

ST CUTHBERT'S ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



PARENTAL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 6 | Summer 2 2024



Headteacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Governors, myself and the Senior Leadership Team would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers and families for their continued support. We would also like to wish all of our parents and children a wonderful Summer Holiday. It is an opportunity to spend some quality time with our loved ones and young people to create memories they will always cherish.

In August, our Year 11 students will be receiving their GCSE results. We wish them all the very best and hope they have the grades they deserve and which enable them to move on successfully to the next stage of their lives and education. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers, especially on August 22nd.

2023-24 has been a significant year for the whole community at St Cuthbert's. We have had a very successful Catholic Schools Inspection, joined the St Teresa of Calcutta Trust and as you will have seen through our Half Termly Newsletters had a hundred other events and experiences for our students.

In 2024-25 we will continue to do our absolute best to ensure all of your children are safe, happy and successful during their time with us. We are blessed with excellent staff in all areas of school and have some fantastic new appointments who will be starting with us in September. This will help us to make rapid improvements from day one.



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

Headteacher's Update

We thank parents and carers in anticipation of their support in ensuring all students return to school in correct school uniform. Full details of this are available on our school website. There is also an important addition to this newsletter from Miss Costello about a change in practice which we want everyone to know and understand. This will take effect from September.

The start dates for the new school year in September are as follows:

Monday September 2nd – Staff Training Day

Tuesday September 3rd – Year 7 only

Wednesday September 4th – All students

Thank you and have a wonderful Summer

D. Shields (Headteacher)



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

Behaviour Update

Changes to Behaviour Policy

In September 2024, we will be making some significant changes to our school behaviour policy in response to feedback from our students, parents and staff. More detail will be found in our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy, due to be published in September but I wanted to outline some key changes.

At St Cuthbert's, we believe that the most powerful tool in managing behaviour is to create an environment where the children feel valued, safe and secure. Research has demonstrated that investing time and resources into improving relationships in schools leads to positive outcomes around inclusion, engagement, attainment and achievement in the short term and community safety and cohesion in the longer term. (BISSR). In addition, positive teacher student relationships have been shown to be central to the well-being of both students and teachers (Sue Roffey University of Exeter).

From September, we are simplifying our school rules to Ready, Respectful and Safe. These 3 simple rules can be applied to a variety of situations and are taught and modelled explicitly by staff who will use common language will be used to reiterate rules and expectations.

Misbehaviour by students will be split into two main categories:

- Yellow Card behaviours are to be dealt with mostly by class teachers and can usually be resolved by a restorative conversation.
- Red Card behaviours are more serious and will require withdrawal from class either in the form of Reflect, Suspension or in extremely serious cases Permanent Exclusion.

Examples of these behaviours will be published in the policy in September.



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

Behaviour Update

Classroom Sanctions

We will be moving away from our old C1-C3 system and whole school detentions and instead will be moving to an approach based on trauma informed and nurture-based research and relational practice. In class, teachers will deal with yellow card behaviours by:

1. Reminder – Teacher should give a whole class reminder of Ready, Respectful, Safe (and where appropriate CARE values).
2. Quiet Word – Clear corrective feedback delivered privately wherever possible, making the pupil aware of their behaviour and how they can 'turn it around'. This should be a calm discussion.
3. Caution – A second verbal warning, giving them the final opportunity to engage. Action should be taken to support learner where possible (e.g. a seating plan move). A follow up on this may be needed (at the teacher's discretion e.g. 5 minutes after class for restorative conversation)
4. Time Out – If poor behaviour continues after the caution, the pupil is asked to physically move for a short time away from their learning space. This can be in their own classroom (Calm Corner), in another class, in another designated space. If sent to another class, this is not for a different adult to tell them off. Pupils should not be made to stand outside the classroom door. This is time given to the pupil to think / calm down / breathe / look at the situation from a different perspective and compose themselves.
5. Repair Conversation – A restorative conversation for a maximum of 10 minutes will take place at break, lunch or after school. This will be led by the class teacher.



