

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

No. 173



Newsletter October 2024



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**Front cover: Members of staff 'Wear it Pink!' for the Breast
Cancer Now fundraiser**



Dear Parents/Carers,

Students returned in September looking smart and ready to begin the new academic year. Thank you for your support with uniform; it is much appreciated. Our new Year 7 cohort have made a great start to the academic and social life at Clare Mount. The transition to secondary school can be difficult but it has been lovely to see so many settle in so quickly and get involved in all the things we have on offer. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 Parents and Carers at the upcoming Family Welcome sessions.

Our students' summer exam results were again excellent this year. The high standards are a reflection of the dedication and effort that the staff and students put into their work and of the support parents and carers give. Well done to all our talented students; your hard work has certainly paid off! We send our best wishes to those students who have successfully moved on to their chosen college courses and warmly welcome back those who have returned to our Sixth Form.

We have held several parent meetings this term, including Welcome Evenings for Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form and an IEP evening for Years 8, 9 and 10. The turnout for these events was excellent and provided staff and parents/ carers with the opportunity to share information.

As always, our students have made us very proud with their donations on non-uniform day, which went towards our Harvest Festival collection. Forum Housing Association and Wirral Foodbank have welcomed the generous donations.

Next term promises to be as busy as ever with our students' performance of 'The Wrong Way Round' to look forward to, as well as a Bingo night and the Christmas festivities planned. So, in the meantime, I wish you a relaxing half term holiday and look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 4th November.

Kim Webster
Headteacher
October 2024



Celebration Evening 2024

It was lovely to see so many of our leavers return to Clare Mount for the Celebration Evening on 17th October, celebrating together with some of our 6th Form students.



Celebration Evening 2024



Special thanks go to our guest speaker, Emma Callaghan, who gave an entertaining and inspirational speech and handed students their record of achievement.



Mrs Nokes handed out the Bill Maclean Science Award to Noah for his hard work, determination and commitment to Science in Year 11. Noah also achieved excellent results in his Biology, Chemistry and Physics exams.



BBC & ITV Coronation Street Creative Media Trip

A group of Year 11 and Sixth Form students accompanied Mrs Courtney to Media City Manchester and took part in some amazing creative media workshops including autocue reading, green screen weather reporting as well as an AI workshop.

Students visited DOCK 10 Studio and had a tour of the UK's leading television facility where some of the nation's best loved programmes are made such as The Voice UK, Match of the Day and Countdown.

The students visited ITV Coronation Street and had a tour of the set getting lots of information about how a soap is filmed.

Students also had a Q&A with BBC Radio 1 presenter Nat O'Leary. They listened to her story of rising to fame and how she managed to get into the industry.

Mrs Courtney



Emma Rodgers Sculptor



We had the pleasure of Emma Rodgers joining us in school to run clay workshops recently. Emma is a locally based international sculptor. She works with clay, bronze and steel and has created magnificent pieces.

You may have seen some of her pieces already in Marvel films such as 'Guardians of the Galaxy', 'Avengers' and 'Thor' or the infamous Cilla Black statue on Matthew Street in Liverpool.

We were fortunate enough to have one of our Parent Governors, Dr Innes, run the London Marathon to raise money for the installation, which will be displayed in our Foyer area. Emma has helped design our school sensory corridor and students were able to get involved with this and make their very own clay butterfly or flower which is going to be a part of the exciting new feature. The students had a fantastic time during their workshops and all thoroughly enjoyed making their lovely intricate pieces.

Mrs Rain



Harvest Festival at Clare Mount

Thank you for a magnificent donation of foods and toiletries for our recent Harvest Festival. Rev Joe Smith from St Oswalds Church, led our Harvest Assembly. We looked at the ingredients of a pizza to explore where different foods in the world came from. We also remembered that we can give thanks for those who provide these foods for us.



Below is a testimony from a resident at Forum Housing to give us an insight into the work of Forum and the difference they make to people's lives.



Luke's Story

Luke has come a long way from the person he once was. He has agreed to share his story with you today in hope that it may inspire other people who may be going through a tough time to seek help and support.

"I'd been sleeping rough on the streets for a while, I can't even tell you how long. The environment I had lived in previously was not good at all. When I eventually found Forum I was in a deep state of depression and at the very lowest point in my life. It was difficult to have a simple conversation with anyone. I was a total mess, with no money and no belongings.

After visiting many agencies, I was accommodated at Forum. My new Choice Coordinator, Kath, came and picked me up. As soon as Kath arrived she put me at ease as we chatted on the way to my new home.

Arriving at my flat felt like heaven, a 5-star hotel. It was clean and warm and for the first time in what seemed like a lifetime I felt safe.

My previous environment was so bad it took me a while to go out, but I really enjoyed daily visits from my Choice Coordinator. Over time Kath introduced me to Roy, a member of Forum's Engagement Team. Roy encouraged me to work on an allotment project and I'm really pleased he did, as it got me out of my flat for a while. It felt like an escape from my own personal problems and I started to interact with people more.

