



Church Hill Middle School Autumn term 1 2025

A message from Mrs Jarvis





CHURCH HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, welcome to everyone and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Our half termly newsletter comes out on the last school day of each half term. In our newsletter we have standing items on KS2 and KS3 news, curriculum and photos of students and their work. All past editions of our half termly SWAY can be viewed on the school website.

We also use the SWAY as an opportunity to celebrate in school activities , notify you of upcoming events and provide further information regarding school expectations and policies. There also is a section at the end about support for parents and how to join our 'Community teachers association'.

Future vision

Our vision is to achieve social justice through excellent schooling, fostering a legacy of mutual trust and respect. We strive to create an environment where a love of teaching inspires a love of learning, enabling every individual to thrive. By prioritising the raising of standards in Church Hill, we empower our students to achieve great outcomes with kindness, resilience, and hard work at the heart of all we do.

Outcomes

We are very proud of our outcomes at Church Hill. The students and team worked incredibly hard to secure an incredible set of results [Church Hill SATs results 2025](#).

In reading we attained **80%** at age related expectation and above (the highest in the local area) and above national (75%).

In writing we attained **67%** at age related expectation and above

In Maths we attained **73%** at age related expectation and above which was just below national (74%)

In combined (reading, writing and maths) we attained **60%** (2nd highest in the local area) at age related expectation and above and just below national (62%)

I want to assure you that our priority is to raise standards and outcomes at Church Hill to ensure that all children leave our school with an education that prepares them for High school and future qualifications.

Parents evening

Parents evening slots have been scheduled using our Arbor application. If you need any help with completing this please contact the office on office@churchhill.crst.org.uk or via the Arbor app directly.

As ever,

We are Kind

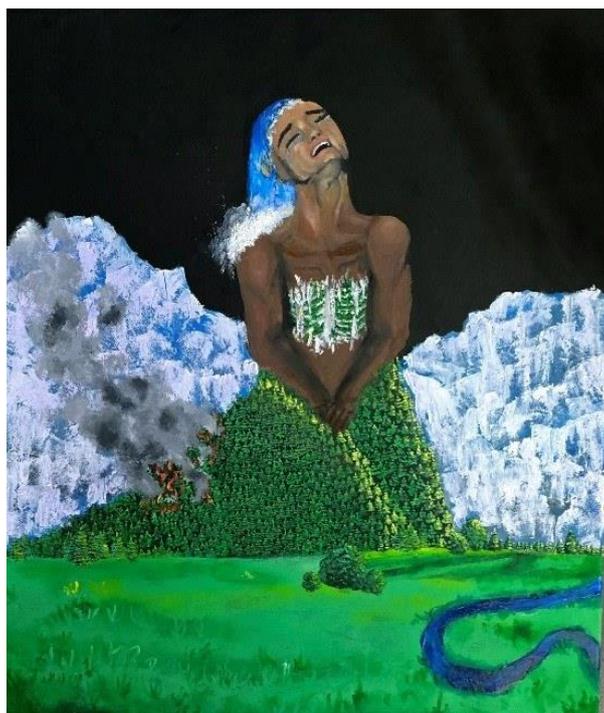
We are Resilient

We are Hard working

Have a fantastic half term break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards

Laura Jarvis



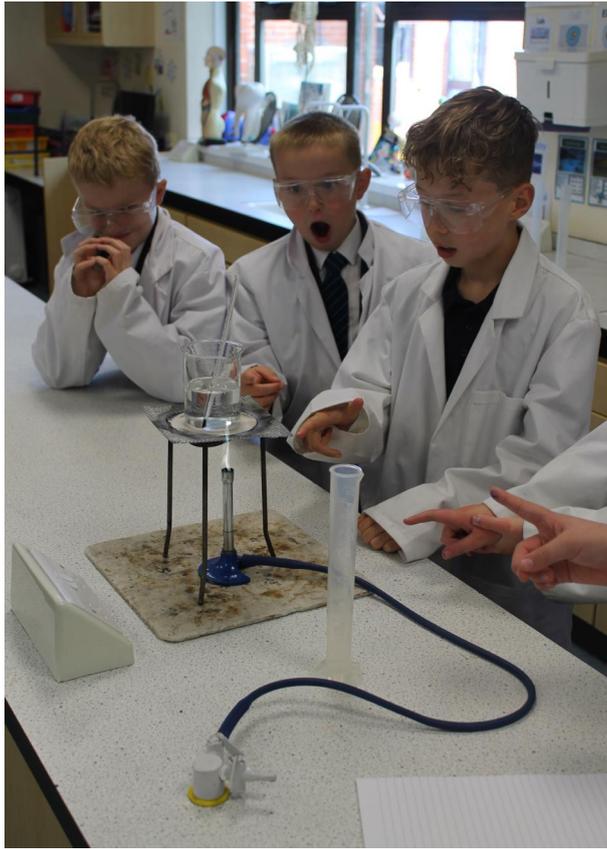


WE ARE **Kind**

WE ARE **RESILIENT**

WE ARE **HARDWORKING**











KS2 News



Key Stage 2 have had an exciting Autumn term, taking part in lots of learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

We have been learning about:

Year 6:

Year 6 have had a fantastic half term filled with exciting and inspiring learning across the curriculum! In history, they have been fully immersed in their study of monarchs and the Victorians, brought vividly to life by their trip to the Black Country Museum. During the trip, we watched real-life nail making demonstrations; had an immersive experience in the Victorian school house and even visited the chemist learning about the Black Death! In science, we have recapped our learning of variables doing an exciting experiment of making paper helicopters! Pupils have begun exploring electricity and atoms, preparing for an exciting hands-on experiment to deepen their understanding in our new topic. Through our class text *Street Child*, they have delved into the hardships of Victorian life and showcased their creativity in English by writing detailed character descriptions of the evil Mr Spink! In maths, the children have been strengthening their understanding of the four operations — addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division — tackling challenging problem-solving tasks to build their confidence and readiness for Year 6. There have been so many incredible things to celebrate this half term - from the maturity and responsibility we have seen so far; the representation of our amazing footballers competing against other schools in various fixtures and also the kind, hardworking and resilient attitudes we have seen from everyone. What a brilliant start to Year 6!

Year 5:

Year 5 Step into the World of Ancient Greece

Year 5 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting and immersive Greek Day, designed to deepen their understanding of Ancient Greek mythology as part of their history topic. The day began with a captivating theatre production delivered by the talented team from Past Productions. With a clever blend of historical accuracy, humour, and modern twists, the performance

brought to life famous myths such as *Daedalus and Icarus*, *Theseus and the Minotaur*, and *Pandora's Box*. A special well done to the student volunteers who took to the stage, helping to set the scene and bring the stories to life with enthusiasm and flair.

Following the performance, the children took part in a series of engaging workshops that extended their learning in creative and hands-on ways. In one session, pupils designed their own Greek-style plates, drawing inspiration from the iconic artwork and storytelling found in ancient pottery. Another workshop encouraged students to collaborate in groups to invent their own mythical tales, crafting imaginative characters and narratives in the style of traditional Greek legends. The final workshop gave children the chance to become Athenian actors and actresses, using drama techniques such as freeze frames and role play to explore key scenes from well-known myths. They even experimented with alternative endings, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the stories.

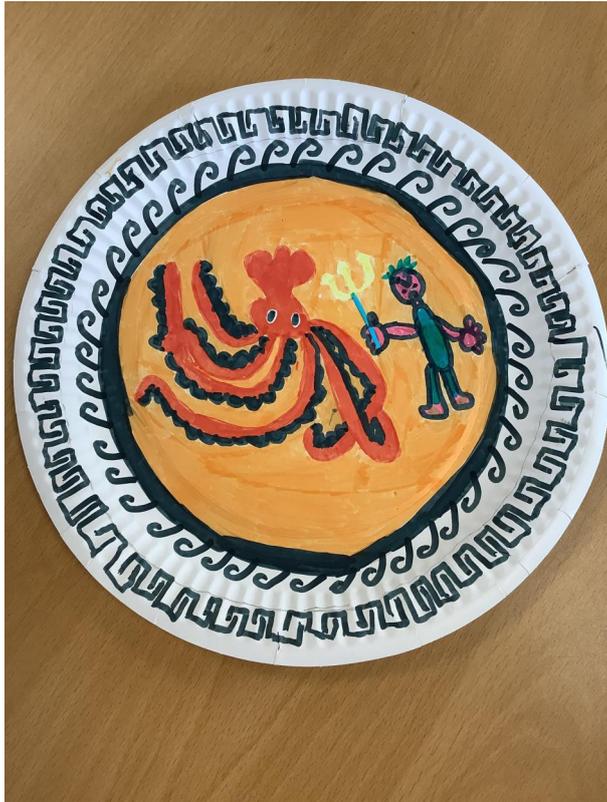
Alongside this experience year 5 have worked relentlessly to design and craft their own Athenian helmets to immerse themselves with the culture and training experienced by those within the warring city-states of Athens and Sparta. A huge well done for your teamwork, resilience and creativity with creating these across the week.

