

CHURCH LAWTON SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER
2024

AN AMBITIOUS SCHOOL FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN



OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a world that works for autistic children and young people, by providing an exceptional educational offer, so that they achieve success now and are well-prepared for adulthood.

COURAGE
DETERMINATION
TEAMWORK





PRINCIPAL NOTES

Paul Scales

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

As we approach the Christmas break, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderfully busy and rewarding term at Church Lawton Specialist Autism School.

Christmas is a magical time of year, filled with opportunities to embrace joy, wonder, and togetherness. For our students with autism, it can be a chance to explore the season's unique sensory delights, from the glow of twinkling lights to the rhythm of festive music. The true spirit of Christmas shines through in the kindness we share, the traditions we celebrate, and the connections we nurture.

Our Year 11 students sat their mock exams, demonstrating incredible focus and perseverance as they prepare for their next steps.

Similarly, our Year 6 students have been prepping for their SATs. This initiative is part of our commitment to ensuring that our students are well-prepared and committed to achieving academic excellence.

I am delighted to announce that Harry has been chosen as Head Boy and Faith as Head Girl, they did a tremendous job of showing the High Sheriff around the school. In relation to our Student Executives, Ethan and Zach are part of the School Student Leadership Group, representing our school within the Liberty Academy trust.

STUDENT SAFETY

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to address an important matter concerning the safety of our students. I'd like to share a gentle but important reminder about parking safely and responsibly around the school as we have observed some unsafe practices near the school gates.

Specifically, parking in the two lay-bys closest to the gates and using them as turning areas. This space is not only shared with our neighbours but is also heavily trafficked by our students. We kindly ask all parents to avoid parking or turning in the two lay-bys near the school gates, and not arrive before 8.45am which is when the gates will open.

HIGH SHERIFF

We were honoured to welcome Clare Hayward MBE DL, the High Sheriff of Cheshire, to visit our school. Clare's visit was a true highlight, and the thoughtful letter she sent afterward to all of our students was a touching recognition of the vibrant, inclusive, and hardworking environment we have here at Church Lawton. Please see next page.

Please note that school reopens on Monday, 6th January 2025. Your ongoing support is invaluable, and I look forward to the continued success and growth of our school community in the coming year.

Warm wishes,

Paul Scales
Principal



CLARE HAYWARD MBE DL, HIGH SHERIFF OF CHESHIRE

2nd November 2024

Dear Students

Thank you so much for welcoming me into Church Lawton School, I really appreciated having the opportunity to meet with you all.

Please may I thank the Head Boy and the Head Girl for showing me around the school. I was very pleased that they were leading, I think I would have got lost. It was great to hear about the school and what everyone was learning in each classroom. The **Tour** was well orchestrated and certainly gave me an insight to class sizes, topics covered and some great artwork. I was pleased to be able to show some of you the sword too. So, a big thank you for the tour.

Thank you for putting so much time into the preparation and planning for my visit. The **catering** was impressive. The creativity and the cooking skills and knowledge that you all demonstrated was fabulous. I loved the cakes and biscuits for our coffee break and the lunch was fantastic, there was such a variety and all crafted so well. It was delicious. There was a lot of food, sorry I couldn't eat it all! It was also great to hear so many of you cook at home.

It was also great to have the opportunity to present the **Duke of Edinburgh** Awards, please can you pass on my congratulations to the people that achieved their awards. Well done.

Thank you again, I really enjoyed meeting you all.

Yours sincerely

Clare Hayward MBE DL

The High Sheriff of Cheshire



SUBJECTS & TOPICS

Karen Woodall, Deputy Principal

Special Events & Curriculum Days

13/01/25 - Yr6 Mock SATs.

March - Trips to Catalyst Museum to celebrate Science Week.

Donaldson

Maths - Place value, money, multiplication/division.

English - Alternative traditional tales.

Science - Magnets/forces and everyday materials.

Geography - Hot and cold climates (Rainforest in Brazil / Antarctica)

IT - Coding, programming and coordinates Bee Bot activities.

Art & Design - Study of the artist Darrell Wakelam.

Shakespeare

English - Tabula Rasa - recount, persuasion, setting description.

Science - Sound.

History - Anglo Saxons.

RE - Christian beliefs.

Maths - Multiplication and division.

