

*Clare Mount  
Specialist Sports College*

*December 2018  
Newsletter*



Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a wonderful, exciting and busy term! Our highlights include the students' outstanding performance of 'As you like it' during the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Floral Pavilion; being awarded Advanced Accreditation Status by the National Autistic Society; and winning the 'Give it Your Max' award for our outreach work providing tennis for our partner primaries.

Our Parents'/ Carers' evenings were very well attended this term and thank you for taking the time to complete our Parent/ Carer surveys. The results are very positive and help us to deliver the best education for your child. We are keen to act on any suggestions you may have for school improvement.

The Friends of Clare Mount have once again been working very hard behind the scenes in their fantastic fund raising efforts. The recent Christmas shop for our students was an excellent event and much loved by them all, as you will see in the photos further on in this newsletter. I would like to thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas Bingo evening. We had a great turn out and more raffle prizes than I have ever seen. We raised over £1,600 which will fund so many extra-curricular opportunities for our pupils.

We held our Celebration evening earlier this month where the achievements of so many of our past and present Year 11 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form students were recognised and the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff across all subjects celebrated.

Ofsted paid us a visit in November as part of their research into PE provision for the new Framework. It provided us with the chance to demonstrate all the school and students do and the wide network we partner with in order to provide the wealth of opportunities for our students. The feedback we received was fantastic and has made me incredibly proud, as Headteacher, of both our staff and students.

The term has ended with our school visit to the Rock 'n' Roll panto, where students enjoyed the production of 'The Snow Queen', then showcased their own performances in our hugely popular talent show.

This Christmas season has also been about the spirit of thinking of others and giving to those in need as students have raised funds for Oxfam, to help children living in poverty around the world, 'Bliss' to help babies born premature or sick and Dementia UK, to name but a few.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a merry and peaceful Christmas, with best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Kim Webster  
Headteacher  
December 2018



## **Clare Mount And Oxfam Unwrapped**

**Staff and pupils are raising money for Oxfam this Christmas using picture quizzes to help children living in poverty around the world . Oxfam provides families with goats, pigs and chickens to help them get started and provide training, to help people grow more crops, raise more animals and earn more income.**

**Mr Jones and the Yr 11 team**

*A message from.....*



As we approach the Christmas period and a new year, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the school as a whole and to look forward to the opportunities and challenges we will meet in the coming year.

As a school community, we constantly strive to encourage aspiration and fulfilment in all. Our students consistently work to the best of their ability, fully supported and inspired by a highly trained and highly motivated staff group. The examples of this work are demonstrated in academic achievements, the success in participating in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, the award of the Science Gold Mark for 2018 and our participation in the England Special Olympics for the third year running.

Moving into the New Year the school, supported by the governing Body, aim to continue their work in relation to ensuring that the environment within which we teach and help students to grow is appropriate to the needs of a changing student population. We constantly strive to bring about whole school improvement and therefore, alongside, reviewing the physical environment of school, we are also now focusing on promoting the health and mental well-being of our students and staff.

During this year we have said farewell to Mr Keefe and welcomed Mrs Evans as our new Deputy Headteacher and Mr Byrne, appointed to the newly created post of Director of Health and well-being.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing body, I would like to wish students, parents and carers and the leadership and staff team at Clare Mount, a very happy Christmas and a happy, productive and healthy new year.

Mrs Breda Dutton

Chair of Governors

## Year 10 Chester Zoo Trip

This term Year 10 and a band of staff volunteers spent a day at Chester Zoo. After a wet start the rainclouds cleared and we spent the rest of the afternoon looking at animals in lovely sunshine. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about adaptations using real world examples. The students were also able to look at the animals and appreciate how they (as part of a wider world) have a role to play in conservation. It was especially nice to see the teamwork some of the students displayed in guiding their group around the zoo and the maturity they showed when around other schools and members of the public. Thank you to all the staff and students for a lovely day out!

Mrs Fogarty





For the fourth 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



## Friends of Clare Mount

Friends of Clare Mount once again held a Christmas Table, providing students with the chance to buy presents for parents or carers. This hugely popular event raised a further £162 for school funds.



