

*Clare Mount Specialist
Sports College*

*December 2019
Newsletter*



Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a wonderful, exciting and busy term! Amongst many of the highlights, the students' spectacular performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' during the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Floral Pavilion stands out. We have received the most amazing feedback about the play, not only from our parents/ carers but also from outside of our school community and the group have now been invited to perform for Neston High's 6th Form.

Our Parents'/ Carers' Evenings were very well attended this term. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete a Parent/ Carer Survey. The results are very positive and we are keen to act on any suggestions you may have for school improvement; all feedback assists us in delivering the best education possible for your child.

The Friends of Clare Mount have once again been working very hard behind the scenes in their fantastic fund raising efforts. Our students really enjoyed the recent Christmas shop, which raised £300 for school funds. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas Bingo evening, run by Mrs Stephenson, Mrs McCannon and The Friends of Clare Mount. We had a great turn out, including a guest appearance by Father Christmas, and raised over £1,000 which will fund so many extra-curricular opportunities for our pupils.

We held our Celebration Evening earlier this month, where the academic and extra-curricular achievements of so many of our former and current Year 11 and 6th Form students were recognised and the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff across all subjects were celebrated. It was lovely to see so many former students attend and several gave a talk about their first term at college.

The term has ended with a 'Fun Day' off timetable for all to get creative making table decorations for the Christmas lunch which our catering team once again surpassed themselves in providing! KS3 and KS5 students also got the chance to visit the cinema.

This term has also been about the spirit of thinking of others and we were moved by the Humanities Department's poignant Remembrance Day Assembly; the thoughtfulness of our students who filled shoeboxes with toiletries and toys for the Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal; and the generosity of our students who took part in our Bingo fun day raising funds for Dementia UK.

As this busy term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry and peaceful Christmas, with best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Kim Webster
Headteacher
December 2019



Congratulations

Our new Head Boy and Head Girl were announced at our amazing Celebration Evening. Our new Head Girl will be Abigail who will be supported by our new Deputy Head Girl, Amelia. Our new Head Boy is Reeve who will be supported by new Deputy Head Boy, Matthew. The Head Boy and Girl teams will be helped along by an amazing team of 6th Form prefects. Congratulations everyone on your new roles, they are all very well deserved.



Mrs Cooper-Shone



2019
Celebration
Evening



**Merry Christmas & Happy New
Year from Jane, Daisy & Susie**



Some of the Pet Therapy group enjoying spending their Friday lunch times with Jane, Susie & Daisy up in the refurbished library, developing social skills and sharing stories and cuddles with the best behaved four legged visitors.

Why not come up & join us in 2020?



Clare Mount Christmas Bingo 2019 was another spectacular evening event. Santa greeted everyone at the door and happily posed for photographs in his grotto.

Elsewhere, Friends of Clare Mount were very busy on the tombola stall where there were prizes galore for everyone. Clare Mount staff were also serving plenty of tasty food to people, including chilli and hotdogs that were very welcome on a cold winter evening.

Mr Cordy, our bingo caller did a splendid job with many a resounding call of "Legs 11" and "Brighton Line" for people to join in with and enjoy. Mr Atkinson ably assisted the process with his trusty deck of playing cards. Members of Clare Mount staff and pupils generously donated items both for the Christmas hampers that were the bingo prizes and for the popular wine raffle.

All in all, this was a fun, busy, family event that was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you Clare Mount staff and helpers for all your hard work on the night and during the planning and preparations that made it such a successful evening. So far we have raised over £1,000 towards school funds.

Mrs A. Smith (School Governor)



Card Craft Club have been busy making and selling their Christmas cards to raise money for The Walton Centre.

Mrs Stephenson & Mrs Booth



**Science organised a Bird-watching Trip
to Burton Mere Wetlands Nature Reserve this term.**



Our students did us proud showing excellent behaviour and great enthusiasm.



Highlights included when Tom correctly identified a Black-tailed Godwit; Joni befriended a Robin; Lennon showed us a beautiful Pheasant and Harrison spotted a flash of blue that must have been a Kingfisher.





Remembrance Day at Clare Mount

The Humanities department led the school Remembrance Day assembly, explaining the significance of the purple poppy and the animals who helped the war effort. During the war, millions of animals were used in many different roles to help soldiers in battle and those at home. Today we remembered their sacrifice and everything they did for us.

