Institute. Other fundraising efforts this term have included a fun Bingo evening, which was very well attended; Year 7 raised funds for Children in Need through cake sales, competitions and dressing up; and finally, all our school community have taken part in a Santa Dash in aid of Autism Together.

We have welcomed several members of staff to our Teaching Assistant team this half term: Ms Quinn, Ms Howell, Ms Milne and Ms Hesketh, as well as Food Technician Ms Smith.

Our catering team once again surpassed themselves in providing a fantastic Christmas lunch for us this week and we thank them wholeheartedly for always catering for us with a smile. Well done, team!

I would like end by wishing you all a merry and peaceful Christmas, with best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Kim Webster

Headteacher, **December 2024**



## *Remembrance Day at Clare Mount*

This year's remembrance focussed on the roles women have played in conflicts and focussed on inspirational women from the First and Second World Wars. We began with Jess S reading about the lives of women in munitions factories. Aaron M and Harry Q then gave readings about nurses and ambulance drivers in the First World War, before Leon H gave the story of Elsie Maud Inglis, a proud suffragist, who became a famous doctor for her treatment of wounded soldiers in Serbia. Finally, we finished with two stories of spies in the Second World War. Theo R gave a reading about Odette Sansom, who survived torture by the Gestapo and ended up having a film written about her, and Dylan D reading about Violette Szabo. Szabo was executed at Ravensbrück concentration camp after being captured, but not before ensuring French Resistance leaders escaped.

Mr Basey





Clare Mount wears its poppies with pride - our Remembrance Day display of over a thousand poppies, made from plastic bottles by West Kirby Women's Institute

# Travel and Tourism



## Year 10 Travel Training

This term, we have been looking at bus and train timetables to find information on different travel routes. We have also used both digital and analogue clocks to support them in their daily lives. It has been great to see our students become more confident to access information either with a buddy or independently.

Students were asked to look at different scenarios which they could face when travelling and then discuss what steps they need to take in order to complete their journey successfully.

They also explored how to stay safe on public transport including the safety signs which they need to recognise. It was fantastic to see our students put this into practice on our recent train journey from Leasowe to West Kirby.

We hope to do a local bus trip soon so that they can start to become more familiar with the transport links in their area and how it could help them as they move towards independence.

Mrs Spracklen



## Celebrating Year 9 Textiles at Clare Mount!



At Clare Mount Sports College, 9P students have truly impressed us with their creativity and skills in their Textiles rotation this term, part of the Creative Arts Department.



This term, each student embarked on an exciting project to create their own cushion under the themes of animals or nature, using fabrics charitably donated by Dunelm, Bromborough. This project has enabled students to showcase their newly-developed talents and dedication in the Textiles classroom. Throughout the rotation, students learned a wide range of fundamental skills. Students mastered applique and hand-embellishing, intricate patchwork designs to confidently operating a sewing machine, each student explored the design process from researching homeware retailers, exploring the theme to designing and making a lovely product. Students also practised practical tasks like attaching buttons and using an iron to give their final products life skill elements.



The completed cushions reflect not only excellent craftsmanship, but also the vibrant engagement and enthusiasm our students brought to the classroom. Their hard work, creativity and teamwork have brought this project to life, making it a memorable achievement. Congratulations to Year 9 Textiles for their fantastic results—your cushions are a beautiful testament to your hard work and creativity!



Mr Lilley & Ms Chan



# Yr 7 Fundraiser



BBC

## Children in Need

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, Year 7 had a wonderful time leading our Children in Need Day. We had a cake sale full of delicious cakes, a Just Dance session in the Hall with Mrs Corcoran, Basketball in the Gym with Mr Campbell and much more! There was a Name the Turtle competition and a Staff Hamper which was won by Mrs Swap. We wore bright colours to school and had a brilliant time. We managed to raise over £700 for Children in Need which is absolutely fantastic! Well done to all involved and thank you for your donations!

Mrs Croucher



# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Clare Mount is constantly looking at ways that we can improve our already excellent new facilities. The School Council identified last year that they would really like to see more shelters around school and on the yard so they can stay outside regardless of sunshine, rain or snow.

Listening to their voices, Clare Mount has worked with Pentagon to install a new outside classroom in the Forest school area to compliment the new fencing and the amazing work that Mr Weights does to promote Learning Outside the Classroom. School has also welcomed a new canopy walkway and a shelter on the backyard (see pictures below).



In addition to these developments, Mrs Hargreaves, our Green Flag and Eco-School Lead, has secured a grant from the Wilding Project giving pupils up to £3000 for green projects and to improve the habitat for wildlife, as well as £2000 from Groundsworks to further develop the Forest School.

School is just awaiting final plans from the LA to develop our Community Café and Horticulture area in 2025, as well as increasing our parking capacity and submitting an application for a new 3G pitch on the backyard. Watch this space!!

Mr Keefe



Clive Watkin in West Kirby thought it would be lovely to have Clare Mount students' art work displayed as part of their Christmas window display. Students were asked to create a winter Christmas village or house scene.