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

Behaviour Update

Repair Conversations

At St Cuthbert's RC High School, we will use restorative approaches as part of a planned response to building relationships and managing behaviour. This is a more effective response than punitive punishments. Restorative approaches can change the emotional atmosphere in a school and lead to more positive relationships between pupils and staff. When done well Repair Conversations:

- Can help maintain effective pupil/teacher relationships
- Can reinforce school rules and high expectations
- Can contribute to creating a positive classroom climate
- Can be used to set appropriate targets
- Can help to preserve staff integrity and creditability
- Acknowledge a responsibility for one's own actions and the impact that it might have on others.

Staff can issue a repair conversation at break, lunch or after school for a maximum of 10 minutes. A school wide consistent approach ensures that everyone has the same opportunity to experience a meeting that feels safe enough to discuss what's happened, to explore the impact on those involved, to talk through any unmet needs and to come up with a plan to prevent reoccurrence. The five questions provide a framework for restorative conversations at St Cuthbert's RC High School.



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

Behaviour Update

What happened?

- What were you thinking at the time and what have you thought since?
- Who has been affected and how did this make them feel?
- What should we do to put things right?
- How can we do things differently in future?

The aim is to build a positive relationship with the student and to teach them how to behave in society and become well rounded citizens. We are relying on the support of our parents to encourage your child to see the value in engaging positively in these conversations.

Repair conversations will be recorded on Arbor so that you can keep track of your child's behaviour in school. Teachers will mark these as 'resolved' if the conversation has been effective and contact you if they have failed to engage.



RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

OUR SCHOOL RULES OF READY, RESPECTFUL AND SAFE ARE USED IN ALL SUBJECTS AND ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE

READY	RESPECTFUL	SAFE
ALWAYS BE READY TO LEARN. THIS INCLUDES WEARING FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM AND HAVING THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT FOR EACH CLASS	BEING RESPECTFUL TO EACH OTHER. THIS INCLUDES LISTENING AND DEMONSTRATING OUR CARE VALUES TO PEERS AND STAFF AT ALL TIMES	KEEPING YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE AT ALL TIMES. THIS INCLUDES NOT PUTTING YOURSELF OR ANYONE IN DANGER
		

Behaviour Update

Detentions

Detentions will be used after school for a maximum of 30 minutes if a child fails to engage in the Repair Conversation after two chances. Detentions will be run in year groups between 3.00–3.30pm. you will be informed via email and Arbor notification if your child has a detention. If a child fails to attend their year group detention, this will escalate to an SLT detention on a Friday between 3.00 – 4.00pm.

We see detentions as a last resort and we would much prefer that students engage in Repair conversations as evidence shows that these are the most effective way to manage behaviour and build good relationships.

All of this will be fully launched with students on their return in September and much more detail will be available to parents when the Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy is published. However, if you have any questions, please email me.

Miss Costello, Assistant Headteacher
(acostello@stcuthberts.stoccat.org.uk)



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

Attendance

Let's shine a spotlight on the critical role that good attendance and punctuality play in shaping the academic and social journey of school-aged children in the UK.

1. Academic Success:

- Attending school regularly, with an expectation of 96%, ensures that children have the required access to learning opportunities, enabling them to grasp key concepts and make good academic progress.
- Punctuality sets a positive tone for the day by allowing children to start lessons promptly and make the most of valuable class time.

2. Maximised Learning Potential:

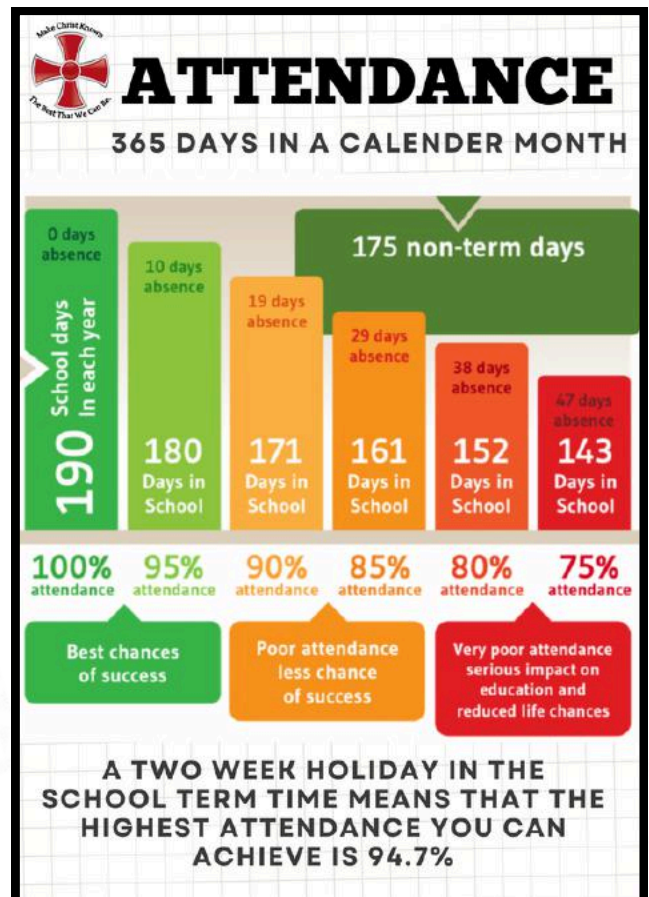
- Regular attendance means fewer missed lessons and reduced gaps in learning, empowering children to stay on track with the curriculum and excel in their studies.
- Being punctual instils a sense of discipline and readiness, equipping children with the mindset needed to engage actively in classroom activities.