Art and Design - Anglo Saxon - geometric shapes and patterns, woodwork and textiles.

Computers - Selection - control simple circuits and write a program.

PSHE - Living in the wider world, green living.

Darwin & Thompson

Maths - Yr6 - Ratio, algebra, decimals.

Yr7 - Solving problems using all 4 operations, fractions and percentages.

English - Yr6 - Writing for a range of purposes and different audiences.

English - Yr7 - Narrative poetry.

Science - Evolution; animals including humans.

History - Women in history.

Geography - Earth from Space Re-Islam.

Computing - Web page design; spreadsheets.

PSHE - Cooking. Sex and relationship education.



Secondary Maths

Yr 8 – Gamma - Probability, bracket equations.

Yr 9 – Delta and Epsilon - Number, percentages and money.

Yr 10 – Sigma & Omega - Angles and bearings, working with circles.

Yr 11 Theta & Pi - Expanding & Factorising, changing the subject.

Secondary English

Yr 8 - Scene of the Crime - studying crime themed short stories.

Yr 9 - Taking a Stand - debating and expressing viewpoints.

Yr 10 – Macbeth.

Yr 11 – English Language Paper 1.

Secondary History

Yr 8 – Elizabeth I and her people.

Yr 9 – Industry and Empire .

Yr 10 - Restoration England 1660-1685.

Yr 11 - Revision - Power and the people C1170 on.

Secondary Science

Yr 8 - Acids & indicators, metals & non-metals and the Periodic Table.

Yr 9 - Inheritance and breathing.

Yr 10 - Energy in physics, energy in biology and infection & response.

Yr 11 - Homeostasis, antibiotic resistance and classification.

PE

Primary- Gross motor development, alternative sports, striking and fielding games.

Middle – Alternative sports, net and wall games.

Secondary- Net and wall games.

Secondary RE

Yr 8 – Sikhism.

Yr 9 – Buddhism.

BTEC Food

Winter warmer recipes.

Secondary Business Studies

Y10 GCSE - External influences on Business.



Secondary Computer Science

Y8 Gamma - History of gaming

Y9 Epsilon & Delta - Python programming with Turtle.

Y10 - Computer networks, connections, and protocols.

Y11 - Revision.

Secondary Art & Design

KS3 groups – 1. Textiles, embellishing items. 2. Photography. Composition and colour using the work of Wassily Kandinsky. 3. Designing a theatre set.

GCSE Year 1 - 2D mixed project around the theme of “Abandoned Places,”

BTEC Year 2 – Completion of theatre set then Unit 2- Externally assessed exam unit. Theme TBC.

GCSE Year 2 - Complete final piece. Then begin preparation for exam unit.

GCSE Photography – Landscapes.

Life Skills

KS3 – Travel training.

KS4 – Year 10 – practical cooking.

Year 11 – Enterprise project.

Future Skills

Budgeting & Banking.

Adventure Learning

Middle (am) and Primary (pm) on Fridays – Swimming.

KS3 – Kilnworx Indoor Climbing – Date to be confirmed.