In school we hosted an art competition where the top 32 pieces were chosen to be part of the display. Everyone who entered received a prize courtesy of Clive Watkin.

The students showed great enthusiasm and it was really difficult to narrow it down to just 32 pieces of work. Each piece reflects students' creativity of trying to capture the joy, warmth and magic of Christmas. They have used a variety of mediums to present their work and have loved making the pieces as part of the competition.

Well done to everyone who entered and a special thank you to Nick and Katie at Clive Watkin for the fantastic opportunity!



Mrs Rain



**THE WINNERS!**



The cast of our fantastic production  
**'the Wrong Way Round'**



# Save the date .....



Our students gave a magical performance of 'The Wrong Way Round' on stage over two nights to packed audiences. It was a strange tale of disappearing teachers, strange creatures and lots of slime! A huge well done to all our performers and backstage crew. There were some great songs, dancing and fantastic performances from Year 7 to Year 11. It was great fun to rehearse and everyone was amazing!! Bravo!

Mr Gore



The Year 10 GCSE drama group got a chance to be film stars when they produced their own mini films using green screen technology. The results were impressive and they learnt a lot about the process of making their own films.

Mr Gore



# Music

Year 8 have been studying the instruments of the orchestra and enjoyed trying out various instruments. They managed to make a great sound and are now experts in making their own mini orchestra!





# MEET OUR NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-25

| Year               | School Council Reps |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 7                  | Chloe H             | Dylan G                   |
| 8                  | Olivia T            | Isaac B                   |
| 9                  | Daragh D            | Aaron D                   |
| 10                 | Harry Hessey        | Euan Walton               |
| 11                 | Troy L              | Ryan B                    |
| Co-Heads of School | Head Boy(s)         | Head Girl(s)              |
|                    | Cory B<br>Jake J    | Rhiannon H<br>Jamie-Leigh |

## CONGRATULATIONS

# Family Welcome

This term, some of the Year 7s and their families have been having a lovely time at our Family Welcome event. The adults had the opportunity to learn about some different subjects such as Autism and Online Safety with the help of Miss Hanley and Miss Smith. The Year 7s then came and joined in to help the grown-ups make all sorts of wonderful things such as biscuits, a schedule, and a fidget! We had such a brilliant time! Thank you to everyone who attended and everyone who helped!

Mrs McCannon and Miss Smith





A half term of consolidation for our squad before the spring and summer terms. On Tuesday 22nd October we were shortlisted for the Team of the Year Awards by the Wirral Sports Forum, a frankly amazing achievement for an SEND school. We were highly commended for our season and ultimately were beaten by a Cross Country team who were 3rd in England!. Mr Kearney is pictured with our award.

We then attended a Cricket Skills festival which was organised by Cheshire Cricket Board in our Sports Hall on 6th November and we sent some of our younger members of the squad who thoroughly enjoyed working with the coaches and alongside other schools.

Upcoming into the New Year, we are keen to arrange fixtures with other schools and will be participating in the mainstream indoor cricket tournaments before then looking to defend both our Cheshire and Merseyside outdoor titles in the summer term.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM  
ALL AT THE CRICKET ACADEMY!**





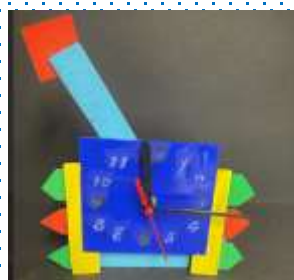
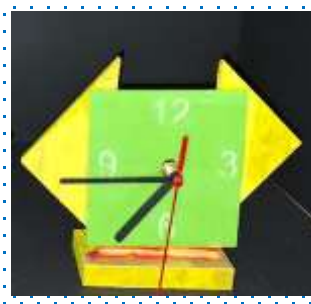
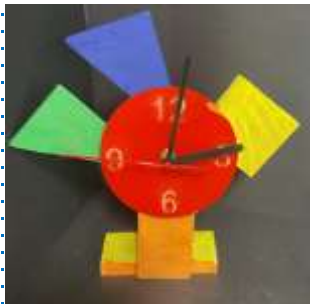
# CRICKET



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

A big shoutout to 9W and 9B for successfully designing and manufacturing their Memphis-style clocks! Through this project, they showcased their understanding of design movements, developed skills in CAD/CAM, and demonstrated their ability to work creatively and effectively within a design brief. Fantastic work, everyone!

Mrs. McBurney, Mrs. Price and Mrs. Ryan



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This term, our Year 8 students are diving into the world of mechanisms and manufacturing. As part of their Design Technology lessons, they are designing and creating their very own mechanical toys. This exciting project allows them to explore how moving parts work together while using their creativity to produce a unique product.

We're thrilled to see their innovative ideas come to life and celebrate their hard work and ingenuity!

Mrs Price and Mrs Ryan





## Sixth Form Construction Students: Building for the Whole School Community

Our Sixth Form Construction students have been hard at work, showcasing their skills and dedication through a variety of projects that benefit the entire school community.