3. Positive Academic Development:

- Good attendance correlates strongly with improved academic performance, as children have the opportunity to participate in class discussions, ask questions, and receive timely feedback from teachers.
- Punctuality teaches children the importance of timeliness and reliability – qualities that are highly valued both in school and in future experiences.

4. Social Growth:

- Regular school attendance fosters social connections and friendships, providing children with a supportive network of peers and teachers that enhances their overall school experience.
- Punctuality demonstrates respect for others' time and schedules, laying the foundation for positive interactions and effective communication skills.

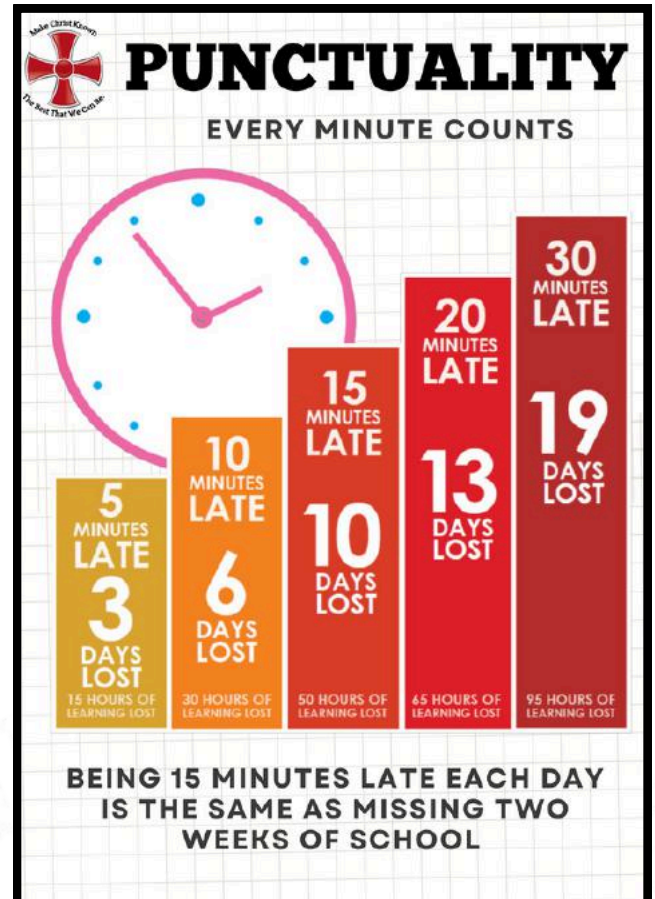


Attendance

5. Preparation for the Future:

- By prioritising attendance and punctuality, children develop habits that will serve them well beyond the classroom, preparing them for the demands of higher education and the workforce.
- Attending school consistently and being punctual to school instils a sense of responsibility and accountability, essential traits for success in all aspects of life.

