



# Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

Telephone: 0151 606 9440

[www.claremount.org](http://www.claremount.org)



Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

# NEWSLETTER

Keeping You Informed, Connected and Involved

Edition: Spring Half-Term 2026





## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Head Teachers message
- Parent feedback
- Our Values - It's Our RIGHT
- Mental health support
- Personal development & well-being
- Kenya trip update
- Sporting success
- Preparation for adulthood
- Work experience
- CM Radio
- Art competition
- ...and much more!

## KEY EVENTS

- Half Term: 16 Feb 2026
- Easter Beak: 30 Mar 2026
- Bank Holiday: 04 May 2026

## REACH US

- 0151 606 9440
- [schooloffice@claremount.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@claremount.wirral.sch.uk)



Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

# NEWSLETTER

Keeping You Informed, Connected and Involved



## “ A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER

Mr D. Keefe

Dear Parent / Carer / Reader.

Thank you for all the support and positive feedback we have received in recent weeks from you attending either training courses, annual reviews or parents' evenings. Some parent/carer comments are captured below.

We want every child to feel like they belong. If we get the pastoral, social and emotional support right, then we know that our pupils will thrive both in terms of their academic achievement and personal development and well-being.

Our vision that our children see themselves as **'role models and catalysts for change'** has seen a whole range of exciting opportunities this half term. This includes an inspirational whole-school talk and workshops for different year groups from freestyle football Jamie Knight, our first ever ski trip to the snowdome in Manchester, and 22 pupils and 6 staff spending the best part of 2-weeks in Kenya teaching sports and other lessons and helping to build a classroom (see our 'Kenya Trip' page). These opportunities would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff. As one parent commented about the ski trip:

**“I think this is a wonderful opportunity for our children and one that some parents couldn't give their children. You are expanding their opportunities, some of which we could never believe our children could possibly do. Thank you so much for your investment in the children”.**



Our education philosophy is very much driven 'by pupils, for pupils'. The School Council has taken a leading role in this, asking for additional gym equipment to be purchased as well as creating a new mental health poster (see included in newsletter) launched as part of Children's Mental Health Week. It was inspirational to see 16 of our pupils displaying their oracy skills on stage in assembly on Monday, talking about what interests, hobbies and clubs make them feel that Clare Mount is 'our place' and helps develop a greater sense of belonging.



**Clare Mount School Council**

The pupils have also voted for a new set of values for school entitled 'It's our RIGHT', with RIGHT standing for:

- **Respect**
- **Independence**
- **Growth**
- **Happiness**
- **Trust**



The meaning of these values to the pupils is expanded on the 'Our Values - It's Our RIGHT' page.

The educational journey of every child at Clare Mount requires the strong foundations of parents, staff and every child working in partnership to achieve together what might otherwise seem impossible. We look forward to continuing to share this journey together.

Kind regards

**Dan Keefe** ”



## **Feedback on our admissions policy from parents:**

“I was reading the updated admissions policy last night, and I just wanted to say how clear and concise it is. I think it is really useful to let parents and carers know exactly the sort of children who will thrive at Clare Mount. Equally, it was refreshing to read who wouldn't be suited to the school. It is a minefield for SEND parents and I feel other schools would really benefit from similar policies.

I was also looking at some of the numbers, on roll, at other local secondary schools (mainstream). Parents and carers may not realise that Clare Mount isn't much smaller than some local high schools.

Clare Mount is an outstanding school in every way (my opinion as well as the view of Ofsted). I am an avid believer in the system working from the top down. If SLT lead by example, the rest naturally flows.

Thank you for all you and the team do. There is a touch of magic at Clare Mount that I have never felt anywhere else”. **Parent comment, 2026.**

## **Feedback on ADHD training offered in school to parents:**

“This session was so helpful and I enjoyed it. I appreciate the school putting support and information sessions on and it is really good to know you're not alone with the struggles and challenges parents face with children with an additional need”.

## **Feedback from P-16 Parents Evening:**

“Clare Mount Sixth form has developed our daughter in many ways. She has found a much greater understanding of life and has developed a higher degree of social interaction which is all credit to the school and teachers. She has found many new friends and formed close links to all teachers, myself and wife have appreciated how this has helped her. I would sincerely encourage any student who has the opportunity to learn in this school to take the chance and grow going forward, kind regards”.



---

## Our Values - It's Our RIGHT

---

**R**espect - for yourself, others and our place.

**I**ndependance - **Taking responsibility** for yourself and your life, without being overly reliant on others.

**G**rowth - **Embracing continuous learning, self-improvement and development.** It's about being open to new experiences, challenges and feedback, and using them as opportunities to evolve and become the best version of yourself.

**H**appiness - **Prioritising joy, well-being and fulfilment.** It's about finding positivity, contentment and meaning in life. Pursuing activities and being with people that bring you joy.

**T**rust - each other to do what we say we will do, be supportive and take responsibility for our own actions.





## Kenya Trip - Independence, Growth, & Happiness

Some of our pupils and teachers went on another brilliant trip to Kenya this month - demonstrating independence and growth. We're happy to share some fantastic photos below, and there will be more to follow in next term's newsletter.





## Mental Health Support Poster

Our new mental health poster was created by the school council to promote the mental health support available to our pupils. The posters will be proudly displayed throughout school.



### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

#### Self-help

Sleep, Hydration, Diet.



Positive thinking, find your hook/passion, and move more.



**RISE UP**

- Repeaters
- Inclusive Teams
- Stress Busters
- Energisers

#### In-school help

Talk to someone you trust within our school community.



Art Therapy and Lego Therapy.



Access support through CCB, CARITAS, HSIS or The Wellbeing Hub on Mon, Tues, Fri in Oasis

People to Talk to:  
Trusted Adults, Mental Health First Aiders and Peer Support

#### Beyond school help

Support is available for you and your family in the wider community.



Wirral Family Toolbox  
[familytoolbox.co.uk](http://familytoolbox.co.uk)

Wirral Branch  
[branchwirral.co.uk](http://branchwirral.co.uk)

SENDLO Wirral  
[sendlowirral.co.uk](http://sendlowirral.co.uk)

Kooth  
[kooth.com](http://kooth.com)  
Free, safe, and anonymous online mental health support

If you urgently need to talk to somebody you can call:  
**CHILDLINE 0800 1111**  
**SAMARITANS 116 123**



## Personal Development & Well-Being

At Clare Mount we promote personal development and well-being, where well-being is at the heart of school life. Last term we had a big focus on movement (move well). This term our focus will be on health eating (live well). The next page shows our 'Menu of the Month' where we are sharing a healthy meal that can be prepared at home by families.

### Well Culture.

Wellbeing is put at the heart of school life and enables everyone to thrive and achieve their potential.



