

# THE EPOCHS

# BEACON

*The weekly round up of school life*



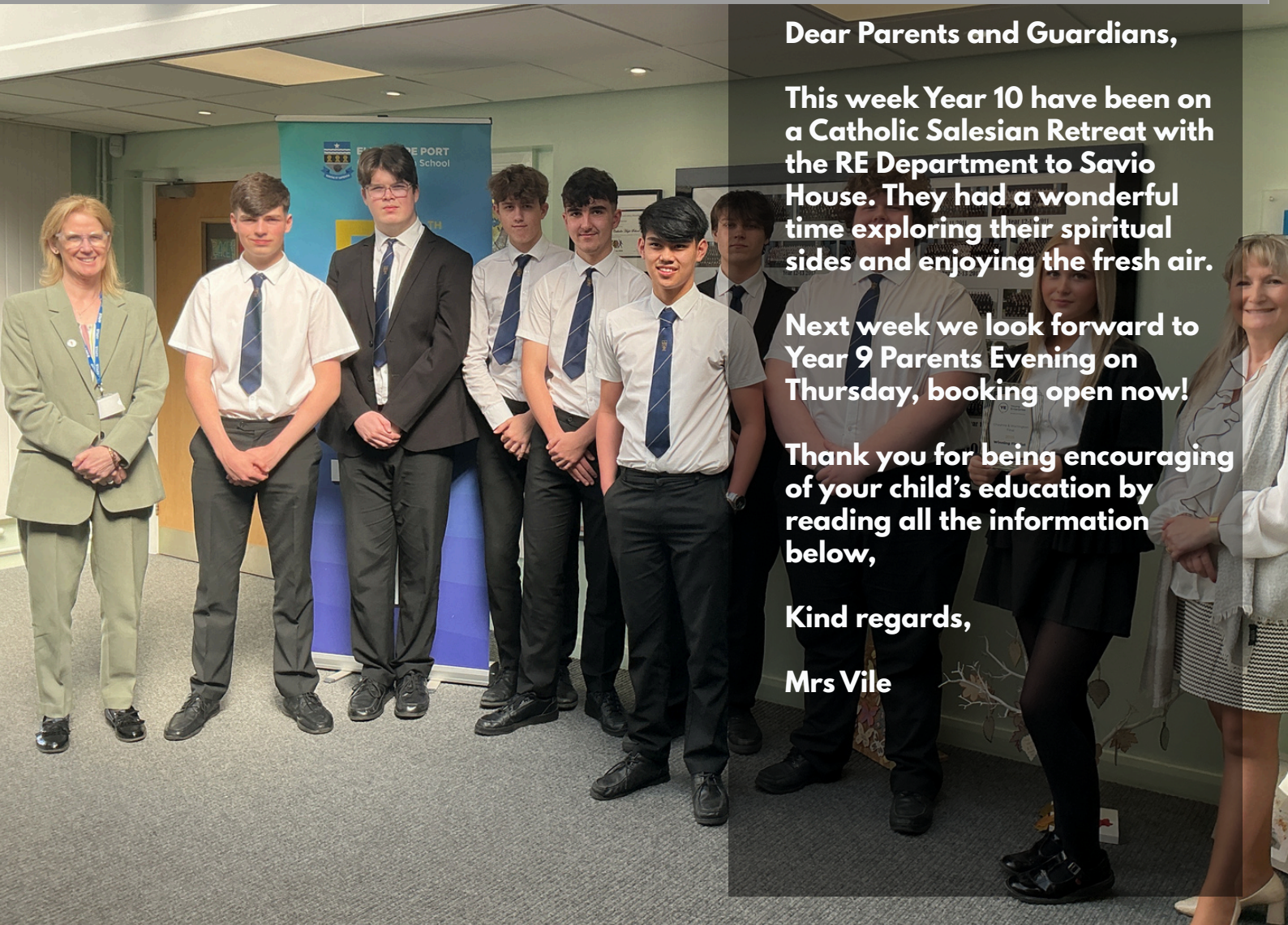
**READY - RESPECTFUL - SAFE - KIND**



"I Have Come So That They May Have Life And Have It To The Full" – John 10:10



# HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week Year 10 have been on a Catholic Salesian Retreat with the RE Department to Savio House. They had a wonderful time exploring their spiritual sides and enjoying the fresh air.