During my two years at Forum I took hold of every opportunity I could. I was asked to be a representative along with other young people at the House of Commons as part of the Youth Homeless Parliament, and flew to Ghana to be part of a 3-month programme with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) helping fight poverty in the poorest regions.

Through Forum's help and support I am now living independently. I gained a qualification in painting and decorating, volunteered at Forum's Charity Shop and helped out at their events. I still keep in touch with the team at Forum.

Mrs Spracklen



Clare Mount staff and students had a great day celebrating National Poetry Day 2024 on Thursday 3rd October. Teachers all across the school and in all subjects read some of their favourite poems to students and Mr Gore's Drama classes had a go at dressing up and delivering dramatic performances of poems about animals.

In English lessons, many students flexed their creative muscles and wrote some incredible poems, all of which were entered into our poetry competition. They were ALL fantastic and showed both imagination and technical skill; a few are reproduced here for your reading pleasure. Enjoy!

Mr Waters



1,2,3

By Conah

Friends, friends who can we count on

Friends if you ever feel down

You can count on a friend or two

There for you no matter the situation no matter the area they will be there by three

As I go in school nervures my friend comforts me because I remember they will be there by three

As I fall over and hurt myself my friends helps me up

Because I know that they will be there in 1...2...3



123

Counting on my mum working 70 hours a week
And people always ask me "what your favourite treat"
I say to see my mum at the end of school
Though she's always on work calls
She's still really cool



I love her so much and she loves me too
If you ask me there's not much more she can do
She's so helpful and so kind
She's the best mum a son can find

By Ted TPG

Haiku By nicholas

Love is a warm day.
like sunshine on a dark day.
Easily broken.

Sport England Opening School Facilities (OSF) Programme – Year 3

This year is the last year of the Opening School Facilities Programme and, as ever, we are doing all we can to increase opportunities for our youngsters to participate in community and competitive sport and dance activities.

Our partners at Vivify Venues now have multiple hirers throughout the week, offering football, dance and performing arts.

Our W.I.S.H. (Wirral Inclusive Sports Hub) Programme provides opportunities each week for over 80 of our students to participate in football, cricket, basketball and dance

OSF funding, this year is being used to provide staff with training opportunities in cricket coaching and gym instruction. We are also purchasing new basketball kit for our fantastic squad and new football goals for use on site.

Thank you to our wonderful partners, Community Capacity Builders CIC for the superb SEND Football Hub, every Monday evening

If you wish to book one of our rooms for an event or club session – visit <https://vivifyvenues.com/concierge/clare-mount-specialist-sports-college>



Lunch Time at Clare Mount – a Hive of Activity!

Every week of the year, we provide over 100 lunch time clubs for our students – on a wide variety of themes ranging from quiet time to read in the library to blowing off steam playing football at Leasowe Recreation Centre, to revision opportunities for our GCSE candidates. Our clubs provide safe spaces for lots of our students as well as opportunities to strengthen friendships and learn new skills. Thank you to all our many staff who give up their lunch break to provide these fantastic opportunities