- ♥ School Leadership
- ♥ Wellbeing Measurement
- ♥ Community Engagement
- ♥ Inclusion and Diversity
- ♥ Physical Environment



### Lead Well.

Staff and pupils are empowered to shape and lead their school

- Staff voice and pupil voice
- Workload support
- Professional development
- Wellbeing governance
- Staff wellbeing



### Move Well.

Every pupil is prepared physically and mentally for learning and for life

- Physical education
- Extracurricular provision
- Daily physical activity
- Competitive opportunities
- Activity delivery



### Live Well.

Every pupil is equipped with the essential skills to thrive in a digital world

- Leadership opportunities
- Volunteering
- Educational visits
- Health and wellbeing curriculum
- Mental health support

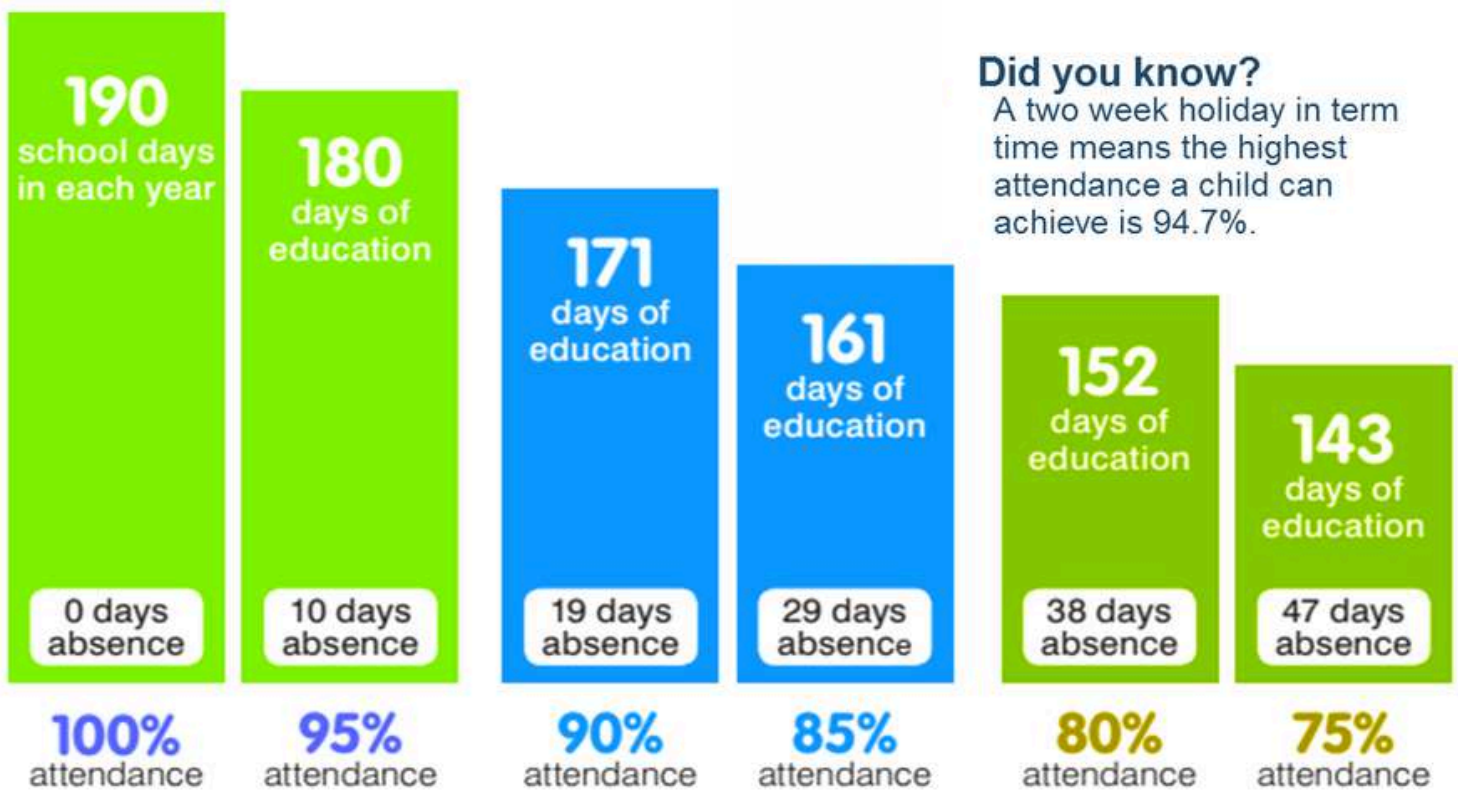


## Every Day Counts

### Every Day Counts



If your child is experiencing emotional barriers to attending school please ensure you talk to the relevant people in school to see how we can support.



“Well Done”

“I’m worried”

“I’m seriously concerned”

Best chance of success

Poor attendance—less chance of success

Very poor attendance—serious impact on education and reduces life chances



## Jamie Knight Visits Clare Mount

Jamie Knight is a professional freestyle footballer who visited school this term. Jamie displayed some fantastic skills during an exciting school assembly and worked with various classes throughout the day.



# MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

CCB can deliver aspects of Inclusion, Personal Development and Well-Being (part of the new Ofsted Framework) allowing every young person to belong & thrive.

We provide therapy for local primary, secondary and alternative education settings in multiple ways, including:



## Qualified & Registered Therapists

offering therapeutic targeted support i.e. low mood, trauma, neurodiverse related challenges.



## Bespoke Formats

1-1 or in smallgroups for peer support



Subsidised/  
part funded  
provision  
available



Specialists in  
therapy from  
age



## Flexible Therapists

on site for fixed periods e.g. one day a week for a term.



Online CBT  
Courses &  
Signposting



For more information please email [contact@ccbmentalhealth.com](mailto:contact@ccbmentalhealth.com) or phone 0151 662 0715

# INCLUSIVE BOXING COACHING

**CCB can deliver aspects of Inclusion, Personal Development and Well-Being (part of the new Ofsted Framework) allowing every young person to belong & thrive.**

**Weekly inclusive boxing-style coaching sessions delivered on-site by our experienced & qualified boxing coaches.**



**Mental Health First Aider Trained**



**For groups of up to**

**10**

**SEND Friendly**



**Ideal for targeted groups** e.g. vulnerable or disaffected



**For girls and boys aged**

**8+**

**All equipment provided**



**For more information please email [contact@ccbmentalhealth.com](mailto:contact@ccbmentalhealth.com) or phone 0151 662 0715**

# FINANCIAL LIFE SKILLS

**Our 7-week programme for Young People covers:**

**Personal Banking**



**Savings & Investment**



**Loans & Credit Cards**



**Rent & Mortgages**



**Income Tax, NI & Budgeting**



**Pensions**



**CCB can deliver aspects of Inclusion, Personal Development and Well-Being (part of the new Ofsted Framework) allowing every young person to belong & thrive.**

**We have delivered to more than 800 students aged 14-19 across the Wirral, improving financial well-being, knowledge, confidence and decision-making.**



**61% of**

**young adults**

surveyed 'did not recall receiving any financial education in school.'

**For more information please email [contact@ccbmentalhealth.com](mailto:contact@ccbmentalhealth.com) or phone 0151 662 0715**



## Menu of the Month

### Miss B's Recipe of the Month

#### Bake a Batch of Bagels

During **Mental Health Week**, Clare Mount was buzzing with positivity — and the Food Rooms were right at the heart of it! On Tuesday evening, the kitchen was filled with new faces as staff came together to learn how to make their very own batch of **homemade bagels**. It was fantastic to see members of the **Maths, PE, TA and Sixth Form teams** rolling up their sleeves, getting stuck in, and trying something completely new.

Bagel-making has quickly become a bit of an obsession — and it's easy to see why! They're delicious, fun to make, and guaranteed to bring plenty of laughter. In fact, the past fortnight has been full of giggles and flour-dusted worktops, as pupils have also had the chance to make their own bagels in Food lessons, bringing energy, creativity and joy into the classroom.

Half-Term Challenge!

**Bake a batch of bagels at home and email your creations to:**

[s.badzire@claremount.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:s.badzire@claremount.wirral.sch.uk)

Who will be crowned our Half-Term Star Baker?