**Friends of Clare Mount would like to invite any parents, grandparents or carers interested in helping with fundraising to join them for a chat over coffee in the Community Café in the New Year. Date to be confirmed.**

# Year 10



Wednesday 12th December saw students take part in bingo to raise money for the Year 10 Charity “Buy a star for Christmas” for Dementia UK . Dementia covers a range of conditions which affect the brain. It is more common in people over the age of sixty five and there are currently over 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK.



Students were asked to contribute £1 to play for a range of goodies. Spot prizes, lines and full houses were the calls for the day. There was also some serious competition, thinking and listening skills, teamwork and collaboration as well as opportunities to improving numeracy!

A superb £75.30 was raised to buy our Christmas Star for Dementia UK. A big thank you goes especially to Mr Kearney who was a our bingo caller for the day. A truly memorable experience thank you!

Mr Stanley





Clare Mount was delighted to continue the Christmas preparations in style with a nearly whole-school visit to Liverpool's fantastic Everyman Theatre for this year's spectacular Rock 'n' Roll pantomime production of The Snow Queen on Tuesday 18th December.

The incredibly multi-talented ensemble did not disappoint, entertaining the excitable audience with a spangle-tastic performance that had both staff and students on the edge of their seats, in stitches with laughter and out of their seats dancing.

It was a wonderful trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all, and students should be congratulated on their exemplary behaviour - they were a credit to themselves and to the school.

Special thanks go to Mr Lindsay for taking on the mammoth task of organising this trip and doing so with aplomb!



Mr Waters



### *Christmas Cheer at Granville Court*

17 pupils from our school spent one Friday afternoon spreading Christmas cheer to the older generation at Granville Court. Along with Miss Maclean, Miss Vicars, Mrs Hewitt

and Mrs Booth the pupils sang a range of festive songs and carols to entertain the residents. Some pupils even learnt some sign language songs which went down a storm! As you can see from the pictures, the pupils and residents had lots of fun. Some pupils even made some new friends. Well done everyone who took part.

Mrs Hewitt



# *Another Fantastic Firework Week.*

The week after half term saw Science lessons at Clare Mount being taken over by gunpowder, treason and plot (as well as a few chemicals) as we ran our annual Fireworks Week.

Pupils investigated what makes the different colours in fireworks and how sparklers are made.

The week was made extra special as this was the start of some students transitioning to the Science labs. We are pleased to report that for the vast majority of our students they are now comfortably accessing science lessons in the labs. Well done to all concerned.

The photos below show pupils finding out the colours different chemicals give, as well as making sparklers.

Mrs Nokes





## *Firefighters visit school!*

On 5th December 2018, a team of firefighters came to visit Clare Mount.

It had been planned for assembly at 9am but due to an emergency call-out over night to a fire in Birkenhead, the team had to sort out their vehicle and their equipment before they could visit.

It was really good of the team to still come to see us and it made us realise how they can get called out at any time and are always ready to respond.

A group of students met the firefighters who explained all about their work and the skills and qualities needed to be a fire fighter.

The students were impressed by all the different types of ladders and hoses to do different jobs and that some of the equipment is now controlled by computers. The students were offered the chance to sit in the fire engine and have their photo taken.

Our students listened politely and asked excellent questions. Some students showed fantastic knowledge and we were very proud of them all.

The fire-engine left the playground with a quick blast of the siren- which shocked and delighted our students in equal measures.

A big thanks to Wallasey Fire-fighting Team for giving up some of their rest time to talk with our students.

Ms Evans





## **"As You Like It"**

We are extremely proud of our students: George M; Abigail A; Liam J; Liam K; Zak B; Esme C; Jamie-Leigh B; Connor D; Jamie B; Rebecca S; Mary M; Kieran C; Rachel R; Josh B; Morgan V; Luke H, who all took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival 2018.

The Festival appraiser, Mr Paul Jenkins, said:

Thanks to everyone who supported us

***'I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Clare Mount Specialist Sports College for your fantastic production of 'As You Like It'... It was a brilliant night of theatre...***

***A wonderful show with a cast who brought us nothing but joy. Thank you for sharing it with us!***

***Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience and imagination. You ... should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved."***

Miss MacLean & Miss Vicars



# Celebration Evening 2018

Thanks to all of you who came to celebrate the achievements of last year's Year 11 and Sixth Form.