The day was a fantastic success, filled with learning, laughter, and memorable moments. Both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which not only enriched their knowledge of Ancient Greece but also sparked a genuine excitement for history. A big thank you to everyone involved for making it such a special and inspiring day!

Children's University:













KS3 News



KS3 students have had a great start to the new academic year. In lessons students have been focusing on following our Golden Rules and demonstrating our Church Hill values; *we are kind, we are resilient and we are hard working*. Across the curriculum we have been focusing on disciplinary literacy and the learning of key words and challenging vocabulary.

We have been learning about:

Year 7:

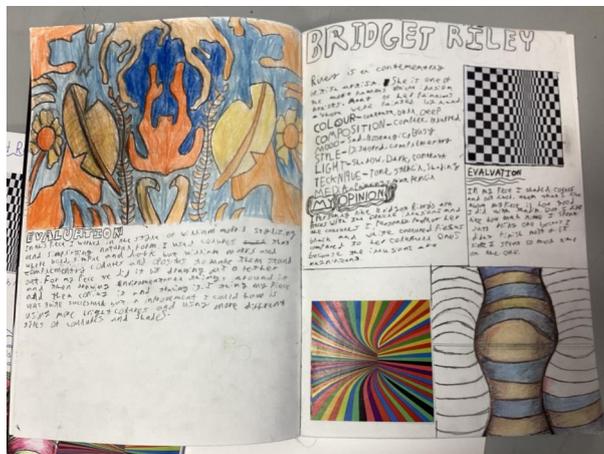
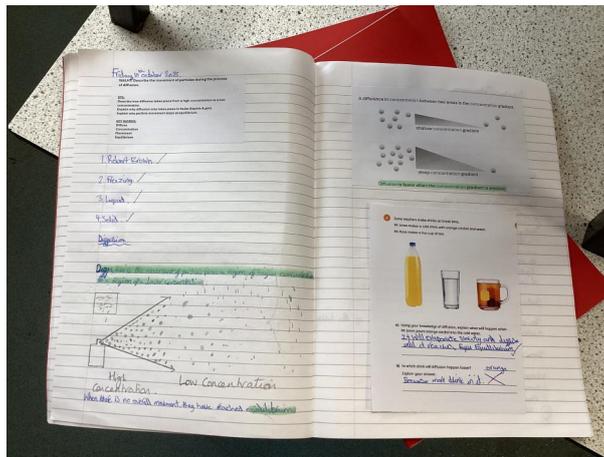
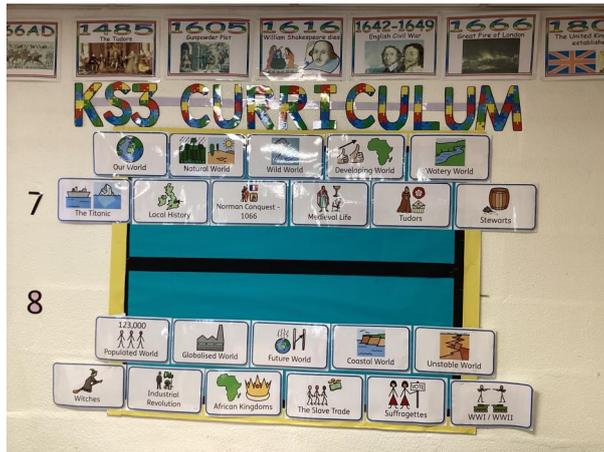
Throughout the academic year, Year 7 students have been engaging in a rich and varied curriculum designed to spark curiosity, build foundational knowledge, and develop key skills across a range of subjects:

- **History:** Students explored the **Titanic disaster**, examining the events leading up to the tragedy, the social class divisions on board, and the historical significance of the sinking. They also considered the impact of the disaster on maritime safety and public perception at the time.
- **Science:** In their science lessons, students have been introduced to **particle theory**, learning how solids, liquids, and gases behave at the particle level. This foundational topic helps them understand changes of state, diffusion, and the properties of materials.
- **Art:** Students have been developing their visual perception and creativity through a unit on **optical illusions**. They explored how artists use line, shape, and contrast to trick the eye, and created their own illusion-based artworks.
- **Geography:** The focus has been on **local geography**, with students investigating the physical and human geography of **Redditch and Birmingham**. This included map skills, land use, and how the local area has changed over time.
- **Physical Education (PE):** Students have been building teamwork, coordination, and fitness through **hockey** and **football**. These activities also support the development of strategic thinking and fair play.
- **English:** In English, students have been immersed in **creative writing**, crafting their own **fantasy worlds**. They developed characters, settings, and plots, using descriptive language and narrative techniques to bring their imaginative stories to life.
- **Music:** Students have been learning to play the **ukulele** and exploring the **12-bar blues**, developing their understanding of **rhythm, chord progressions**, and ensemble **performance**.

Year 8:

Year 8 students have continued to build on their knowledge and skills across a broad and engaging curriculum. This term, they have explored a range of thought-provoking topics designed to deepen their understanding and creativity:

- **Art:** Students have been developing their observational drawing skills through a focus on **drawing faces**. They explored facial proportions, shading techniques, and expression, working towards creating realistic and expressive portraits.



Greek Workshop



Greek Workshop

Year 5 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting and immersive Greek Day, designed to deepen their understanding of Ancient Greek mythology as part of their history topic. The day began with a captivating theatre production delivered by the talented team from Past Productions. With a clever blend of historical accuracy, humour, and modern twists, the performance brought to life famous myths such as *Daedalus and Icarus*, *Theseus and the Minotaur*, and *Pandora's Box*. A special well done to the student volunteers who took to the stage, helping to set the scene and bring the stories to life with enthusiasm and flair. All students showed our kindness value and showed immense respect and kindness to our guests.

Following the performance, the children took part in a series of engaging workshops that extended their learning in creative and hands-on ways. In one session, pupils designed their own Greek-style plates, drawing inspiration from the iconic artwork and storytelling found in ancient pottery. Another workshop encouraged students to collaborate in groups to invent their own mythical tales, crafting imaginative characters and narratives in the style of traditional Greek legends. The final workshop gave children the chance to become Athenian actors and actresses, using drama techniques such as freeze frames and role play to explore key scenes from well-known myths. They even experimented with alternative endings, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the stories.

Alongside this experience year 5 have worked relentlessly to design and craft their own Athenian helmets to immerse themselves with the culture and training experienced by those within the warring city-states of Athens and Sparta. This activity helped support our community spirit here at Church Hill by showcasing our school values through practical and purposeful avenues. A huge well done for your kindness, resilience and hard work with creating these across the week. It was great to witness the entire year group working collaboratively, developing relationships and showing effective communication skills to ensure each student has their own Athenian helmet.

The day was a fantastic success, filled with learning, laughter, and memorable moments. Both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which not only enriched their knowledge of Ancient Greece but also sparked a genuine excitement for history. A big thank you to everyone involved for making it such a special and inspiring day!







Church Hill Gazette - Student Newspaper

Church Hill Gazette

Church Hill Gazette

Welcome to the first ever Church Hill Gazette. We are made up of a group of 11 students who love writing and reporting on all things Church Hill!

What we love about Church Hill so far:

We have really enjoyed the lessons, especially moving around to our specialist subjects in different classrooms and settings. We are really enjoying receiving the postcards. You receive a postcard when you work incredibly hard during lessons. For example, Phoebe received a postcard recently for persevering even though she was finding the work a bit tricky! The Gazette Club has been a firm favourite because it's really fun and we get to report about things happening in school.

Year 5:

We have really loved settling in to year 5 at Church Hill. It was a big change from our first schools but now we feel like we have been here forever! It has been really nice to have a fresh start and we've loved making new friends!

This half term, year 5 were lucky enough to partake in 'Ancient Greek Day'. On this day, they had two visitors come in to teach all about Ancient Greece. The visitors performed a play which was all about Joe who fell asleep and woke up in Ancient Greece! Year 5 learnt about the myths and legends that originate from Ancient Greece and they made up their own myths too. They completed a drama session where they acted out a scene in their groups - it

was an AMAZING day! As part of their ancient Greek topic, they also created Athenian helmets and got to wear them in a year group picture! As well as this, year 5 have been reading Who Let the God's out and creating character and setting descriptions inspired by the book. In maths, they have learnt lots of new things including learning about factors, multiples and prime numbers.