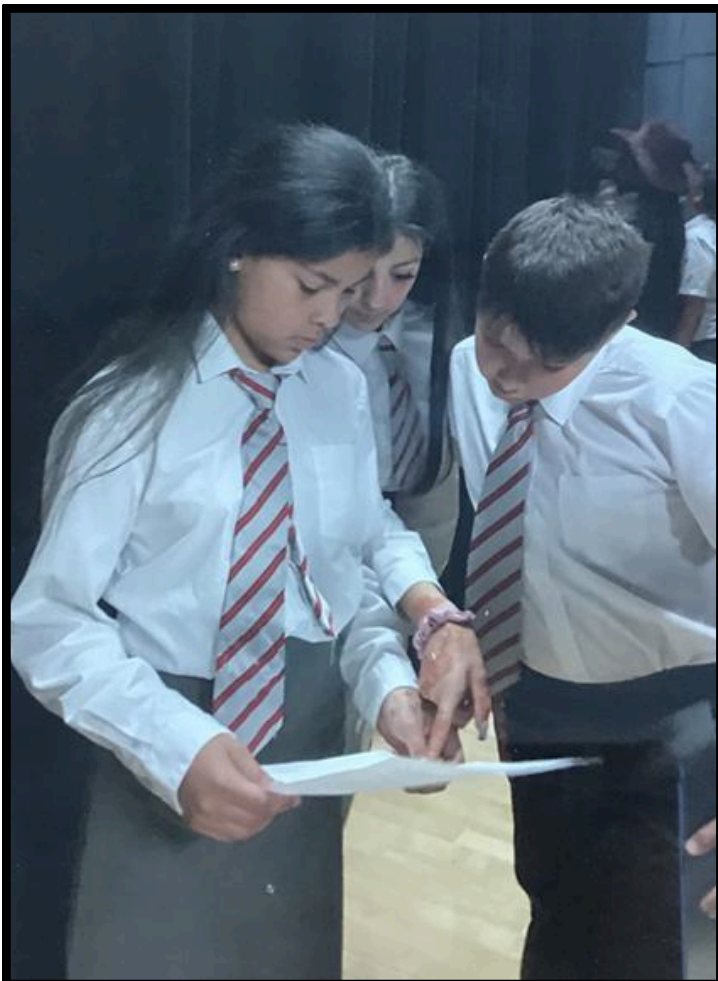
In summary, good attendance and punctuality are essential components of your child's educational journey, contributing significantly to their academic achievement and social development. As parents and carers, your support in emphasising these values will empower our students to thrive and reach their full potential.



Literacy Across the Curriculum

This half term we have been focussing on oracy activities in a variety of lessons across the curriculum. Research shows that students should learn both to talk and through talk, deepening their subject knowledge and understanding through classroom talk which has been planned, structured, and scaffolded to enable students to learn skills needed to talk effectively (Voice 21 research, 2024).

Extra-curricular sessions rehearsing for the summer show have involved students working together and communicating to learn their lines and give feedback on their individual performances. This strengthens their oracy and listening skills.

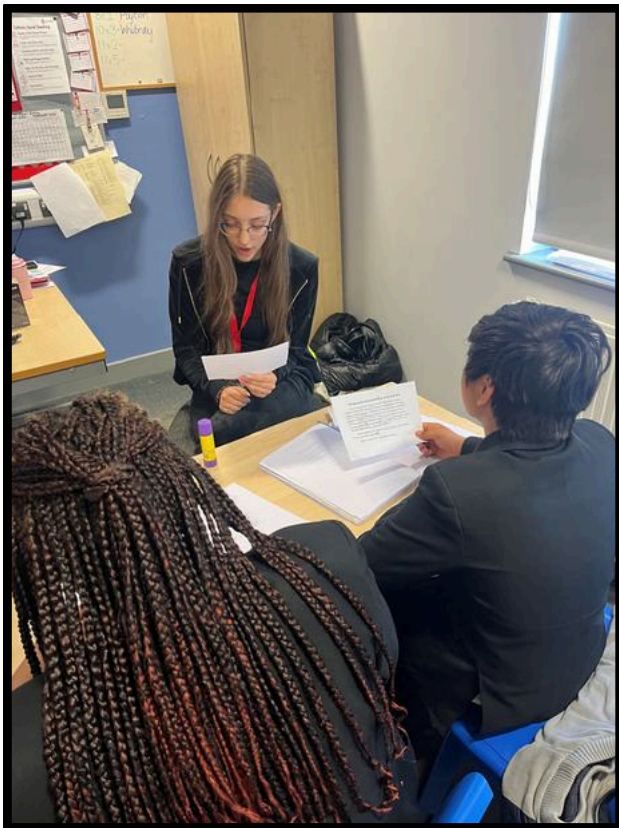


English students have been studying rhetoric in Year 8 and Year 9, listening to speeches from throughout history and writing and performing their own. Some images from 8C1 are below.