The night started with a performance first shown at the Shakespeare Festival in November. This was followed by our celebration of Clare Mount's fantastic examination results. Students were applauded for their specific achievements and then had the opportunity to show off their collection of certificates, safely displayed in their Record of Achievement folders, to their families.

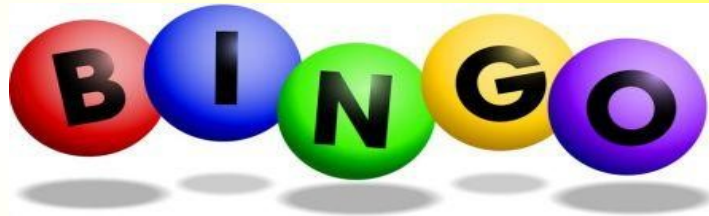
It was lovely to hear our leavers talk about their new college courses and how they have found the right places for them. It was clear that all our hard work had helped them transition successfully on to their new ventures.

Our guest speaker came from Premier Foods (often known as Cadbury's by locals and just around the corner). Seonaid Mounfield is the HR Manager and talked about how proud Premier are of employing local people and generations from the same family. She wowed us with facts about the number of mini rolls made in the factory every week and even left us some samples at the end!

A great night was had by all, with many students achieving Silver Duke of Edinburgh; Abigail winning the Closca (Clare Mount's Oscar) and Oliver winning the Bill Maclean Science Trophy. Congratulations to everyone!

Ms Evans





Wednesday

12th December

we held our eagerly anticipated annual Christmas Bingo night. It was a fun filled evening with pupils, staff, family and friends a filling the school Hall, dabbers at the ready and it was eyes down for a fantastic Fundraiser with prizes galore!

*Well done to Year 9 who raised a fantastic £232 from their cake sale and 'Bake Off' for 'Bliss', to help babies born premature or sick.*



**6<sup>th</sup> Form  
Enterprise**



*Well done to our 6th Form Enterprise students who raised £31 from their handmade gifts!*

Once again, Clare Mount Sports College are honoured to be involved in the Youth Sport Trust's 'Active in Mind' programme. Our athlete mentor Neil Danns spent two half days working with 11 of our pupils, training them up to be Clare Mount mental health ambassadors and mentors for pupils throughout school.

On day one, Neil started with a wonderful 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. With the pupils fully engaged at this point, Neil then did some team building games and got the group thinking what mental health looks like to them. Neil set the pupils (and teachers) a challenge to use less technology over the weekend and to get more sleep!

Neil returned for another half day of training with the mentors on Tuesday 27th November. The focus on the afternoon was preparing the mentors to be able to deliver some activities around deep breathing to a group of young people in school, which would help them to relax. With support from Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. McCannon and Mr. Gavin, the mentors showed amazing maturity to take on board all the advice Neil gave them.

The end result was that all our Mentors helped the younger pupils to feel more relaxed by the end of the session. These mentors will develop their confidence and leadership skills after Christmas when they run sessions such as 'Walk & Talk', Yoga/Relaxation and some sports sessions such as Rounders and Goalball. A special thank you to Neil Danns for another brilliant visit to Clare Mount.

**Mr. Gavin**





**You are invited to our:  
Next Steps Event**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**You can drop in between**

**4.00pm & 5.30pm**

**We are holding an Information Fair for you to attend.**

**We have invited a variety of Colleges, Support Providers and Transition team who can provide you with information on education, training and learning opportunities available to your child after school.**

**We will send you letters in December with more information but in the meantime please reserve the date!!!**

Miss Magnall

# College Open Days & Evenings 2018 & 2019



**Wirral Met College All Four Campuses**  
Conway Park, Twelve Quays, The Oval & Wirral  
Waters Campus  
0151 551 7777  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
4.30pm to 7.00pm  
[www.wmc.ac.uk](http://www.wmc.ac.uk)



**Cheshire College**  
Ellesmere Port & Chester Campus  
01244 656555  
Monday 28th January 2019 5.30pm to 8pm  
[www.ccs.w.ac.uk](http://www.ccs.w.ac.uk)



**Birkenhead 6th Form College**  
Park Road West, Claughton Village, Wirral,  
CH43 8SQ  
0151 652 5575  
Thursday 24th January 2019, 6pm to 8pm  
[www.bsfc.ac.uk](http://www.bsfc.ac.uk)