Thanks to 11SF who explained to students and staff the sacrifice and struggle of horses, camels, dogs and pigeons during the war.

Lest we forget.





Y7 win silver at Table Cricket Tournament in Warrington .

On Monday, the 9th of December Mrs Croucher took a team of nine pupils from Year 7 to the Beamont Collegiate Academy in Warrington to compete against nine other teams in a table cricket tournament. Everyone played so well which was testament to the expert coaching we have had on Tuesdays in school PE lessons, from Chris Edwards. The pupils won all three of their games but were just pipped to the post in the final! Second place against some teams with much older pupils was a fantastic achievement. Well done Team Y7 on your silver medals!

Mrs Croucher





Charity Fundraiser!

Well done to Year 10 who raised a fantastic £75 for Dementia UK playing Bingo!

Mr Stanley



Supported by:
Rotary GB&I

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

"Spreading a little Happiness"

For the fifth year running Clare Mount has supported the **Rotary Club of Wallasey Shoe Box Appeal**. The appeal provides gifts for children and families in Eastern Europe who live in very poor circumstances.

Students brought their shoeboxes home and filled them with toys, toiletries, educational items and household goods, which will be a drop of cheerfulness for the people fortunate enough to receive one. For many it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. Well done to the Clare Mount Community for helping to bring happiness to those in need.

Mrs Boyle





Science Club Christmas Term Update

Christmas came early this year for Science club members as we have had a fun and festive time exploring Science experiments.

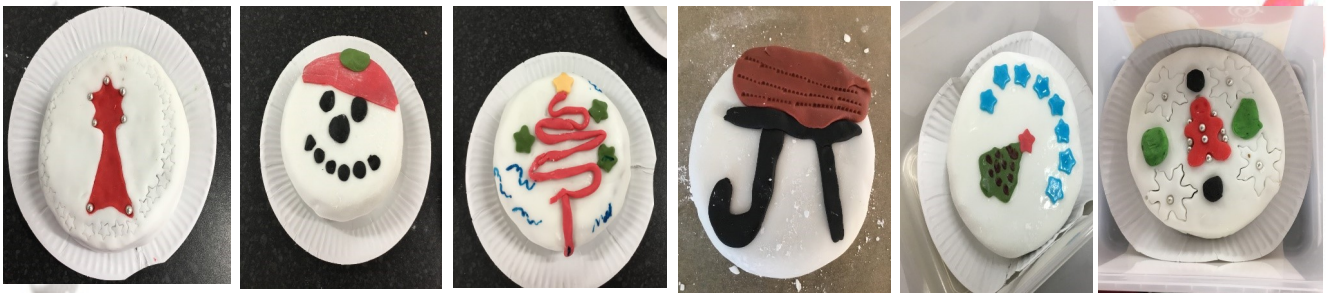
The students have made chromatography baubles and snowflake decorations made out of sugar crystals. We even made up a magic milk recipe for Father Christmas to have with his mince pie.

Happy Christmas from Science Club! See you in the New Year!

Mrs. Fogarty



The Great Clare Mount Christmas Cake Bake Off



Everyone was a winner in our annual Christmas Cake Bake off. Can you pick your favourite? Check out our twitter, for more fabulous cake designs.

Miss Badzire

An Update on Chester



Chester has had a lovely term, he has been made to feel so welcome and everyone has been really friendly.

During the term he has grown a lot and has now outgrown the little kennel we had for him to shelter in. If anyone would like the kennel for their dog please contact the school office. We would like a donation to school funds and you would need to collect it from school.

Next term Chester will get his blue puppy coat.

When he has this on it is a sign that he is in training so please don't try to stroke him or distract him by calling his name. He will still have other times when he will come to socialise on the yard.

Chester would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



This picture was taken 3 months ago; look how much he has grown.

The kennel is now too small. If anyone would like it (suggested donation £15) please contact school.

Mrs Nokes

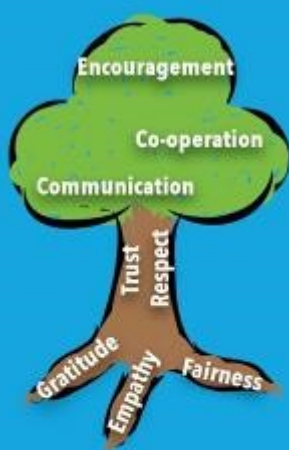
YST MY PERSONAL BEST

My Personal Best aims to develop life skills, leadership and employability skills in young people such as empathy, teamwork and resilience.

