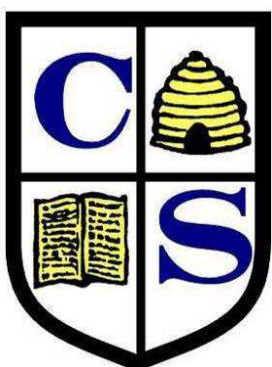


www.claremount.wirral.sch.uk

CLARE MOUNT SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER
NO. 126
DECEMBER 2016



SPORTS
COLLEGES



SEN SPECIALIST
SCHOOLS

Front Cover

'Dare to Aspire'

Mr Waters, Mr Dilnot and students from 7Wa with their spaghetti tower. See inside for more on this.

Notice of Health Week

As a health promoting school Clare Mount will be running a Health Week during the week of the 16th January 2017. We want all pupils to set a New Year resolution to either be more active, drink more water and less fizzy drinks, or have a more balanced diet, just as a few examples. Some targets for the week will include:



- To hit the Chief Medical Officers weekly physical activity guidelines of 60-minutes a day.
- To drink the equivalent of 6-8 cups of water a day.
- To eat more fruit and vegetables.
- To limit treats to no more than 5 treat for the week.
- All pupils will complete a short Sport, Health, Exercise, Understanding (SHEU) survey during ICT lessons to help us form our healthy schools plan for the year.

We ask that you please do not send your child into school with sweets, crisps or fizzy drinks during our health week.

Thank you.

Return to School for Students

Monday 9th January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

What a wonderful, exciting and busy term! Our highlights include; the students' outstanding performance of 'Macbeth' in the Shakespeare Festival at the Floral Pavilion; representation from Clare Mount on the Wirral Healthy Schools panel and the Youth Parliament at the Town Hall; being shortlisted, attending a ceremony in Liverpool Cathedral and coming runners up in the 'Educate Awards' for the 'Most Inspirational School' in the North and winning 'Outstanding commitment to Sport in Secondary School'. What makes achieving these accolades all the more impressive is that we have been judged against other Special Schools, Mainstream Schools and Academies, which means our vision that our youngsters are 'role models and catalysts for change' is working.

Our parents' evenings were very well attended and thank you for taking the time to complete our parent/carer survey. The results are very positive and help us to deliver the best education for your child and we are keen to act on any suggestions you may have for school improvement.

The Bungalow Pals once again have 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. 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. The money raised goes a long way to keeping our Mini-Buses on the road. We had a great turn out and more raffle prizes than I have ever seen. We raised an amazing £1300!

For the third time Clare Mount held a Celebration evening to recognise the achievements of so many of our past and present year 11 and sixth form students and to celebrate the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff across all subjects and aspects of school.

Congratulations to all award winners. A number of our past students came to talk about 'Life after Clare Mount'. Again the event was highly successful and thank you to staff for their support. A special thanks must be directed towards all of the parents and carers who attended the evening - the students are a credit to you all.

Our year teams have been doing lots of charity fundraising including 'Save the Orang-utans', 'Forum Housing', 'Claire House' and 'Sierra

Leone', to name a few. Thank you all for the donations to support our intensive charity work.

Our new venture this year has been the transformation of our school Bungalow into an 'Internet Café'. We have held our first 'ICT in the Community' night and a 'Cup of tea and mince pie' afternoon for the elderly where our school choir performed.

Congratulations to Miss Hutchinson who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Jude, she will no doubt already have him practising his first dance moves. Welcome to Mrs Corcoran who will be covering her maternity leave with plenty of energy and enthusiasm. We also wish Mrs Tittle, our Office Manager, the very best of luck in her new role with the Local Authority SEN Team – I am sure she will do a great job in raising awareness of the local offer. Congratulations also to Miss McIlhatton in completing her Apprenticeship with us. We wish you all the best in your future career. Thank you.

