

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

Newsletter

No. 150

December 2020



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Dear Parents/ Carers

As we come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest, we can reflect on what a wonderful, busy term this has been.



Christmas has always been a magical time for our school and the Christmas festivities this year have been extra special, as we have tried to ensure school life has been as varied and exciting as any other year, despite the Covid measures which remain in place for the safety of all. In particular, Christmas lunch has always been a hugely enjoyable event in our calendar with pupils and staff coming together to eat, sing and have fun. In order that our children haven't missed out, we split this year's celebration across year groups and over two days and the event proved the resounding success it always has. Seeing the excitement and sheer joy on the faces of our children has been wonderful.

Our annual Shakespeare Play was even more dazzling this year as pupils and staff put on a truly amazing performance, braving the elements to perform outdoors to a small audience of parents. As always Clare Mount's motto is 'the show must go on' and this has been as true for all school extra-curricular activities as it has for the Shakespeare play, with Community Sports Night continuing to attract over forty of our children each week and children having the chance to participate in seventy different lunchtime activities weekly. Special thanks goes to all those members of staff who give up their time to provide these opportunities for pupils.

This term has also been about the spirit of thinking of others. Year 7 led fundraising for Shelterbox and set the whole school a challenge to design and build a model shelter in their form groups. As you will see later in this issue, every class rose to the challenge, whilst also raising much needed funds for the organisation. Year 10 spearheaded fundraising for Dementia UK with a thrilling Bingo Fun Day this week, which saw pupils winning prizes galore!

The amazing work of our staff has once again been recognised nationally as our School Games Organiser, Mrs Corcoran, was awarded 'Emerging SGO of the Year' earlier this term. Congratulations to her and her colleagues for their tireless work in getting young people across Wirral active through sport and physical activity.

I am sure that pupils, parents and carers would like to join with me in thanking all Clare Mount staff and Governors for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to our pupils. Likewise, the staff, Governors and pupils would like to thank all parents and carers for all your support, in particular for not sending children into school when they are unwell or when it is recognised they need to self-isolate. Last, but in no way the least, the rest of the school community thank our pupils – you are indeed some of the best pupils we have ever had the pleasure of working with.

It only remains for me to wish all our families a restful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Mrs K Webster

Headteacher

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Freemasons from 'Cheshire Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association' for their generous donation to school's Christmas Hampers Fund, aimed at assisting our families during these challenging times.

Mr Hargreaves, (third from left) who escorts some of our pupils to and from school, suggested his Chapter support our appeal, telling them Clare Mount is "The best school I've ever been to"!

Photo: Mrs Webster (Headteacher) Mr Harry Shone, (Chapter President), Mr John Raby (Treasurer), Mr Peter Hargreaves (member) and Yr 7 pupils Harry and Freddie.



*Merry
Christmas*

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Certificate of Appreciation

awarded to

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

In appreciation of the excellent work carried out in support
of the Poppy Appeal


LIVE ON



Jenny Sheriff

Head of Community Fundraising and Poppy Appeal





This year, Remembrance Day was a little different at Clare Mount. The Humanities department led the school Remembrance Day by delivering a virtual assembly to individual forms. The assembly hosted a variety of pre-recorded performances and readings by students from all different year groups.

The Remembrance assembly this year was based around the theme of the week 'resilience'. We remembered the bravery and resilience of soldiers who died in the line of duty and those who are still with us today. One soldier who has shown fantastic resilience this year is Captain Sir Thomas Moore, a former British Army officer and centenarian. Captain Tom is known for raising money for the NHS during the COVID-19 pandemic, for his 100th birthday. Through resilience and hard work Captain Tom raised £32 million for the NHS. Tom's phenomenal record-breaking efforts continue to make a difference to NHS staff, volunteers and patients.

Well Done to all our volunteers who volunteered to take part; Lewis (8WE), Corey (8AL), Noah (8AL), James W (9WA) and Jess K (11J).

Miss Grindrod





Students are Melissa and Evan with this year's Harvest Festival collection of dried and tinned groceries for Forum Housing.



ZOOMED OUR SPECIAL BREW

From Clare Mount to Charlotte House

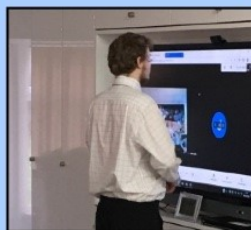
The coffee shop may be closed for now, but that hasn't stopped Miss Badzire's Work Experience Group from providing a special brew and a lovely chat to the residents of Charlotte House.