Lunch Clubs Autumn 2024 (School Year 2024-2025)		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Club	GCSE Maths WB, HH, AK (F32)	Football - (Leasowe Rec) J/Wa/KHo	GCSE Maths WB/HH (F32)	Duango club - MfG (F38)	GCSE Maths WB, HH (F32)	
Invitees	Year 10, 11 and 6th Form	Key Stage 3 Students	Year 10, 11 and 6th Form	Open	Year 10, 11 and 6th Form	
Club	Football KHo (Cage)	GCSE Maths WB, HH, AK (F32)	Mindfulness HG, EW (G19)	Football - (Leasowe Rec) J/Wa/KHo	K33 Football KHo (Cage)	
Invitees	K33	Year 10, 11 and 6th Form	Invitees Only	Key Stage 4 Students	Open	
Club	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	GCSE Maths WB/HH/AK (F32)	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Year 10, 11 and 6th Form	Open	
Club	Reading Club (Library) Jone/L3	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	K33 Football KHo (Cage)	Mindfulness HG/EW (G19)	Reading Club (Library) L3	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Invitees Only	Open	
Club	Fitness club (Fit Suite) FR	Reading Club (Library) J3/L3	Reading Club (Library) L3	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Fitness club (Fit Suite) FR	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Geography Drop-in (F4) JJ	Art Club (G32) DR	Fitness club (Fit Suite) FR	Reading Club (Library) L3	Cricket FK (SH1)	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Shooting Stars Football J/Wa (SH2)	Fitness club (Fit Suite) FR	Geography Drop-in (F4) JJ	Art Club (G32) DR	Dance GC/ST (Dance Studio)	
Invitees	Girls Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Cricket FK (SH1)	Geography Drop-in (F4) JJ	Cricket FK (SH1)	Fitness club (Fit Suite) FR	Eco Club MfG (F41)	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Dance VW/SS (Dance Studio)	Cricket FK (SH1)	Football IF (IRC)	Geography Drop-in (F4) JJ	IF AE/SE (F34)	
Invitees	Open	Open	Year 8 Only	Open	Open	
Club	IF AE/SE (F34)	IF AE/SE (F34)	IF AE/SE (F34)	Cricket FK (SH1)	Football RB, EW (Cage)	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Football KWh (Cage)	Football - (Leasowe Rec) J/Wa/KHo	Football RB (Cage)	IF AE/SE (F34)	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	
Invitees	Open	Key Stage 3 Students	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Football RB (Cage)	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Football - (Leasowe Rec) J/Wa/KHo	Reading Club (Library) DR/JB	
Invitees	Open	Year 8 and above	Open	Key Stage 4 Students	Open	
Club	Reading Club (Library) JB/HW	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Reading Club (Library) DR/MW	Craft and Lego 18/CSF (G31)	Drama (G30/28) RG, KN/MW	
Invitees	Open	Open	Open	Open	Students involved in the show	
Club	Drama (G30/28) RG, KN/MW, EW	Reading Club (Library) HW/AD	Dodgeball (Gym) JRI	Reading Club (Library) AD	Dodgeball (Gym) AR	
Invitees	Students involved in the show	Open	Year 8 and Above	Open	Year 8 and Above	
Club	Active Play (Yard) J/W, JN/WM	Football - (Leasowe Rec) J/Wa/KHo	Badminton (SH2) AA	Active Play (Yard) J/Wa/JN/WM	Bigly (SH2) DR/JB	
Invitees	Open	Key Stage 3 Students	Open	Open	Open	
Club	Dodgeball (Gym) KH	Football (Sports Hall) GE/SS	Science Club (F44) CF	Karaoke Club (G30) RG, KN/MW/SMC	Chat and Chit SMC (G25)	
Invitees	Year 8 and Above	Open	K33	Open	K33 Students	
Club	History Club (F3) JB/AO/WF	Drama (G30/28) RG, KN/MW	Drama (G30/28) RG, EW	Dodgeball (Gym) KJ	Clubs in Yellow 1st hall: 12:10 - 12:35	
Invitees	Open	Students involved in the show	Students involved in the show	Year 7 Only	Clubs in Blue 2nd hall: 12:35 - 13:00	
Club	Drop-in SMC (G14)	Active Play (Yard) JN/WM	Singing Club (G29) FS	Volleyball (SH2) GK		
Invitees	K33 Students	Open	Open	Open		
Club		Dodgeball (Gym) FE Staff	X-Box / Gaming SMC (G14)	History Club (F1) JB/AO/WF		
Invitees		Year 7 Only	K33 Students	GCSE Candidates Only		
Club		History Club (F3) JB/AO/WF		ICT SMC (G14)		
Invitees		GCSE Candidates Only		Year 7 Only		
Club		Chat and Chit SMC (G25)				
Invitees		K33 Students				
Club		Design Tech GCSE catch up (G27)				
Invitees		GCSE pupils				





Year 7 Glow Sport Festival

On Thursday 10th October, twenty of our Year 7 pupils took part in a Glow Sport Festival after school. They had great fun playing Kin-ball and dodgeball with glow in the dark equipment. Pupils developed lots of skills including teamwork, fair play, problem solving, resilience and so much more! The activities were super popular and as a result, we will be hosting more of these events in the future!

Mrs Corcoran



Clare Mount SSC
supporting Wear it pink

The Sixth Formers raised funds for Breast Cancer Now charity this October. We wore pink, held the biggest cake sale Clare Mount has ever seen and also carried out 2 raffles.

The Head Boys and Head Girls took control of the cake sale and proved they are superb role models. They were responsible for both raffles and promoted the charity to the rest of the school.

With another cake sale planned, the final amount raised is anticipated to be over £750!

Mrs Courtney and the Sixth Form team!



MULTI-AGENCY SUPPORT

Clare Mount is working with a range of different agencies to offer support to our pupils and their families. We have a range of counselling and therapy services available throughout the week. Referrals can be made through Heads of Year. Please note demand is high and we try to offer pupils a block of support, giving them self-help strategies that they can put in place afterwards.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Claire Wycherley, Caritas. All day.	Jackie Leasor, Health Services in Schools (HSIS). AM.	Sylvia Pitts, Social Worker in Schools (SWIS). All day.	Sylvia Pitts, Social Worker in Schools (SWIS). All day.	Lisa Frances, Caritas. All day.
Tamsin Coates, SALT. All day.	Tamsin Coates, SALT. Half day.	PC Teresa Doherty, Merseyside Police.		
	Art Therapy. Nell Peel. All day.			
	Hannah O'Neill, CCB Counselling. All day.			

*Please note, days for Sylvia and PC Doherty can change subject to meetings/referrals.

PC Teresa Doherty is available to talk to pupils about a range of issues such as sensible online communication and staying safe in the community. We will assume that we have your consent for her to talk with your child on low level matters, unless we hear otherwise from you. For more significant matters, we will complete a referral form and contact parents/carers. PC Doherty will not be able to speak to pupils if a crime has been reported and it is open to investigation by another officer.