On a less happy note, however, the school was saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Saunders who gave many committed years of service to Clare Mount. She worked closely with our Sixth form and was involved with feeding the masses on Duke of Edinburgh trips. She is fondly remembered.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas together with best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Kim Webster
Headteacher
December 2016

Community Sport Night

Our Community Sport Night programme for next term will run on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00pm. The dates will be as follows:

11th January	18th January	25th January
1st February	8th February	
15th February - <i>No CSN due to Boreatton Park</i>		
22nd February - <i>No CSN due to half term</i>		
1st March	8th March	15th March
22nd March	29th March	

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

This year Clare Mount supported, for the second time, the Rotary Club of Wallasey's Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

They take shoeboxes to communities in Eastern Europe - Romania, Belarus & Ukraine - who live in a world of poverty. The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness for these people. For many it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares.

Students collected their boxes from school and filled them for babies, children, teenagers, as well as for the elderly. Well done to the Clare Mount Community for helping to bring happiness to those in need.

Mrs Boyle



-----ooOOoo-----

Digital Day

Here at Clare Mount we are excited to hold (*will have held by the time you read this!*) our first ever "Digital Day" on Tuesday 20th December. Many exciting activities are planned including Robotics, Game Creation, Gaming, Aurasma, Movie Making, and even Orienteering using QR Codes!

Our pupils are genuinely excited and we look forward to a brilliant day.

Mr Kearney

Clare Mount wins yet another award

In November 2016 staff from Clare Mount attended the Educate Awards which covers schools in Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire.

The school was shortlisted for Best SEND provision and actually won the Outstanding Commitment to Secondary School Sport Award.

Thank you to all the staff who have supported PE lessons, after-school clubs, sporting fixtures and cross-curricular sport-themed events this year.



Long may our success continue to benefit the pupils at Clare Mount.



-----ooOoo-----

Christmas Shop

Another fabulous result for Clare Mount. Sales from the Christmas Shop raised a stunning £360. This will be used to provide support for our lunch time clubs.

Thanks to all who staffed the shop and bought from there.

Christmas Bingo is a sell out

The event was bigger than ever before and sadly we had to turn people away at the door. Not only did we sell out of bingo tickets but there were no seats left in the hall. The Bingo was well supported by families and friends and raised the grand total of £1250.

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. We introduced a 100 square game for a cash prize and this was all sold before the bingo began. One lucky young man started his evening with a nice Christmas bonus.

Special thank you to Ms Badzire and the cookery department for the 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 without whom the night would not have been the success that it was.

Mrs Robinson, Learning Mentor



Lovely raffle prize created and donated by Y8's Georgia's nan.

-----ooOOoo-----

Card Craft Club

Card Craft Club have been busy designing, making and selling Christmas cards to raise money for Oaks School in Sierra Leone.

We have managed to raise £15 and intend to buy Loom Bands and a volley ball for Mrs Parkinson to take on her next visit in February.

Well done to all at Card Craft Club.

Mrs Booth and Mrs Stephenson



Students Educate Parents in the Science of Fireworks.

