



Friday 20 November 2020

Important Dates

Below are key dates for this academic year. Some of these may need to change depending on the Covid-19 situation. Please check the newsletter each week.

23 November 2020: Y11 Trial Exam week.

3 December Primary parents receive a phone call during this week from Class teacher.

9 December 2020: Christmas Dinner.

10 December 2020: Primary Christingle making.

11 December 2020: Virtual awards assembly for students.

11 December 2020: Christmas Cracker, Y7-11, Period 5 and 6.

11 December 2020: Christmas Jumper Day.

11 December 2020: End of the Michaelmas Term End of day dismissal at the usual times.

4 January 2021: Start of the Lent Term

4 January 2021: Y11 parents receive a phone call during this week from Form Tutor.

21 January 2021: Y11 apprenticeships assembly.

27 January 2021: Holocaust memorial day.

1 February 2021: Mental health awareness week.

1 February 2021: Year 8 and Year 9 parents receive a phone call during this week from Form Tutor.

9 February 2021: Safer Internet day.

22 February 2021: Staff training day.

1 March 2021: Year 7 parents receive a phone call during this week from Form Tutor.

4 March 2021: World Book Day.

8 March 2021: Primary parents receive a phone call during this week from Class teacher.

8 March 2021: Provisional 2-week window for Y11 trial exams.

22 March 2021: Year 10 and Year 11 parents receive a phone call during this week from Form Tutor.

26 March 2021: Virtual awards assembly for students.

16 April 2021: Year 8 and Year 9 Pathways form deadline.

29 April 2021: Junior Maths Challenge.

17 May 2021: Mental Health awareness week.

7 June 2021: Y10 Trial Exams begin.

6 July 2021: Provisional Primary Sports Day.

7 July 2021: Provisional Secondary Sports Day.

9 July 2021: Virtual awards assembly for students.

9 July 2021: Last date for legacy GHCS uniform. All students must wear Christ's College uniform from September 2021. Not, as incorrectly printed last week on the newsletter, January 2021.

9 July 2021: End of academic year.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2020



We are delighted to once again support a local charity with their Christmas appeal. We will be launching a 'reverse advent calendar' in which we encourage every student to give a small donation in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday. We are supporting *Emmaus North East* who provide sustainable and affordable source of food and household essentials to members of the local community struggling to make ends meet through debt, illness or low income.

Below is a list of suitable items students can bring in to school from Monday 30 November until Wednesday December 9.

Suggested items to donate

- Cooking sauces
- Toilet Rolls /Shampoo /Toothpaste
- Jam/Marmalade/Pickles
- Sugar /Tea / coffee
- Christmas cake/Yule log

- Christmas or Chocolate puddings
- Mince pies/small cakes
- Mixed biscuits / shortbread
- Tin or box of sweets
- Tinned custard
- Tinned ham/corned beef

Be part of bringing kindness this year

In addition to the 'reverse advent calendar', we are also supporting Hope Spring's Christmas appeal. Every Christmas, Hope Spring raise funds to provide good quality presents for every child in the care of our Local Authority. These are distributed at the wonderful Looked after Children Christmas party. In 2019 they provided 549 presents, and in addition over 100 presents for all those who had been adopted that year. This year, they are aiming to raise funds for 800 gifts from tiny babies up to those leaving care, and for whom Christmas will be very challenging and isolating this year.

If you would like to donate to Hope Spring, a suggested donation of £3 has been added to ParentPay. However, you can change this donation to as little or as much as you would like to give. If you do not want to donate you do not have to do anything.

Thank you in anticipation for your support of our Christmas giving.



Uniform



We will run, free of charge, the blazer re-badging service for a final time on 11 December 2020. If your child has a red edged lapel style blazer, the embroidery of the GHCS badge can be unpicked and the Christ's College badge will be added. Blazers will be given back to students on the first day back to school after the Christmas holidays, i.e. 4 January.

Blazers will be individually wrapped at the point of collection and go through a period of quarantine both prior to and post alteration, in line with Covid-19 risk assessments.

Please note this service is unable to be offered to the older style GHCS blazers dating from 2017.

If you would like to take up this offer – please **telephone Mrs Surtees in the school office or email enquiries@christcollege.org.uk to book a place.**

Please activate your child's account!



We are a cashless school, so all payments should now be made via Parent Pay. If you have not activated your child's account, you will soon receive an activation letter inviting you to do so. Activation details are also available from the College office.

School Meals

Parents are reminded that school meals must be paid for in **advance**. Please remember to top your child's account up on a regular basis. If your child has no available credit on their Parent Pay account, they must bring in a packed lunch.