An activity, coffee and a chat? What would work well? Arm chair Zumba seemed the perfect solution, so we teamed up with Mrs Poynton our Zumba Superstar and Active Across Age ambassador put together a set of movements, chose some suitable music, sent our invite to Charlotte House and opened up our Wednesday Zooming Special Brew cafe from Clare Mount Food Studies Room.

We scratched our heads and wondered how we could still provide a community service to Wirral residents? We were researching different jobs the groups could investigate as a future careers. After watching an episode of the fabulous Chanel 4 series Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds, an idea sprung to our minds! We hatched a plan. Why don't we Zoom our way to one of the Wirral nursing homes for senior citizens? The seed was sewn (we've also been investigating career options in the horticulture world, but that's a whole other story for another day). The idea was hatched and we looked at the best way we could be useful and provide a fun activity for the nursing home residents.

Miss Badzire
C.S.S.C



It's been a very fun and successful collaboration, watching the residents of Charlotte Houses light up and beam with smiles. Hearing the swapping of stories across the age and seeing the number of our Zooming customers increase week after week has been lovely.



Mr Kearney was the caller for our charity bingo day at Clare Mount Specialist Sports College on Monday 14th December to raise funds for Dementia UK. Years 7 to 11 were invited at different times to come and play. Some great prizes were on offer including two signed photos of Duncan McKenzie , the 1970's Everton legend donated by Mr Waters. Fortunately both signed photos went to Everton fans! A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all which brought many a cheer on a wet, miserable Monday. Much thanks to Mr Kearney, the PE staff and all those who either contributed or took part with a smile! And we managed to raise over £300 too!

Mr Stanley



SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER



NATIONAL

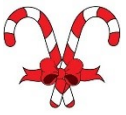


SANTA DASH



Friday 11th December saw Clare Mount staff and pupils take part in the 2020 Santa Dash. Schools from all over the country took part in the challenge of completing one mile. The objective was to be physically active, socialise with friends and have fun! Christmas jumpers and hats were the order of the day and everyone managed to have a smile on their face at some stage of the event!

Mr Stanley



Humanities Subject Stars

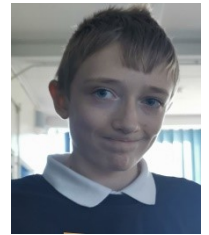


The following students have been selected by the Humanities Department for excelling in their subject area this half term. They will be rewarded with a voucher for the Clare Mount Café—Well Done!



Zoe 70—History—Zoe works extremely hard in class and is fantastic at History. She is a pleasure to teach and always tries her best.

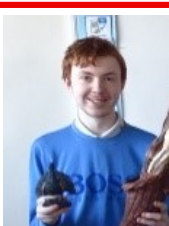
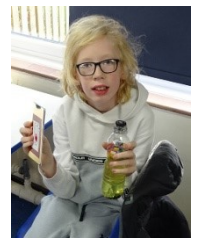
Kieran 8G—History—for brilliant listening and great recall of everything we have learned in Year 8 History so far.



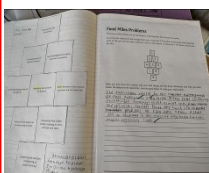
Charlie 8GA—R.E—Charlie has taken an active part in lessons and regularly answers questions. He has shown excellent self-- belief.

Logan 8GA—History

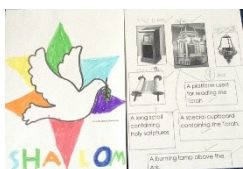
For his fabulous standard of work and great answering in our Year 8 History lessons.



Lucas 9B— Geography—Lucas tries his best in all his lessons. He has a passion for Geography and has excelled in studying our recent topic of Coasts.



Matthew C—GCSE Geography—Matthew has worked well this term. He has shown fantastic subject knowledge and perseverance.



Jared 8AL—R.E—Jared has brilliant subject knowledge and he has demonstrated good understanding in the topic of Judaism.



Congratulations to Mrs Corcoran on achieving the School Games award 'Emerging School Games Organiser 2020' for her work in getting youngsters across

Wirral active. Mrs Corcoran works as part of the Wirral School Games team to provide amazing opportunities for young people and was recognised for her work setting for targeted groups of young people.



Jade in 6th form accepted the Youth Sport Trust Girls Active Young Activist award in November, on behalf of Clare Mount (and five other schools nationally), who have offered

sports and activities to the older people in care homes, residential settings and day centres.