Literacy Across the Curriculum

This last week, past students have been in school for work experience. They have been assisting students with their speeches and sharing their communication tips from sixth form. Photos can be seen below.



Just a reminder that over the summer holidays, students can still access The Day online news website from home using the link below. The Day is a rich and engaging online educational resource that turns news into lessons across five differentiated reading levels.

Current news stories are presented in a student appropriate format with quizzes and videos to deepen understanding.

www.theday.co.uk/?id=5DF5BC5A-0B37-4E37-A32B-FE96612CF83A

Careers and Events

Year 8 Barclays Life Skills workshops

Barclays Life skills have come into school to deliver the last two workshops to some of our year 8 students.

Workshops this term:

- Money Skills: Recognising your money personality
- Money Skills: Next steps in your financial journey



In the workshops this term, students have learned about their money personality and developed essential skills to help them budget for the things they need and want.

 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills

Careers and Events

Year 8 Barclays Life Skills workshops

Students have carried out a variety of activities where they have learned about budgeting: what it is like to be an adult and have to pay bills each month, the different ways that they can pay for things, the need to be careful when purchasing items and to keep their personal details confidential (bank details, personal information etc.).

Helpful or unhelpful money habits? student sheet

Helpful		Unhelpful
	I spend then think	
	I make it up as I go along	
	I'm never sure what I've got	
	I don't know how much comes in or goes out	
	I am responsible for looking after my money	
	I'm all over the place	
	I think then spend	
	I plan and save for what I need or want	
	I watch the pennies and the pounds	
	I've got a budget	
	I don't feel financially independent	
	I stay in control	

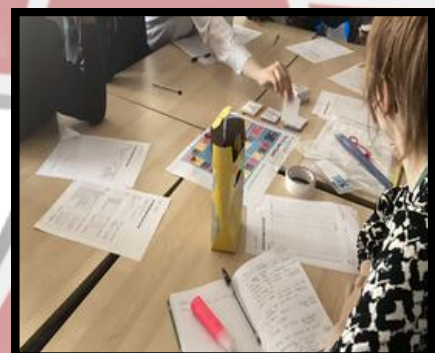
Financial planning: student sheet

Using your savings	Buying on finance	Additional costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">£250 up front cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£25 initial deposit£28.50 monthly payments for 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£5 per month insurance£18 up front cost for a laptop bag£15.95 up front cost for 12 months of anti-virus protection
New laptop	Saving to buy	Buying on finance
Do you think it is a need or a want?		
How much will it cost in total, including additional costs (over the first year)?		
How much money is needed in one go?		
What are the ongoing costs that you need to plan for?		
Are any of the additional costs needs or wants?		
Do you think the insurance is worthwhile?		

BARCLAYS LifeSkills

Students have gained a lot of useful information that will help them in their adult lives.

All Year 8 students who were involved in this have been given the opportunity to attend Barclays head offices in the next academic year.



Careers and Events

Year 10 College Taster days

Our Year 10 students this term have had the opportunity to attend three college visits at:

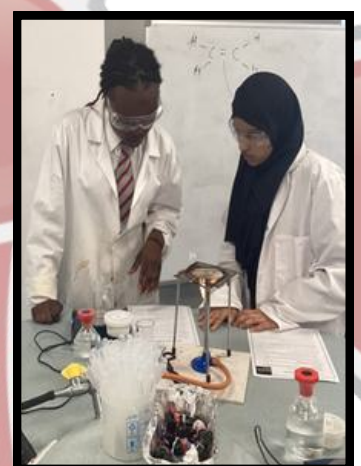
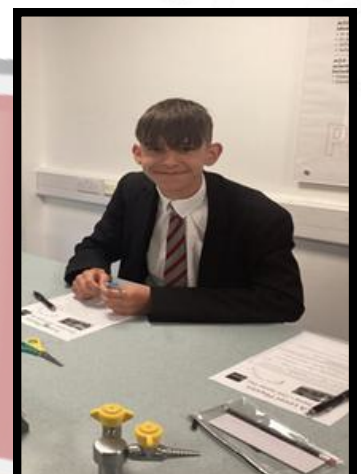
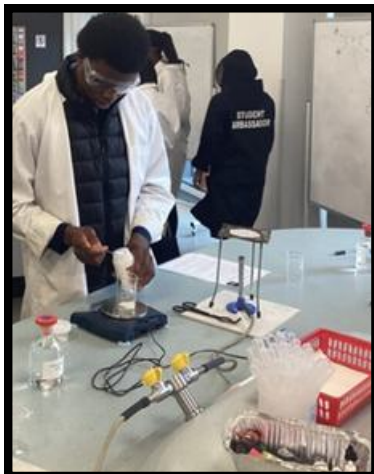
- Rochdale sixth form college (RSFC)
- Hopwood hall – both Campuses (Rochdale and Oldham)
- Oldham College