Since September, as a community we have been celebrating and promoting 5 important aspects of character that we'd like to ensure all our students develop throughout their time at Clare Mount. These attributes, all under the banner of 'Healthy Me!' are; self-belief, honesty, resilience, integrity and courage.

Through assemblies, form time activities, PE and PSHE lessons we have been ensuring that our students 'know, grow and show' these attributes each day. After Christmas, we move on to 'Social Me!' and focus on the attributes of; fairness, empathy, trust, respect and gratitude. We were delighted, on 5th December to present our first ever My Personal Best Awards at Celebration Evening to Reeve, Kacey and Jamie for the brilliant example they have shown our younger students throughout their time at Clare Mount.

Mr Byrne



**Social
Me**



**Healthy
Me**



Clare Mount have once again been chosen as a “Hub School” for the Youth Sport Trust’s ‘Active in Mind’ programme. The programme was designed by the Youth Sport Trust to address inactivity in your people and develop positive behaviours. As well as this, Active in Mind provides pupils with a safe environment for young people to share personal insight, experiences and support of mental health issues.

Our athlete mentor Neil Danns spent two days working with 5 of our pupils, training them up to be Clare Mount mental health ambassadors and mentors for pupils throughout school. They are Sam, Harvie, Morgan, Michael D and Reeve.

On day one, Neil started with a brilliant presentation about his life journey and shared his message that the choices the pupils make in school can have a long term effect on their futures. Neil then did some team building games and got the group thinking what mental health looks like to them. The mentors finished the day after practising the well-being activities they would deliver to the Nurture Group on day two.

Neil returned to Clare Mount for Day 2 and the Mentors got straight to work, practising the well-being activities again. The Mentors took every piece of advice on board and overcame any nerves they had to deliver their own breathing exercise followed by a game which got the Nurture group active.

The end result was that all our Mentors helped the younger pupils to feel more relaxed by the end of the session. These 5 mentors will develop their confidence and leadership skills after Christmas when they run the Active in Mind sessions every Tuesday. A special thank you to Neil Danns for another brilliant visit to Clare Mount, and to all the pupils that took part!

Mr Gavin.



A Night to Remember

The 12th November 2019 will stick in my memory as the evening when Clare Mount Drama students gave an amazing and truly inspiring performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' at The Floral Pavilion Theatre, New Brighton, as part of the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival.

I don't think we have ever received such supportive comments from people outside of Clare Mount before! The young actors clearly struck a chord with the audience with their honest and skilful portrayal of Shakespeare's timeless, romantic tragedy.

Once again Clare Mount students proved, without a shadow of a doubt, that they are 'Role Models and Catalysts for Change'.

Thank you to all involved and everyone who supported us on the night.

A very proud J. MacLean





“DID MY HEART LOVE ‘TILL NOW?”

Romeo and Juliet

**by Clare Mount Specialist Sports College
at The Floral Pavillion, New Brighton, 12/11/2019
appraised by Paul Jenkins**

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Clare Mount Specialist Sports College for your tremendous production of *Romeo & Juliet* as part of the 2019 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was an excellent night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

From the moment that the Dire Straits classic played out at the start of this show and we got the frames of social media screens appearing on stage we knew this was not going to be a 'traditional' version of *Romeo & Juliet*. Traditions? Rubbish. We need emojis, selfies and call out cards with 'Zap' and 'Pow' written on them to show the fighting between the Montagues, and the Capulets. This was total theatre. It had movement; it had dance; it had song; it had choral speaking; it had everything.

As ever with a Clare Mount production - there was a meshing of Shakespeare's words with a modern interpretation of the text - meaning that the cast and more importantly the audience followed the complicated tale seamlessly. They managed to tread the difficult line between comedy and tragedy well, too. One minute we are in stitches, the next crying our eyes out as our souls had been torn in two. Talk about a rollercoaster ride!