Recently, the team has taken on the task of fixing and improving the drama staging, ensuring it's safe and functional for performances and events. Meanwhile, over in Forest School, they've built a sturdy new log store, making it easier to keep our outdoor learning spaces well-stocked. Additionally, they've created a custom wellie stand, adding a touch of organisation and practicality to our Forest School area.

These projects not only give students invaluable hands-on experience but also foster a sense of pride in contributing to our school environment.

Mrs. McBurney and Mrs. Swap



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

## Year 10 Design and Technology

Year 10 students have been busy designing and making scale chairs inspired by iconic design movements. Using Tec soft and the laser cutter, they've brought their creative ideas to life, showcasing impressive attention to detail and innovation. Well done, Year 10!

Mrs McBurney and Mrs Ryan



# Year 10 Boxing

Clare Mount School has introduced an exciting new initiative aimed at raising engagement levels among Year 10 boys in Physical Education (PE). Weekly boxing sessions, held at Venture Boxing Club, are being delivered by qualified coaches and have already sparked enthusiasm among the students.

Boosting Engagement Through Boxing:

Recognising the need to engage students in activities that resonate with their interests, the PE department has partnered with Venture Boxing Club to offer structured, off-site boxing sessions. These sessions are designed to provide a dynamic, high-energy environment where students can build physical fitness, learn discipline, and develop self-confidence.

The sessions are led by highly skilled and qualified coaches who focus on both the technical and personal development aspects of the sport. Students are learning essential boxing techniques, such as footwork, jabs, and defensive moves, while also benefiting from lessons in teamwork, respect, and resilience.

Student Reactions:

Year 10 students have been quick to express their enthusiasm for the sessions. Harry, a participant, said: "I've never done boxing before, but it's been amazing. I'm learning so much, and it's a great workout." Another student, Cole, added: "It's awesome to try something different. The coaches are brilliant, and I feel like I'm getting stronger and more confident every week."

Beyond physical fitness, the boxing sessions aim to equip students with skills that extend beyond the ring. The discipline, focus, and resilience learned in boxing are qualities that can benefit students in all areas of life, helping them to grow into well-rounded individuals.

Mrs Kearsley



# Trampoline Festival

Clare Mount School students took part in the WISSA Trampolining Festival held at Prenton High School for Girls last Monday evening. This delightful event brought together schools from across the Wirral to celebrate the spirit of collaboration, confidence-building, and social interaction through sport.

Led by Mrs. Kearsley, six enthusiastic Clare Mount girls attended the festival with excitement and determination. The event provided them with a unique opportunity to showcase their trampolining skills in a supportive and friendly environment.

Organised as part of the WISSA Foundation's mission, the festival aimed to use trampolining as a tool to unite students, boost their confidence, and help them make new friends. The atmosphere was vibrant and welcoming, with students interacting and building connections with their peers from other schools.

Mrs. Kearsley shared her thoughts on the event: "It was such a joy to see our girls engaging so positively with students from other schools. They represented Clare Mount with pride and embraced the spirit of the event wholeheartedly."

The Clare Mount girls expressed their excitement about being part of the festival. Sophie, a participant, said: "It was so much fun to meet new people and show what we've learned. Everyone was so supportive, and it was a great experience." Another student, Olivia, added: "I loved how friendly everyone was. It made me feel more confident, and I can't wait to do more events like this."

The WISSA Trampolining Festival is a testament to the power of sports to bring young people together in a positive and nurturing way. Clare Mount School is proud of its students' participation and looks forward to more opportunities for collaboration and connection through similar events.



Mrs Kearsley



SEN Dance Hub at Clare Mount School Shines Bright with Christmas Preparations

Clare Mount School's SEN Dance Hub has been a resounding success this half-term, with many students regularly attending and showcasing their passion for dance. Under the guidance of Mrs. Shaw and the team, the hub has become a highlight for students, offering a creative and inclusive space where everyone can thrive.

This term, the dance hub is buzzing with excitement as students prepare for a special Christmas performance to be showcased at the school's celebration assembly. The performance promises to be a heart-warming display of talent, teamwork, and festive

Dancer of the Term – Aron:

A special congratulations goes to Aron, who has been named *Dancer of the Term*. Aron's dedication, positive attitude and kindness have earned him this well-deserved recognition.

Mrs. Shaw shared her thoughts on Aron's contribution: "Aron never misses a week of training and always has a smile on his face. He works consistently hard, is really helpful and kind to others, and is an absolute pleasure to teach. His impeccable manners and enthusiasm truly make him stand out. Well done, Aron!"



Impact of the Dance Hub:

The SEN Dance Hub has provided students with a unique opportunity to express themselves through movement, fostering creativity and building confidence. The supportive environment encourages teamwork and inclusivity, making it a favourite activity among participants.

Mrs Kearsley

# Futsal



Clare Mount School has launched an exciting new House Futsal league for Key Stage 3 students, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Taking place every Wednesday lunchtime, the league has quickly become a highlight of the week for students, fostering high levels of engagement and enthusiasm. The introduction of the Futsal league aims to provide students with an enjoyable and competitive activity during their lunch break. Played in a smaller, fast-paced format, Futsal is an engaging way to develop ball control, teamwork, and quick decision-making skills. The league format also adds an element of friendly rivalry among the school's house teams, further boosting participation.

