

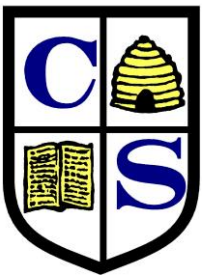
CLAREMOUNT SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 133

DECEMBER 2017



Front Cover

For the third 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.



As part of Special Olympics European Basketball Week Mr White organised a Unified Basketball event at South Wirral High School. Unified Sport mixes young people with and without intellectual learning difficulties in the same team to promote understanding and to break down barriers. Picture above are the 4 teams from Clare Mount, South Wirral, Bebington and Arch-Bishop Beck, along with former National Basketball League player David Aliu.

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter and like me you are delighted with our achievements this year.

In November 2017 I attended the Educate Awards Evening for all finalists at Liverpool Cathedral and am delighted to announce we were runners up in the 'SEND Provision Award' category.



We have proved ourselves yet again as an outstanding school according to our latest National Autistic Society Accreditation, having now achieved 'Autism Accreditation Commendation'. It was reported the 'commendation awarding panel considered the specific ASC focused action research project, (that all staff have committed to) and the positive impact it has on our pupils'. Commendations are only awarded to the few services where it is felt that the provision is going above and beyond usual expectations in supporting autistic people, and exceeding the Autism Accreditation criteria in a particular area. It is an absolute honour to gain this recognition.

This month Clare Mount was awarded 'School Games Mark Platinum' which is the fourth level of the award following its introduction this year. We are the first school in the North West to achieve this extremely high standard and our thanks go to Miss S. Green (SGO) and all staff involved in the PE Department.

To complete the year Clare Mount gained the highest level of 'Distinction' in the afPE Quality Mark in which the projects across the whole school were described as 'mind blowing' and the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher as 'Inspirational'.

We held our fourth Celebration evening last week which was very well attended with many ex-students coming back to show and talk about their journey through college and into work. Thank you to Ms Evans for organising the evening and to all who attended the very successful event. Congratulations to Robbie, who was named Head boy, Jess named Head girl and to their Deputies Michael and Paige.

Our students work so hard and make me feel so proud on a daily basis. I believe that the praise we have received is due, in no small part, to our teachers, the non-teaching staff, the Governing body, the parents and the local community all pulling together to deliver the best we possibly can for our pupils.

Our parents' evenings were very well attended despite the freezing weather conditions. Thank you for taking the time to complete our parent/carer survey. The results are very positive and so valuable in helping us to deliver the very best education for your child. Listening to your views is very important to us as we are always keen to act on any suggestions you may have for school improvement.

I am enormously grateful to the 'Friends of Clare Mount' for their fantastic fund raising efforts. Well done and thank you for our very successful Christmas Shop, which raised over £280, and for all your hard work and commitment. Also, thank you to our Learning Mentors and staff for a successful Bingo evening which raised an excellent sum of £1650.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas together with best wishes for a healthy and peaceful new year.

Kim Webster
Headteacher



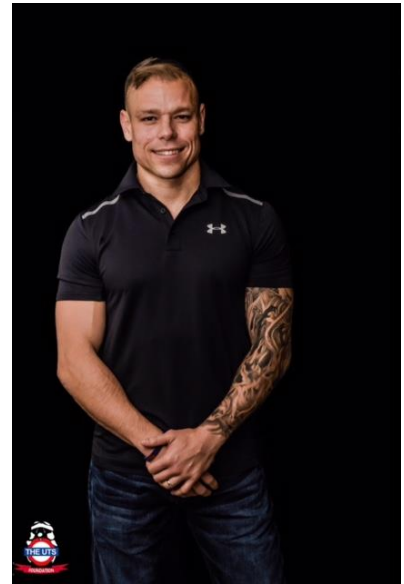
Return to School for Students
Monday 8th January 2018



ACTIVE IN MIND LAUNCH

An active mind cannot exist in an inactive body.

Pupils in Year 9 and Year 10 enjoyed an 'Active in Mind' roadshow for an afternoon in November 2017. The roadshow involved an inspirational speech from Dave Bolton, a fitness instructor from The Underground Training Station, who has fought back from a major road accident to become a World Kickboxing Champion, and more recently from a cancerous brain tumour. Dave's key message was about never giving up and that being physically active can help you stay mentally healthy.