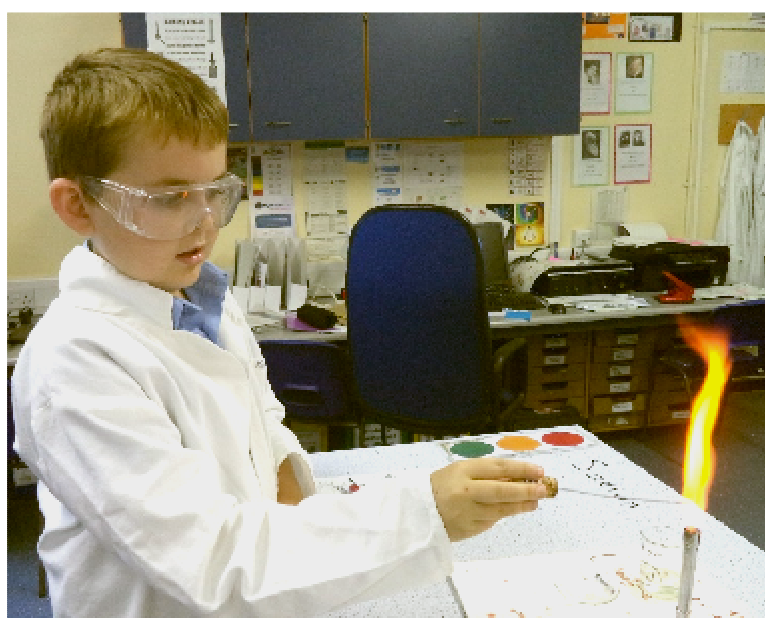
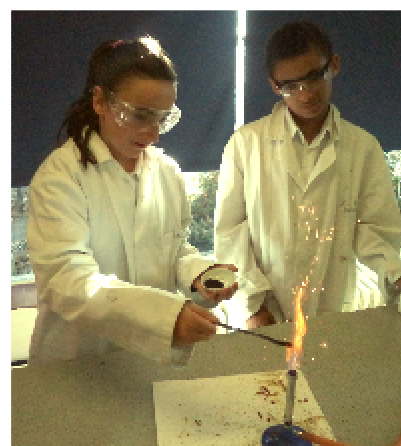
The week after half term saw Science lessons at Clare Mount being taken over by gunpowder, treason and plot (as well as a few chemicals) as we ran our annual Fireworks Week.

Students investigated what makes the different colours in fireworks and how sparklers are made. Everyone got the opportunity to light and hold a sparkler (using gloves, of course) as well as burn magnesium to make the bright white light that we are all so familiar with.

But the learning didn't stop as students left the Science Labs... A number of parents told us on Parents Evening how their children had taught them which chemicals gave particular colours as they watched firework displays together.

The photos show students finding out the colours different chemicals give, as well as making sparklers. Parents can you remember what you were taught?

Mrs Nokes



Year 7 Go Orange for Orangutans

For the third time, Year 7 led Clare Mount in raising over £300 for the Act for Wildlife Go Orange for Orangutans campaign. Throughout the first half term, our Year 7 staff and students planned orange-themed fundraising events. This year saw our best ever cake sale with some truly fantastic cake designs in the 'bake-off' competition.



On Friday 21st October, everyone was asked to wear orange again. It made for a bright and cheerful start to our charity day.

At break time, 'Act for Wildlife' orange wristbands were on sale along with all the cakes and wrapped sweet cups, which were all made by Year 7 students, parents and staff. There was also a 'Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar?' game (won by Sophie in Year 8), 'Beat the Goalie' run by 7Wa, Orangutan and Rainforest themed crafts to buy, bead jewellery and masks made by 7S and fruit cocktail drinks made by 7P. The day was once again a huge success, due to the enthusiasm of all involved.

As a school, we raised £350 which means that our funds will ensure 35 trees will be planted in the Bornean rainforest.

Year 7 were proud to lead the day and extremely grateful to everyone who donated. We would also like to thank Card Craft Club and all staff, students and parents who gave their time and efforts to help.

I have received a card from Hannah Taylor, the Development Officer at Chester Zoo, thanking us for once again being so involved with their charity.

Mrs Croucher



KS3 Workshops with Published Poet

On Friday 25th November, students in KS3 enjoyed professionally led workshops by published poet, Matt Goodfellow.

Matt led an assembly in the morning introducing himself and his book, *Carry Me Away*, and thrilled the students with his comedic styling and kind-hearted nature.

The students then enjoyed workshops in their year groups in performance poetry and developed new skills in expression, creativity and dramatic performance.

A select group of students were also able to enjoy a session on Poetry Writing with Matt, and everyone involved produced wonderful poems.



Students Challenged to ‘Dare to Aspire’

In November, Clare Mount enjoyed an inspiring visit from Former South African International Rugby Player George Fouche.



George led a whole school assembly telling students his remarkable story of starting from humble beginnings to becoming a professional rugby player, only to break his neck, suffering temporary paralysis. Having been told he may never walk again George challenged students to ‘never give up’ and managed to make an amazing recovery to play top flight rugby again.