Year 6:

Moving up to year 6 has been a challenge but getting to know everyone has been easy so now they feel like they have fully settled in. Recently, year 6 were incredibly lucky to be able to visit the Black Country Living Museum. They reported that they experienced life as children in the Victorian era. Firstly, there was a tilted house that was actually there before the museum was built. Next, they saw a dilapidated Victorian school and when they went inside, the teacher made the girls sit on one side and boys sit on the other. The next thing that happened was really funny: one child had apparently spent her 'precious' 2p on millions of sweets so the teacher got REALLY mad because he was meant to get that money! After that happened, they made year 6 say the alphabet which was easy but then he told them to say it backwards! Another amazing part was that most of year 6 got to go on a double decker bus showing them all of the sites at the museum! It was the best day!

Personal Development at Church Hill

It has been a busy half term at Church Hill Middle School with lots of exciting events going on!

At the start of his half term we launched our 'Golden Weeks', a series of lunch time events and activities to get pupils excited about coming back into school, deepening friendships and encouraging healthy competition between tutor groups and year groups! Pupils participated in challenges such as riddles, football penalty shoot outs, 'keepy uppy's' and more - winning sweets and the coveted 'golden tickets' which were all counted and went towards a treat. 5S and 7H were the overall tutor group winners and won a pizza lunch, and the year group with the most golden tickets were Year 7 who all won ice pops! Golden weeks were such a success that we decided to repeat some of the activities at the end of this half term too.

We kicked off our charitable events this half term by hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning which raised a whopping £519.40 for such a worthwhile cause!! Thank you so much to all of our families and friends who attended this event, bought raffle tickets and enjoyed some tea and cake with us. Our student helpers were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

In October we celebrate Black History Month and our students have taken part in assemblies, form tutor sessions and activities to learn more about Black history and culture. As a school we love to learn about other cultures and the school council are very excited to explore more opportunities to put on events for our pupils in the upcoming months!

On the 10th October it was Mental Health Awareness Day. We take mental health very seriously as a school and students took part in sessions on this day about what mental health is, signs that someone may be struggling with their mental health and where to seek support if needed. We also discussed ways to look after our mental health and mindfulness activities. We discuss mental health on a regular basis at Church Hill and we have signs and posters around school about who our Safeguarding Leads are, as well as online resources should pupils need support.

Next half term we are looking forward to launching some Careers events to excite our pupils about the world of work. If you have an interesting or unusual career and would be able to deliver an assembly to our pupils, or would be willing to volunteer to be an 'interviewer' for a morning or afternoon, please keep an eye on your Arbor messages as further information will be sent out soon. Thank you!





Church Hill Student Leadership



1 - Head Pupils with Mrs Jarvis



2 - Sports Leaders



3 - School Council

This half term we have democratically elected our new Student Leadership groups. Each tutor group has a school council representative who has the important job of attending school council meetings and being the 'voice' of their tutor group. Our School Council Leader and one of our Year 8 Prefects attended a Trust-wide event last week to review last year's successes and create our vision and plans for this academic year. They were brilliant ambassadors for our school and came back bursting with ideas! School Council are very keen to get working on these ideas and planning lots of exciting events in school, and will share details very soon!

We also have also chosen a team of Sports Leaders who will support with fixtures, equipment and Sports Day. This is an important role in Church Hill as we are very proud of our Sporting Successes!

Additionally, Year 8 pupils were invited to apply for the role of 'Prefect' which is a prestigious role within our school. Prefects are representatives of the school and also assist with in school activities and events. We are very proud of our new Prefect Team and look forward to their contributions to our school.

Last, but certainly not least, we held interviews for the roles of Head Pupils. Mrs Jarvis was SO impressed with the confidence, ideas and positive attitude of all of the Year 8 pupils who

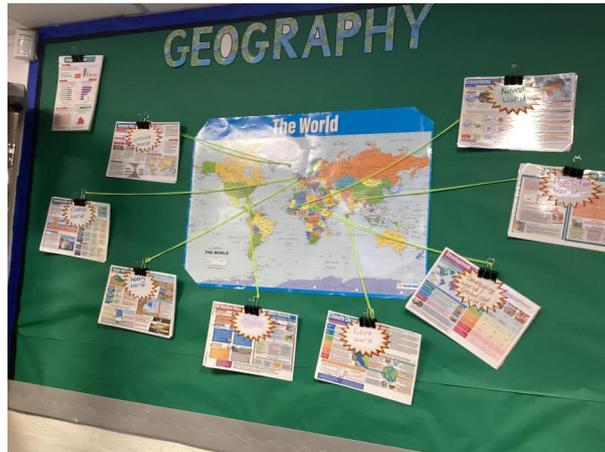
applied. We selected our Head Pupils, Deputy Head Pupils and a new role of Head of School Council and that have already demonstrated that they are great fits for the roles!