Sylvia Pitts is our Social Worker in School (SWIS). Wirral first established a Social Work in Schools (SWIS) Team in 2021. Since its inception the SWIS Team have proven to be a valuable presence within the schools, managing cases, supporting children and families from early intervention through to court proceedings. Through SWIS Social Workers, Wirral have supported colleagues in Education and other services with implementing a trauma informed and systemic approach which is better for families. SWIS provides schools with Social Care and supports schools staff with managing Safeguarding on a day-to-day basis.



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Please find below a range of websites and support services that our partners would recommend:

Clare Mount has been involved in the soft launch of Branch. This is a website developed by partners like Koala, which will launch officially in mid-November giving parents/carers and young people a website to access advice and guidance, but also explore appropriate help if needed.

<https://branch-wirral.co.uk/> WATCH THIS SPACE

<https://familytoolbox.co.uk/>

<https://www.zillowirral.co.uk/local-services>

<https://familytoolbox.co.uk/support-list/counselling-for-young-people-and-adults-caritas-wirral/>

<https://communitycapacitybuilders.com/>



**We're
part of
your**



Save the date

Come and watch our production of 'The Wrong Way Round' on December 11th and 12th! The students are busy rehearsing this spooky musical tale of disappearing teachers, inquisitive students, crazy creatures, and lots of slime! It is loosely based on 'Stranger Things' and promises to be a lot of fun!





The 6th Form BTEC drama group has started the year in a very positive way. They have been exploring different themes, creating different characters and creating their own plays. They have used improvisation and scripts to improve their drama skills

Mr Gore



Music

Our resident rock band, 'The Naughty Step' entertained everyone at the recent Celebration Evening. They performed their own songs and were fantastic! Well done to the band! Rock on! 🤘



Coming soon...

To Clare Mount Specialist Sports College
Firework week!

Flame tests

Sparklers

Safety!!



History and
traditions of Bonfire
night

Fireworks in
other cultures



Monday 4th to Friday 8th November 2024

Green Flag Award Winners



Pupils at Clare Mount Specialist Sports College have once again been awarded the prestigious Eco Schools' Green Flag – with distinction! This award recognises their exceptional work in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness.

Highlights of the report include:

“It is evident that young people in your school are aware of environmental issues and passionate about protecting our planet.”

“You’ve made an incredible impact in your school and local community and serve as inspiration to all.”

Congratulations to everyone involved!

Autumn Term Science Club Update

It has been a brilliant start to the year for Science Club. We have lots of new students who have joined us. So far we have practiced our Bunsen burner skills and have created indicators for acids and alkalis from red cabbage. The electrical component radio kits are always a firm favourite and the paper helicopters we made flew really well. After half term we will be looking at Bonfire Night & Christmas themed science experiments. New members are always welcome. Open to Key Stage 3 students. Wednesday Lunchtime from 12:25pm.

Mrs. Fogarty



Our basketball programme at Clare Mount has been continuing with some aplomb this term. We have a steady, committed and purposeful cohort of students who regularly train on a Wednesday, relinquishing their free time for the good of the team. This adherence to the greater goal and the sacrifices that accompany such endeavours has resulted in the team inaugural competition; a four way tournament held at the Ridgeway School.

From the moment our students took to the hardwood it became evident that we were in for something special. Tip off was easily procured by our dominant centre, Hayden Forshaw. He immediately fed the ball to our experienced point guard, Aaron, Davis, who deftly threaded a pass between two towering defenders. Miraculously the ball sat up in the lane for an upcoming Olivia Smyth. With the finest of touches, Olivia was able to provide a pass to Hayden who duly laid the ball up off the backboard for our first two points. Hayden's dominance continued throughout the tournament, putting up the type of statistic reminiscent of legendary big men such as Wilt 'the Stilt' Chamberlain and Hakeem 'the dream' Olajuwon.

Supplementing Hayden's pre-eminence was the masterful supremacy of our point guard Aaron Davis. he controlled the one position with the assured fluidity of an experienced player. His play making and authority reigned over all games. It was clearly Aaron who dictated the pace of each combative moment, running the fast break with the unpredictability that allowed all of his teammates to be involved in the game. There were many highlights to Aaron's game, but to this spectator, the most spectacular of the zenith of those highlights came when Aaron cooley stepped beyond the 3 point line to launch a beautiful rainbow from 25 feet. A silence fell upon the watching crowd as they traced the flight of the ball through the air. To witness it splash through the rim, touching nothing but the net. The crowd were awed by his enviable skill, a skill honed by countless hours of practice and unprecedented dedication.



It would be remiss of this author not to mention the supporting role of the rest of the team who played in a tournament that led to a seven out seven win record. Maci Lamay performed a pivotal role in defence, ensuring she locked down key opposition. Olivia Smyth demonstrates a game that is well rounded, picking up the slack both on defence and offense. Issac Favager showed tenacity on boards, snatching rebounds and providing second and third chances for the offence. Ella Bristow calmly applied her trade on the offensive end of the floor with pertinent assist and outlandish hustle. Finally, Caden Headland provided a unique 'razzle dazzle' when he reverted back to a bygone age with a two handed scoop shot that brought the crowd to their feet.