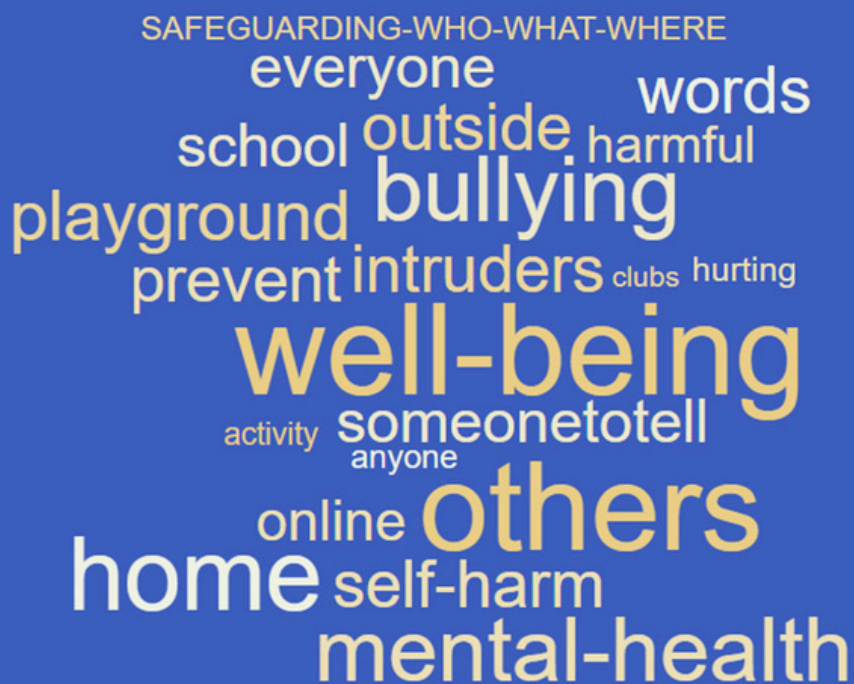


SAFEGUARDING

Lorraine Clegg, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Students in Year 6 and 7 discussed –
What is safeguarding? Who is responsible
for Safeguarding? Where do we need
safeguarding?

Following lengthy discussions, they
created this 'wordle' document which then
featured in the Autumn edition of Cheshire
East Children's Safeguarding Newsletter.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Here at Church Lawton School we want our pupils to thrive and become responsible, respectful and safe learners. By bringing your child to school, you are helping us to do this!

Where possible, please make any Doctor, Dentist or Medical appointments either before or after school hours.

If appointments are during the school day please hand in a copy of your appointment card or letter to the school office, or alternatively, a screenshot via email.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility, and it extends beyond the school gate so please talk to us and tell us why your child is not in school.



Please telephone school by 8.30 a.m. every morning your child is absent, and state the reason for the absence.

LOOK ON MCAS AND SEE WHERE YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE FITS INTO THE CHART BELOW.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Why attendance is important...

BELOW 90%

- **Significantly** reduced chance of success!
- The chances of obtaining five good GCSE grades (grade 4+) is **almost halved!**
- Possible **risk** of fines and court action!

**SERIOUS
BUT VERY
RARE**

95% - 90%

- Up to **one month** of school missed!
- Below 95%: On average, a drop in at least one GCSE grade in **every** subject!

WORRYING

100% - 96%

- High attendance leads to **improved achievement!**
- You are giving your child the **best chance** of success!

**MOST
STUDENTS
ACHIEVE
THIS**

There are 175 non-school days in the academic year -
That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, go shopping and to other appointments.

USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

Cheshire East Free School Meals

Email: freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5012

Unsure about eligibility? We urge you to check and please inform school.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx



Family hubs support children and young people from 0-19 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children/family-hubs/family-hubs.aspx>

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Care-for-children-and-families/Family-Hubs/Staffordshire-Family-Hubs.aspx>

<https://www.stoke.gov.uk/FamilyHubs>



Household Support Funds are available through your Local Authority. If you require assistance with this, please contact the school office.



Household
Support
Fund

The 16-19 Bus Saver card offers a third off the standard adult bus fare for people aged 16-19 on local bus services for journeys that start and/or finish within Cheshire East. Care leavers in Cheshire East aged 18-21 are also entitled to the pass, providing them with free travel on local bus services.

Young people can apply for a pass using the online portal on the Cheshire East website, confirming proof of identity and age.

A smartcard pass will be sent to them to present on the bus each time they travel.

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/buspasses-and-tickets/16-19-bus-saver.aspx

SCHOOL INFORMATION




Church Lawton School Transformation Management Board ('TMB') is made up of representatives from the central trust team and the local area and covers a number of governor roles, please see below. School governors have a key role in setting the strategic direction of a school, ensuring the accountability of teachers and staff, and thinking critically about the welfare of a school.

To see more information on our Governance please visit our website.
[School Governance](#)

Church Lawton School Governors

			
Chair of Governors Mrs Lisa Thompson, Head of Digital, Data & Technology, Liberty Academy Trust	Trust Appointed Governor Mr Andy Richardson, Head of HR, Liberty Academy Trust	Church Lawton School - Principal Mr Paul Scales	Church Lawton School - Deputy Principal Mrs Lorraine Clegg
			
Co-opted Governor Mrs Kim Cepeda-Wilson	Co-opted Governor Mr David Holstead	Co-opted Governor Mrs Katy Goetzel	

TMB Members

		
TMB Member Lisa Thompson, Head of Digital, Data & Technology, Liberty Academy Trust	TMB Member Nic Law, Director of Safeguarding	TMB Member Chris Rossiter, Director of Governance

OFFICE@CHURCHLAWTONSCHOOL.ORG.UK

01270 877601

[HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHLAWTONSCHOOL.ORG.UK/](https://www.churchlawtonschool.org.uk/)

SCHOOL NEWS



A VISIT FROM THE HIGH SHERIFF OF CHESHIRE

AUTISM ACCREDITATION AWARD

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Autism Accreditation Award parent survey. Your feedback is always welcome and it is helping us make positive changes. We will let you know the outcome in the new year!