The Active in Mind programme has been linked to the Youth Sport Go Award which the Year 9s have all been involved in this Term. Year 9s have tracked their physical activity levels to see if they can achieve the recommended 1 hour a day target. They have also accessed leadership training from Jenna Downing and run events like Dance Factor.






The Youth Sport GO Award is made up of a well-being, achievement, leadership and reflection section. Year 9's are pictured here working with mentor Jenna Downing to decide what makes a good leader and plan a festival.

Clare Mount is planning a health week beginning the 15th January 2018 when we hope all pupils will aim to get more active and make healthy lifestyle choices such as less screen time, more water and fruit and veg, and less sugary foods.



More than just Planting Crocuses

In October Mrs Webster was approached for help by our friends from the Rotary Club.

The Rotary club had some crocus bulbs and wanted some of our students to help plant them in our school grounds. Mrs Webster asked if the Horticulture groups could help, we said we'd be delighted to help plant the bulbs to brighten up the school grounds.

It was only when Mr Earp and his friends arrived that we discovered there were FOUR THOUSAND bulbs to plant!

The Rotary Club had been raising money to buy these bulbs – not just to make our school grounds more colourful but to pay for vaccinating children around the world against Polio; for every bulb planted three children will be vaccinated against Polio. This is something Rotary International has been doing since 1985 and it has nearly been eradicated in the whole world for good. This means that as a result of planting our 4000 bulbs 12000 children have been vaccinated against Polio.

Armed with gloves, spades and lots of enthusiasm the Horticulture groups and Rotarians worked together and completed the mammoth task. We are now eagerly waiting to see the crocuses flowering next spring, remembering that each flower represents three children being saved from this killer disease.



Colin started by making individual holes for each bulb..... but realised this would take a very long time!



Clare Mount Science Club

This half term the Science department launched our new Science Club. Students from KS3 have been taking part in lots of experiments themed around Bonfire Night and Christmas. Some of the activities included:

- Make your own sparklers and glow worm fireworks
- Making food for Santa (mint chocolate leaves and magic milk)
- Christmas circuits
- Chromatography baubles

Every week the students have been challenged to tell a science joke. Joe and Reuben in Year 7 have come up with several good ones including:

A neutron walks into a bar and asks how much for a drink.

Bartender replies "For you, no charge".

Next term we will have a new theme and lots of new jokes!



Clare Mount Shortlisted for another Prestigious Award

In October this year schools across the region were celebrating after the shortlist for this year's Educate Awards 2017 were announced. It was then that Clare Mount found out that they had been shortlisted for the prestigious award in SEND Provision for the North West.

The awards, in partnership with Copyrite Systems and Ricoh, is now in its sixth year and is the biggest celebration of education in the North West.

The ceremony, which was on 17th November, was held at Liverpool



Cathedral. It is the one night of the year where excellence of schools in the Liverpool City Region, Cheshire and Lancashire is celebrated and rewarded in a unique fashion, bringing together inspiring schools, leaders, teachers and support staff to showcase the brilliance within the region's education sector.

Out of hundreds of applications Clare Mount were shortlisted with 5 other schools in the award category. It was to our delight that Clare Mount came 'Runner Up' against some really great schools. Well done to all of the hard-working staff at Clare Mount!

**Educate
Awards
2017**

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CopyriteSystems | **RICOH**
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SEND PROVISION AWARD

RUNNER-UP

Where are they now?

Our past pupil in this newsletter is Siobhan. As a pupil at Clare Mount, Siobhan was always happy to help, hardworking and nice to everyone. She has now just completed her first term at Wirral Met, studying on a Level 2 Interior Design course. Well done Siobhan!



CELEBRATION EVENING 2017

This year's Celebration Evening started with a fabulous performance of Midsummer Night's Dream.



This was followed by the National Citizen's Awards being presented by the High Sheriff of Merseyside in full uniform (but often missing his hat!)



It was lovely to see our 'leavers' returning with exciting stories about FE College



Thank you to all the families who came to celebrate with us.

Our Summer results were the best ever and our current Year 12 students are very proud of their achievements.