Following the talk students looked at what qualities they had which might help them Dare to Aspire and then worked as a team to make a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows, with Mr Waters’ form creating the biggest tower whilst some others couldn’t resist eating the marshmallows!



Clare Mount Travel Agency event

Clare Mount's Community Café was turned into Clare Mount Travel Agency on Thursday 24th November as the year 11 BTEC Travel and Tourism group set up their own travel agency. The students took on the role of travel agent to complete customer questionnaires with students and staff. This is part of a unit of work on Customer Service. Students are expected to look at different customer types to find out what each customer requires.

Visitors were impressed with the professional and personal service they received. Here are some of the feedback comments we were given:

"Connor was very professional. He listened to my requirements and gave some helpful hints about flights and hotels."

"Be proud Harry, you did a fab job in helping me to find the perfect cruise"

"Ella was very friendly and helpful. When asked to suggest an activity I might like, she used her own knowledge of spas to encourage me to purchase this as part of my holiday package."

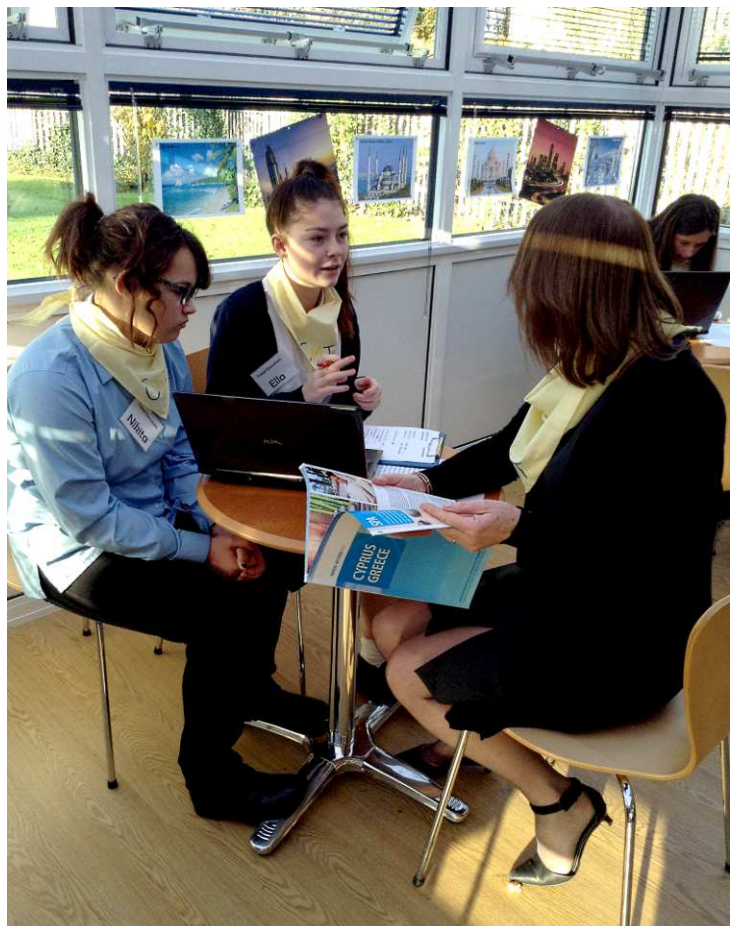
"Shannon was very professional. She was helpful and listened to my requirements."

"Paige was very polite and provided all the information. She was very confident and pleasant to talk to. Paige provided a very good experience at Clare Mount Travel."

"Callum and Jack were very thorough in gathering information. I'm excited about my holiday now."

"Nikita used her listening and questioning skills to help personalise the holiday."

The Students made me very proud. Well done!



A special thanks to Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Patrick for all their help and support.



Mrs Spracklen

-----ooOOoo-----

Media Report

As part of our growing work in Media Studies, Clare Mount Year 11 Media students will be taking part in the Schools Report project which is run every year by the BBC.