**The City of Liverpool College**  
All City Centre Campuses  
Arts Centre, Clarence Street, Duke St,  
Learning Exchange & Vauxhall Road  
Thursday 7th March 2019, 6pm to 8pm  
0151 252 3000 [www.liv-coll.ac.uk](http://www.liv-coll.ac.uk)



**Coleg Cambria**  
Holywell Road, Northop, CH7 6AA  
0300 30 30 007  
Saturday 10th March 2019  
10.00am to 1.00pm  
[www.cambria.ac.uk](http://www.cambria.ac.uk)

# Welcome to the Ugandan Olympic Committee

Clare Mount recently welcomed Mr Isima Iga, Culture, Education & NOA Programmes Manager of the Ugandan Olympic Committee, Ms Zoe Gilvear, Olympic Relations Manager, British Olympic Association and Ms Catriona Hull, Producer, EdComs (Get Set delivery agency).

Clare Mount is one of only 45 Beacon schools in the UK, so Get Set thought it would be great to invite Isima to come to school to be inspired and see what we do around Get Set. Isima watched a BTEC lesson on healthy habits, saw a great Road to Rio presentation by Amelia and Mr Kearney and discussed the power of sport to change the lives of young people with Mrs Webster in her role as a Youth Sport Trust Headteacher Ambassador.

Isima said: "It is great the way that the life skills young people need are shown very clearly in the PE lessons here. I am looking forward to taking your ideas back to Uganda and helping our young people".



Get Set was set up after the 2012 London Olympics to make sure that the legacy of the games and the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Values continued to inspire young people.

Liverpool is the first Active City in the UK. Travel to Tokyo is a great way for schools to log their physical activity and help their young people and families do physical activity together. If your school wants to be inspired, sign up to Travel to Tokyo at [www.getset.co.uk/](http://www.getset.co.uk/)

Mr White



## OFSTED Research Visit to the PE Department

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Usually, when a school gets a call from OFSTED it means one thing: Inspection! However, early in November, Mrs Webster was contacted by them to ask if we were willing to take part in a piece of national research into how Physical Education, Physical Activity and School Sport is to be inspected in the future. This was a great honour as only 10 schools in the country had been asked to take part and OFSTED were impressed by Clare Mount's national reputation for excellence in PE and inclusion.

Our research visitor was a former PE teacher and now inspector called Steve Caldecott. During the day, Mr. Caldecott watched a number of PE lessons, interviewed Mrs Webster, Mrs Evans, Mr Byrne, Mr. Stanley, Mr. White and all the teaching staff in the PE department. He also had a wonderful meeting with a selection of our current and former students who all described what being physically active meant to them and how Clare Mount had helped them to experience great things through PE.

We were proud to be able to show Mr. Caldecott our innovative 'active maths' programme and pre-school Zumba session and to top it all off, he got to see Neil Danns, our athlete mentor and former world skateboard champion working with our senior students on our 'Active in Mind' project. When giving his feedback, Mr. Caldecott said "If I was to go back into teaching I would love to teach here with this brilliant team!"

It was a proud day for the school. Mrs. Webster thanked the entire school staff who had done a brilliant job in preparing for the day.

Mr Byrne

# Healthy Lifestyle Champions

On 14th November 9 Clare Mount students embarked on a trip to the Fazeley Studios in Birmingham to join 600 other young people across England in becoming Healthy Lifestyle Champions (HLCs).



The students had been selected because of their interest in sports leadership and because of their attitudes towards sport and physical activity. The day began with an inspirational presentation from Rachel McKenzie; an athlete who overcame bigotry and adversity to become British and European Women's Thai Boxing Champion.



The students were then split into groups to work with other elite athletes developing their leadership skills and their understanding of what it takes to deliver fun activities for young people. Mrs Swap and Mr Byrne underwent their own training through the day and then the whole group came together to write an action plan for Clare Mount. In the new year the HLCs will be learning about some non-traditional sports (Kin-Ball and Ultimate Frisbee) and will be introducing those activities to the rest of the students at Clare Mount and to some students from our partner primary schools.