Our Year 13 & 14s furthered their qualifications in Sixth Form last year





Christmas BINGO

Christmas Bingo

This term we enjoyed our annual Christmas bingo. The event was bigger than ever before and was well supported by families and friends. We raised the grand total of £1650.

Many of our visitors went home laden with prizes, not just from the bingo, but the raffles and tombola stall that were held on the night. One lucky family won the 100 square which was a nice cash bonus to wish them well over Christmas.

Our younger participants started the evening with a fun game of interactive Heads and Tales; congratulations Reeve on a great win.

A special thank you to Ms Badzire and the cookery department for the hot chilli and hot dogs which went down a treat before the serious matter of bingo began.

A big thank you to all who supported the event and also the willing team of staff who manned the stalls. Last but not least thank you to our Bingo caller Mr Kearney who without his calling skills the night would not have been the success that it was.

A fun family evening was enjoyed by all.

Sue Robinson
Learning Mentor





CLARE MOUNT GOES INTERNATIONAL - SPORTS EMPOWERS DISABLED YOUTH

Mr Keefe and Mr White have been working with partners across Europe over the last 12 months to advocate the power of PE and Sport for youngsters with special educational needs and disabilities. The **Erasmus+ funded SEDY project** (Sport Empowers Disabled Youth, 2015-2017) was aimed at increasing physical activity of children with a disability, especially through a better match between demand and supply. We are convinced that the participation of children in sport activities contributes to the social, emotional and physical development of children. They attended a Conference in Amsterdam, Holland, in November to discuss the impact of a range of projects they have been involved with, including creating an inclusive sport toolkit (in Sardinia 2016) and projects such as PAPAII. The Finnish Personal Adapted Physical Activity Instructor (PAPAII) project coaches children and young people with a disability to participate in sport activities. The PAPAII acts as a buddy, instructor, support person and consultant. Mr Keefe and Mr White are working with the Youth Sport Trust and second year PE/Sport students at Liverpool Hope University to replicate this programme in our local area. <http://www.hva.nl/kc-bsv/gedeelde-content/contentgroep/sedy-project/sedy-project.html>



Platinum School Games Mark

This year Clare Mount has received Platinum School Games Mark. We are the first school to be awarded Platinum on Wirral. We achieved this award by maintaining Gold School Games Mark for the past four years. This meant that we as a school hosted a School Games Day, ran level 1 inter year competitions, attended competitions against other schools and hosted a number of competitions where our fantastic Sports Leaders umpired and officiated.

Without the support of the whole school we would not have been able to achieve Platinum School Games Mark. Next year we are automatically awarded Platinum again but that does not mean we can let our standards slip. Keep up the great work.

Miss Green



Table Cricket Competition

On the 20th November Clare Mount not only hosted the Wirral School Games Table Cricket competition but we also competed and officiated. The event saw 6 primary schools and 2 secondary schools compete in a tense afternoon of Table Cricket. The quality of umpiring from the Sports Leaders was superb. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. 7G represented Clare Mount who drew with Lingham Primary winning 2 games each. The next progression of the competition is to represent Wirral at a County final in the New Year. Well done to 7G and our fantastic Sports Leaders we wish them the best of luck in the next stage of the competition.

CLARE MOUNT RUGBY TEAM AT THE PROJECT RUGBY LAUNCH AT THE AJ BELL STADIUM

Pupils met Sale and England wing Denny Solomona who gave his £140 boots to Harry. Project Rugby is aimed at getting more targeted groups like girls and those with special educational needs and disabilities involved in the game.



Christmas preparations

Clare Mount was to delighted to kick-off 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 Little Mermaid on Wednesday 13th 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 fits of laughter and out of their seats dancing. Our very own Mr Gavin even wowed Liverpool with his dance moves when the Dame got him up on stage to cut some shapes.

It was a wonderful trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all, and students should be congratulated on their exemplary behaviour - they were a credit to the school. Huge thanks go to Mr Lindsay for taking on the mammoth task of organising this trip and doing so with aplomb!



SIXTH FORM SUCCESS!