## Art Competition - coming soon

Art for regulation: Each half term Mrs Rain will invite pupils, staff and members of the wider Clare Mount Community to create a drawing / painting on a given theme. The winner of each category will have their work displayed in the foyer of school for half a term. Each half term new art will be displayed in the foyer on a different theme, when the previous artwork will be photographed and join on online gallery on our website. Look out for our theme to be announced next term.

### STAFF



### PUPIL



### COMMUNITY



## ARTIST OF THE HALF TERM



## Clare Mount Celebrates Dodgeball Success



We are delighted to celebrate a fantastic achievement by our pupils at a recent dodgeball competition held at Woodchurch High School. Three teams from Clare Mount School, made up of pupils from Years 8 and 9, competed against four other local schools in a highly competitive tournament.

After an exciting series of matches, all three Clare Mount teams finished joint first, having won the same number of games — an outstanding result and a testament to their teamwork and determination.

Beyond their sporting success, the pupils impressed staff and spectators alike with their excellent sportsmanship.

They represented Clare Mount School superbly, clearly demonstrating the values we promote as a school both on and off the court.

Well done to all involved on this brilliant achievement! 🏆👏

Mr Ritchie



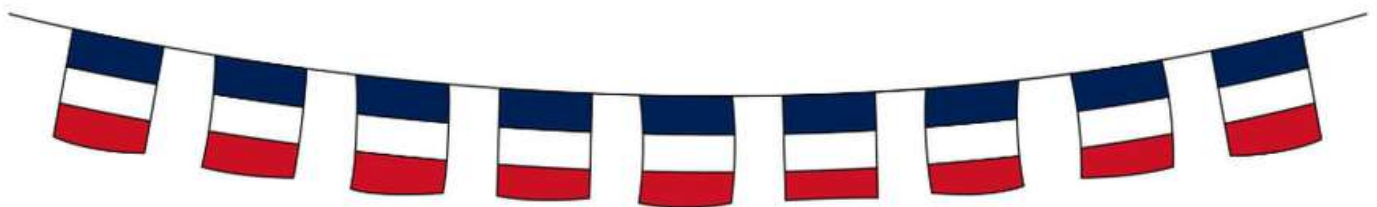


## French



Developing cultural understanding is integral to language lessons.

This half term, Year 9 pupils have been learning about French mealtimes and how to order food in a French café. They acted out their own café scenes with real French breakfast foods and some pupils felt comfortable enough to try out foods that they had never tasted before. Some pupils even tried the French tradition of dunking their croissants into their hot chocolate! Year 8 will have the opportunity to try some French specialities next half term!



The French eat crêpes (pancakes) on the 2nd February to celebrate La Chandeleur, or Candlemas.

On Mardi Gras, when we celebrate Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday, they eat crêpes again, along with waffles and donuts.



## Year 11 GCSE Drama

The Year 11 GCSE drama group are busy preparing their final assessed pieces. They are performing extracts from 'Our Day Out', 'Kindertransport' and 'Teachers'. They should be commended on their professional attitude, hard work and dedication to learning all their lines. Well done Year 11! - Mr Gore





## Dancer of the Half Term



### Shining Bright: Rawhiyah Named 'Dancer of the Half Term'

We are thrilled to celebrate Rawhiyah as our latest Dancer of the Half Term! Rawhiyah is a truly beautiful soul who has impressed everyone with her incredible work ethic and positive attitude throughout this term.

A core value at Clare Mount is developing resilience, and Rawhiyah has demonstrated this in abundance. Even when faced with challenging choreography or difficult movements, she never gives up. Instead, she tackles every hurdle with a determined spirit and always keeps a bright smile on her face.

This half term, Rawhiyah has worked exceptionally hard on her partner work, showing great sensitivity and coordination while collaborating with others. Her progress is a wonderful example of our Character Education: My Personal Best ethos in action.

Well done, Rawhiyah! We are all incredibly proud of your accomplishments and the passion you bring to the dance studio.





## Preparation for Adulthood

Year 9 students have continued to develop their life skills as part of the Preparation for Adulthood curriculum. Students have enjoyed using the kitchen to make snacks and then taking responsibility for washing up, putting dishes away and cleaning surfaces. We have also been practising our ironing skills and learning how to make a bed.

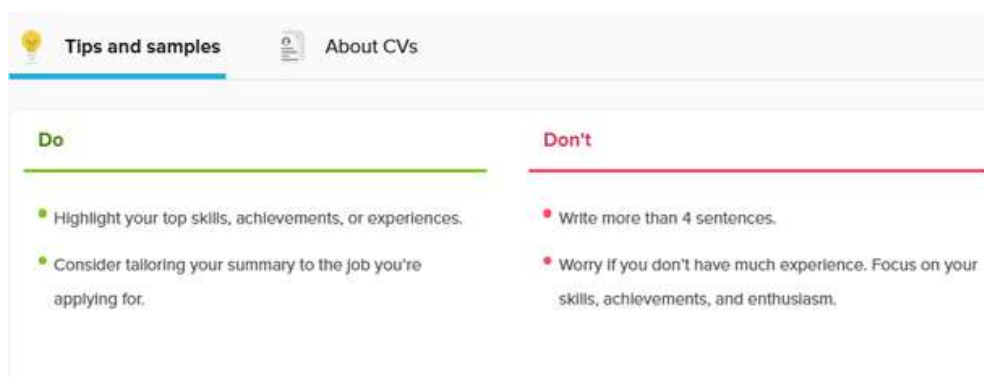




## Preparation for Adulthood - Year 10 CV Writing

This half term pupils in Year 10 have been using our Careers software programme Xello to complete their personal CVs.

Pupils have identified their strengths, created summary statements about themselves and added information such as their skills, hobbies, interests, volunteering experiences, awards and achievements. Next year we will add to our CVs and include information about our Work Experience placement.



### Activities and interests

Give employers a glimpse into your interests and extracurricular activities.

Add



### Volunteer experience

Tell employers about your volunteer experiences.

Add



### Education

Tell employers about your school achievements.

Add



---

## Clare Mount Careers

---

So far this year 5 of our Year 9 forms have attended college visits. Our students have been to Cheshire College in Ellesmere Port and 3 Wirral Met College campuses including Wirral Waters, Conway Park and Twelve Quays. The visits give our students the opportunity to tour a college campus, meet college tutors and ask questions. These visits provide a valuable insight into post-16 education and help prepare our students to make decisions in the future about their next steps.





## Clare Mount Careers





## Scaling New Heights: Year 11 Take on Awesome Walls

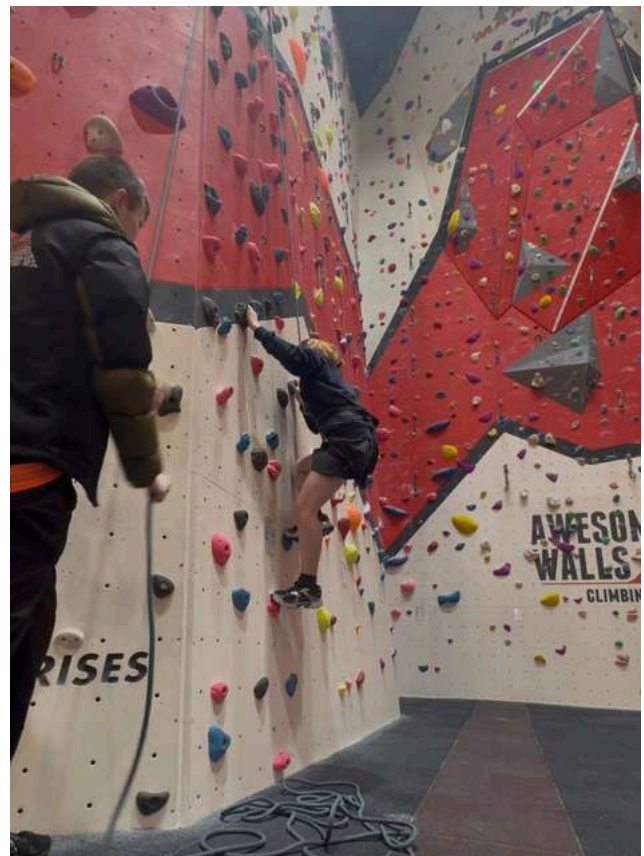
Our Year 11 GCSE PE students recently swapped the classroom for the vertical world at Awesome Walls, putting their physical and mental strength to the ultimate test. As a core part of their GCSE PE assessment, students have been mastering essential skills, including belaying, technical footwork, and complex route planning.