The league has seen an outstanding turnout from KS3 students, with participation levels exceeding expectations. Each week, players bring energy and enthusiasm to the court, eager to represent their house teams. Great team spirit and sportsmanship are evident as students support their teammates and celebrate one another's successes.

Mrs Shaw, one of the PE TA staff organising the league, shared her excitement: "The Futsal league has been an incredible addition to our sports program. The students are motivated, and it's amazing to see them having so much fun while developing their skills and teamwork. It's a fantastic atmosphere every week."

The players themselves have expressed their love for the league. "It's so much fun to play Futsal with my friends and represent my house. Everyone's really supportive, and the matches are exciting," said Mia, a Year 8 student. Another participant, Alex from Year 7, added: "I look forward to Wednesday every week. It's a great way to spend lunchtime, and it's helped me make new friends too."

The KS3 House Futsal league at Clare Mount School is proving to be a resounding success, showcasing the power of sport to bring students together in a positive and engaging way.

Mrs Kearsley



Clare Mount has launched an exciting new initiative this half-term—Community Night—and it's already proving to be a tremendous success. Building on the popularity of the school's traditional Community Sports Night, this expanded program now offers a diverse array of after-school clubs every Wednesday, ensuring there's something for everyone.

#### A Variety of Engaging Activities:

The new Community Night offers students a range of activities that cater to a wide variety of interests:

- **Football Sessions with LFC Foundation Coaches:** Students are enjoying professional coaching sessions that develop their skills and teamwork while having fun on the pitch.
- **Design Technology Club:** Students are channelling their creativity by crafting Christmas table decorations, adding a festive touch to the term.
- **Hair and Beauty:** This popular club teaches students practical skills like washing, blow-drying, painting nails, and braiding hair, empowering them with knowledge they can use in their daily lives.
- **Cookery Club:** A hit among students, the cookery club has seen participants making delicious pizzas, Christmas cakes, and healthy snacks. The hands-on experience has been both educational and enjoyable.

**Gaming Club:** Providing a social and inclusive space, the gaming club allows students to play and explore new games with their peers, fostering camaraderie and fun.

The new clubs have been met with an overwhelmingly positive response from students, who are eager to take part each week. Our numbers attending have increased dramatically. The initiative has also created a sense of excitement and connection within the school community, as students discover new hobbies, build friendships, and develop life skills.

Continued overleaf...



The success of Community Night would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of Mrs. Shaw and Mr. Brooks. Their commitment to expanding the school's after-school offerings has made this program a reality.

Mrs. Shaw shared her thoughts: "We're thrilled with the success of Community Night so far. It's wonderful to see so many students engaging with the activities and trying new things. We're excited to keep building on this momentum and offering even more opportunities in the future."

As Community Night continues to grow, the school plans to explore additional clubs and activities to expand its already impressive line-up. The initiative highlights Clare Mount School's commitment to fostering a vibrant, supportive, and enriching environment for its students.

The new Community Night is a shining example of Clare Mount School's dedication to providing meaningful opportunities for its students. Well done and thank you, to all involved in making this program such a fantastic success!

Mrs Kearsley

# Tennis Coaching Programme

Clare Mount School is delighted to announce the continuation of its tennis coaching programme this half term, made possible through generous funding from Wallasey Manor Tennis Club. This initiative is providing students with expert coaching and an incredible opportunity to develop their skills in the sport.

As part of this programme, all Year 7 students will have the chance to participate in dedicated tennis coaching sessions throughout the academic year. The weekly afternoon sessions, delivered by two top coaches from Wallasey Manor Tennis Club, are designed to introduce students to the sport and foster their growth in both skills and confidence.

In addition to the Year 7 sessions, a weekly lunchtime tennis club is also being offered to students of all year groups. This open-access club provides a relaxed environment for students to enjoy the sport, practise their skills, and stay active.

The programme has been made possible through the continued support and funding from Wallasey Manor Tennis Club. Special thanks go to Nichola and her team of expert coaches, whose dedication and passion have made this initiative a success.

Mrs. Kearsley, Clare Mount School's Head of PE, expressed her gratitude: "We are so fortunate to have the support of Wallasey Manor Tennis Club. Nichola and her team are not only incredibly skilled but also deeply committed to inspiring our students. Their coaching has been transformative, and we're excited to see the positive impact this programme will have on our Year 7s and beyond."

