

It is that time of year again, when we are all busy shopping for presents, and planning various activities ready for Christmas, and we have been equally busy in school.

First of all I would like to thank all the parents and carers for the cards and presents that have been sent in for the staff to enjoy. We really appreciate the thought.

We also had an amazing response to our Wear Something Christmassy, Bring Something in for the Food Bank event on 12th December. It was lovely to see the young people involved in giving to support others. As our school has become busier over the last term, the young people have shown great resilience with changes to some of their classes and new members of staff starting with us. The young people have been very welcoming to all our new starters.

Just a reminder that we will be reducing mobile phone usage in school over the next term. We will be supporting the young people with alternatives and hope that this improves their social time experiences as well.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and seeing everything we have been getting up to this term. We look forward to welcoming back all of our learners on 6th January 2025. Have a restful holidays.

Carla

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Interests: Drawing, Reading, Music

Favourite Lesson: Art, I'm proud of my drawings.

My Ancora Achievements: I laid our school's poppy wreath on Remembrance Day.

Coming into school even when I've been really tired.

Aim for next academic year: to start looking at next steps and career options.



STEM

In STEM lessons the young people have been learning about the earth and planets. Some made model globes using balloons and paper mache before painting their models.

REMEMBRANCE

The students attended the local memorial service and made poppies to represent the different groups who are remembered on remembrance day - Red for the millions who suffered in all wars, white is a commitment to peace, black to commemorate service men and women of African and Caribbean heritage and purple to represent all the animals that lost their lives in the war



ANCORA HOUSE SCHOOL SIGN

We've finally managed to get our sign on the turn into Castle Park. Fingers crossed this makes finding us a bit easier for visitors and school drop off!



PASSION FOR LEARNING'S CHRISTMAS FEAST

A big thank you to the team at Passion for Learning for providing yet another amazing opportunity for our Students and Staff! Everyone's bellies were very happy and full after a delicious meal, and the students were very happy to receive their chocolate to take home.



Thank You

BAKING

We've been baking lots of yummy treats focusing on decorating Christmas cookies and gingerbread! This build skills around cooking, budgeting and planning. It also contributes towards the DoFE award.



ALLOTMENT



A big thank you to the Tivoli team who have generously donated tools, equipment and 10 bags of compost for our new allotment.

THANK YOU

SPIRIT OF THE HERD



Rescue pony Storm took a shine to one of our students and finally let a visitor groom him! and Bunny the Cob enjoyed many bottom scratches!

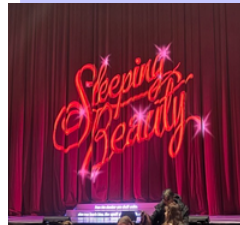
SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

ENGLISH

Creative Writing: The young people will be analysing and exploring a range of texts in depth, considering: narrative hooks, characterisation, setting and plot development. With the skills that they have identified and analysed, students will then be developing their creative writing skills.

KS4 & 5: The KS4 and 5 students are currently exploring Literature and Language Paper 1, studying language and structure analysis as well as texts, such as *A Christmas Carol*.

Speaking and listening/Literacy: The young people have engaged in a range of literacy projects, ranging from: Psychology, The British Empire and Guinea pigs. The projects have engaged the students and allowed them to hone their literacy skills and develop their Speaking and Listening skills.



Revision resources:
BBC Bitesize



LOCAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TRAIL



Staff and Students got busy in their elf workshop, to make a winter wonderland for one of the stops in a local Christmas trail.



YOUNG LEADERS AT STORYHOUSE

Every week we go to the Storyhouse in Chester. On the 11th December we went to see the show *Sleeping Beauty*. During the Storyhouse visits we do activities and games such as Werewolf, we write down what we would like to happen from the sessions and we socialise with new people. The Storyhouse sessions have made us feel less anxious and more open to making new friends out in the open. For us it had a massive benefit on wellbeing and trust. No one is forced to do anything and you can have time out if it's all a bit too much or if you aren't having a good day. Everyone shows each other respect and kindness so you don't have to worry about being different. We would recommend doing activities and groups like this to anyone whether you feel okay in yourself or not it's a great way to experience others and socialize without pressure.

written by a year 9 and year 10 student



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We have had a wide range of activities taking place for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards this term. Students have been cooking and baking also sorts of meals, learning to play the guitar and Ukulele, and getting very crafty with model making and crocheting.