In the distant past of the Summer Term, we began our visits to our brand new building- The Sixth Form Centre of Excellence. Staff and students alike were nervous, apprehensive but mainly excited about our new 'home'. That seems like such a long time ago! In July, a handful of students wanted to travel independently to the new building for a visit and I remember driving very slowly and sneakily behind them to check they were ok – we walked inside and I will remember those smiles forever. The majority of the students took the mini bus and as I greeted them at the door and took them for a 'tour'-I saw their smiles too and I knew this was going to be a success. Our first few weeks in September had highs and lows as you can expect but together we made it through. I named us 'Sixth Form Penguins' because as a team we support and look after everyone in our team. I asked the students to look after staff – and they did. I asked students to look after each other in every new aspect of the day – and they did. The support they have shown has been incredible and I am extremely proud of my 'PENGUINS'.

As a result of this amazing TEAM WORK we have achieved so much...

- **Nearly all the students now walk independently to and from the Sixth Form Centre**
- **Most of the students are able to use the local shop**
- **We have our own KITCHEN KEEPERS who clean and tidy the kitchen and eating area EVERY DAY**
- **We have a dishwasher monitor who oversees the routine of keeping the cups/cutlery/plates clean EVERY DAY**
- **Nearly all of the students can make a cup of tea/coffee either with support or unaided**
- **We have visitor/staff refreshment helpers**
- **We have SHOPPERS who go and buy tea/coffee/biscuits for all of the Sixth Form**
- **ALL the students have achieved their NCS AWARD**
- **Some students are attending Work Experience 2 DAYS a week**
- **We have a new Head Boy and Head Girl Team**

In fact...there are too many achievements to list!

All that is left to say is a huge 'THANK YOU' to all the parents/carers for your support and an even bigger 'THANK YOU' and well done to The Sixth Form. We are very proud of your achievements so far and can't wait to see what 2018 brings.

Mrs Cooper-Shone and the Sixth Form Staff.



In November 2017 Clare Mount re-applied for afPE Quality Mark with distinction, having first achieved the Award in 2014. It is great to know that we continue to provide such high quality provision for our pupils and afPE was delighted to award our school the Quality Mark with Distinction for 'demonstrating outstanding commitment to improvement in Physical Education and Sport'. The Reasons for a Quality Mark with Distinction award as outlined by our validator, included:

Achievement

An excellent assessment and recording system ensures that all children achieve their best socially, mentally and physically.

Quality of teaching

Outstanding – and their teaching expertise is shared through a variety of methods with local and North West Schools.

Curriculum provision

Excellent curriculum which provides a vast amount of opportunities for all children to achieve their best. A great amount of initiatives are used at the school to inspire all pupils. The school is a 'hub' for many of the initiatives which are shared across the area. Impressive.

Leadership and management

Excellent. PE and School Sport is the heart of the school. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher both have Physical Education backgrounds. They are inspirational!

The impact of our work in supporting other schools through our outreach has also seen Orrets Meadow Primary School also being awarded afPE Quality Mark with distinction, whilst Clare Mount also became the first school on the Wirral to achieve the School Games Platinum Award, having achieved Gold for the last 3 years. Well done to Miss Green on her leadership of the School Games aspect of our work.



Advance Warning for 2018-19

<i>Open (Staff only) 2018</i>	<i>Monday 3rd September</i>
<i>Open (Students) 2018</i>	<i>Tuesday 4th September</i>
<i>Close for half-term 2018</i>	<i>Friday 19th October</i>
<i>Open 2018</i>	<i>Monday 29th October</i>
<i>Close for Christmas 2018</i>	<i>Friday 21st December</i>
<i>Open 2019</i>	<i>Monday 7th January</i>
<i>Close for half-term 2019</i>	<i>Friday 15th February</i>
<i>Open 2019</i>	<i>Monday 25th February</i>
<i>Close for Spring Break</i>	<i>Friday 29th March 2019</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 15th April 2019</i>
<i>Closed (Good Friday)</i>	<i>Monday 19th April 2019</i>
<i>Closed (Easter Monday)</i>	<i>Monday 22nd April 2019</i>
<i>Closed (May Day)</i>	<i>Monday 6th May 2019</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 24th May 2019</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 3rd June 2019</i>
<i>Closed to Students</i>	<i>Friday 22nd June 2019</i>
<i>Close for Summer Break 2019</i>	<i>Wednesday 24th July</i>
<i>(Four more Staff Training Days to be announced)</i>	



MERRY CHRISTMAS