£923.25 RAISED AT OUR CHRISTMAS FAYRE



LOWER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE



WE EARNED 'TOP 10 RECOGNITION FOR PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT'

Feedback - "The dedication you demonstrate in fostering parental engagement is truly commendable. You set a benchmark for strengthening the partnership between families and educators, prioritising open communication and creating meaningful opportunities for collaboration. Your efforts showcase the incredible impact that genuine commitment and innovative approaches have on building a supportive and connected school community."

Parental Engagement Award

AWARDED TO

Liberty Academy Trust
Church Lawton School

Adventure Learning

What an amazing half term it has been at Adventure Learning for the Lower school pupils! They have had an exciting time at Crewe Gymnastics centre, with members of the British Team of Coaches. A new venue for us here at Church Lawton and our pupils have really enjoyed themselves, they have been very active sessions!

They have learnt some fantastic skills, from basic stretches, different jumps, to trampette work and cartwheels! All the pupils have built confidence throughout the sessions and it's looking like we have some talented gymnasts in the making! Well done to all those children that got Gymnast of the Week for this half term!



Secondary pupils have been to Zoo2U just outside Holmes Chapel for their Adventure Learning. This again is a new venue for us here at Church Lawton and we found it a very informative and fun day, getting up close and personal with some of the animals and learning about habitats, adaptations and biodiversity.



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Every year we decorate a Christmas Tree at Wesley Place Church in Alsager.

This years' theme was Inclusive Hands.



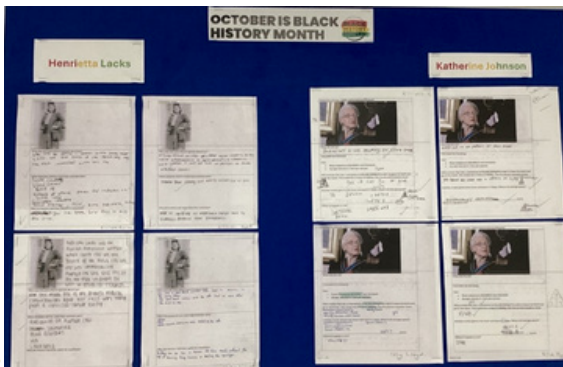
Each student was invited to decorate a hand and write a quote for equality, diversity and inclusion.



For Black History month, subject teachers created displays spotlighting inspirational black people in their fields.

Those studying English chose the author of Noughts and Crosses, Malorie Blackman.

Lower school researched British Black people and then presented their findings in assembly.



PRIMARY

Panto!

Donaldson and Shakespeare had a fantastic, festive time at the Beauty and the Beast pantomime. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show.



No Pen Day

The students were fully engaged on 'No pen day'. They made a delicious fruit salad, learning how to cut fruit in different ways and clean up safely. It goes without saying that it was very tasty!



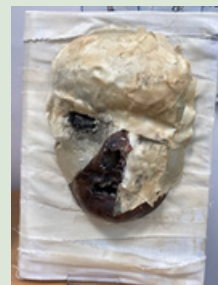
STEM Lego Day

Both classes had a great afternoon building Lego Moon Buggies! They worked in teams to build and code them to move, light up and make sounds.



Egyptians

Shakespeare have been learning about the Egyptians. They made their own Mummy masks!



MIDDLE

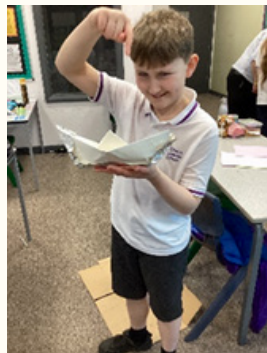
What We Learned

English

We are nearly at the end of Room 13 by Robert Swindells and have just found out it wasn't just a laundry cupboard after all!

