



Christ's College Guildford

Principal: Sarah Hatch. BA (Hons), QTS, PGC, NPQH, NPQEL

www.christscollege.surrey.sch.uk



19 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of our first term of the year, and what a great first term it has been! Our Year 10 students have settled really well into the start of their GCSEs, and I've been really impressed with the growth and maturity they've shown.

So far, there have been many positive things to celebrate, and this is reflected in the already high number of house points. The standings are as follows:

5th= 10S with 4,036

4th= 10ARTS with 4,173

3rd= 10R with 5,143

2nd= 10T with 5,209

1st= 10A with 6,364

It's also great to see that 10A ended the term at the top of the year group, which is a lovely way for Mr Dunn to finish with his tutor group as he moves on to pastures new. He has been a fantastic tutor since they started in Year 7, offering lots of support, and a consistent face at the start of each day. We will really miss his presence as part of the Year 10 team, but we would like to wish him the best of luck in the future.

In this first term, we have had two Enrichment Days, which have given the Year group lots of opportunities to develop in various areas. The first one was based on the theme of "Future You", where Year 10 students had lots of different activities which explored different career paths, completing action plans for their next steps, as well as giving students the opportunity to explore their pathways, whilst moving towards those careers. One of the main resources used was a website <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>, this gave our students a really clear way to explore different subject areas which interested them, before providing them with clear information to help with decision making. I'd really encourage anyone who is struggling to know what their next steps will be to have a look at this website, but also to have a conversation with a member of staff at school to get the support needed.

Our second Enrichment Day gave the students the opportunity to experience a retreat as part of a pilgrimage through Guildford, exploring "God with us" as our theme. We walked through Guildford, starting at the United Reformed Church, where Rev. Wayne and Rev. Sarah did a Christmas quiz, before delving into "And so this is Christmas" and the meaning of this time of the year. We then split off into two groups, with one group going to St Mary's Church, whilst the other went to St Nicholas' Church. At St Mary's Church, the students watched a spoken word performance from Ryan who works with Matrix, before they had time to reflect through different activities set out in the church. At St Nicholas', again students were given reflection time and space to just take time out of their busy day to day lives as part of their retreat. The final church saw the whole year group join up again at St Joseph's, where Suzette Jones spoke to the students about "Getting Mindful for Christmas". She spoke about ways to meditate and relax when everything is happening around them. They practised techniques such as smiling for 30 seconds, as well as breathing exercises.



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Overall, the students engaged really well and got a lot out of the day. We are thankful for the spaces that each church gave us at such a busy time of year.



As we look to further support students in looking at their future careers, twelve Year 10 students were given the opportunity to visit CONSTRUCTIONFest on 30th November at Surrey Sports Park. This annual event brings representatives from across the whole of the construction industry together under one roof. Run by Surrey SATRO, the aim is for students to be exposed to careers and career pathways that would get them into construction. Firstly, our students engaged with a range of industries, including town planners, painters and decorators, suppliers of Personal Protective Equipment, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) entrepreneurs, robotics and human resource management. Most impressive were the AI goggles that allowed the wearer to see buildings in augmented reality, and how this could be applied by builders on a construction site to measure precise distances. The second session offered a chance for our students to meet some local providers of further education and understand more about the pathways into the construction industry. Representatives from Activate Learning talked to students about courses across their institutions, whilst Ringway (who sponsored the whole event) spoke about the apprenticeships that they offer and what doing an apprenticeship means. The final activity was a round table exercise. Our students met with 6 different employers from the construction industry and learned more about how they got to where they were. They met architects, tradespeople and even a concrete expert. However, the best talk came from a self made millionaire who told his story of how he progressed from struggling at school to being a talented bricklayer and then (via specialist qualifications) becoming a company owner in charge of huge house building projects across the country. He was nothing short of inspirational. He offered so much good advice to our students, and it was great to see them really engaged in his story and leaning on his knowledge to develop plans for their own futures.

A brilliant day. Thanks go to SATRO for inviting us and running such a great event.



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There has been so much to celebrate, but equally, we have so much to also look forward to in the new term ahead, with the school production of West Side Story deep into rehearsals, ready for the performances in February. We look forward to welcoming all students back in the New Year, and wish all students and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Miss H Czuprynski

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