Mrs Kearsley



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to be a cornerstone of personal development for our pupils, providing them with invaluable opportunities to grow and thrive. This term, students have demonstrated incredible effort, hard work, and resilience in meeting the varied challenges of the award. Year 10 pupils have embraced a range of activities, from volunteering at the Alpaca Farm and developing navigation skills with map work to undertaking first aid training. One group has particularly excelled in learning to row at Liverpool Britannia Rowing Club, mastering a new skill while building teamwork and perseverance. Year 11 students have been equally impressive, completing their volunteering sections through meaningful contributions to the local community. They've worked with Wirral Park Rangers at Birkenhead Park, caring for the park environment and maintaining the allotments. Others have volunteered at Prenton Rugby Club, where they've supported the community garden and deepened their understanding of local flora and fauna. A dedicated group of Year 11 pupils are also working towards their Level 1 Sports Leaders Award, mentoring Year 7 students as part of their journey. These experiences not only enrich the lives of our pupils but also foster a strong sense of responsibility, leadership, and community spirit, hallmarks of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Our pupils working towards their Level 1 Sports Leaders Award have demonstrated remarkable organisation, empathy, and leadership throughout their journey. This term, they've had the privilege of collaborating with Leasowe Primary School, where they've led a variety of engaging sports activities for younger pupils, including football tag rugby and our Carnival of Christmas Chaos just this week. The dedication and enthusiasm shown by our students have been inspiring, as they've worked hard to plan sessions that are both fun and inclusive. Their ability to connect with the primary school children, offering encouragement and support, highlights their growing confidence and interpersonal skills. By taking on this responsibility, they've not only enriched the physical education experience for the younger pupils but also developed their own leadership abilities, teamwork, and communication skills. This work exemplifies the values of the Sports Leaders Award and reinforces the positive impact our students can have on their community.



# Forest School

This term has been a tremendous success for our KS3 pupils participating in Forest School activities. Engaging with the great outdoors, students have embraced hands-on learning experiences that have enhanced their confidence, teamwork, and practical skills. From building shelters and crafting natural art to developing problem-solving abilities through navigation and exploration, the sessions have been both enriching and rewarding. Pupils have shown increased engagement, resilience, and a real sense of achievement, with many thriving in this alternative learning environment. Feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the profound benefits of learning outside the classroom. We look forward to building on this success in the next term!

Mr Weights





What a fantastic afternoon and evening we had! 12 different providers and over 250 pupils, parent and carer visitors attended our event, and we had lots of excellent feedback:

*“Lovely informal evening. Lots of information available, friendly staff from the colleges, really put your mind at rest.”*

*“Fantastic event. Very well set up and very informative.”*

*“Amazing! Informative and great advice.”*

*“Well organised event, good set up. Students were really professional & friendly helping me set up.” Alan Strawberry Fields*

*“Event was well prepared, lovely that students helped carry equipment and set up. Students were so engaged in the session. Really positive and informative event”. Nia Coleg Cambria*

A wide variety of North West colleges, training providers and support services attended, and pupils and their families had the opportunity to explore all the different options available to them for life after school.

We would like to thank all the parents, carers and pupils for supporting the event and we would like to thank all the providers who took the time out to show our pupils what they can offer.

**Miss K Magnall**

*Career Adviser & WRL Coordinator*

# NEXT STEPS



**WINNER OF OUR PRIZE TURKEY!**



# Clare Mount supporting pupils to **MOVE WELL**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Clare Mount hosted a MOVE WELL Conference for over 50 delegates from schools, sports development, NHS, and other organisations keen to promote physical activity and physical literacy. This was an opportunity to showcase some of the fantastic work Clare Mount does as a Beacon Well School and a Lead Inclusion School, in partnership with KO8, PTP and Aquacore, Future Action and the Youth Sport Trust.

To read more about the day please click on the following blog from Future Action <https://futureaction.net/so/a4PEEbu2a?languageTag=en&cid=d3e31dfe-03db-4463-926b-2c18ea1d0352>

Quotes from delegates on the day included:

Can I first congratulate you on a great event on Friday! It was so well organised and managed from the outset and you should be so proud of the quality of delivery and engagement throughout. We were so impressed with the quality of input and the richness of the conversations happening with various colleagues. Chris Wright, Head of Wellbeing, YST

Thanks for the fantastic conference on Friday, it was brilliantly organised and the delegates were superb, so friendly and welcoming. Thanks for inviting me to be part of it. Neil Moggan, Future Action.



After a shoulder injury, resulting in arthritis, I'm being classed as disabled as will never get full use of my shoulder. In today's Ko8 session I was able to raise my arm above my head for the first time in 18 months which I was quite shocked and emotional about

P Rhodes, Lifestyle & Weight Management Team.

It was extremely insightful for myself. Today has made it clear of importance movement has in regulating student behaviour and the place it has in helping to ensure safe and secure learning environments. Superb day with outstanding guest speakers! P Jones, St Mary's College.

Really enjoyed the conference - really relaxed, friendly and informal - with brilliant presentations. Well done to all for putting together a superb day! I look forward to the next one!! J Smedley, Founder & Director, Teach Active.

Excellent day with some great ideas on to engage pupils to move and have fun. Chris Whitehead, The Observatory.

Brilliant day and very well organised. There is a lot we can use when working with young people in schools and in the home. Lisa Frances, Caritas, Wirral Family Toolbox

The introduction and workshops I took part in were genuinely excellent - would be good if they were all recorded and shared to a broader audience outside of those in attendance. Enlightening, scientific and accessible - thank you. Warren Dutton, LSS.