An outstanding performance by all, made possible by a small, dedicated and tenacious group of students who truly perform as a team.

Mr Campbell





In English lessons, some of our year 10s are studying Charles Dickens' classic *'A Christmas Carol'* as part of their GCSE English Literature course. Mr Waters' class recently had a practical lesson, with some students in costume, to explore the symbolism of Jacob Marley's chain in the book, and how this can also be applied to Scrooge. By the end of the lesson, these three students were certainly 'feeling the weight' of Marley's and Scrooge's sins!

Mr Waters



A Half Term of new players for the cricket as we have had an influx of year 7s and 8s which has grown the squad and club.

Cheshire have sent the team medals and a trophy through which confirms the group as Champions of Cheshire alongside their Merseyside win and the team have been nominated for Team of the Year in the upcoming Wirral Sports Awards.

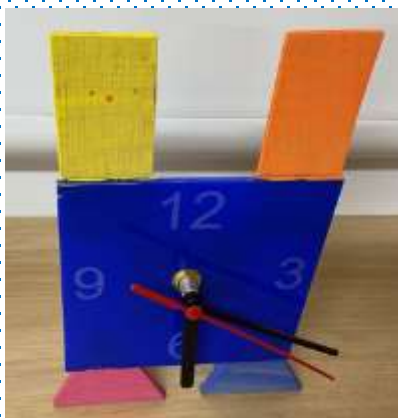
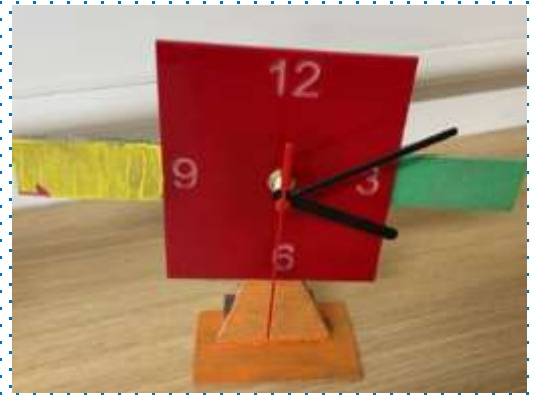
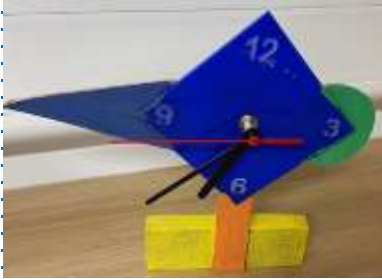
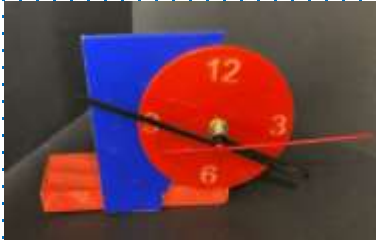
Congratulations to everyone on their continued progress in the sport.

Mr Kearney



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 9: Memphis style clock using the techsoft and the laser cutter.





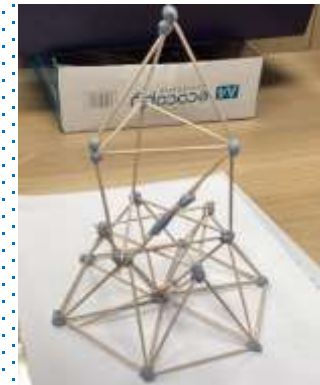
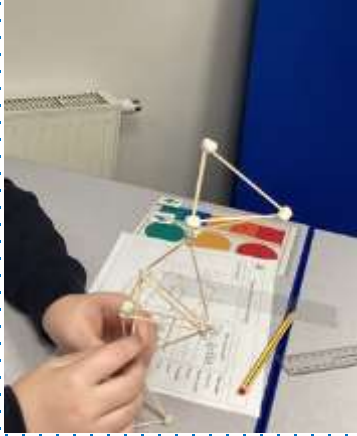
Post 16 Construction BTEC

Our Sixth Form students have made an amazing start to their Construction BTEC course, learning about different hand tools while manufacturing a photo frame as part of their coursework.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 have been exploring structures and learning how to make strong structures using triangulation.





Y10 GSCE

The seating in New Brighton has been designed with different users and environments in mind. From practical benches for rest, to artistic installations, the variety of seating enhances both functionality and the aesthetic appeal of the area.



Clare Mount has been working with Neil Moggan from Future Action this Term to establish the R.I.S.E. programme. The aim of our R.I.S.E programme is to create a whole-school approach to mental wellbeing building on the positive relationships we already have with the children. We want our children to have the strategies, understanding and vocabulary to be able to self-regulate and to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

All staff accessed a morning of R.I.S.E training in September.

R.I.S.E. (see below) refers to a series of movement activities which we encourage our pupils to take through the day which compliments the idea of Well Schools, sensory circuits and movement breaks.