Eligibility for Free School Meals



Some families' financial circumstances may have changed due to the economic effects of the pandemic. If that is the case, your son or daughter may have become eligible to receive Free School Meals, including the vouchers referred to above.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you receive any of these benefits and your child is both:

- Younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- In full-time education

To apply for free school meals, or to find out more information, go to:

<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/families/free-school-meals>

If you require any help with applying, please contact the school finance help department (0191 5344444) or email: enquiries@christcollege.org.uk.

You should hear whether your application has been successful within 10 working days. If you have not heard, then please contact the College at enquiries@christcollege.org.uk and we will try to assist.

Coronavirus Reminder



If any member of your household or support bubble develops Coronavirus symptoms, your whole household **must** isolate. The person displaying symptoms should get a Covid-19 test. Your child can return to school if the test is negative. If the test is positive, your child must isolate for 14 days. Please contact the school office if you are in any doubt. You can also refer to our help sheet: <https://www.christcollege.org.uk/about/covid-19/>

Please remember households must not mix under current restrictions.

Revision Guides: Y9-11



Parents should have received an email last week detailing revision guides and workbooks available to purchase. As a school we are able to obtain these resources at a discounted price.

Please place all orders via Parent Pay by **Friday 27 November 2020**.

Christmas Dinner



Christmas dinner will be served on Wednesday 9 December. If your child usually brings a packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner, please ensure they have money on Parent Pay to purchase a meal.

Roast Chicken
Stuffing
Chipolata Sausage
Gravy

Vegetarian Quorn Roast

Roast Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables

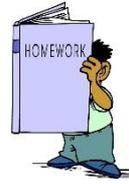
Snowy Topped Iced Chocolate Cake
or
College Pudding & Custard

GCSE Pod



We have renewed our GCSE Pod subscription. Students can therefore use this excellent resource to revise, catch up with work, review topics they have found difficult and complete independent study.

Homework Timetables: Y7-Y11



Homework timetables can be viewed on the College website. Please ensure you check My Child At School daily to see the homework tasks your child has been issued. Homework is a very important part of the learning process. Please support us by ensuring your son or daughter completes work by the deadline.

<https://www.christcollege.org.uk/students/homework-timetable/>

Attendance



All students must attend every day and aim for 100% attendance. It is very important that your son or daughter attends each day, as being absent will result in them falling behind with their studies. Being absent, even in the lower years of Primary school has been proven to impact grades and progress of children in future years. When your child is absent they will end up with gaps in their knowledge, which will impact them as they progress through school. There is a direct correlation between attendance and grades achieved in exams. Please support us to get the best out of your child by ensuring they attend every day.

Primary Parents' Evening

The Parents' Evening that was scheduled for Thursday 3rd December will not take place in school, but by telephone. Telephone appointments will be booked and will happen over 4 evenings during that week. Information and booking letters will be sent out early next week.

My Child At School (MCAS) – Activate your account!



We still have a number of parents who have not activated their MCAS account. You should have received an email with your login details. Please contact the College office if you have not received this or are experiencing issues logging in. Please telephone or email enquiries@christscollege.org.uk.

It is very important that each parent/carer creates an account so you can support your child and view very important information.

Follow us on Twitter!



Please follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the latest news! @ChristSR4

Christmas Jumper Day



We will once again be supporting *Save The Children* Christmas jumper day. Students may wear a Christmas jumper on the final day of term, **Friday 11 December**. Please note, usual rules regarding make-up, jewellery and hair apply, the only difference is students can wear a Christmas jumper. A suggested donation to take part is £1.

Year 6 French



Anne-Marie Parker is continuing to enjoy learning French outside of the classroom with Duolingo, doing her daily lesson every day before school! She has just hit her 200-day streak! Never missing a day, Anne-Marie is able to use what she learns at home in the classroom, too, and



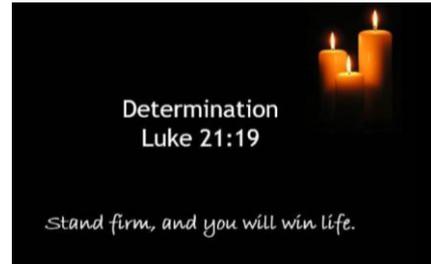
can share her new knowledge with her classmates. This is a fabulous achievement, Anne-Marie. Fantastique!

Primary Nativities



Covid may be with us, but Christmas nativities will still happen! We are busy preparing for a lower primary nativity (Reception/Year 1/Year 2) and a Key Stage 2 nativity. These will be recorded, and DVDs will be available for parents for a voluntary donation of £5. Please place your orders on ParentPay by 4pm on Friday 4th December 2020.

Faith in our school



This week we have been focussing on determination. We looked at people in history who have overcome challenges, but continued to strive to achieve their vision.

These included, Walt Disney, Jo Biden, Steve Jobs and Horatio Spafford.

We also reflected on the verse, 'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' Philippians 4:13. Considering that God can help us be determined, even when we can't do this in our own strength. Students were encouraged to show determination in their studies and keep going even when things are hard.