We will have a dedicated page on our school website and will be adding news stories throughout the year, culminating in School Report News Day on 16 March 2017, where BBC will be featuring some of the schools across their network of channels.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their media skills in the type of environment they would be expected to work in should they pursue a media career.

Mr Kearney

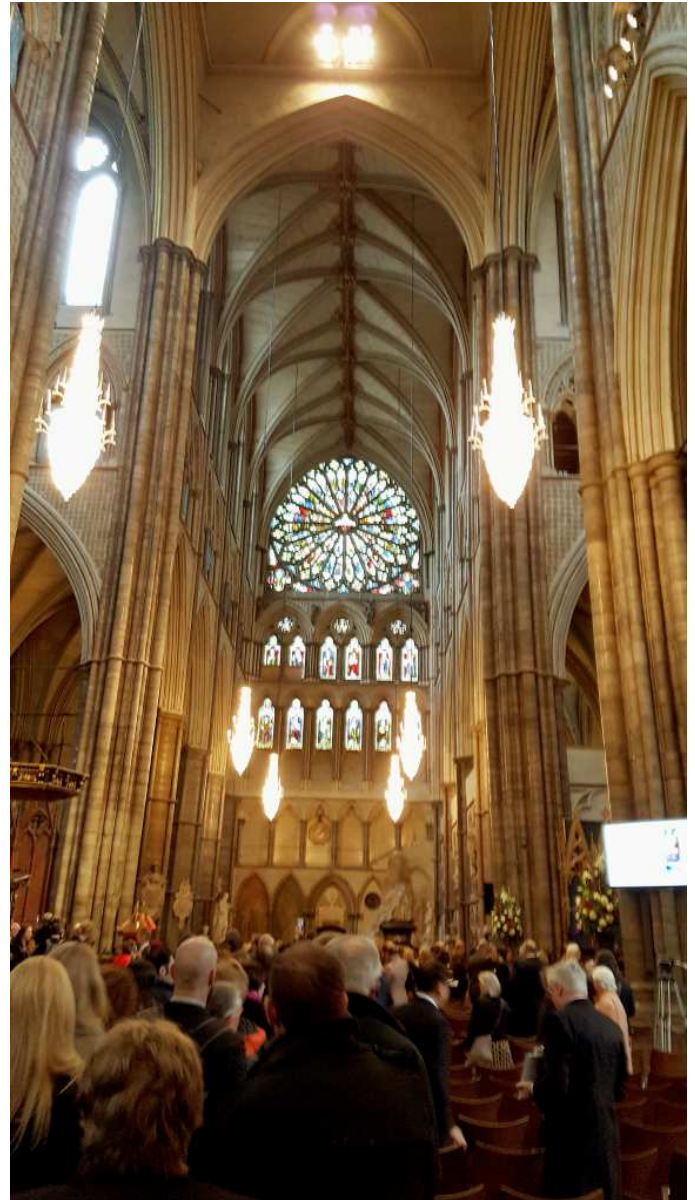


60 years of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

On 24th November 2016 Mr Stanley was invited to attend a very important event in London. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl and Countess of Wessex attended a Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (D of E).

The D of E was founded 60 years ago by The Duke of Edinburgh at the request of his former headmaster, Kurt Hahn, who thought that each of us has more courage, strength and compassion than we would ever believe. It is now widely recognised as the world's leading achievement award for young people and has helped to transform the lives of millions of people around the world.

In a foreword for the Service, The Duke of Edinburgh said: "The



growth of the scheme owes everything to the untold numbers of volunteers who have given their time and enthusiasm to bring its benefits to a constantly growing number of young people all over the world."

During the service, held on 24 November 2016, The Earl of Wessex gave an address in which he told inspirational stories about winners and participants of the scheme.

Mr Stanley was one of a thousand people invited to the service which is in recognition of the outstanding work that all our students achieve in the award whilst at school.

'It was an amazing day, something that was very special and a privilege to attend on behalf of our school' said Mr Stanley.