IMAGE TO INSERT: School leadership photos - prefects (cover JL)

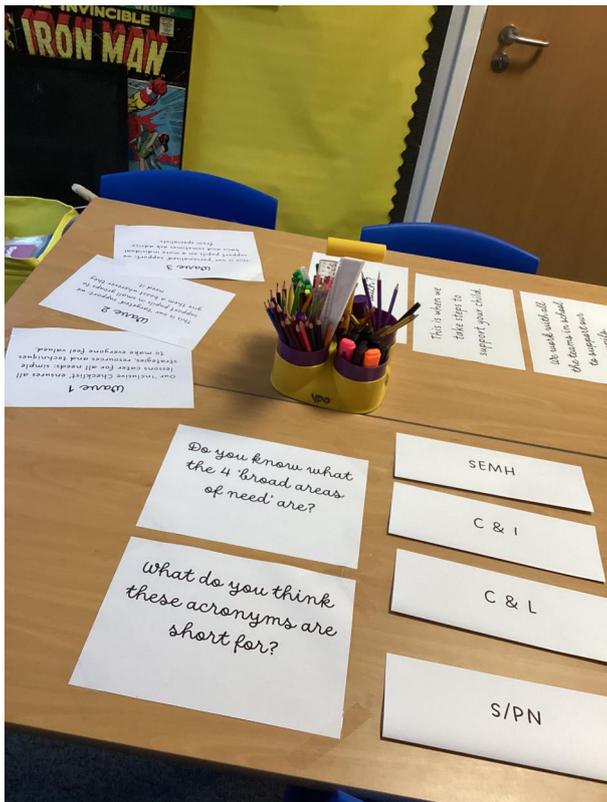


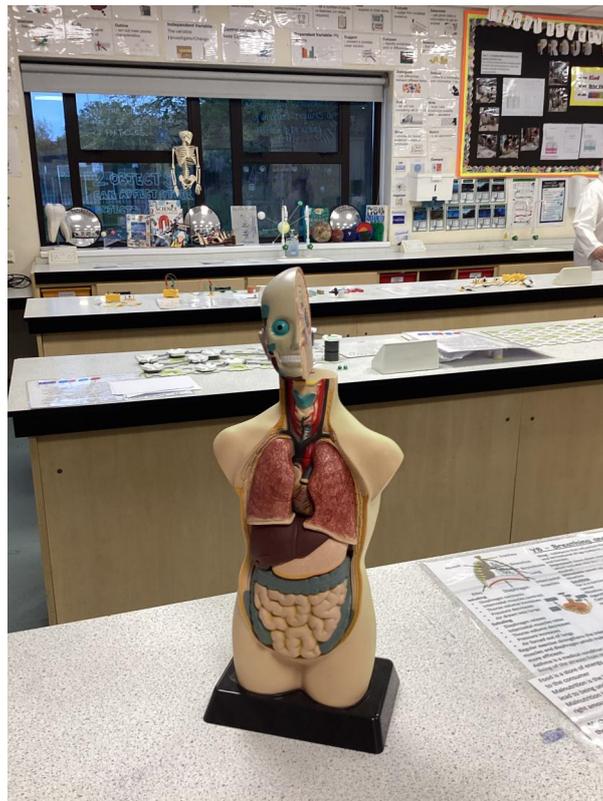
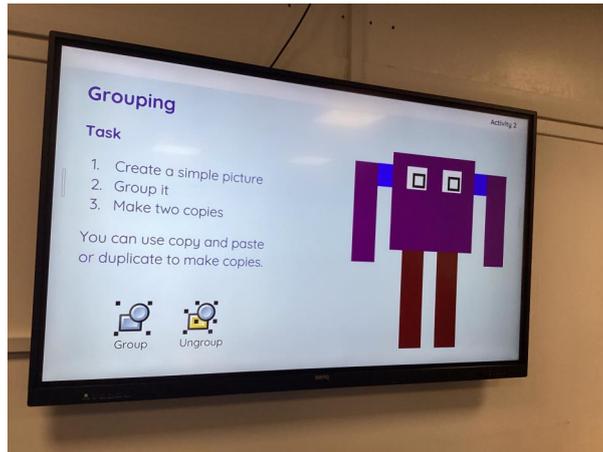
4 - Y8 Prefect Team