Our virtual Activity Across Ages work is now coordinated by Mrs Poynton with a virtual cafe, Silver Sports activities and 'Chair-fit' activities being beamed into care homes by 6th form students placed with Mrs Badzire in the cafe on Wednesdays.

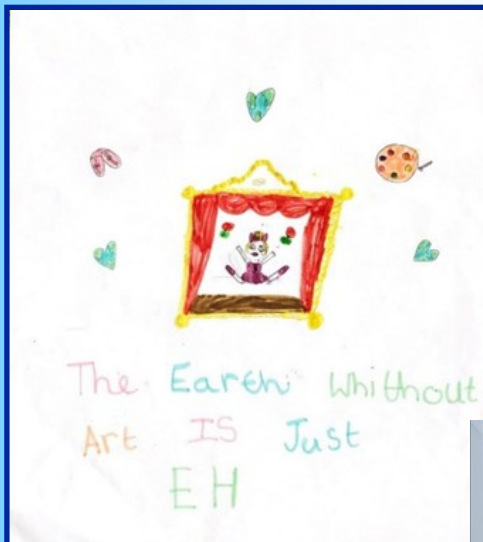


Virtual Inclusive Para dance Project

As Lead Inclusion School, this half term, Clare Mount have offered a Virtual Inclusive Para Dance Project to our local cluster of Primary and Secondary schools. Mrs Poynton and our Dance trainee Jade Lear have been leading Dance classes to over 350 pupils from 17 different schools, per week over Zoom. They have all been working towards a festival which will happen during the last week of term! Their two dances are based on the themes, friendship, love and Save the Arts in a bid to support performers who have been out of work during the pandemic. The CEO of Para dance and Allison Goodhall from the YST will be joining their performance to see what they have been up to.

A big well done to our schools and teachers who have joined in each week, and supported keeping the pupils in our area physically and mentally well!

Mrs Poynton





ShelterBox

Fundraising

This half term, despite still being quite new to the school, Year 7 chose 'Shelterbox' as an important charity to support and took the lead in organising fundraising. Neither this, nor a national lock-down due to a global pandemic, would ever stop the Clare Mount community from responding in the most positive way possible.

Year 7 asked everyone to wear green for the day in return for a donation and set the whole school a challenge to design and build a model shelter in their form groups. Everybody rose to the challenge and produced a remarkable range of shelters, showing fantastic teamwork and raising an incredible £322.26.

As well as promoting co-operative and collaborative skills, the fundraising has brought its rewards in return with pupils gaining confidence, excitement, engagement and enjoyment from their efforts. In addition to this, Jack, Katie and Lewis from 7E were interviewed by a reporter from the Wirral Globe to explain what we did!

We are also extremely grateful to the support from all parents and especially Year 7 parents, throughout the whole Autumn term.

Mrs Croucher



7E were thrilled to win the shelter building competition at Clare Mount this term! The whole school worked really hard to raise money for a brilliant charity called 'ShelterBox'! 7E worked so well as a team and were very proud of the shelter they produced.

As well as having fun decorating the classroom for Christmas, we had a fantastic 'Well-being Day' in November doing all of the things we really enjoy!

Miss Earp





Student Council

Can we say a huge congratulations to all of our student council representatives. We so far have had a meeting with lower and upper school where they received their badges. We are so proud of them all being nominated by their form to represent their class. Will continue to meet each half term and share our thoughts and ideas. Well done to each and every one of you.

Watch this space for updates on the changes that our students' voice has made to our community.

**Thank you parents / carers for supporting your children to access
Google Classroom.**

Please encourage your child to have a go at any activities they have not completed yet or simply read through power points or information with them to keep them learning over the holiday.

Please regularly check that all communication on this site by your child is appropriate.

There is also a lovely free online resource to help your child develop their reading skills called 'Teach Your Monster To Read'.

Teach Your Monster to Read: Phonics & Reading Game
Video game



.. ..And also remember to all have a lovely rest over this Christmas time!

FORM



Here is our first Christmas tree at the Sixth Form Centre (nicely tucked away upstairs!) Thanks to Khi, Annie and Rebecca who have laughed for an hour whilst decorating the tree!! Splendid!!