The progress has been nothing short of inspiring. Beyond the physical challenge of 3-point contact and overhangs, our students have demonstrated:

- **Resilience:** Pushing past exhaustion to reach their personal limits.
- **Courage:** Facing the natural fear of heights and leaning into new challenges.
- **Self-Belief:** Developing the confidence to tackle "impossible" routes.
- **Trust:** Building vital teamwork skills while supporting their partners on the ropes.

Rock climbing is "80% mental," and seeing our students apply such sharp focus and problem-solving has been a highlight of the term. This experience is a perfect example of how our students are building lifelong values of perseverance and determination that will serve them well beyond the sports hall.

**Well done to all involved for representing the school with such grit and positivity!**





## Snow Slopes and Success at The Snow Centre!

We are thrilled to report on the fantastic progress made by 37 of our students during their recent skiing taster day at The Snow Centre Manchester. It was a brilliant day filled with snow, laughter, and—as to be expected for first-timers—plenty of falling over!

Our young skiers showed incredible resilience and determination, making massive strides in their skills throughout the session. The atmosphere was electric, with students truly being a credit to the school. One student, Martha, summed up the experience perfectly:

***"Miss, that was just the best day ever, I can't wait to do it again!"***

Martha also took the time to personally thank all the staff for making the day so special. ❤️



## Looking Ahead: Ski Trip February 2027 🏔️

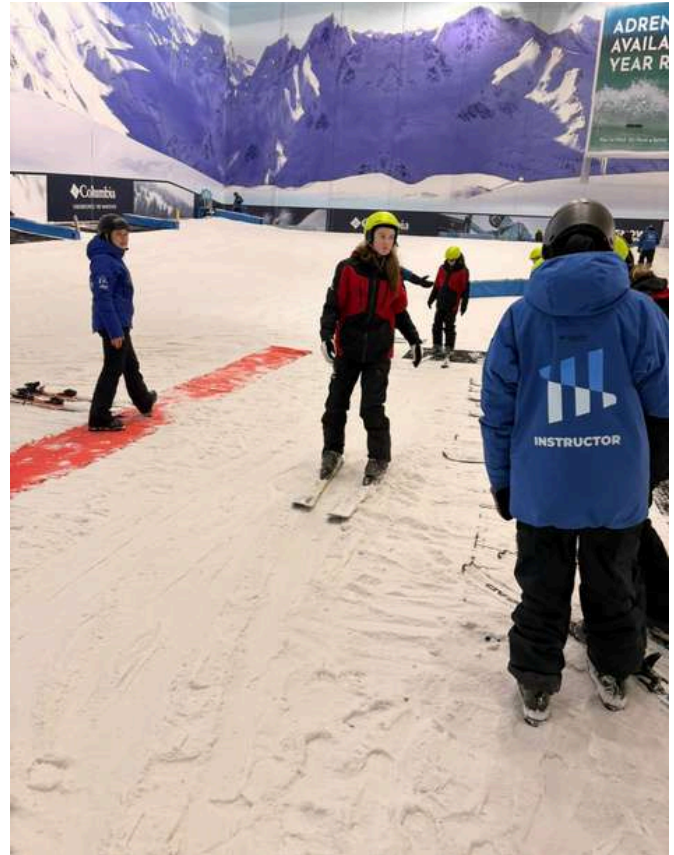
Following the overwhelming success of this taster day, we have decided to run a full **school ski trip in February 2027!** A number of students have already expressed an interest in taking their new skills to the mountains.

### **Interested in your child/ward joining us?**

If you would like more information on the upcoming 2027 trip, please don't hesitate to **contact the school office.** We expect places to be popular, so early enquiries are encouraged!



## Snow Slopes and Success at The Snow Centre!





---

## Clare Mount Community Night: More Than Just a Game!

---

Every Wednesday, the energy at Clare Mount shifts as we kick off our weekly Community Sports Night. What started as a simple gathering for physical activity has seen a massive surge in popularity, with a fantastic number of students regularly lacing up their trainers to take part.

### A Growing Experience 🚀

The evening has recently evolved into a broader Community Night, moving beyond the pitch to include exciting cross-curricular experiences. This expansion allows our students to explore new skills and interests in a fun, relaxed environment that complements their classroom learning.

### Gratitude to Our Team 🌟

This success would not be possible without the dedication of our wonderful staff. We want to extend a massive thank you to the team for giving up their personal time to create such inclusive and impactful opportunities. Their commitment ensures that our students have a safe and vibrant space to grow, socialise, and stay active.

### Looking Ahead: Bridging the Gap 🤝

We are thrilled to announce that we will soon be opening our doors wider! We look forward to:

- **Inviting Parents:** Come and experience the atmosphere firsthand with your children.
- **Welcoming Feeder Primaries:** A vital step in our transition support, allowing future students to connect with their former peers and familiarise themselves with the Clare Mount community.

We can't wait to see you there after half term. If you would like your child to attend community night then please drop us a line.



## Investing in our Team: Staff Wellbeing at Clare Mount



In addition to looking after the mental health of our pupils, our school ethos supports the wellbeing of our staff too, so that we can be the best for our pupils. We believe that a supported, healthy team is fundamental to our success as a **Beacon Well School**.

### A Powerful Start to 2026

This term, our staff had the fantastic opportunity to experience a high-quality **HYROX circuit**, delivered at and by the [Underground Training Station \(UTS\) in Hoylake](#). While it was a challenging workout, the team emerged invigorated and motivated for the half-term ahead.

Furthering our commitment to health, some staff also visited a local **health and wellbeing centre** to explore their diverse range of services. This was a brilliant kick-start to 2026, supporting many in their personal endeavours to be **fitter and healthier** this year.

### Our Ongoing Wellbeing Offer

Beyond these special events, our regular wellbeing initiatives continue to thrive:

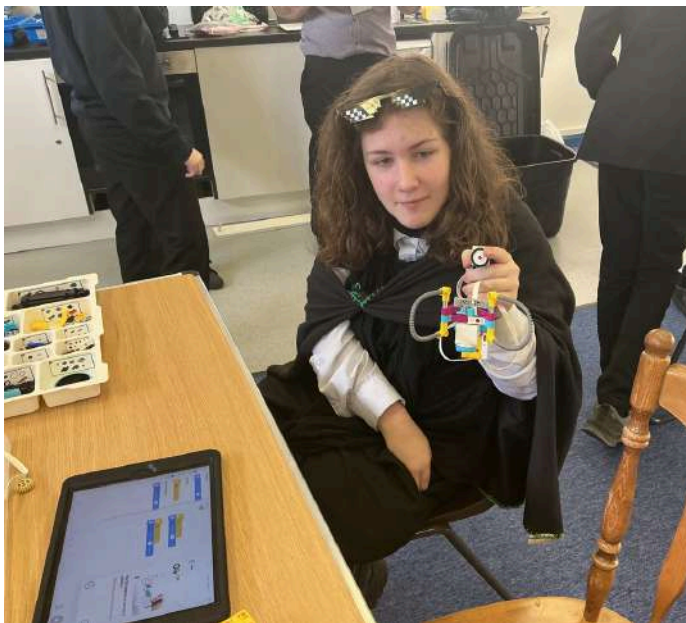
- **Weekly Staff Yoga & HYROX:** Dedicated sessions to help staff decompress and build physical resilience.
- **Staff Sports Evening:** A chance for colleagues to connect and have fun through physical activity.
- **Competitive Teams:** Our staff **football and netball teams** continue to compete regularly against other schools and local teams, fostering a strong sense of community and teamwork.