Mr Byrne





# Healthy Futures Network

health wellbeing employability

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December The Healthy Futures Network convened for its December Conference and Clare Mount, as ever was right at the heart of it! Mr Byrne, the Healthy Futures Network Coordinator was joined by Ms Maclean, Mrs McCannon, Mr White, Mr Taylor and Mrs Corcoran to hear about and share all the innovative activities going on in North West schools to improve the health and wellbeing of young people.

Mr. White gave an inspiring presentation about the Personal Adapted Physical Activity Instructor (PAPAI) programme that he has been developing with Liverpool Hope University and Mrs. Corcoran gave a brilliant and fun presentation about The Active School



Planner, a tool that schools can use to help ensure that all pupils are active for a minimum of 30 minutes per day in school time. The Healthy Futures Network is a collaboration between the NHS, the University of Chester and schools across the North West. Clare Mount was a founder member and is now a 'Champion School' within the network.

Over 150 professionals and volunteers from schools, the NHS, Local Authorities, charities and private organisations were in attendance and feedback was excellent! There are two more engagement events planned for 2019!



Mr Byrne



## **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](mailto:Schooloffice@claremount.wirral.sch.uk)

**Tel: 0151 606 9440**

# Term Time Schedule 2018 - 2019

## Autumn Term

Open (Staff only)	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018
Open (Students)	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Close for half-term	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
Open	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
Close for Christmas	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018

## Spring Term

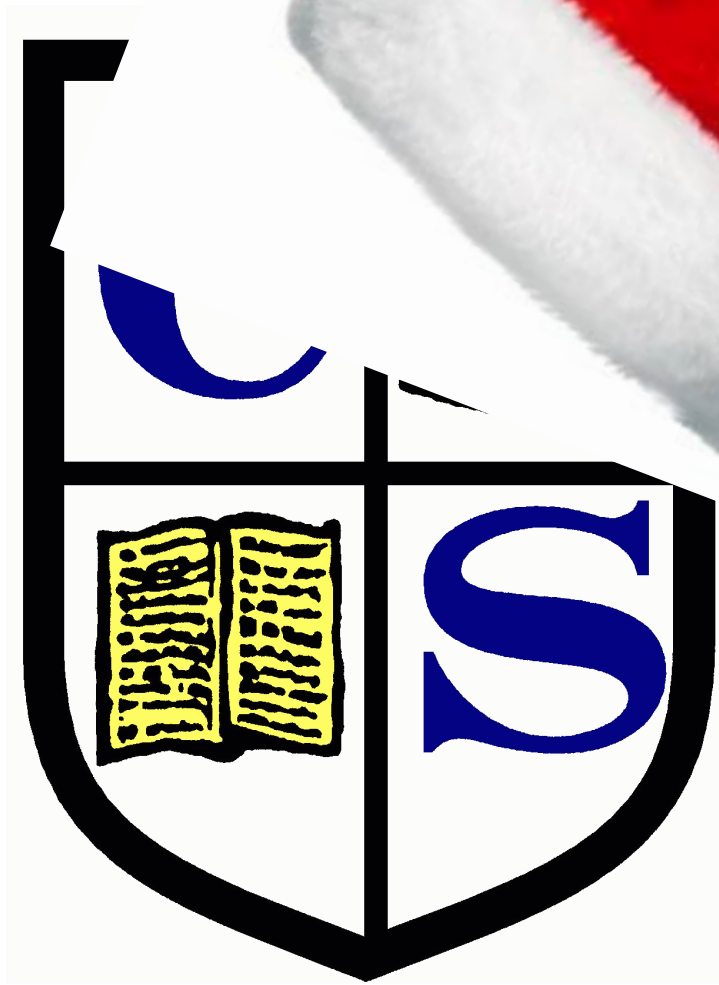
Open	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Close for half-term	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
Open	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
Close for Spring Break	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Summer Term

Open	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
<i>Closed (Good Friday)</i>	<i>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019</i>
<i>Closed (Easter Monday)</i>	<i>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019</i>
<i>Closed (May Day)</i>	<i>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019</i>
Close for half-term	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Open	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019
Close for summer	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2019

**NOTE: Easter Weekend (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April & Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April) and Spring Break (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April) do not coincide.**

Inset days: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019



Merry  
Christmas