Pupils have been able to participate in taster courses with subjects they are interested in studying when they leave St Cuthbert's.



Careers and Events

Year 10 College Taster days



Careers and Events

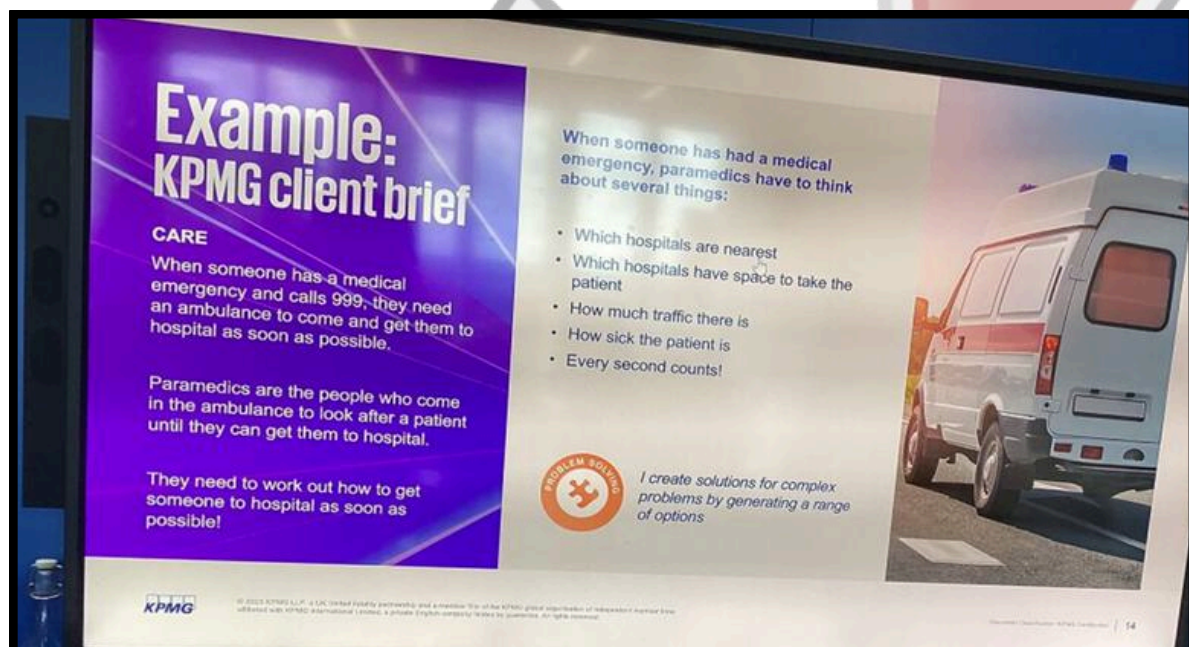
Year 9 visit to KPMG offices in Manchester



Some of our Year 9 students have taken part in the Opening Doors to Opportunities programme at KPMG's offices in Manchester.

Students took part in an activity where they had to invent/ design new technology which would help to save people's lives.