We all look forward to working with the D of E award in the future



Catch Me if You Can

As part of their revision for their Computing exams, the Year 10 option group took part in a unique version of the popular TV show "The Chase" during their lesson today. Mrs Mackinnon set the group lots of questions based on Computing and ICT and the students displayed great knowledge of the subject when giving many correct answers during their two minutes.



It was then time for the Chaser - "The King" Kearney - to hunt down his prey as his own knowledge was tested at the front of the room.

The group found the lesson was a fun and entertaining way of revising and broadening their knowledge. Thanks to Mrs Mackinnon for her brilliant lesson idea.

Mr Kearney



Signed Singing

Last week, a group of civic awardees went to Foxfield School to perform their signed rendition of I'm dreaming of a White Christmas. We all got festively dressed up and had a fantastic time!

There were lots of other schools taking part in the Christmas Signalong and there was a big stage but we fought off our nerves and signed our hearts out with big smiles.

I was immensely proud of how well behaved and committed our year 7 civic awardees were throughout the rehearsals and the performance. Well done everyone.



Look out for our Signing Choir at forthcoming events at School - don't stop us now!

Mrs Cooper-Shone



Celebration Evening 2016

This year's Celebration Evening was a fantastic occasion celebrating the achievements of our last year's Year 11 and Sixth Form. We were really pleased to see many of our students who left us in July returning with exciting tales of their new experiences at FE College and apprenticeships.

It was great to have a visit from Connor McL who left Clare Mount in July 2013 and since taking a variety of BTECs at Wirral Met is now applying to University to do Performing Arts (obviously the inspiration from Shakespeare Festival and his lovely Drama Teacher Ms MacLean).



During drinks and nibbles time, some of our leavers shared their experiences with the students and parents / carers of our current Sixth Form, answering their questions and providing them with confidence and inspiration to look at courses beyond Clare Mount.



The main part of the Evening began with a celebration of the outstanding qualifications that Clare Mount's students achieved in Summer 2016 and the progress every year.

Increase in Actual Total Point Scores for Clare Mount

▶ 2014	2131
▶ 2015	2905
▶ 2016	4017

% of students achieving 5 GCSEs or equivalents or more

- ▶ in 2014, **32%**
- ▶ in 2015, **38%**
- ▶ in 2016, **59%**

This has resulted in Clare Mount being placed in the top 1% of all schools nationally for Attainment / Progress 8 CVA

The Evening then continued with our celebration of students' achievements in individual subjects and Heads of Departments having the opportunity to express how proud they are of all our students for developing the resilience to take examinations in a wide range of qualifications.



Our special guest for the Evening was the Head Chef of The Viking in West Kirby. Alex gave a truly inspirational talk about how he had started with a Grade D in Catering and then through work experience placements and continuous hard work had got to where he is now – and still only 25!

Our students then came up for their Record of Achievements and very sincere hand shakes with our leavers able to take home a large collection of certificates to show off all their successes to future colleges and employers.



A big thank you to Mrs Patrick who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the Records of Achievement were ready for the night.

Also Thank You to The Viking who donated a meal for 2 and a bottle of wine for our raffle.

And a massive thank you to you, the parents, carers and other members of your families who came to celebrate your children's success with us. It was a great night!

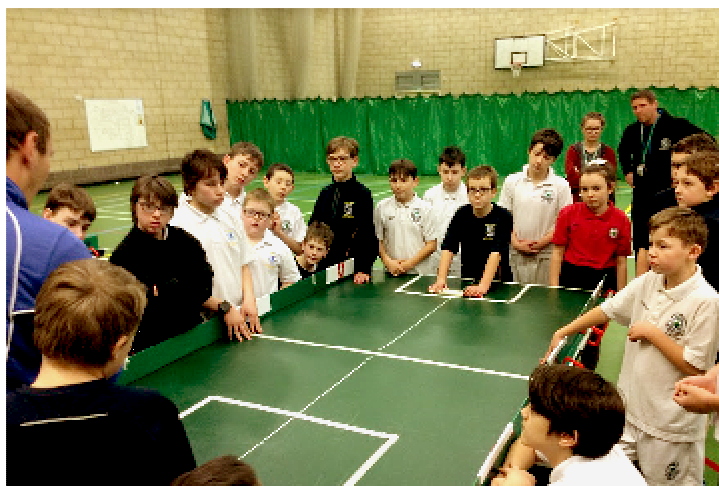


Clare Mount Travels

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College's Youth Sport Trust Wheelchair Sport for Schools is based at Woodchurch High School.