We are proud that these efforts have been recognised with the **Human Kind Award** for staff wellbeing, ensuring that our entire school community remains at the heart of everything we do.



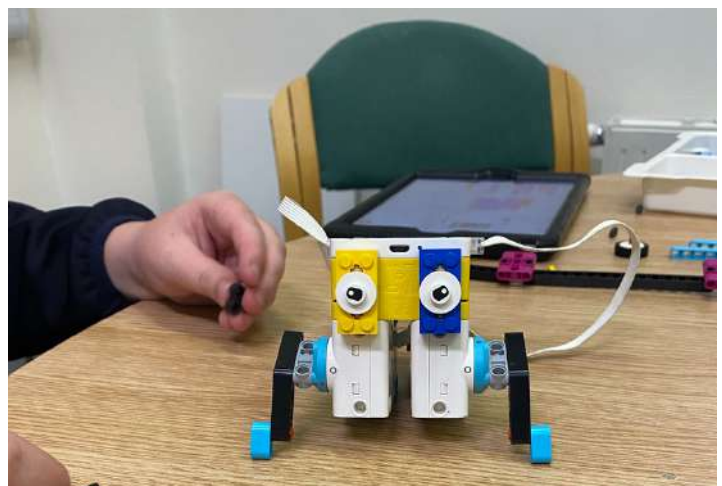
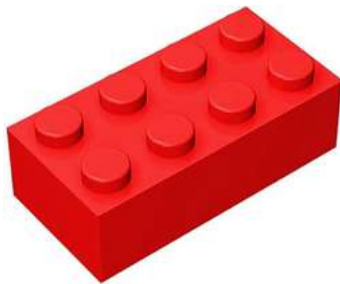
## Hi Impact Lego Spike Design Technology and Computer Workshop

Year 7 have been designing and making structures using Lego Spike resources. Pupils programmed their creations to follow instructions, move and even dance! Pupils were excellent at exploring motors and cause and effect.





## Hi Impact Lego Spike Design Technology and Computer Workshop





## Panathlon Bowling Competition



A group of our Year 9 and 10 pupils recently stepped up to the plate—or rather, the lane—as Sports Leaders for the Panathlon Primary Ten Pin Bowling Event. It was a day filled with strikes, spares, and, most importantly, incredible leadership.

Taking on the role of a Sports Leader is about much more than just keeping score. Our pupils were tasked with managing groups of younger primary school children, many of whom were experiencing a competitive sporting environment for the first time. Our students truly went above and beyond by:

Guiding the younger bowlers through the rules of the game, offering technical tips and constant encouragement

Ensuring every primary pupil, regardless of ability, felt confident and celebrated after every bowl

The impact of their hard work didn't go unnoticed. We received an influx of positive feedback from the Panathlon organisers and visiting primary school teachers.

Events like these highlight the character and community spirit we strive for at our school. Every single pupil involved was a credit to Clare Mount, representing our values with pride.

A huge well done to all the Year 9 and 10 pupils involved! - Mr Freeman



## Champions of the Hardwood: Clare Mount Jests Conquer Greenbank



It has been a whirlwind term for the Clare Mount basketball program. Between a relentless schedule of early morning practices and after-school drills, the team has been pushed to their limits. While “progression” is often a slow, quiet process, this term it has been loud, proud, and undeniably palpable.

The hard work on the court has translated directly into competitive dominance, culminating in a historic stretch of performances.

### **Stepping Up in the Absence of Giants**

On Monday, 19th January, the team travelled to Greenbank Sports College in Liverpool for a gruelling six-team tournament. This was a Key Stage 3 event, which meant we were forced to take the floor without the veteran leadership and “venerable” talents of Hayden.

For many teams, missing a cornerstone player would be a cause for concern. However, this is the Clare Mount Jests. Instead of quaking, the squad saw an opportunity. Every player on the roster stepped up, switching effortlessly into a “game face” persona that was as fearless as it was focused.

### **Standout Performances at Greenbank**

The tournament was a masterclass in teamwork and individual grit:

**Henry:** A literal wall at the defensive end. Henry played with a level of tenacity that far exceeded his stature, shutting down opponents regardless of their size.

**Liv:** The “cool under pressure” award goes to Liv. She brought a calming influence to both ends of the floor, filling the stat sheet across every single category.

**Isaac:** This was the day Isaac’s “patent potential” became reality. He was the engine of our offense, finding teammates with pinpoint accuracy that had spectators drawing comparisons to legends like Earvin “Magic” Johnson and Pete “Pistol” Maravich. His performance firmly planted him in the MVP conversation.

By the end of the day, the Jests stood alone at the top, securing 1st Place Medals with an unblemished record.



## Champions of the Hardwood: Clare Mount Jests Conquer Greenbank

### Back-to-Back Brilliance: Hosting Ridgeway

The celebrations were short-lived, however, as the team was back on the court the very next evening. Despite the physical toll of the tournament, the Jests played host to local powerhouse Ridgeway.

This fixture saw the return of basketball virtuoso Hayden. From the opening tip-off, Hayden's consummate talents were on full display. Leading the team in every statistical category, he proved far too adroit for the opposition to pin down.

Bolstered by the confidence gained at Greenbank, the rest of the squad built upon their previous success to support Hayden's masterclass. The result was another decisive victory, extending the team's incredible unbeaten record to 8 wins and 0 losses.

### A Record of Excellence

Clare Mount is immensely proud to have such dedicated and talented athletes representing the school. Whether it is the "can-do" spirit of the younger players or the veteran leadership of our stalwarts, this team is proving to be a force to be reckoned with.

"Many teams would quake in the absence of such talent; however, this team happens to be the Clare Mount Jests"

Mr J Campbell





## Steam Punk inspired hats by 7CR and 7N

7Cr & 7N have worked hard to produced fantastic Steam Punk inspired hats. Industrial Victorian steam power with futuristic designs.





---

## Year 7 & 8 Futsal

---



Building on the fantastic momentum of the KS4 league, the Year 7 & 8 Futsal Tournament has also made an excellent start to the season. Over the first three weeks, the competition has been vibrant and inclusive, involving lots of pupils and showcasing the immense talent and enthusiasm within our younger year groups.

The energy in the sports hall has been incredible, with teams demonstrating great skill, teamwork, and a real passion for the game. It is particularly magnificent to see our Year 10 leaders volunteering their time to manage and organise their house teams. Their guidance and support have been invaluable, fostering a fantastic spirit and helping the tournament run smoothly.

Currently, Jordan house are leading the way with a perfect record of 3 wins out of 3, showing impressive determination and teamwork. However, with the tournament ongoing, all houses remain in strong contention, and the competition is close.