Science

Science has continued to be very practical, both in class and in the lab. The students have made air powered cars and floaty boats. The experiment was to see how much weight the boat could hold before sinking.



History

We have been learning about immigration, leading up to the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush. We studied maps showing population density in the UK and had in-depth discussions around this.

RE

A walk to All Saints' Church allowed us to learn about the features of a Church, and also the history relating to the architecture and graves.



Cheshire Police Visit



STEM



KS3

RAF Youth STEM

This term we have had a fantastic interactive day with LEGO education trainer, Sarah from Rising Robots.

Sarah introduced the students to STEM and coding LEGO and shared information with the students about how coding is used every day with focus on application in industry, especially engineering .

Students tackled fun STEM challenges using LEGO robotics kits. Students built robotic creations and then brought them to life with code following some themed challenges (including a robot race!).

History

In year 9 History, Miss Lilley hosted a Dragons' Den style lesson. Pupils were very entertaining pitching their Victorian inventions to the dragon/Queen Victoria/Miss Lilley. All inventors managed to secure a substantial investment!



Computing

KS3 computing have been entered into the "UK Bebras Challenge 2024" and have now recieved their certificates.



Life Skills

In Life Skills lessons, key stage 3 students were challenged to plan a 2-course meal within a budget of £8.00. They shopped for their ingredients at the local Asda store in Alsager and used their ingredients to put their culinary skills to the test!



KS4

What We Learned

GCSE Mock Exams

This half term has been busier than usual, particularly for our KS4 students, and everyone is now looking forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

Our Year 11 students have shown tremendous focus and determination as they tackled their GCSE mock exams. It has been a real anxiety inducing experience for many, but all students have given their best and done really well.



Planning for the Future

Beyond the classroom, our students have been exploring pathways for their future.

At the beginning of this half term a group of KS4 and KS5 students visited Chester University, gaining valuable insight into university life, courses, and campus facilities.

Additionally, one Year 11 student had the opportunity to spend a trial day at UTC Crewe, shadowing a Year 12 student. This hands-on experience allowed him to explore the challenges and rewards of post-16 education in a specialised environment, helping him make an informed decision about his future studies.

Finally, our Music Btec students made a recent visit to Fox Barn Studios in Winsford to find out about the ins and outs of working in the music industry.



AUSTEN

Austen News

Head Boy & Head Girl

We are delighted to announce both the head boy and head girl roles have been awarded to members of our form; Harry and Faith. These two individuals are both great ambassadors for the school and they have welcomed a number of guests this half term including the High Sheriff.

Cooking for a VIP

Our students made a delicious, homemade buffet for the High Sheriff.



Mock Exams

We had a busy few weeks with mock exams and we are extremely proud of the students success. Congratulations on your results! The pupils are now preparing for May exams. Keep working hard everyone!



Future Skills

Lots of educational activities have been taking place; Victor has been excelling in his sports course at college, Charlie is completing his Vets for Pets work experience and starting a new placement in the new year, Lois is tackling driving lessons and Sam and Charlie are continuing their courses at college (catering and business), they made some wonderful Christmas biscuits that we hope they shared and enjoyed with their families.

Merry Christmas from everyone in Austen form, we hope you have a wonderful festive period and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Recipe Time

Potato Latkes

Theme: Food from different cultures.



Ingredients:

6 potatoes
1 onion
2 eggs
1/2 cup of plain flour
Vegetable oil
Salt and pepper
Optional garnish - Sour cream/apple sauce

Equipment:

Potato peeler
Grater
Chopping board
Measuring spoons
Colander
Measuring cups
Bowl
Mixing spoon
Utensils
Large frying pan

Instructions

Best served immediately!

1. Peel the potatoes and onion then grate.
2. Drain in a colander and then press to remove excess liquid.
3. Crack eggs in to a jug and then whisk with a fork.
4. Add the potato and onion to a bowl, mix in the flour and then add the eggs. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Add oil to a large frying pan and heat. Fry the potatoes for 3 minutes each side (taste to test)
6. Once cooked, drain on a wire rack with kitchen towel underneath to catch the excess oil.
7. Serve with sour cream or applesauce.

BTEC Level 2 students chose to share this recipe connected to the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Visit from St. Nicholas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