A conference of amazing quality  
Sonia Carty, Active Wirral, Wirral Council.

*Continued overleaf*

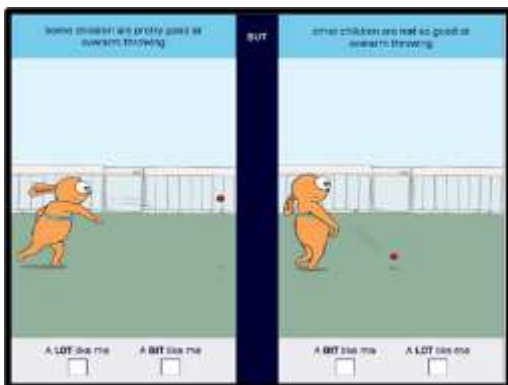
# What next?

# MOVE WELL

Clare Mount will be running an exhibition stand at the Youth Sport Conference in Telford in March 2025 about our work.

Parents/carers and pupils in Year 7 & 8 will also be asked to consent/assent to take part in some PhD research, led by Mr Keefe, in 2025. This will involve:

- 1) Pupils completing a short 'perceptions of physical literacy questionnaire' in form-time.



- 2) Pupils wearing an activity tracker for a week (like a watch – see above).

- 3) Taking part in a number of motor competence tests in PE lessons. These will cover Running & Agility, Balance, Co-ordination and Strength.



Further information will follow in the New Year.

Mr Keefe

# #EVERYDAYCOUNTS

Please continue to work with school to try to get your child/ward into school everyday, unless there is an exceptional circumstance (e.g. illness). We want your child/ward to achieve their full potential.

Please try to avoid making non-urgent medical or dental appointments in school hours, and remember we can no longer authorise holidays in term time based on the guidance from the Government.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill was put in front of parliament this month, enabling the government to introduce registers to identify and keep track of children not in school, while parents seeking to educate their child at home will face greater scrutiny.

If your child misses an extended period of school we will need to see them at least on a fortnightly basis from a safeguarding perspective.

If you feel your child is suffering from Emotionally-Based School Avoidance (EBSA) then please contact Mr Keefe or your Head of Year to arrange a meeting to agree a plan for a graduated return to school, with the ambition of getting your child/ward back in regularly after this.

Mr Keefe

## Year 11 Students Make a Difference with Prenton Rugby Club Community Garden

Year 11 students at Clare Mount have been getting their hands dirty and making a positive impact as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering section. Collaborating with Prenton Rugby Club, the students have been working in the club's community garden, contributing to a variety of tasks that benefit both the environment and the local community.

Over the past weeks, the students have prepared the vegetable garden for winter, sowing seeds to ensure a fruitful harvest next year. They've also assisted in clearing saplings from a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI), ensuring the area remains a thriving habitat for wildlife. In addition, they've replanted trees and potted seedlings, which will be shared with the community in the months ahead.

The students were delighted to take home some of the garden's produce, including squash, marrow, and fresh mint. This tangible reward for their hard work highlighted the immediate benefits of their efforts.

Throughout the project, the students have built a fantastic relationship with Mike and Gordon, the dedicated duo who run the initiative. Their guidance and enthusiasm have inspired the group, creating a rewarding and educational experience for all involved.

This partnership with Prenton Rugby Club has been a shining example of how community projects can foster new skills, environmental stewardship, and a sense of connection. Well done to all the students involved for their hard work and commitment!

Mr Stanley



# Clare Mount Careers

This year Clare Mount is working in partnership with the National Citizen Service (NCS). The NCS have been coming into 6<sup>th</sup> form lessons to deliver a programme that will help develop employability skills through social action and enterprise projects.



In November, NCS arranged for Chloe from Autism Together to come in and talk to our 6<sup>th</sup> formers.

Chloe shared information about the work that Autism Together do in our local community. She also talked about the employment opportunities available at Autism Together for young people. There are over 300 different roles for people working within the organisation.

After the presentation our 6<sup>th</sup> Formers decided to raise money for Autism Together as part of their social action project. All of the 6<sup>th</sup> formers have been involved in the planning and preparation of a Santa Dash event held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. They have shown excellent communication, organisation and delegation skills and are so proud to be supporting Autism Together!

Mrs Spencer

# Clare Mount Careers



On 12<sup>th</sup> November, 25 pupils from Year 10 and 11 travelled to The Hive in Birkenhead to attend The Wirral Skills and Careers Show organised by Career Connect. The event was designed to provide young people with the chance to meet different employers and representatives from FE Colleges.

Our pupils were able to walk around the exhibits and ask questions to any of the exhibitors. Feedback from the event was really positive and it helped some of our students make choices about their future plans.

Mrs Spencer

I wasn't sure if I wanted to go but I'm glad that I did because I talked to someone about a Sport course I am interested in.

Seth Y11

Even though I already know what I want to do, it was still interesting to talk to different colleges about the courses they offer.

Katie-Mai Y11

I was able to speak to different colleges about courses in the building industry. I came home with lots of leaflets and information to help me choose a course.