My Byrne



Our Heads of Year have subsequently introduced RISE sessions to form-time in the afternoon for every year group (see below)

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	Year 7 Assembly (Hall)	Numeracy Games	Well-being & RISE UP	Well-being & RISE UP	Golden Time
Year 8	RISE UP (classroom based theory)	Year 8 Assembly (Hall)	RISE UP (Movement for Mental Wellbeing)	Numeracy	Golden Time
Year 9	Numeracy	RISE UP	Year 9 Assembly (Hall)	Personal Development / Relationships	Golden Time
Year 10	RISE UP (classroom based theory)	RISE UP (Movement for Mental Wellbeing)	Year 10 Assembly (Lecture Rm)	Numeracy	Golden Time
Year 11	Revision Skills	Revision Skills	RISE UP	Year 11 Assembly (Hall)	Golden Time
Year 12/13/14	Social Games	RISE UP Movement / Mental Well-Being	Work Experience	Year 12/13/14 Assembly (6 th Form Common Rm)	Golden Time

Images of R.I.S.E. in action: Year 8s taking part in Gaelic Football, led by Year 10 leaders and staff, and Year 11s practising some classroom golf, creating their own holes.



Football



Our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 football teams had the opportunity to compete in the Liverpool Schools Football tournaments this Half Term.

Both teams did remarkably well, with all boys representing the school in an exemplary manner, while also displaying commitment, resilience and a real pride to do well for themselves, and for their team mates.

The Key Stage 4 team managed to win the tournament without losing a single match; a real achievement considering they were missing two key players.

Likewise, the Key Stage 3 team won the tournament without losing a match. Even more impressive, on the road to winning they scored 17 goals and conceded 0! Well done, boys.

Mr Ritchie

MOVE WELL

Clare Mount is also working with Liverpool John Moores University and a range of other partners, to explore how much and how well autistic adolescents move.

This is part of a PhD research being undertaken by Mr Keefe. PE Staff have already been trained in how to assess a series of motor competence tests and we hope to write to all parents/carers of pupils in Year 7 & 8 next Half Term gain consent to your child to take part in these tests, covering balance, strength, co-ordination and agility/locomotion.



Clare Mount will also be hosting a MOVE WELL Conference at school on Friday 29th November which will include talks on RISE, celebrate our work as a lead Inclusion School and Beacon Well School, as well as showcase the work we have been doing with KO8 bands and the Aquacore. The event will involve guest speakers like Rugby World Cup Winner, George Gregan. Please contact Mr Keefe d.keefe@claremount.wirral.sch.uk for more information or if you know teachers, sports coaches and wellbeing practitioners from other schools or organisations who may wish to attend.



Mr Keefe



Our Year 10 group has been making excellent progress at Birkenhead Docks, tirelessly training on the rowing machines and learning how to scull. Their fitness levels are improving with every session. As the weather improves, we plan to take full advantage by getting out on the water even more frequently.

Alpaca Farm Volunteering Visits:

Our first volunteering group are currently working at Nanny Sharon's Alpaca Farm as part of their volunteering programme. They are gaining hands-on experience in managing the welfare of the animals, feeding and watering them, and maintaining their enclosures. The students are learning the value of hard work and responsibility by contributing to the care of these animals. They have thoroughly enjoyed the experience so far.

Birkenhead Park Volunteering with Wirral Park Rangers:

Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh group continues to volunteer at Birkenhead Park, working closely with the Wirral Park Rangers. Their tasks include litter picking, path clearing, and general park maintenance. Additionally, the students have had the chance to observe and feed the wildlife, making it a rewarding and educational experience.

Birkenhead Park Allotment Volunteering:

Working at the park allotment has been highly beneficial for our pupils. Under the guidance of Mr. Ritchie, they are learning valuable skills while maintaining the site. The experience has also provided them with opportunities to socialise and collaborate with others, fostering teamwork and responsibility. The hard work is contributing not only to the upkeep of the allotment, but also to their personal development.

Mr Weights



Prenton RUFC Community HUB

Working at the Prenton RUFC Community Hub's allotment and exploring their nature walk provides valuable benefits for both individuals and the wider community. In a natural setting, students learn practical skills such as gardening and environmental stewardship, which promote a sense of responsibility and connection to nature. The physical activity involved boosts fitness, while the calming environment supports mental well-being, reducing stress and anxiety.

By contributing to the upkeep of the allotment and engaging with the community, students also develop social skills and teamwork. Their efforts benefit the community by creating shared green spaces that enhance local well-being, promote sustainability, and strengthen community bonds.

Mr Weights



What a fantastic start to Duke of Edinburgh in Year 10 for Mrs Grayson's group. We have enjoyed volunteering at Nanny Sharon's Alpaca farm in Prenton over the last few weeks, helping to muck out and gather food for the rabbits.

The pupils have been fantastic and we are enjoying spending time down at the farm and learning all about the animals that are there on the farm.

Mrs Grayson

FORM

6th Form Students make a great start!

This academic year, our 6th form students will be following various pathways based on a number of employment sectors.