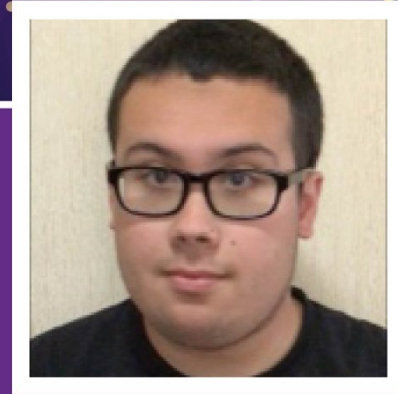
Mrs Cooper-Shone



Sixth form have been writing letters to the elderly residents of a local Care Home. Well done you lovely lot- some beautiful work to spread some joy.

HIVE VIRTUAL AWARDS

Lockdown Hero
Adam



Congratulations to ex-Sixth former Adam on being named
'Lockdown Hero' by 'The Hive'.



Orders being taken by
Year 10s in our Pizza
Parlour

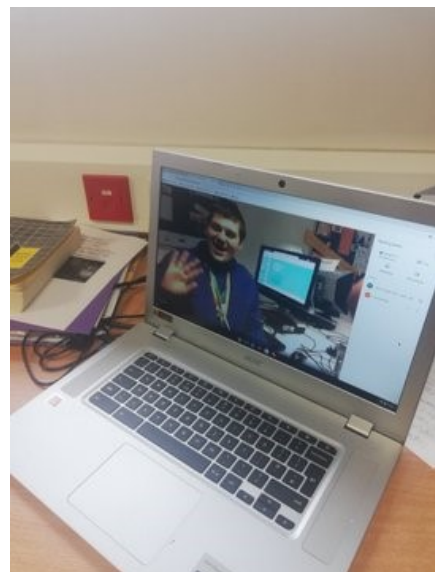


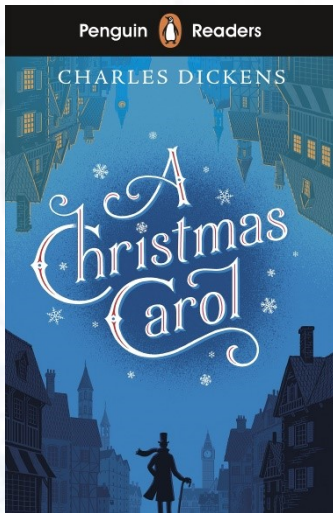
6th Form 'Preparation for Adulthood' at Moreton Hills Golf Centre....



... Employability Skills

... taking a virtual tour of Wirral Met College





Over the past few weeks, Year 10 and 11 English GCSE classes have been feeling festive as they have begun their study of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story of the supernaturally-prompted transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a miserly old man to a much kinder, gentler and more caring soul by the story's end.

To get a sense of how different life was when the story was written in 1843, students had a multi-sensory learning experience, exploring antique artefacts such as a wicker rug beater, stoneware hot water bottle, braille writer, cast-iron iron and various other household items. In keeping with the period, students worked by candlelight (electric!) and recorded their findings on paper recovered from the ruins of a Victorian schoolhouse (at least that's what we told them at first!). To finish Mr Waters' lesson off, Joe wrote and performed his own song, The Twelve Days of Christmas Victorian Style, to the familiar tune of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Well done, Joe!

Mr Lindsay's classes also spent a fascinating multi-sensory lesson exploring the significance of Marley's infamous chain, exploring the reasons behind each item on his ponderous chain and adding them to the chain of willing volunteer, Nathan - well done, Nathan!

All students engaged in these lessons with interest and displayed a great attitude and enthusiasm for learning - well done, Years 10 and 11! We hope the knowledge gained will stick with you through your exams and beyond.

From the English Department at Clare Mount, Merry Christmas and, as Tiny Tim observed, 'God Bless Us, Every One!'

Mr Waters





Card Craft Club

Card Craft Club have been busy designing, making and selling their Christmas cards this term. Here are some of their fantastic cards.....



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

For any enquiries or concerns about free school meals please email fsmvouchers@claremount.wirral.sch.uk and we will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible.

Mrs Egan

THE WINTER'S TALE

The cast of The Winter's Tale have worked so hard and demonstrated such resilience in light of current global events. The phrase 'the show must go on' has been used on so many occasions over the last couple of months!

Claremount Specialist Sports College pupils were specially invited to appear in the Coram Shakespeare for Schools Festival launch night film. This was followed by BBC Radio Merseyside interviewing our Director Miss MacLean and discussing the process and obstacles that the performers have had to overcome.