Cole Y10

There were a lot of options of people to talk to and they spoke to me about what their college is like.

George Y10

# College Open Days & Evenings 2024 & 2025

## Wirral Met College All Four Campuses



Conway Park, Twelve Quays, The Oval & Wirral Waters Campus

0151 551 7777 [www.wmc.ac.uk](http://www.wmc.ac.uk)

Thursday 9th January 2025  
5.00pm to 7.00pm

## Cheshire College



Ellesmere Port & Chester Campus

01244 656555 [www.ccs.ac.uk](http://www.ccs.ac.uk)

Wednesday 13th November 2024  
5.30pm to 7.00pm



## Birkenhead Sixth Form College

Thursday 28th November 2024

You must book so please go to website

## Coleg Cambria



Holywell Road, Northop, CH7 6AA

0300 30 30 007 [www.cambria.ac.uk](http://www.cambria.ac.uk)

Saturday 16th November 2024

10am to 12pm

You must book so please go to website

## Greenbank College



Greenbank Lane , Liverpool, L17 1AG

0151 733 7255 [www.greenbankcollege.org.uk](http://www.greenbankcollege.org.uk)

Thursday 21st November 2024 5.00pm to  
7.00pm



## SALE SHARKS IN THE COMMUNITY

Clare Mount has continued its partnership with the Sale Sharks Foundation this Term, with coach Micky coming into school on Mondays to run tag rugby sessions for Year 7s in PE lessons, a lunch-time club and some RISE tag-rugby form time activities for Year 8s.

Alongside the sessions with Sale Sharks, Mr Ritchie and Mr Basey have continued to offer lunchtime clubs on other days of the week. The sessions from Sale Sharks Foundation have been offered FREE as part their Tackle Together Programme. We hope to attend a festival later in the academic year and also invite some pupils to watch Sale Sharks Vs local team Caldy RFC on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

Mr Keefe

## 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





**Foundation**

THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

## Our Partnership with The LFC Foundation

Clare Mount SSC have been partnered with The LFC Foundation for a number of years now. They provide inclusive activities within our PE curriculum as well as within our extra-curricular programme. We are proud to be invited to their festivals and chosen as one of their most engaged SEN schools in the North West.

At the end of November, we were delighted to be asked by The LFC Foundation to host coaches from an Irish Football Club, Finn Harps FC, to provide them with an opportunity to see first hand the impact of the coaching and the collaborative partnership The LFC Foundation has with us.

We hosted 8 coaches, and they had an opportunity to chat with the PE team, observe the LFC coaches working with our pupils and also see the fantastic facilities we have developed within our new site. To say they were impressed was an understatement!!

With a shared vision of developing inclusive activities and opportunities for all SEN pupils we hope this is just the start of our extended partnership through The LFC Foundation.

Mrs Grayson

## Merseyside Girls Football Competition

Our girls' football team recently participated in the Merseyside Panathlon Football competition at Greenbank Academy in Liverpool. Although the team faced a setback in the first game, they regrouped, showed tremendous resilience, and went on to win the next four matches. Their impressive performance secured a place in the final!

In a thrilling final, our girls staged an incredible comeback, turning a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 victory. Lily W sealed the win for Clare Mount with a stunning goal, showcasing her talent and determination!

A huge well done to all the girls who took part, representing our school with outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork, and a positive attitude.

Mr Freeman



# Forest School

This term has been a tremendous success for our KS3 pupils participating in Forest School activities. Engaging with the great outdoors, students have embraced hands-on learning experiences that have enhanced their confidence, teamwork, and practical skills. From building shelters and crafting natural art to developing problem-solving abilities through navigation and exploration, the sessions have been both enriching and rewarding. Pupils have shown increased engagement, resilience, and a real sense of achievement, with many thriving in this alternative learning environment. Feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the profound benefits of learning outside the classroom. We look forward to building on this success in the next term!

Mr Weights



## Year 7 Swimming

Swimming is an important life skill, and it is the only sport that saves lives. With one in four children still leaving primary school unable to swim, we feel here at Clare Mount it is a vital part of our Year 7 curriculum. Our first group have now completed their block of swimming and I am thrilled with all **of their progress. Mrs Grayson's group have focused on water confidence, aquatic breathing and streamline positions within the water. Mr Freeman's group have focused on skill definition and building their water fitness. Mr Stanley's group have** focused on refining their swimming techniques across the different strokes, building stamina within the water and also started to learn to dive. As a department we are so pleased with all the pupils progress:

- ◆ 5 pupils received their Stage 1 swimming award
- ◆ 3 pupils received their Stage 2 swimming award
- ◆ 10 pupils received their Stage 3 swimming award
- ◆ 11 pupils received their Stage 5 swimming award
- ◆ 4 pupils received their Stage 6 swimming award
- ◆ A fantastic achievement for the whole group.

Mrs Grayson  
Swimming Co Ordinator



## International Sport and Cooperation Association



Mr White was invited to Ljubljana, Slovenia to attend the Moving Europe conference taking place from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November by the International Sport and Cooperation Association to represent Clare Mount Specialist Sports College and Youth Sport International.