This event continues to promote the very best of Clare Mount sport: healthy competition, camaraderie across year groups, and tremendous house pride. We look forward to sharing more updates as the tournament progresses.



---

## Girls Active at Clare Mount

---



We are delighted to announce the launch of **Girls Active** at Clare Mount.

Girls Active is a female-led initiative designed to give girls a stronger voice within school life. The programme empowers girls to shape and lead activities that reflect their interests, while helping us better understand and address any barriers they may face in taking part in physical activity and wider school opportunities.

The programme is built around six key principles:

1. Taking a long-term approach to engaging girls
2. Placing self-confidence at the heart of PE and sport
3. Making sport and enrichment activities relevant to girls' lives
4. Recognising the positive influence of friendships
5. Developing role models for the future
6. Empowering girls to design and deliver their PE and sport provision

Our newly appointed **Girls Active Ambassadors** will support the wider female cohort by listening to their views and helping to implement ideas that improve opportunities for girls at Clare Mount.

Each year group is represented by three to four Girls Active ambassadors. We are excited about the positive impact this programme will have and we look forward to sharing updates on our progress throughout the year.

Mrs Corcoran



---

## GLOW Sport Festival for WISSA (Wirral Inclusive School, Sport Association) and our Primary Outreach Schools

---



On Thursday 5th February we welcomed some other secondary schools to take part in a Girls Glow Sport Festival, here at Clare Mount. West Kirby School & College, Weatherhead and Impact school joined us for glow in the dark Kin-ball and Dodgeball. The girls had a great time, participating in sport to support their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, as well as making new friends!

This week we have also hosted some of our primary schools to take part in the same activities. Children from Orrets Meadow, Bidston Avenue Primary, Castleway Primary and Dawpool joined us for glow in dark Kin-ball and dodgeball, led by our fantastic sports leaders. The children had a fantastic time and the staff had great fun too.

Mrs Corcoran



---

## Dodgeball Club

---



Our Dodgeball Club at Clare Mount runs every Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime and continues to attract a large number of enthusiastic students. Participants have shown great progress in their dodgeball skills while also developing strong sportsmanship and teamwork.

The positive energy and commitment from students has been fantastic to see. We're also excited to announce that an interhouse dodgeball competition will be launching next term.



---

## British Triathlon Links

---



### Building an Active Community: Our New Partnership with British Triathlon

Our school is excited to share that we are developing a new partnership with **British Triathlon**, aimed at inspiring greater physical activity and healthier lifestyles across our whole community. This long-term project is rooted in a simple belief: when students and families have more opportunities to move, play and connect, everyone benefits—physically, mentally and socially.

Working alongside British Triathlon, we are expanding the range of activities available to pupils and families, with a focus on the three core elements of triathlon: **swimming, cycling and running/walking**. The goal is to make movement accessible, enjoyable and part of everyday life for all ages and abilities.

A number of exciting initiatives are already in development:

- **Pupil Running Club:** A new weekly club designed to build confidence, stamina and a love of being active outdoors.
- **Community Bike Café:** A welcoming space where families can meet, learn about safe cycling, and take part in group rides.
- **Swim/Indoor Row, Cycle and Run Challenge:** A fun, inclusive event encouraging participants to try new activities and set personal goals.
- **Increased Access to Swimming:** We are in discussions to secure additional swim time at **Leasowe Swimming Pool**, helping more students and families enjoy the water regularly.

This partnership marks the beginning of a sustained effort to support the physical and mental wellbeing of our students, their families and the wider community. By building these opportunities together, we hope to create a culture where being active is not just encouraged—but celebrated.

More updates will follow as each project takes shape. It's an exciting journey, and we look forward to seeing our community thrive through movement.



## Art Trip to Tattenhall



Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Art students recently took part in skills-based workshops at Tattenhall, Conway Centres.

During the visit, students enjoyed a day of creative exploration, developing techniques ranging from sketching and shading to continuous line drawing, illustration and watercolour.

The experience provided valuable opportunities to build confidence, refine artistic skills and gain inspiration outside the classroom.





## Clive Watkin Christmas Art Competition



Students from Clare Mount took part in the Clive Watkins Christmas Art Competition, creating pictures to be displayed in the window as part of the Christmas display. Members of the public voted for their favourites and selected three winners.

Well done to everyone who took part and our winners – Ava-May , Leo and Finley.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Bowden at Clive Watkin for inviting Clare Mount students take part.



---

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

---



### Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Autumn Term Pathway Update

We are delighted to share the exciting start that both Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have made on their Duke of Edinburgh's Award journeys this term!

#### **Year 10 – Progressing on Their DofE Pathway**

Our new Year 10 cohort have made excellent progress within their introductory carousel of activities, each designed to build confidence, independence and teamwork. Pupils have now moved on to their next rotation, taking the skills they've learned forward. We are particularly thrilled to announce a fantastic new opportunity:

- **Level 1 Award Forestry Skills**

A group of our Year 10 participants from Pathway 1 have now begun a formal Level 1 Award in Forestry Skills. This is an incredible chance for pupils to gain accredited, hands-on experience in woodland management, tree identification, and sustainable conservation practices. Not only does this develop practical environmental stewardship, but it also nurtures resilience, teamwork, and a tangible connection to the natural world—core values of both the DofE and our school community. This qualification enriches their Skills and Physical sections, providing them with a certified achievement that builds their CV and fosters a lasting sense of responsibility towards our local environment.

#### **Year 11 – Moving Forward on Their Qualification Pathway**

The commitment and enthusiasm shown by all our DofE participants continue to impress. We look forward to sharing more updates as they progress through their awards!



## Reminder: World Book Day - 5<sup>th</sup> March



A reminder that World Book Day will be celebrated in school on Wednesday 5th March. Pupils are welcome to come to school dressed as a character from a book to help us celebrate the day.

WORLD  
**BOOK**  
DAY<sup>®</sup>

5 MARCH 2026



## The Material World Science Show

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February we were lucky enough to have a visit from the Altru Theatre Group.

In 45 minutes they took Year 9 and three classes from Year 7 through the history and properties of materials, linking this to how atomic structures affects the way materials behave before exploring some of the jobs an engineer might do.



Students helping to make a model water molecule



Modelling how atoms move in a liquid using yoga balls



---

## Lost Property Notice

---



Our lost property area is feeling a little overwhelmed at the moment and is full of unlabelled uniforms—jumpers, jackets, sports tops, and more!

We'd love to reunite these items with their owners, but without names it can be tricky. A quick label makes a huge difference and helps lost items find their way home much faster.

To help us out, we kindly ask that you:

- Pop a name label on all uniform items (including sports gear and outer layers)
- Encourage young people to check lost property if something goes missing
- Have a quick look through lost property from time to time—there may be a familiar item waiting there!

Thank you so much for your help and support. A little labelling goes a long way and keeps our lost property area (and everyone's uniforms!) under control 😊



## Year 11 Work Experience

Year 11s did us so proud with a fantastic week of work experience.

It was a successful year enjoyed by all of our students.

This year, we had 17 new work placements, we had lots of different job roles including PE Technicians, Retail Assistants, Office Admin, Florist, Construction Assistant Classroom Assistant, Sports Assistant, Body Workshop Assistant, Hotel Assistant, and a Trainee IT Engineer, plus many more!



Rowan—Magenta Living



Harley—The Engineering College



## Year 11 Work Experience



Thomas—Proper Geeks



Farm Group



Radio Station Group - Radio Clatterbridge



---

## Year 11 Work Experience

---

We have had excellent feedback from the employers this year here is an example of some of the comments.