I also found there to be a great deal of maturity from the cast about the more 'loving' moments in the play. Discussing the complicated emotions of love isn't easy for anyone - but it's always more awkward when you're a teenager at school. The whole cast remained committed to showing us what love really meant to them. When Romeo and Juliet danced alone on stage I honestly don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

To finish? As if we hadn't been pushed round the emotional rollercoaster enough there was more hard-hitting social commentary linking the four hundred year old story with the heartbreaking tales of modern knife crime experienced by young people in the UK. It was unexpected, it was powerful and it was the perfect way to finish the SSF show that evening. The whole audience went out talking about the issues effecting young people in the UK today - proving the show to be an absolute success.

Thank you so much for bringing this show to the Floral Pavillion - it was a daring and well produced piece of performance that was a complete privilege to watch.

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes bravery, resilience, and creativity. You should be immensely proud of what you and your teachers have achieved in this Season of Infinite Variety.

I hope to see Clare Mount Specialist Sports College in the 2020 Festival!

Paul Jenkins

**“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BRINGING THIS SHOW TO THE
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COMPLETE PRIVILEGE TO WATCH.”**



Friends of Clare Mount
Charity No: 1177155

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How Give as you Live Online works

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We have over 4,400 stores involved



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Raise

We make a free donation to your charity

6th Form



Clare Mount 6th Form ASDAN Expressive Art pupils have displayed their beautiful nature inspired mosaic art work. The process was time consuming but their patience has paid off. Well done!

Miss Vicars



YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST

On Tuesday 12th November, 10 of our 6th Form students took part in the National Healthy Lifestyle Champions conference, hosted by the Youth Sport Trust (YST) at York Racecourse. The event began with an opening address by Rachel McKenzie, former World Thai Boxing Champion and Athlete Mentor for the YST, in which she spoke about the barriers she had faced to kick-start her career due to negative attitudes towards women in boxing. After this, our students were fortunate to be in a smaller group with activities coordinated by Rachel, which included learning about adapting games for all abilities, mentoring young people and learning how to overcome barriers to participation.

Our students have come up with a plan to start a new 'Combat Club' at Clare Mount, featuring a number of different martial arts. This will be launched in January 2020 with the help of our HLCs and our very own athlete mentor, World Champion Freestyle Inline Skater, Jenna Downing.
Mr Byrne



step into sport

On Monday 16th December, 20 of our students took part in the annual Merseyside 'Step Into Sport' event at The Hive Youth Zone, Birkenhead.

The event, organised by Mr. White and delivered by World Champion In-Line Skater and Youth Sport Trust 'Athlete Mentor' Jenna Downing gave our students the chance to develop their sports leadership, coaching and officiating skills in one of the best sports facilities in Wirral: A truly memorable day that has done so much for the confidence and leadership skills of all the participants.

Another lovely feature of the event was seeing our senior leaders (6th-Form Healthy Lifestyle Champions) work so well with our younger sports leaders from Year 10; true role models and mentors!



Mr Byrne

Congratulations!



Jack, first prize winner in the Christmas raffle.

Charlotte, winner of Kevin & Katie the carrot





Welcome to our:
Next Steps Event
Thursday 30th January 2020

The event opens at 2pm and finishes at 6pm

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 Year 11 or Post 16.

The event will be held at:
Clare Mount Specialist Sports College,
Fender Lane, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 9PA

Miss Magnall

College Open Days & Evenings 2019 & 2020



Wirral Met College All Four Campuses

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

0151 551 7777 www.wmc.ac.uk

Thursday 16th January 2020



Cheshire College

Ellesmere Port & Chester Campus

01244 656555 www.ccs.ac.uk

Monday 27th January 2020 5.30pm to 8pm



Birkenhead 6th Form College

Park Road West, Claughton Village, Wirral, CH43 8SQ

0151 652 5575 www.bsfc.ac.uk

Thursday 30th January 2020 6pm to 8pm

The City of Liverpool College—All City Centre Campuses



Arts Centre, Clarence Street, Duke St, Learning Exchange & Vauxhall Road

Thursday 19th March 2020 6pm to 8pm

0151 252 3000 www.liv-coll.ac.uk



Coleg Cambria

Holywell Road, Northop, CH7 6AA

0300 30 30 007 www.cambria.ac.uk

Wednesday 28th March 2020

10.00am to 2.00pm

6th Form

Clare Mount 6th Formers had a great morning at Bidston Marks and Spencer with Jeremy and Deb. They toured around the store, finding out about the process from delivery of produce to shelves. Pupils got the chance to use the till and order stock using the instore technology.