45 students from Clare Mount (Year 7 PE students), Bebington High Sports College, Woodchurch High School and St. Michael's and All Angels took

part in table cricket with Cheshire Cricket Board and wheelchair rugby with Sale Sharks in the Community.



Clare Mount's BTEC Sport Level 1 students have been working on their tennis skills at Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre. These sessions are supporting the students' net/wall game skills in their examination course. Students will also be playing and learning skills with students doing the same course at The Kingsway Academy in Wallasey in late December and into the New Year.



Year 11 Sports Leaders worked a full day at Holy Spirit Primary School delivering School Games Level 1 Paralympic Sports such as Boccia, Goalball and Sitting Volleyball. The brilliant Sport Leaders also showed 19 Year 5 and year 6 Play Leaders how to run a variety of activities in their Playground for all year groups.

Well done Year 11 on your excellent leadership skills and for the way you showed the primary students all of the Olympic and Paralympic Values.



Students and Staff Visit Major Sporting Venues in the North West

Thanks to Amelia in Year 11, 40 staff and students enjoyed a day at the Manchester Sports Village which included a tour of the Etihad Stadium and a mini-Olympics at the local athletics track.

The day included a coach to and from Manchester, lunch for all and a chance to even access the press area. Amelia won the amazing prize by writing a story about her love of indoor rowing. Well done.



Also this term Clare Mount has worked with Sale Sharks RFC to deliver the Number Cruncherz programme to over 100 students in school. The project is sponsored by MBNA and combines Maths with PE.

Students experienced sessions of tag rugby, how to budget, and also received 50 tickets to watch Sale vs Gloucester RFC. Students also had the chance to meet some squad players in the Shark Tank before the game.



And talking of Sale Sharks...

On Thursday 24th October, for a second year running, Sale sharks arrived at Clare Mount to great excitement.

Our Years 9, 10, and post 16 were all able to apply maths in a real life setting, through income and expenditure for the rugby club, and then applying those skills to a family budget.



Our rugby team had an opportunity to play some tag rugby and a good time was had by staff and pupils.

The following Friday we travelled to the AJ Bell stadium to watch Sale Sharks versus Wasps in the Anglo-Welsh cup.

Pupils had the chance of seeing players before kick-off and getting autographs on programmes, shirts and even phones!

It was a cold night, but thankfully Sale Sharks came out victorious 17-13 and so we travelled back to the foggy Wirral a happy coach.

Thanks to Mr Keefe and the maths department for helping organise the two days.



Not out!

Our cricketing girls travelled to Bebington High for their first fixture for many months.

Vicky and Mollie, who also captained the side, were making their debuts alongside regulars Kaitlyn, Amelia and Louise. The girls came up against a very

good and well drilled Bebington side but played competitively and showed great character in defeat. All of the girls showed excellent attitudes and some excellent batting, bowling and fielding was on display.

What was more important was the excellent spirit that the game was played in which was a credit to Bebington High School and their staff. Exciting developments in Cheshire Disability Cricket mean that these girls, who were a credit to our school, should see lots more opportunities to develop their skills in the coming months.

Thanks to Mr White again for his support. We are both excited about what 2016-2017 will bring for our talented squad of cricketing students. I am proud of all the players as always.

Mr Kearney



Active Kids for All

As an Inclusion Lead School for the Youth Sport Trust Mr Keefe was invited to a select gathering of key partners, including MPs, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Baroness Sue Campbell and Paralympian Ellie Simmonds to celebrate the success of the Sainsbury's Active Kids for All programme at The House of Lords.

Ellie Simmonds said: "Inclusion in school is a vital first step on what can be an exciting journey for young people and which could eventually lead to a gold medal."