We still have a number of students volunteering with Spirit of the Herd stables and are looking forward to volunteering at a local primary school and improving the gardens at Castle Park after the Christmas break.



CRAFTS



A crochet Christmas tree was made by one Post-16 student. This was placed onto a backing and decorated with buttons, pom-poms and a bell. This was a great opportunity to share and teach a new skill to the Post-16 team!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

A range of students from both Ancora House School, Hospital Site and Castle Park site helped to make a variety of decorations for the Ancora Tree at Chester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival.

You can book to see student's creative display alongside a whole selection of magical trees by visiting the Christmas Tree Festival page at www.chestercathedral.com



A huge thank you to everyone who donated food and toiletries on Wear Something Christmassy day. We collected 52.92kg of items for the West Cheshire Foodbank.



thank you

YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES - CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER

Young people's service | Cheshire West and Chester Council
The Young People's Service is part of the Early Help and Prevention service.



They provide support to:

- some young people in schools from year 9 - 11, such as those who are in care, those with a statement of special educational need (SEN) or education health care plan (EHC), young mums or those who from the end of year 10 are at risk of not making a successful transition on leaving school - for young people who have a statement of special education needs we provide support until their statement/EHC ceases
- post 16 young people living in the Cheshire West and Chester area who are not in education, employment or training (EET) or who are not meeting the national requirements for the raising of the participation age (RPA)

They support young people to help them plan for the future and make the most of their life and career opportunities - our aim is to support young people into making successful and sustained transitions into education, employment or training.

The Young People's Service has a responsibility to track the destinations of young people up to their twentieth birthday and provide support/advice if they are not participating.

Ancora staff will complete a referral form for any student that they feel could be at risk of not being in education, employment or training after Year 11 or Post 16 and could benefit from additional support in their next steps and planning for the future. The Young People's Service will then allocate a Young Person's Advisor to meet with the student. This can take place in school and be supported by Ancora staff, if needed.

Please contact our Transitions Team, if you would like to discuss this further. rachael.birdsey@ancora.cheshire.sch.uk

YOUTH PROVISION CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER

The youth provisions provide safe, supportive, informal learning and recreational fun activities across the borough. Young people can expect informal, engaging and interactive support, advice and guidance and up to date information from a trained staff team on issues that are affecting young people. This includes advice on drugs and alcohol, smoking, sexual health and healthy lifestyles.

They aim for young people to be informed, explore their values and beliefs and to discuss risk-taking behaviours and the consequences. Enabling young people to make positive, healthy choices about their lives, reach their full potential and thrive. Young people can seek one-to-one support when they need it, on any worries or concerns they may have. This could include, self-harm, mental health and wellbeing, Teenage Relationship Abuse (TRA) and hate crime - what it is and how to report it. The Cheshire West and Chester Youth Service delivers a variety of youth provisions across the borough and is free of charge to attend:

Youth Zone - Provides young people somewhere to go in the evenings that is safe, to enjoy time with friends, peers and meet new people. It's a place to chill out, have fun and take part in weekly activities such as; sports, dance, arts and crafts, graffiti art, healthy cooking, and recreational activities. Young people participate and have a voice in the programme planning of events and activities.