These include:

- Construction
- Hospitality & Catering
- Animal Care
- Digital Media
- Health & Social Care
- IT
- Sport
- Business

All students will follow at least two programmes of study and if successful will be awarded a Level 1 Introductory BTEC award next summer.

It is really encouraging to report the students have made a great start to their courses and we expect all students to be successful next year.





Forest School

Key Stage 3 students have achieved great success by participating in Forest School activities. These experiences have helped them grow in confidence, resilience, and teamwork, while also connecting them with nature in a meaningful way. Their progress reflects the benefits of outdoor learning, both academically and personally. Forest School has provided all pupils with a wide range of benefits, blending outdoor learning with the development of practical skills. It has improved their physical health through active participation, while also enhancing mental well-being by reducing stress and anxiety in the natural environment. Social skills, teamwork, and communication have flourished, as students collaborate in creative activities like building dens and role-playing.

The hands-on approach has boosted their focus, academic performance, and engagement, while activities such as plant identification, wildlife observation, and cooking over an open fire have increased their confidence, life skills, and connection to nature. Recent enhancements to the school forest, including a new fence and sheltering sail, have further enriched these Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) experiences, offering a versatile space for continued exploration and growth.

Mr Weights

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

Thursday 9th January 2025
5.00pm to 7.00pm

Cheshire College



Ellesmere Port & Chester Campus

01244 656555 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

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

Thursday 21st November 2024 5.00pm to
7.00pm



Welcome to our: Next Steps Event

Thursday 14th November 2024

You can attend between 2.00pm & 6.00pm

No appointment needed just drop in between the above times

We are holding an Information Fair for you to attend.

You will have the opportunity to chat to a variety of Colleges, Support Providers and other services who can provide you with information on education, training and learning opportunities available to your child after School.

The event will be held at:

**Clare Mount Specialist Sports College,
Birket Avenue, Leasowe, Wirral, CH46 1RA**

0151 606 9440

k.magnall@claremount.wirral.sch.uk

Bikeability

Cycling Proficiency for the 21st century



Cycling Success: Level 1 and Level 2 Training

We are thrilled to share the excitement from our recent Level 1 and Level 2 cycling sessions! Our pupils embraced the challenge and achieved remarkable progress, learning to ride a two-wheeled bike confidently. For many, this was a brand-new experience, and their enthusiasm was infectious.

During the training, students gained essential skills in balance, steering, and control, and under direct supervision, they also learned crucial road safety basics. By the end of the sessions, they not only felt more confident on their bikes but were also better equipped to handle the roads safely.

Mr Stanley



Tennis Coaching Partnership

Clare Mount School has recently launched an exciting tennis coaching partnership with Wallasey Manor Tennis Club, offering Year 7 students the chance to develop their tennis skills with expert guidance. Coaches Nichola Smith and Peter Millar from Wallasey Manor have been working with students every Thursday afternoon, and the progress has been fantastic, they are also running a tennis club as part of our lunchtime extracurricular provision.

Coaching Program Highlights:

- **Expert Guidance:** Nicola Smith and Peter Millar, experienced coaches from Wallasey Manor Tennis Club, have committed to **coaching Clare Mount's Year 7 students throughout the entire academic year.** Their sessions focus on key tennis fundamentals, including racket control, footwork, and match strategies. The coaches aim to build a strong foundation for the students, ensuring they improve their technique and confidence on the court.
- **Student Progress:** The Year 7 students have been enthusiastic participants, showing great improvement week after week. Their growing confidence and newly developed tennis skills are evident, and both coaches have been impressed with every **group's perseverance and attitude.**
- **Building a Tennis Culture:** Clare Mount School and Wallasey Manor Tennis Club hope to create long-lasting connections through this initiative. By establishing strong links with the club, the school aims to encourage students to pursue tennis outside of school hours. The goal is to inspire students to take part in tennis at Wallasey Manor in their own time, ensuring that they can **continue developing their skills and benefiting from the sport's physical and mental health advantages.**

Coach Reactions:

- **Nicola Smith:** "It's been fantastic to work with such a motivated group of Year 7 students. Their progress in just a few weeks has been excellent, and we're excited to see how much they'll develop over the course of the year."
- **Peter Millar:** "The commitment from the students has been great, and we're confident that many of them will continue playing tennis well beyond this program. Hopefully, some will even join us at , Clare Mount School hopes to inspire students to continue pursuing physical activity long after they leave school."

Mrs Kearsley



WISSA

Wirral Inclusive School Sports Association

The Wirral Inclusive School Sports Association (WISSA) group has been formed at the end of last year. Clare Mount school in collaboration with our School Games Organiser have been working hard behind the scenes, to organise a full calendar of a broad range of different sports for the school year 2024-25. The aim of the group is to give opportunities for more children to have the opportunity to engage in more inter school competition, targeting those in mainstream and SEND provision, the less active, less engaged, and those not currently accessing competition. There are over 15 schools currently involved with more schools interested in getting involved. Last night Ridgeway High school hosted the first event (KS3 basketball tournament) which was a huge success with over 40 students taking part. The participants loved it, and we look forward to the next event.