“Taylor arrived to work on time and always ready to learn every day. He was wanting to know all different aspects of the business and was very intuitive. Taylor was a fantastic gentleman to have around and was very polite throughout. We at British Blue Tours wish Taylor the very best with his future!”

“Lily was an absolute pleasure to have in our day centre. She was reliable with excellent timekeeping and really come out of her shell by the end of the first day. The clients enjoyed her company as she was chatty and engaging well with various activities and helping other staff with general tasks. She always has a smile on her face which helped others to feel comfortable around her. Lily has become comfortable initiating and completing tasks as the week progressed and has been a wonderful addition to Age UK WLS this week”

“Isla has been a lovely addition to our classroom this week. She has been in school every day with a smile on her face and a willingness to accept instruction. By the second day, she was tidying the classroom at break time and throughout the day without being asked which was extremely appreciated! In such a short space of time, she formed lovely relationships with several of the children in particular. She joined in with stories, dance lessons, arts and crafts and modelled appropriate behaviour and language throughout. It was especially wonderful to see her grow in confidence over the week, and to become more comfortable around staff and the children. We would welcome Isla back any time, and we will miss her next week” St Peters Catholic Primary School.

“Luke has become a really good team player. He works hard at any task given and has approached these in a mature manner. Tasks given have included, setting up equipment for lessons and putting equipment away safely and keeping teaching areas tidy at all times. Luke has been able to communicate ideas effectively and is able to listen to and follow instructions well when completing tasks. Luke has an excellent punctuality record at Woodchurch High School”

Well Done Year 11, you have made us very proud!!!!

Miss K Magnall WRL Coordinator and Miss Webster



## Family Hubs Parent Carer Panel

### HAVE YOUR SAY... JOIN WIRRAL'S PARENT CARER PANEL!

**Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person aged 0–19 (or up to 25 with SEND)? We want to hear from you!**

We're inviting parents and carers from all walks of life to join our Family Hub Parent Carer Panel and help shape the services that support families across Wirral.

#### Why get involved?

- Influence how services are designed and delivered
- Share your experience to help shape support that works for local families
- Help identify what's working, what's missing, and what could be better
- Meet other parents and carers like you

#### What you'll get

- A chance to connect with other families
- A say in projects and plans for Family Hubs
- Refreshments at every session
- A Family Hubs lanyard and membership ID

#### Ready to join in?

Scan the QR code or email us at [familyhubs@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubs@wirral.gov.uk)





## Litter Pickers

A big shout-out to our dedicated group of Year 8 students who have been going above and beyond every single lunchtime to keep our school grounds spotless! Thank you for taking care of our environment; we are incredibly proud of you all!





## KS4 Football Tournament Success at Greenbank Sports College

### KS4 Football Tournament Success at Greenbank Sports College

After a strong opening round in November, our Key Stage 4 footballers returned for the second half of the league format on Friday, January 16th.

Clare Mount started the day in 4th place with 4 points already on the board. Despite a narrow 1-0 loss in their opening game against Abbot's Lea, the team showed incredible spirit. They went on to win their next three consecutive league games, a streak that saw them climb the table to finish 2nd overall.

### The Cup Final

This impressive comeback secured Clare Mount a place in the Top Cup Final. With all the schools watching, Clare Mount dominated the match against Childwall Abbey from start to finish. However, in a game of fine margins, we were sadly beaten 1-0 to finish as the tournament runners-up.

### Standout Performances

The attitude shown by all the boys throughout the tournament was fantastic. It was a pleasure to watch their performances improve over the two days of competition. A huge well done to our goal scorers:

- Ryan
- Alfie
- Jack

Congratulations to the whole squad for a superb effort!





---

## Clare Mount Cricket Group

---

A progressive half term for the cricket group with a number of players again included in the county squads and entrance into the mainstream Cheshire schools local tournaments, the first time for a number of years, which we will also host in our Sports Hall on Friday 27th February for Under 13s and Friday 6th March for Under 15s. We are also playing in a tournament on Wednesday 18th March, again at Clare Mount against schools across Merseyside.

Clare Mount recently featured in an article on the Cheshire Cricket Board website which showcases our Cricket Academy as the only one of its kind in Cheshire and potentially in England.

Here is the link to the article:

<https://www.cheshirecricketboard.co.uk/clare-mount-school-leading-the-way-in-inclusive-cricket-across-cheshire/>

Recognition for this fantastic group of young people is now coming in and we are excited to feature in the State School Stokes/Knight Tournament, organised by the MCC and ECB, which is, again, a huge feather in the cap of the ability of these young players. Our inaugural fixture, which will be played TBC, will be released in the next month or so.

We are sourcing kit which will provide an identity for the players who represent the school and this should allow the players to be Role Models and, by the sheer nature of tournaments and recognition, truly Catalysts for Change.

Thanks to the coaches (Matthew, Reeve, Pete and Josh) for their excellent work and thanks to the parents/carers for your support"

Please find the Cheshire Cricket Board article below...





---

## Cheshire Cricket Board Article

---

### Clare Mount School Leading the Way in Inclusive Cricket Across Cheshire

Disabilities, EDI / By David Sharp

Clare Mount School in Wirral continues to lead the way in providing inclusive cricket opportunities for pupils with autism and learning needs, supporting Cheshire Cricket Board's commitment to ensuring cricket is accessible to all.



Over the past two decades, Clare Mount School has been breaking down barriers, with a number of past and present pupils representing Cheshire Pan Disability squads. This includes Mark O'Brian, who went on to represent the England Learning Disability Team between 2005 and 2012, highlighting the strength of the school's inclusive cricket pathway.

In the last three years, the school has established a Cricket Academy, running every Tuesday after school, to offer regular opportunities for pupils to enjoy and access cricket. The academy has been driven by teacher and lead cricket coach Paul Kearney, whose passion and dedication have been central to creating meaningful cricket opportunities within the school.



---

## Cheshire Cricket Board Article

---

Over the past two decades, Clare Mount School has been breaking down barriers, with a number of past and present pupils representing Cheshire Pan Disability squads. This includes Mark O'Brian, who went on to represent the England Learning Disability Team between 2005 and 2012, highlighting the strength of the school's inclusive cricket pathway.

In the last three years, the school has established a Cricket Academy, running every Tuesday after school, to offer regular opportunities for pupils to enjoy and access cricket. The academy has been driven by teacher and lead cricket coach Paul Kearney, whose passion and dedication have been central to creating meaningful cricket opportunities within the school.



Paul explained: "The cricket academy became more than a dream for me as I was troubled by the notion that just because someone attended our school then they couldn't enjoy and improve at the game I love.

"As someone who isn't from a 'traditional' cricketing background and who is passionate about removing barriers to achievement, it has been a pleasure to see how the academy has helped develop the young people I am fortunate to work with. Matthew O'Connell is a great example of this journey, having attended our school and gone on to break down barriers to become a successful cricket coach in his own right. I am lucky to have him as part of the team, alongside Josh Basey and Pete Jones."



## Cheshire Cricket Board Article

Having witnessed his pupils develop both as cricketers and young people, Paul has urged other SEND schools across the country to copy the Clare Mount model. He said: “The students have developed a strong sense of camaraderie, with friendships forming that have helped them grow socially and become more confident in themselves. Alongside their significant improvement in ability, this is why the programme should be adapted across the country and beyond. The students are now excellent cricketers, with some playing at our affiliated club, Upton, among others. I am excited about just how far we can take this initiative as a way of developing not only the sportsperson, but also the individual.”