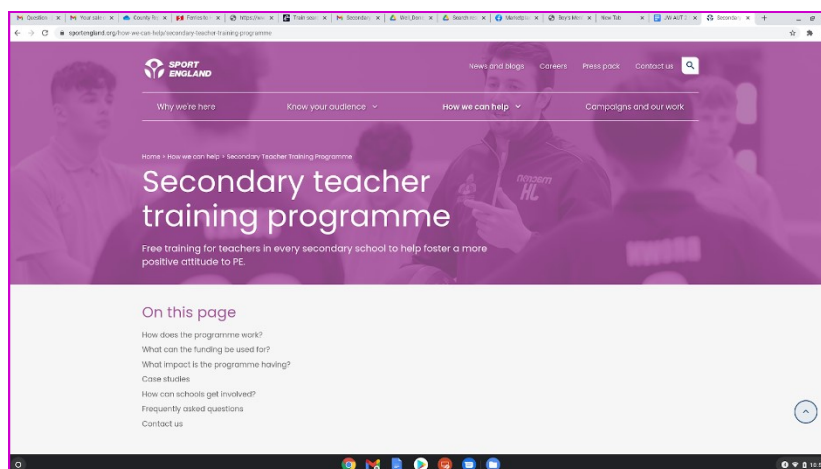
This year's performance took place outside as members of the wonderful staff created Sicilia, a winter wonderland and Bohemia inside, an artists paradise.

Huge congratulations to all the cast for showing commitment to putting the play on and keeping theatre alive during these tricky times. A big thank you to the members of staff who built props, designed sets, made costumes, let us use their lights and went through lines with individuals.





Sport England PE Teacher Training Scheme



Clare Mount has made an application to Sport England to lead the Secondary Teacher Training Programme for PE teachers in Wirral.

This programme is the last phase of funding that the National Lottery will be giving to secondary schools up and down the country. This funding is to help PE teachers access new qualifications. It is also for pupils to take part in new projects to improve their well-being.

Clare Mount will be given £3350 of funding for every secondary school in Wirral who joins our PE, School Sport, Mental and Physical Activity, Health and Well-Being Partnership.

We have worked very closely with our PE colleagues across the Wirral these last few months to make sure that Wirral did not miss out on this funding. If we are successful with our application then the scheme starts in February 2021 with schools in the partnership delivering their projects by July 2022.

Schools will decide on four main areas (such as inclusion, Girls Active or well-being for example) which all Wirral schools will look to develop or improve over the next year.

We hope we have made a successful application and we look forward to the Peninsula Partnership making a difference to young people's lives across the Wirral in 2021 and beyond.

Mr Whyte



Going for UNICEF's Silver Rights Respecting School's Award!



The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) supports schools to help put the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve well-being and help all children realise their potential. The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

This term has certainly been an unusual one here at Clare Mount, while at the same time, the school has been running as normal so that our students still are being given their Right to an Education (A29). Many more Rights are met for our students, including:

Article 3 – The best interest of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children. This has certainly been achieved through the Risk Assessments to help keep us all safe here in school during this difficult time and through the hard work all staff put into keeping our students happy and healthy.

Article 13 – Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information. This is achieved in lessons where students are encouraged to be critical thinkers, to ask questions and contribute to class discussions.

Article 31 – Every child has the right to relax and play. Here at Clare Mount we pride ourselves in learning through fun. To help create a festive atmosphere in school we have had a Santa Dash, School Bingo, and Christmas Meal later in the week, as well as parties in form.

These are just a few of the Rights that all children are entitled to and for which Clare Mount staff work hard to make sure they are being met.

Mrs Boyle

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The Friends of Clare Mount

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Thank you!

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Term Dates 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020	
Open to staff only	Tuesday 1 st September
Open to Yrs 7 & 8 pupils and staff only	Wednesday 2 nd September
Open to all pupils and staff	Thursday 3 rd September to Friday 23 rd October
Half-term	Monday 26 th October to 30 th October
Open	Monday 2 nd November to Friday 18 th December
School closed to pupils	Friday 27 th November 2020
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 st December to Friday 1 st January
Spring Term 2021	
Open to staff only	Monday 4 th January
Open to pupils and staff	Tuesday 5 th January to Friday 12 th February
Half-term	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February
Open to staff only	Monday 22 nd February
Open to pupils and staff	Tuesday 23 rd February to Friday 26 th March
Spring Break	Monday 29 th March to Friday 9 th April
Summer Term 2021	
Open	Monday 12 th April to Friday 28 th May
May Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May
Half Term	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June
Open	Monday 7 th June to Tuesday 20 th July
School possibly closed to pupils*	Friday 18 th June *There may a GCSE examination on this day
School closes for summer break	Tuesday 20th July