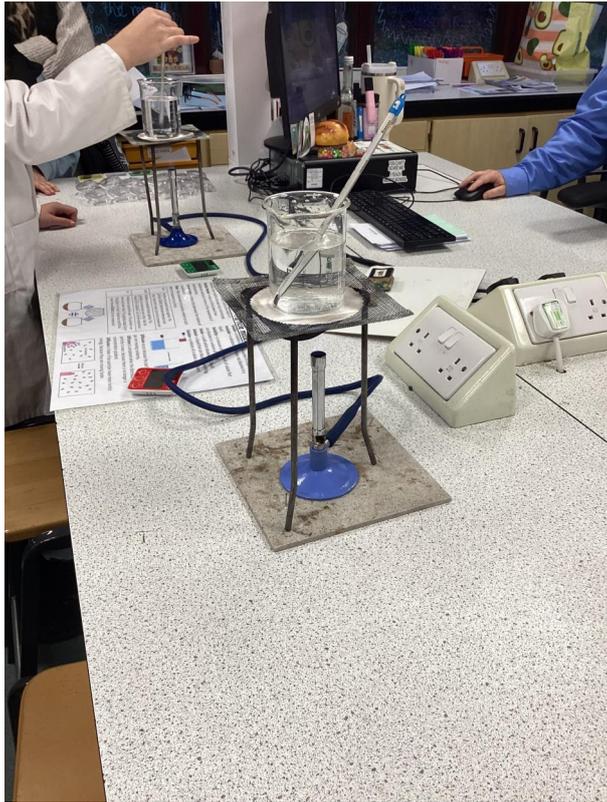
Open Evening

















The first task for our new Prefect and Head Pupil Team, supported by other fabulous KS3 pupils was to help showcase our school at Open Evening.

From crumble making in the cooking room to mark making in Art; taking a journey through time and around the world in Humanities to exploring microscopes in Science - our pupils helped with it all! Our student helpers are proud to be members of the Church Hill Community and gave tours and answered questions with confidence.

A highlight of the evening were speeches delivered by our 2 Head Pupils, who have attended Church Hill since Year 5 and shared their stories with our prospective parents, carers and pupils with confidence and pride.

If anyone was unable to attend Open Evening and would like a private tour, please do get in touch with the school office and this can be arranged for you.

Community teachers association



Welcome to the Abbey wood and Church Hill CTA.

We organise school events across the year to raise money for both Abbey Wood and Church Hill.

If you would like to be a part of our Abbey wood and Church Hill CTA, please contact **Becky Atkins on 01527 962794.**

Church Hill Sports events and upcoming fixtures



It has been a football-heavy start to the year, with years 6, 7 and 8 boys and girls competing in local district tournaments and festivals, County-Cup matches and first and second rounds of the English Schools FA Cup.

We have had a mixed set of results but highlights include our Year 7 and Year 6 boys' teams reaching the district finals, to be played on Wednesday 5th and Tuesday 11th November respectively.

Well done to all our students who have represented the school and good luck with your upcoming fixtures.





Uniform expectations - 2025



CHURCH HILL
MIDDLE SCHOOL

A reminder of our uniform 2025

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

Uniform (please see visual posters for pictures on website link below)

Blazer - formal Church Hill branded school blazer with 'Rio' piping

Shirt - A formal white collared shirt.

Tie - Church Hill Middle School tie.

Bottoms - formal black trousers or tailored shorts. Formal black school skirt which must be knee length and must not be of a stretchy or Lycra material. The skirt must not have external buckles, rivets, zips or logos.

Socks/tights - Plain white/black socks, or black opaque tights.

Shoes - formal plain black low-heeled shoes – these must not have a logo or branding. Trainers or pumps are not allowed. Black Nike air force trainers are not allowed to be worn on non-PE days.

PE kit (please see visual posters for pictures on website link below)

Bottoms – navy Church Hill branded shorts, skort, leggings or tracksuit bottoms. Alternative plain navy jogging bottoms/leggings can be worn - these must have no logos, branding or additional colour/embroidery.