A great morning finding out about the world of work.



Miss Vicars

 Online Free School Meals

REGISTER TODAY AT

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>

Go online and complete the form

Or Visit our Website

Or return your forms to the school office as soon as possible

If you would like any help to complete then please contact the school office

Schooloffice@claremount.wirral.sch.uk

Tel: 0151 606 9440



UNICEF UK

Rights Respecting School



As you will remember, in October 2018 we introduced you to our goal for Clare Mount Specialist Sports College to be a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We were awarded the Bronze Award in December 2018 and we are working towards being assessed for the Silver Award by Easter of this year. This is just a reminder of what the award is all about.

What are Children's Rights? The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) explains the 54 articles, or Rights, that every child in the world has been born with. It makes all the adults in children's lives, including parents, carers, teachers, and the government, **duty bearers**, that means all adults must work together to make sure all children learn about their rights and have their rights met so they can enjoy all of their rights.

In school, every child was introduced to the UNCRC and were taught about Wants and Needs. This helped them to understand what their Rights are. Rights are being linked to all lessons throughout the curriculum so that students can understand how Rights are a part of everything they do in life. In January, students will be working in their forms to make a class charter. This will help them link our school rules with their Rights and encourage them to take ownership by discussing and agreeing on ways they will Respect these rights.

Please take some time to reacquaint yourselves with the Convention on the Rights of the Child by visiting: unicef.org.uk/crc. For further information about Rights Respecting Schools please visit: www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa





Criminal exploitation: A guide for parents

Criminal Exploitation is when individuals or gangs target children and force them to carry out criminal activity. Exploiters may force young people to deal drugs, steal, commit violent or sexual acts and traffic them.

Children who are being criminally exploited will usually be subject to physical violence and threats – but exploiters are smart: they'll spend months or years grooming their victims, and parents often aren't even aware it's happening.

If you think your child is being exploited it's important to know that **you are not alone and not to blame**. You should:

- Report your concerns to Children's Social Care or the NSPCC's helpline on **0808 800 5000**. A social worker can help you take steps to protect your child. They will make an assessment based on concern your child is at risk of harm from outside of the family.
- You can also report your concerns to the police using their non-emergency number. If you feel your child is in immediate danger then call the police on **999**.

Don't be worried about contacting the police – you are trying to protect your child.

If you would like more support, go to other professionals who can help: your GP, school, police or a youth worker.

- If your child isn't where they are supposed to be, report them missing straight away on **101**. **You do not have to wait 24 hours.**
- If your child is picked up in a car, or has train or bus tickets, keep a record of this information to give to the police or social worker
- There may be other evidence that your child is being exploited, such as interactions on social media, unexplained money or phones, clothing or gifts, change in behaviour; where possible try to keep a record of this.

If you're able to speak to your child then let them know they aren't in trouble – and that you're worried about them. Remember that there may be threats made against you or your family by the people exploiting your child. Your child may believe that they are protecting you. Let your child know that you know about this risk and that it is not their responsibility to protect you.

If they don't want to talk to you, let them know that they can always call ChildLine on **0800 1111** or Get Connected on **0808 808 4994 (text 80849)**.



Clare Mount Community Cafe



Thank you to all our regular customers who have supported us this year. We look forward to welcoming you in 2020 for more of the “Best chocolate on the Wirral, barista coffee’s and home made cakes. All served with a smile and always time for a chat with our amazing workforce.

