



13th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

December Updates

In the penultimate week of the autumn term our Christmas festivities begin in earnest and bring a wonderful Christmas atmosphere to the Collegiate. The standard of entry for our annual Christmas Card competition exemplified how our students can ***Use and Develop their Talents*** to brilliant effect, and you can see the overall winner's entry (Jensen Topp 9NCG) and all other College Winners and Special Commendations in the attachment sent with this letter. I have also loved judging our Maths Advent Calendar competition this week and I will share the winner with you in my final letter of the term next Friday. Please continue to visit our website to read about, and see pictures of, many of this letter's stories and events.

Christmas Fundraising

Riddlesdown's first Christmas Jumper Day has been a great success with students from Year 7 through to Year 13 taking part, raising hundreds of pounds for Save The Children and getting into the festive spirit at the same time. Thank you to the College VI Non-Profit organisation for organising this event. The Collegiate's Christmas collection for the Purely Food Hub was our biggest yet, with huge amounts of food collected for those in need this winter. Thank you to Mr Daniels and Miss Mouette for organising this and to all the students and staff who donated.

College VI Guidance Interviews

The College VI Guidance Interviews have taken place over the past 2 weeks for all Year 11 students who have applied to study A Levels and BTECs at College VI next year. Year 11 students prepared well for these and have had a lot of productive conversations with our Senior Team, ensuring students have chosen the right courses that will support their future career aspirations. We know that College VI is the best place for our students to learn, develop and achieve and it has been lovely to hear their reasons for wanting to continue onto College VI, such as the quality of pastoral care, the quality of the teaching and learning, the excellent careers and UCAS preparation and the wonderful range of co-curricular opportunities. We are looking forward to working with so many of our Year 11 students next year.

Croydon CSMA

On Thursday 5th December, The Chamber Choir performed at the CSMA concert at The Fairfield Halls. They performed 'One Day More' from Les Misérables and a medley of Christmas tunes. Their attitude and commitment were exemplary. The conductor from CSMA said *'Thank you so much for bringing yet another high-quality Chamber Choir performance to this year's CSMA concert! The diction, balance, intonation, and general commitment of the whole choir was exceptional. It's amazing that they were so well-prepared and able to perform a relatively complex medley on just*



one 10-minute rehearsal. Well done for making themselves heard over a full orchestra and fill the hall without amplification. I loved the Les Mis as well, great choice of repertoire!" High praise indeed and well done once again to The Riddlesdown Collegiate Chamber Choir.

Curiosity – The Collegiate’s Science Magazine

Our Science Ambassadors, led by Mrs Dey, have worked incredibly hard to produce the latest edition of our Science Magazine, **Curiosity**. We hope you enjoy reading the articles and the latest issue focuses on the real-life applications of science and the unique challenges of living in our twenty-first century world. You can find the full magazine [here](#) which includes articles on the recently held COP29 summit in Azerbaijan, how microplastics are affecting marine life, the reconstruction of life from skeletons, the unique chemistry of the flavour of food, the chemistry behind scents in perfume and many, many more!

End of Autumn Term Events and Reminders

All students will be sharing the joy that Christmas music brings in our College Carol services on Monday and Tuesday and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas Concert on Thursday which begins at 7.00pm. A reminder that the end of term will be at 12.00pm on Friday 20th December and students can wear ‘mufti’ (school uniform not required). Donations will go towards a new outdoor seating area. All students will return after the Christmas break on Monday 6th January 2025 at 10.00am and full details can be found in my previous letter.

Please note that safeguarding information is provided overleaf, along with useful links for further guidance and resources. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best wishes,

Mr D Osborne
Principal



Safeguarding Briefing: Christmas Holiday support

If you have a safeguarding concern about a young person during the weekend or school holiday, please note that school staff are often not available to respond to emails during those times.

In the event of an emergency/ or if someone is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999

Contact Croydon Children Services MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 0208 255 2888.

External support for students all year round can be accessed through the services below:

KOOTH - Kooth is a great text-based service (you will have to download the app) and usually there is someone able to message back within an hour. <https://www.kooth.com/>

SHOUT are a text based service <https://www.giveusashout.org/> Text 85258

NSPCC offer a phone call service. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> or call 08001111

The Mix - <https://www.themix.org.uk/> Call **0808 808 4994**

Croydon Drop in - <http://croydondropin.org.uk/contact> - Charity counselling service; Call **020 8680 0404**

Off the Record - <https://www.talkofftherecord.org/croydon/> - open Monday (including Bank Holidays) to Friday from 3 - 6pm and Saturdays, 10am - 1pm. Call 0800 980 7475.

NHS 111, Call 111, Staffed by nurses who offer medical advice and information.

Or click here for the NHS 111 website. <<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/>>

CROYDON CAMHS: <https://slam.nhs.uk/service-detail/service/croydon-camhs-crisis-care-service-200/>

Call 020 3228 0000; *out of hours call us on 0800 731 2864*