Dan Keefe, Headteacher at Clare Mount School, said: “Cricket has always played an important role at Clare Mount, supported by dedicated and passionate staff led by Mr Kearney, who understand the sense of belonging and togetherness the sport can bring. With a daily lunchtime club and a weekly cricket academy, supported by inspirational former pupil Matt O’Connell, our pupils see cricket as a sanctuary. The pupils have continued to improve, with seven now in the County squad and a growing number involved. We are extremely proud of the programme and look forward to its continued success.”



## Wallasey Manor Tennis Club

**TRY TENNIS FOR FREE**  
**AT OUR OPEN DAYS!**  
**WALLASEY MANOR TENNIS CLUB**  
 KINGSWAY, WALLASEY CH45 4PL

**FRI 20TH MARCH**

<u>Time   Ages</u>	<u>Time   Ages</u>
16.15–17.00   5–9	9–9.45am   5–9
17.00–18.00   9–11	9.45–10.45am   9–11
18.00   Fun tennis (4–11)	10.45–11.45am   12+
& Adult social doubles (12+)	All morn   Adult social play

**SUN 22ND MARCH**

**BBQ AND BAR OPEN!**

**COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN**



**NIC@AGAMEACADEMY.CO.UK**  
**WALLASEYTENNIS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK**





## Clare Mount Former Students (Alumni) Catch-Up



On Wednesday 11th February, we were delighted to welcome back some of our former students for a special 'catch-up' to launch our Alumni Project. For many of the visitors, this was the first time they've seen their 'old' school in its new guise - Clare Mount 2.0!!! It was a wonderful, emotional afternoon as the staff got to hear all the stories about life after Clare Mount.

Our Alumni Project is being coordinated by CCB Mental Health and through their expertise and fundraising skills, they are now able to offer our community:

- Financial Life Skills
- SEND Training and Support
- Counselling
- Employability Skills Training (including CV writing, Interview Techniques, Job Applications and Work Experience / Volunteering)
- Sport and Physical Activity (Football and Boxing)

If you would like any more information about any of the above opportunities, email [contact@ccbmentalhealth.com](mailto:contact@ccbmentalhealth.com) or phone 0151 662 0715

The afternoon concluded with our former students joining some of our current students and staff for Community Night. This event will definitely be repeated so look out for the invite!

Mr Byrne



---

## Forest School

---



Our Forest School area has been transformed into a year-round resource with the addition of a new fence and permanent weatherproof shelter. This space is now formally promoted for increased curricular and pastoral use. Its accessibility is no longer weather-dependent, removing a key barrier outdoor learning.

New Initiative: A Forest School Club will launch after half term. Staff will invite children to participate - we can't wait to make great use of our new area.

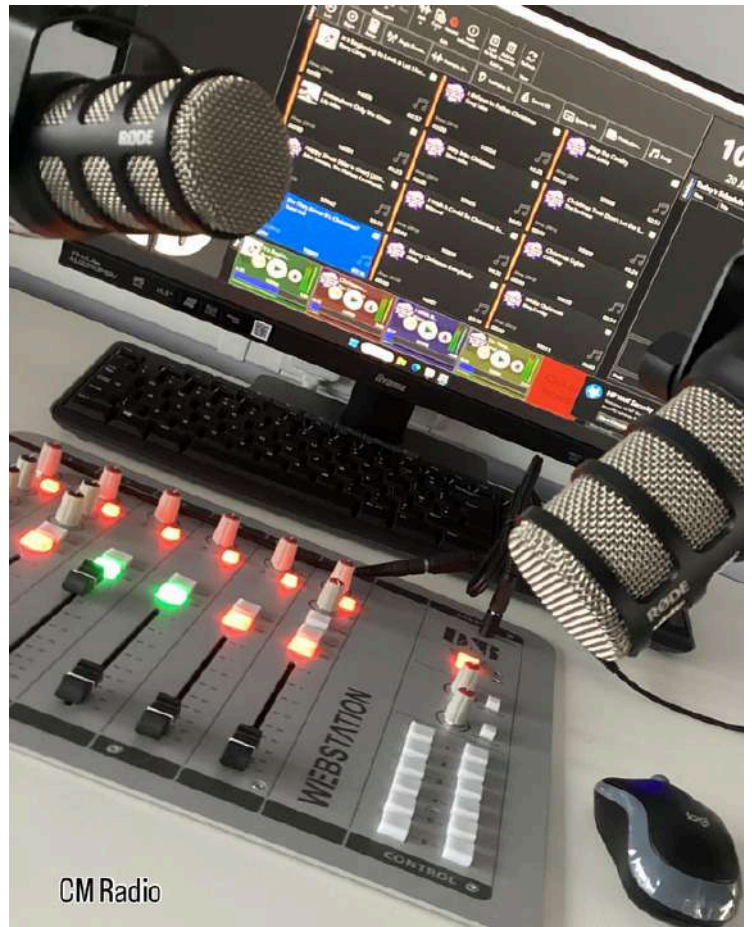


## CM Radio: Tune In and Turn Up!

Excitement is building at Clare Mount School as we prepare to launch our brand new radio station, CM Radio, this March! Get ready to tune in to a fresh new sound created by students, for students.

The journey to bring CM Radio to life began with a series of enthusiastic meetings, bringing together a dedicated team of staff and students eager to make this vision a reality. From these initial production sessions, the core production team quickly took shape, laying the groundwork for what promises to be a fantastic addition to school life.

Leading the charge as **Producers** are the dynamic duo of **Mrs. Courtney and Miss Newton**, whose guidance and expertise have been invaluable in shaping the station's direction. They're supported by a talented team of **Assistant Producers, Ash and Joe**, who are already demonstrating their knack for organisation and creative input.



CM Radio

When CM Radio hits the airwaves, you'll be hearing from our charismatic **presenters, Max Lamb and Tom**, who are busy preparing engaging content to keep you entertained and informed. Behind the scenes, ensuring our online presence is top-notch and keeping us all up-to-date with the latest school news, is our dedicated **Journalist and Web Manager, Josh**. And for all you music lovers, **Holly** has taken on the crucial role of **Music Director**, curating the perfect playlists to get your feet tapping and your spirits high.

The team has been working tirelessly to develop exciting segments, discuss show formats, and plan the technical aspects of broadcasting. There's a real buzz in the air as everyone collaborates, bringing their unique skills and passions to the forefront.



---

## CM Radio: Tune In and Turn Up!

---

"We're incredibly excited about CM Radio," says Mrs. Courtney. "It's a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop valuable skills in broadcasting, journalism, and teamwork, all while creating something truly special for the whole school community."

Miss Newton adds, "The commitment and enthusiasm of the students involved have been truly inspiring. We can't wait for everyone to hear what they've been working on!"

With the launch just around the corner, Clare Mount is abuzz with anticipation. Get ready to embrace the sounds of your school, brought to you by the incredible talent of our students.

**So mark your calendars for March, and get ready to Turn It Up with CM Radio!**





## Term Dates

### Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025	
<b>Open</b>	Monday 1st September to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 <i>*School closed to students Monday 1st September (INSET day). Year 7 &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Form commence Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Years 8 to 11 commence Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</i>
<b>October Half-term</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
<b>Open</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 <i>*School closed to students Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (INSET)</i>
<b>Christmas break</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026
Spring Term 2026	
<b>Open</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 <i>*School closed to students Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January (INSET)</i>
<b>February Half-term</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Open</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Spring Break</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Summer Term 2026	
<b>Open</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>May Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Whit Bank Holiday and half term</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Open</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026* <i>*School closed to students Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 (INSET)</i>

**INSET DAYS (school closed to students):**

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026