Opening hours Wednesday 10am - 12.00 - 1.30 - 3.00

Friday morning 9.30—12.00

Miss Badzire



Term Time Schedule 2019 – 2020



Autumn Term 2019

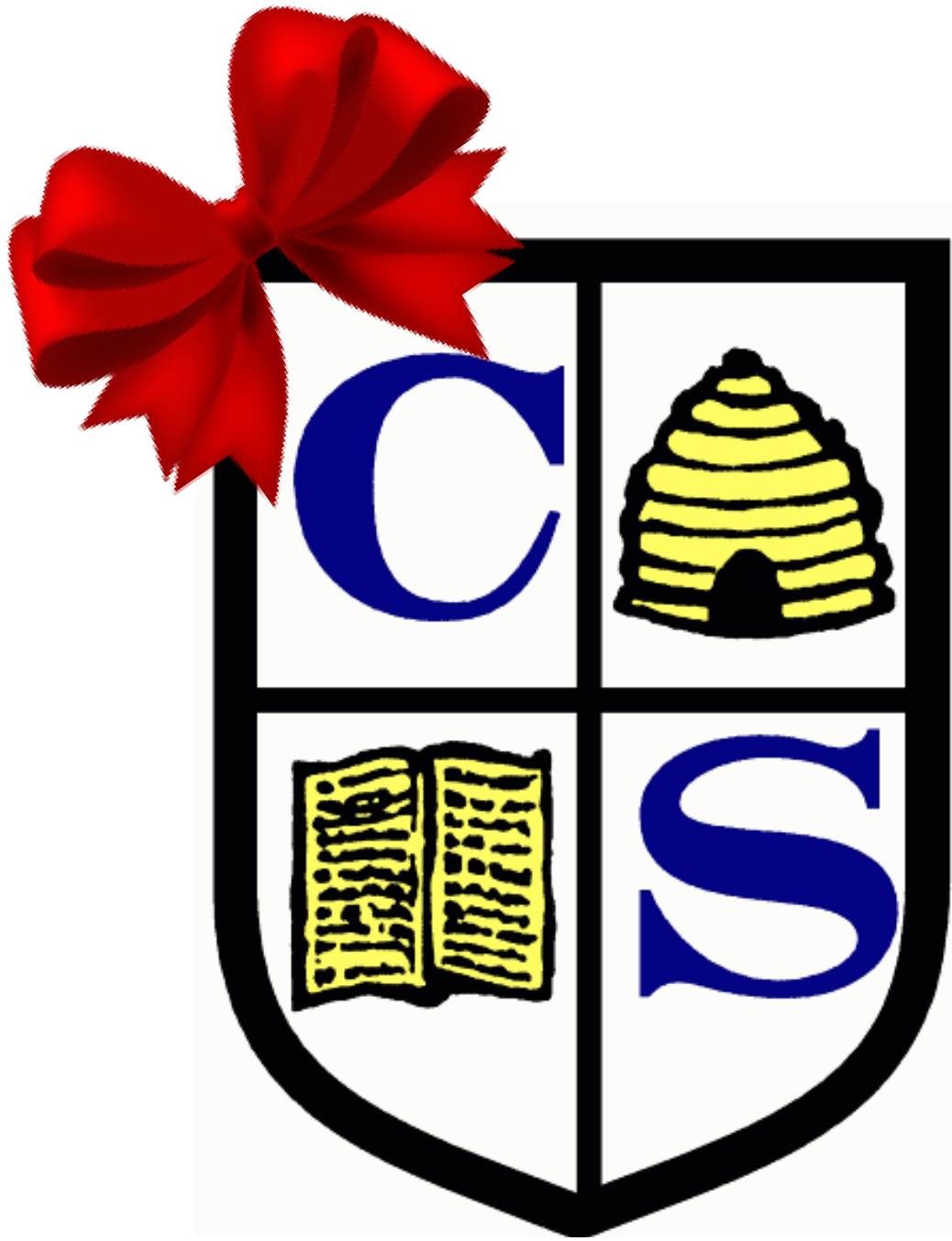
Open (Staff only)	Monday 2 nd <i>(closed to all students)</i>
*Open (<u>Yr 7 & P16 students only</u>)	Tuesday 3 rd September <i>(closed to Years 8 to 11)</i>
Open to all students	Wednesday 4 th September
Close for half term	Friday 25 th October
Half Term	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November
Open	Monday 4 th November
Closed to students	Friday 29 th November
Close for Christmas	Friday 20 th December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 rd December to Friday 3 rd January

Spring Term 2019

Open (Staff only)	Monday 6th January
Open to students	Tuesday 7th January
Close for half term	Friday 14th February
Half Term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February
Open (staff only)	Monday 24th February
Open (students)	Tuesday 25th February
Close for Spring Break	Friday 3rd April
Spring Break	Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April

Summer Term 2019

Open	Monday 20th April
Close for May Bank Holiday (VE Day)	Friday 8th May
Close for half term	Friday 22nd May
Half Term	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Open	Monday 1st June
Closed to students	Friday 19th June
Close for Summer	Monday 20th July



Merry
Christmas