Youth Sport International funded Mr White's travel, accommodation and conference attendance fee as a thank you to Mr White for the work he has done in piloting important work in this area of physical activity which led to the Youth Sport Trust receiving an international prize from ISCA in Seville in 2023.

Mr White has coordinated a number of older and young people (intergenerational) physical activity projects in the last six years including:

- Active Across Ages
- Boccia and Bowls Side by Side
- Move and Groove
- Generations Uniting through Movement (GUM)
- Paralympic Sports Festival

Mr White was invited to lunch with the executive committee and asked to talk about Inclusion 2024 and other Youth Sport Trust projects and programmes hosted at Clare Mount Specialist Sports College with Youth Sport Trust funding.

Mr White reported that there were a range of interesting physical activity workshops, projects, programmes and discussions during the conference days which were of interest and that could be looked at going forward.



The workshops were designed to spark collaboration, creativity, and establish shared understanding, reflecting on the essence of the GUM project: **bridging generations through joyful physical activity (PA)**.

After a brief introduction and ice-breaking activities, the session moved into its most engaging task—designing an intergenerational PA program. Participants were randomly assigned into 10 smaller groups, that worked on a puzzle piece, personalising it with their reflections, and hopes. This engaging activity encouraged collaboration and served as a practical way to inspire teamwork and generate innovative solutions.



Each team received a jigsaw puzzle, a template we developed as a planning tool for the intergenerational activity program. Just as puzzle pieces must fit together to form a complete picture, every element in the program created by the participants needed to align harmoniously. Participants were tasked with creating a detailed plan encompassing four

key aspects: the type of activity, facilitators, organisational support, and potential barriers that could hinder implementation. Hence, the puzzle served as a collaborative framework.

Once the puzzle was assembled, it symbolised the unity and diversity of ideas within each group. Participants then presented their plans and discovered how other teams interpreted the puzzle, creatively connecting its elements to form cohesive activity plans. This exchange reinforced teamwork and inspired participants, equipping them with tools to organise future co-design workshops with lasting impact.

The GUM Project's finale marked not just an ending but the start of a larger movement. Demonstrating the power of PA to connect generations, left a legacy of collaboration and shared growth. Thanks to the creativity and dedication of participants, the project's principles will inspire communities to embrace intergenerational activities, proving that generations can truly **#sticktogether** in the years to come.



Mr White



# THANK YOU FYLDE AFC



A group of pupils from Year 7 to Post-16, who work closely with our wonderful learning mentors Mrs McCannon and Mrs Stephenson, enjoyed a visit to Blackpool illuminations in December 2024. The day was made even more special by Fylde AFC, who play in the Conference and are managed by ex-England striker Kevin Phillips. Chief Operating Officer, Pete Sutton, welcomed our pupils and staff to Mill Farm Stadium offering them a guided tour, an interactive quiz, a goody bag, a chance to meet mascot Syd the Seagull, followed by a kick-a-bout on their amazing Foundation pitches, and tickets to the evening game versus Ebbsfleet. For some pupils, it was their first visit to a live football game which we were pleased to see Fylde win 2-0.

Mr Keefe





THANK YOU FYLDE AFC



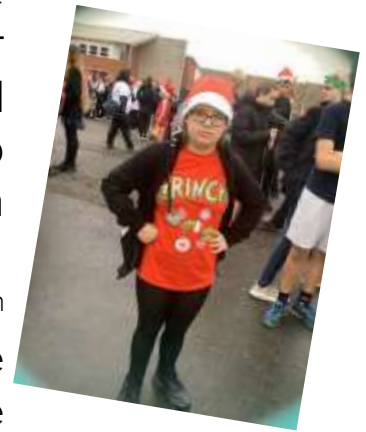
# Santa Dash



Since September our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students have been working with the NCS (National Citizen Service) in the organisation of a charity event.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Form students chose to organise a 'Clare Mount Santa Dash' and decided that all proceeds should go to the charity Autism Together.



The date of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December was chosen as the day of the event and in the preceding weeks 6<sup>th</sup> Form students were busy planning and organising the event.

Everyone in the 6<sup>th</sup> form played their part and the event was a resounding success.



Mr Rice

# You're not alone this Christmas



Text 85258  
[www.giveashout.org](http://www.giveashout.org)



0300 123 3393  
[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)



0300 7729844  
[www.nopanic.org.uk](http://www.nopanic.org.uk)



0800 58 58 58  
[www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net)



0808 808 4000  
[www.nationaldebtline.org](http://www.nationaldebtline.org)



116 123  
[www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)



0808 808 1677  
[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

## 4 TIPS ON HOW TO FEEL A LITTLE LESS LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS:

Limit your social  
media usage

Volunteer in your  
local area

Consider scheduling a  
call with family or friends

Have a look at what  
places are open near you

For more support organisations, you can find the Everymind  
Mental Health Support Directory on [www.everymindatwork.com](http://www.everymindatwork.com).

Don't suffer in silence.





Merry  
Christmas