Top – navy Church Hill branded polo shirt

Jumper - navy Church Hill tracksuit top (branded with school logo) with full length zip (alternative plain navy crew neck sweatshirt can be worn – this must have no logos, branding or additional colour/embroidery)

Trainers – appropriate for sporting activities

Socks - navy blue sports socks

Football boots (optional)

Key points

School blazers are not to be worn on PE days. Church Hill branded jumper or plain navy sweatshirt is to be worn instead. No hoodies.

Shorts are not to be worn over jogging bottoms/leggings.

[Link to website](#)

Key dates for Autumn term

Teacher Training Day: Friday 24th October. No pupils on site.

Half term: Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October.

Return to school: Monday 3rd November.

KS2 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th November (3.30 - 6pm). Sign up on Arbor.

KS3 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November (3.30 - 6pm). Sign up on Arbor.

Year 5 Film Festival Trip: Thursday 20th November.

Teacher Training Day: Friday 28th November. No pupils on site.

Christmas Fayre: Thursday 4th December (3.30 - 5pm).

Carol Concert at St Leonard's Church: Wednesday 17th December.

Christmas Dinner Day: Thursday 18th December.

Friday 19th December: Last day of term.

Support, courses, and workshops for parents, carers and grandparents





5 - [Support, courses, and workshops for parents, carers and grandparents | Worcestershire County Council](#)



6 - *The Nigel Prosser foundation*

Support for families with SEN

[Free Sen Support For Families | Nigel Prosser Foundation](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Internet Controls.



It's exceptionally easy for a child to come across harmful content online, whether by accident or otherwise. Internet filtering software is a family's line of defence. Ensure you check your router filtering controls, parental software controls, ISP filtering controls and useful recommendations. See below tips on avoiding potential hazards relating to privacy and security, unrestricted access and harmful content.



7 - Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships to unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more features become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

ONLINE FAIR PLAY

FAIR PLAY

- 1 ORGANISE YOUR DEFENCE**
Use strong passwords to protect your personal information, accounts and data. A trusted adult, like a teacher or a relative, can help you choose one that's easy for you to remember but hard for anyone else to guess.
- 2 KEEP POSSESSION**
Only share personal information online with people you know well, like friends and family. A trusted adult will be able to help you change your online privacy settings so strangers can't find things out about you.
- 3 USE TEAMWORK**
Before you use a device for the first time or download a new app, always check with a trusted adult. They'll be able to check if it's safe for you to use and make sure the privacy settings are right for you.
- 4 BE RESPECTFUL**
Treat people online like you would treat them in real life. Remember your manners and be polite and kind in your posts, comments and messages.
- 5 CATCH ATTACKERS OFFSIDE**
If someone is trying to bully you online, a trusted adult can help you to gather evidence and report that person to the authorities. You should also tell a trusted adult if you see anything online that makes you feel worried, upset, frightened or sad.

FOUL PLAY

- 1 DON'T IGNORE POSSIBLE DANGER**
Never accept a friend request from a stranger. If somebody you don't know tries to contact you online, tell a trusted adult straight away.
- 2 DON'T LOSE CONTROL & RETALIATE**
Although it can be tempting, it's best not to respond if someone attempts to bully you online or sends you hurtful messages. Tell a trusted adult what happened, and then block the person from contacting you again in future.
- 3 DON'T HURT PEOPLE DELIBERATELY**
It's important to behave online just like you would in real life. Don't post anything that can make you look like a bad person, because the things we put online can stay there for a long time.
- 4 DON'T CHEAT YOUR WAY TO VICTORY**
Don't copy another person's work that you found online or pretend that it's yours. This is called plagiarism and can get you into a lot of trouble.
- 5 DON'T PLAY FOR EXTRA TIME**
It can be easy to spend too much time online. Instead, take a break to go outside for some fresh air and exercise. Not using your device just before bed will also help you get a good night's sleep so you can be fresh and focused the next day.

The Dos and Don'ts; OF Online Conduct

Alongside individual skill, impressive teamwork and some truly epic matches, one of the most enjoyable things about this summer's European football championships has been the sense of sportsmanship and fair play. Players have competed fiercely, but they've (mostly) remembered that they're representing their country — and that bad behaviour, dangerous play or outright cheating tends to last in people's memories for a long time after tournaments are over. The same is true of how we act online — one error of judgement or loss of control might only take a second, but can have results that are difficult to forget. Instead, just like the heroes of the Euros, we should aim for people to see us and feel proud and inspired. So, in a five-a-side line-up (with five "dos" and five "don'ts"), here are our top tips for playing fair online.