Ellesmere Port & Neston:

Location: Oasis Community Centre, Coronation Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 9AA

Age range: 11 - 19 years and up to 25 years if Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Time: Tuesday, 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Contact details: Youth Work Officer - 01244 977720 or EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cost: Free

Northwich & Winsford:

Location: Northwich Youth Centre, Winnington Lane, Northwich, CW8 4DE

Age range: 11 - 19 years and up to 25 years if Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Time: Wednesday, 7pm until 9pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Contact details: Youth Work Officer - 01244 977720 or EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cost: Free

Chester - Lache Youth Café

Location: The Venue, Lache Community Centre, Hawthorn Road, Lache, Chester, CH4 8HX

Age range: 11 - 19 years and up to 25 years if Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and/or Care Leavers

Time: Friday, 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Contact details: Youth Work Officer - 01244 977720 or EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cost: Free

Blacon

Location: Blacon Youth FC, Cairns Crescent, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5JF

Age range: 11 - 19 years and up to 25 years if Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and/or Care Leavers

Time: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 4.30pm until 7pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Contact details: Youth Work Officer - 01244 977720 or EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cost: Free

Youth provision for SEND

Youth provision for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provides young people with a safe and welcoming environment in which to socialise with their friends and peers and to meet new people.

They provide tailored programme plans that meet the needs of the young people and encourage engagement and participate in developing social skills, life skills and independent living, such as personal safety, healthy relationships and friendships, healthy cooking, budgeting and recreational activities, arts and craft, music, pool and table tennis.

Young people can also participate and have a voice in the programme planning of events and activities.

Choices SEND Projects:

Chester

Location: Northgate Locks Resource Centre, Canal Street, Chester, CH1 4EJ

Age range: 11 - 25 years

Time: Wednesday, 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Cost: Free

Ellesmere Port and Neston

Location: Salvation Army, Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 6RS

Age range: 11 - 25 years

Time: Thursday, 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Cost: Free

Northwich

Location: Northwich and District Youth Centre, Winnington Lane, Northwich, CW8 1AW

Age range: 11 - 25 years

Time: Monday, 7pm until 9pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Youth Service

Cost: Free

Winsford

Location: New Images Community Centre, Nixon Drive, Winsford, CW7 2HG

Age range: 11 - 25 years

Time: Thursday, 7pm until 9pm

Provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council Youth Service

Cost: Free

Youth Work Officer:

Tel: 01244 977720

Email: EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Phoenix

Phoenix is a series of youth groups for young people aged 13-19 years in the west Cheshire area who identify as LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other identities) or are questioning their sexuality or gender identity. These groups are currently being delivered online.

All areas

Location: Online

Age range: 11 - 19 years

Time: Fortnightly Thursday, 5pm until 6.30pm

Provider: The Proud Trust (funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Contact details: Youth Worker Lewis Collins

Email: youthgroups@theproudtrust.org

Cost: Free

Over the holidays many young people enjoy celebrating with friends and family. As teenagers often attend social gatherings during this time, here are some useful links below to help you have conversations with your child about staying safe at parties. We hope these resources provide valuable guidance and peace of mind.

This guide from Drinkaware provides straight-forward advice when having discussions about alcohol and parties with your teenager. This is especially important over the Christmas period when your child may be invited to a party with friends.

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/advice/underage-drinking/teenagers-parties-andalcohol/>

'Child Development Info' provides you with 7 key questions to ask about parties. <https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/child-activities/7-questions-to-ask-to-keep-your-teensafe-atparties/#.XA5yIWjxKM8>

We are certain that a large number of digital devices will be sat under Christmas trees and unwrapped on Christmas morning.

The following websites support keeping children safe online when using their new devices.

The NSPCC provide Keeping children safe online advice <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Parents Protect provide a very informative guide, which gives advice for parents if their child gets into trouble online. It contains guidance regarding three different scenarios and how they are dealt with, as well as giving advice on talking about sex, internet safety and creating a family safety plan. <https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/>

https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/files/LFF_eResource_Pack_for_Parents_JUNE17.pdf

Mental Wellbeing can be under strain for young people and families during holiday periods.

The following websites and numbers provide support for young people and parents.

<https://www.kooth.com>

- CWP NHS 24/7 Helpline call: 0800 145 6485

- PAPYRUS: 0800 068 4141 Or Text: 07860039967

- SAMARITANS: 24/7 116 123 • CENTRE POINT (If you are at risk of homelessness) 0808 800 0661

- CHILDLINE: 0800 1111