Mrs Webster (Headteacher at Clare Mount) agrees: "That's fantastic news! It sounds like the Wirral Inclusive School Sports Association (WISSA) is off to a strong start with its mission to create inclusive sports opportunities. Hosting the first event at Ridgeway High School with over 40 students participating is a great accomplishment, and it's wonderful to hear that the students enjoyed the basketball tournament".

"The efforts to engage children from both mainstream and SEND provisions, as well as targeting those who are less active or less engaged in competitions, will surely have a positive impact on their development and school experience. This initiative has the potential to foster teamwork, confidence, and a love for physical activity in students who might not typically participate in sports competitions".



Mrs Kearsley



Clare Mount's Exciting New Sports and Leisure Activities for Year 11 and Sixth Form Students

Clare Mount School is preparing for an exciting new chapter in its sports program, as Year 11 and Sixth Form students recently took part in a survey about the sports and leisure activities they would like to try in the current academic year. The response from the students has been overwhelmingly positive, and the Physical Education (PE) department has been working diligently behind the scenes to turn their requests into reality.

Student-Driven Initiative: The survey results highlighted a range of interests from students eager to try new activities. In response, the PE department has crafted a program that aligns with their desires, ensuring that students have access to the sports and leisure opportunities they are most excited about. The goal is to promote lifelong participation in physical activity, fostering both enjoyment and long-term health benefits.

Activities and Off-Site Opportunities: Several off-site activities have been scheduled to start after the half-term break, providing students with diverse and exciting ways to stay active:

- **Trampolining at Propulsion Trampoline Club:** Students will have the chance to develop their coordination and agility while enjoying the thrill of trampolining. Propulsion Trampoline Club, a local favourite, will offer professional coaching and a fun environment for students to learn new skills.
- **Boxing at Venture:** For those interested in more intense, physically demanding activities, off-site boxing sessions at Venture will provide both fitness and discipline. Students will benefit from expert instruction, learning valuable self-defense techniques while building strength and endurance.
- **Gym Sessions at Leasowe Recreation Centre:** Students keen to focus on their fitness will have access to the gym facilities at Leasowe Recreation Centre. With a variety of equipment available, students will be able to tailor workouts to their own fitness goals, learning about weight training, cardio, and overall health.
- **Potential Off-Site Cycling:** The school is also exploring opportunities for off-site cycling, which would give students the chance to enjoy the outdoors while improving their cardiovascular fitness. This initiative, currently under discussion, would further diversify the offerings available to students.

Promoting a Lifelong Love of Sport: The PE department is not only committed to ensuring that students enjoy these activities but also to promoting a lasting interest in health and fitness. By offering these diverse, engaging sports and leisure opportunities, Clare Mount School hopes to inspire students to continue pursuing physical activity long after they leave school.

Mrs Kearsley



Sports Leaders

Year 10 students have put in a lot of effort this half term toward earning their Level 1 Sports Leaders Award. They have successfully planned and led sessions, demonstrating excellent awareness of health and safety while working with Year 2 pupils from Leasowe Primary.

Working with young people has been a highly positive experience, as it allows Year 10 students to develop essential life skills while making a meaningful impact on others. Through leading sports activities, they have learned to be resilient and adapt to the challenges of delivering sessions to younger children. They've had to think on their feet, modify activities based on the needs and responses of the Year 2 pupils, and adjust to different environments and scenarios. This has not only improved their leadership abilities but also fostered confidence, patience, and problem-solving skills, essential traits for their personal and academic growth.

Mr Weights



CLARE MOUNT CHRISTMAS

BINGO



*Tuck Shop & Food
available!*



Thursday 5th December 2024
Doors open 6:00pm till 8:00pm

Great Prizes!

‘Fun for all the family!’





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 1st February 2025.

Mr Keefe



1st Clare Mount Guides Autumn Update



This term has been quite eventful in Guides. We have been working towards a badge which encourages us to look at how we can make the world a better place. We have made leaf hedgehogs and gone on a litter pick to highlight how we can look after our school environment. We also used fruit to help us understand how to plan and run a campaign.



We would like to give a very warm welcome to our newest Guide leader Miss. Franklin. We are all looking forward to working with her.



After half term we will be looking to invite some new girls to come to Guides. Letters will go out to those who are interested. Please contact the School Office if you would like your daughter to join the group.



The Guide Leadership Team

SWIMMING LESSONS

We are delighted once again to be able to offer our Year 7 pupils swimming within their PE curriculum. Each pupil will have a 10 week block of swimming over the course of the year. We are well underway with the programme for this year and the swimmers are doing great. We have already seen so much courage and resilience from our non swimmers, and the higher ability swimmers are being considered for the Rookie lifeguard programme - which is fantastic. The remaining pupils will be notified before Christmas as to their group and their dates for their swimming.

Mrs Grayson

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



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



Term Dates 2024 - 2025

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

Inset Days (School closed to students):

Monday 2nd September

Friday 29th November 2024

Monday 24th February 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