Sarah Warby, Marketing Director for Sainsbury's, commented: "It's great to see the impact this initiative has had on teachers' ability to teach inclusive PE lessons. We're incredibly proud of the Active Kids for All Inclusive PE Training Programme, which has proved a really effective way to continue the momentum of the success in 2012 in raising awareness of disabled sport among young people."



Since the training began, tutors have delivered more than 575 workshops across the UK. Over 8,500 teachers, trainee teachers and school staff have attended one of the free workshops. It is estimated that 200,000 young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have benefitted. External evaluation shows a significant and sustained impact on participants' confidence and competence in delivering inclusive PE.

Clare Mount has played a significant part in the programme.



Shakespeare Schools Festival 2016

On the 15th November fifteen talented students took to the stage of New Brighton's Floral Pavilion Theatre to perform our version of Macbeth as part of the Shakespeare Schools' Festival.

Once again, the students were an absolute credit to Clare Mount and enchanted the audience with their sense of fun, energy and commitment.

Here are some reviews of our performance:

From the witches entry as cleaning ladies (inspired), to the wonderful use of music (I will never hear 'Making Your Mind Up' at a wedding disco again without thinking of Macbeth trying to decide whether to kill Duncan or not!) and the incredibly committed performances from your cast - it was an absolute triumph.

The cast created a wonderful sense of mischief and magic, so vital to this play..... This was a cracking all-singing, all dancing laugh a minute Macbeth, a huge congratulations to the whole cast.... I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

Freddie Machin
SSF Stage director

The storytelling was so clear throughout and the performances were magnificent. Obviously, your Macbeth was incredible, but I was really moved by your Macduff too - the quality of acting when he learnt that his family had died was stunning. The entire ensemble did you proud.

Stuart Rathe
Education Manager SSF

What I thought was particularly impressive was the brilliant mix of comedy and music with some genuinely creepy moments, like Banquo's masked ghost, Lady Macbeth being carried off to her death and the sudden jump-scare appearance of the apparition from the witches' cauldron.

Massive 'Congratulations' to the Cast and Company

School Year

2016 – 17

Open	Monday 9 th January 2017
Close for half-term	Friday 17 th February 2017
Open	Monday 27 th February 2017
Close for Spring Break	Friday 31 st March 2017
Open	Tuesday 18 th April 2017
<i>Closed (May Day)</i>	<i>Monday 1st May 2017</i>
Close for half-term	Friday 26 th May 2017
Open	Monday 5 th June 2017
<i>Closed to Students</i>	<i>Friday 23rd June 2017</i> <i>(not May 15th as previously advised)</i>
Close	Tuesday 25 th July 2017

All staff training days incorporated.

Advance Warning for 2017-18 & 2018-19

<i>Open (Staff only)</i>	<i>Mon 4th September 2017</i>
<i>Open (Students)</i>	<i>Tue 5th September 2017</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 20th October 2017</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 30th October 2017</i>
<i>Close for Christmas</i>	<i>Friday 22nd December 2017</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 8th January 2018</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 16th February 2018</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 26th February 2018</i>
<i>Close for Spring Break</i>	<i>Thursday 29th March 2018</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 16th April 2018</i>
<i>Closed (May Day)</i>	<i>Monday 7th May 2018</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 25th May 2018</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 4th June 2018</i>
<i>Close for Summer Break</i>	<i>Tuesday 24th July 2018</i>
<i>Open (Staff only)</i>	<i>Mon 3rd September 2018</i>
<i>Open (Students)</i>	<i>Tue 4th September 2018</i>

Return to School for Students

Monday 9th January 2017

Clare Mount Remembers

2016 is an important year to remember those who gave their lives in the First World War.

The staff and students remembered in particular those who are commemorated on the Bidston War Memorial.

The year 9 students contributed with readings from Michael, Mollie, Ben, Fil, and Reeve. Nicholas and Jamie laid the wreath and Sam, James and Alex from Upper school also made it a very special assembly.

Mrs Brewer