Here is the brief that they were given:



Careers and Events

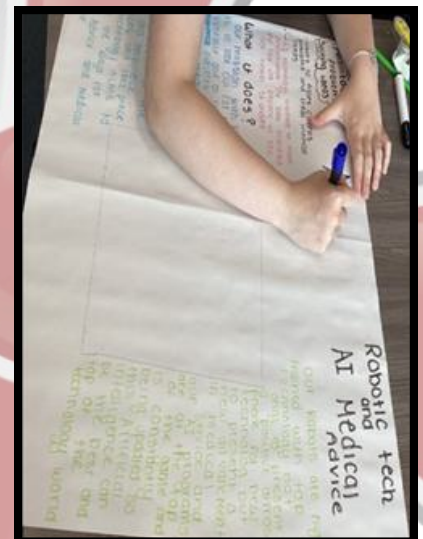
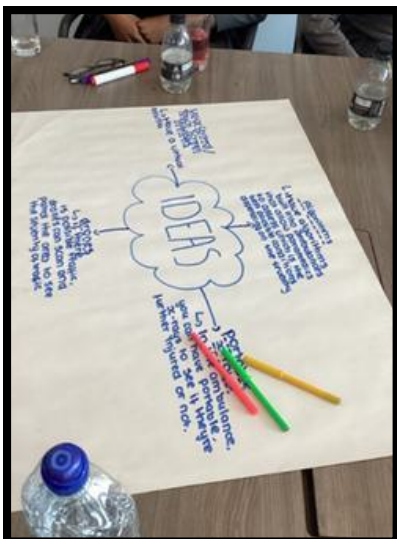
Year 9 visit to KPMG offices in Manchester



Our pupils seemed to really enjoyed the task and they develop the following skills:

- Communicating effectively with one another as part of a team
- Problem solving
- Creative thinking
- Leadership and confidence skills

All pupils had to work in teams and present their invention to the rest of the group. They all did brilliantly.



Careers and Events

Year 11 Prom

On Friday 28th June our current Year 11s celebrated their time at St Cuthbert's with their end of year Prom.

Our venue was Rochdale Cricket Club and our theme was 'The Red Carpet' – the students outdid themselves in their fantastic outfits and a brilliant time was had by all!



Careers and Events

Year 11 Prom - Awards



Careers and Events

Year 11 Prom - Awards



Careers and Events

Summer Trip to Alton Towers

Absolutely loved our school trip to Alton Towers on Tuesday, 16th July! With 439 students and 45 staff, the day was packed with fun and excitement from start to finish. The rides were incredible, catering to all levels of thrill-seekers, and the park's atmosphere was fantastic. The students especially loved going on The Wicker Man and The River Rapids. It was great to see the students' joy and laughter, with both teachers and students enjoying the rides together. Their behaviour was exemplary, and many Alton Towers staff members commented on how well-behaved and respectful the students were throughout the day. It was the perfect way to end the school year, creating core memories full of adventure and friendship. Can't wait for the next trip!



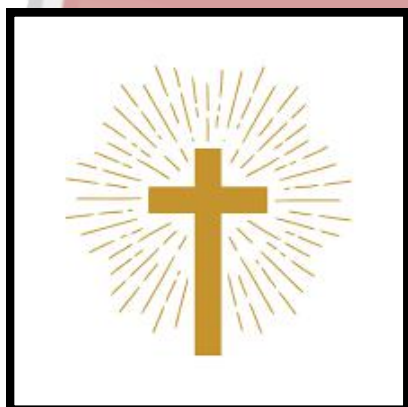
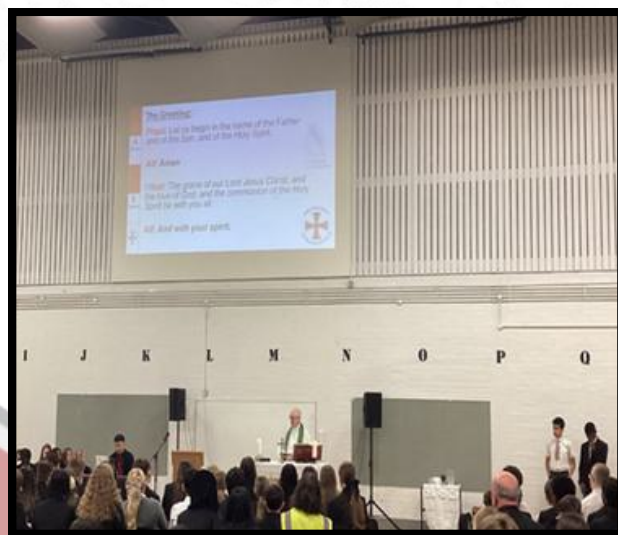
Catholic Life of the School

Year 7 and 10 Mass

Father Michael has delivered Mass in school this term to years 7 and 10.

A big thank you to the choir, readers and all the staff involved in preparing the mass.

It was lovely to see students joining in with Prayers and singing hymns.



Summer Concert Stars

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our yearly celebration of Art, Drama, Dance and Music – a fantastic evening of entertainment was had by all.



Summer Concert Stars



Athletics Results

We competed in the Rochdale Schools Athletics Competition and we placed 3rd overall out of all the schools in Rochdale. We made the right decision that to represent our school, your behaviour should reflect that. Therefore, some of what you would call our 'stronger' athletes did not warrant a place in the squad, which makes the result even more rewarding.

Lewis Dempsey was outstanding. Keaton Scholes, who hasn't thrown a javelin in over a year got a silver medal. David Moreno, a Year 7 boy, threw over 19 metres and won gold on javelin! Theo Dinnen, Ben Wright, Kelvin Obiyani and Brice Tiako (the list goes on) all collected gold/silver medals.

The girls, absolutely unbelievable! The likes of Orlaith Odudu, Rachel Adedini and Gabriella Idoko will always shine, but it was individuals like Gift winning gold at the high jump, Lois winning the 200m, Libby Gibson picking up medals in her events and the Year 10 relay team who absolutely smashed the competition, that stole the spotlight.

This 3rd place finish was more about attitude than the outcome and they deserve great credit for yesterday.





End of Year Rewards

Students will participate in their Year Group assembly on the final day of term. It is fantastic to be able to reward those who have worked hard all year and have shown the best of themselves in every way.

Each year group will receive subject awards, form star awards and some special categories that are listed below:

Head of Year Awards	
Year 7	Dean Kavannagh
Year 8	Kian Murphy
Year 9	John Hanna
Year 10	Gift Asemota



Always Child Awards	
Year 7	Kayden Booth
Year 8	Alex Wenta
Year 9	Zuzanna Zareba
Year 10	Brice Tientcheu Tiako

Head Teacher Awards	
Year 7	Leyla Sugden
Year 8	Nadia Sankiewicz
Year 9	Reece Gamson
Year 10	Isaac Aspin



Enrichment Opportunities

The Manchester United Foundation, along with the Growth Company, are offering a unique opportunity for our Year 11 students this summer.

The summer programme is designed to improve employability skills with activities to build confidence and team-building skills.

There will be a range of activities on offer. For example: Old Trafford Stadium tours, bowling and arts and crafts among others.

Parents and carers can sign you up by following the QR code.



The poster for the Summer Programme 2024 at the Rochdale Training Centre features a bright orange and yellow color scheme. At the top, it displays the logos for The Growth Company and the Manchester United Foundation. A yellow banner in the top right corner states 'Bursary available up to £40 per week!'. The main title 'SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024' is prominently displayed in large white letters, with 'Rochdale Training Centre' below it. A text box on the left provides details about eligibility (ages 16-18) and the programme's aim to improve employability skills. Below this, a list of activities is shown with corresponding icons: Construction (hard hat), Outdoor activities (sun and people), Arts and crafts (palette), Mental health support (crescent moon), Day trips (car), and Well-being support (heart). A yellow box on the right contains contact information under the heading 'Get in touch...'. A photograph of two smiling young people is visible on the right side of the poster.

Summer Programme 2024
Rochdale Training Centre

If you are aged 16 - 18 and looking for a way to keep busy this summer, then we have a great opportunity for you!

Our Summer Programme is designed to improve your employability skills with activities to build your confidence and team building skills. You can participate remotely or attend our Centre - or a mixture of both.

If you do not already hold an Employability qualification, then we will support you in achieving this during the programme.

You can join in the practical sessions which include:

- Construction
- Outdoor activities (water sports, orienteering)
- Arts and crafts
- Mental health support
- Day trips
- Well-being support

START DATES FROM 1 AUGUST

Get in touch...

E. Rochdale@gceducationandskills.ac.uk

T. 01706 717 860

Rochdale Training Centre
Unit 1, Chichester Street
Heritage Park
Rochdale
Manchester
OL16 2AU



The Growth Company Summer Programme 2024