Next week we look forward to Year 9 Parents Evening on Thursday, booking open now!

Thank you for being encouraging of your child's education by reading all the information below,

Kind regards,

Mrs Vile



Secondary School of the Year  
**WINNER**

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

# *Dignity of the human person*

**We believe that every person has inherent dignity, and every life is sacred. The innate dignity of each person is the foundation and inspiration of our vision for a just and compassionate world. We see the image of God in every person, no matter their circumstance.**



**Dignity of  
the  
Human Person**



# CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF MR. COUCILL

**This term we mark the retirement of Mr. Coucill from his role as Chair of Governors, bringing to a close more than two decades of dedicated leadership and service to our school community. Mr. Coucill first joined the Governing Body in 2003. Since then, he has given countless hours of his time, energy, and expertise to ensure that our school continues to thrive. For over 20 years, he has served as Chair of Governors, guiding the board with wisdom, fairness, and a deep commitment to the wellbeing and success of every child.**

**Under his stewardship, the Governing Body has supported the school through many changes and achievements. His steady leadership has helped shape the vision and values that continue to inspire staff, pupils, and parents alike. Beyond the formal responsibilities, Mr. Coucill has always been a visible and approachable presence, taking a genuine interest in the life of the school and the progress of its pupils. We are profoundly grateful for the dedication and care he has shown over the years. His legacy is one of service, integrity, and unwavering commitment to education. On behalf of the entire school community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Coucill and wish him every happiness in the future.**





# CELEBRATING MRS WILSON

**We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Wilson, who has been serving as a governor of our school since May 2025. Her dedication, wisdom, and commitment to our school community have made a lasting impact.**

**As a governor, Mrs Wilson has played a vital role in supporting all areas of school life. Beyond her governance duties, she has generously given her time to support school events and trips, always bringing enthusiasm and encouragement to staff, pupils, and parents alike.**

**Her presence has been felt at many memorable occasions—from cheering on pupils at performances, to lending a hand during fundraising events, and accompanying classes on educational visits. These contributions have enriched our school life and created wonderful experiences for our children.**

**On behalf of the entire school community, we thank Mrs Wilson for her commitment, kindness, and service. We are truly grateful for everything she has done to support our school and wish her the best for the future.**



# *Former student celebrates achievement in theatre*



We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of one of our former students, Mike, who wrote and directed our very first staff and student panto here at EPCHS.

Mike has continued to shine in the world of theatre and is now the Artist in Residence at the Epstein Theatre in Liverpool — a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to his creativity, dedication and talent.

Our Drama Department are especially proud of Mike's journey. He has produced outstanding work through his company Naughty Corner Productions, with Mrs Cavanagh and Mrs Kennedy-McGill proudly attending his performances — even taking EPCHS students along to experience his shows first-hand.

It is wonderful to see Mike's talent being recognised in such a prestigious way, and we can't wait to see what he creates next.



# CHAPLAINCY *news*

On Sunday, the second week of Advent will begin. The theme is Peace. Each form has been asked to raise funds to buy a Braille machine for a school in Malawi. The form that raises the most will come to B11 for festive treats. Ms Lamb has made a beautiful display of artefacts from Malawi in the Chapel. Please pop up and have a look.

This week Year 10 students have been to Savio House on a 'Journey' Retreat. Please see below. It has been an absolute pleasure to be with them. Everyone involved themselves in the activities. We participated in a Reconciliation service and looked at the lives of Refugees. We walked together, ate together and broke bread together. Thankyou to everyone involved.



# WARM CLOTHES DONATIONS

Please remember that we are collecting for people in our community who need clothes. We especially need coats, shoes, blankets and toiletries. Try to have a sort out at the weekend and bring any donations to Angela in B11. They make an enormous difference to people. They are currently in need of woolly hats and gloves so if you have any, please pass to Angela in B11.



# COMMUNITY

There are lots of exciting events taking place in our local parishes. Please check out the website. Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church | Roman Catholic Churches of Ellesmere Port and Hootton ([rcchep.co.uk](http://rcchep.co.uk)) Please contact your Parish Priest if you would like more information on the Parish Sacramental programme.

**ROSARY IS SAID  
EACH BREAKTIME  
IN B11. PLEASE  
JOIN US.**





# YEAR 10 RETREAT



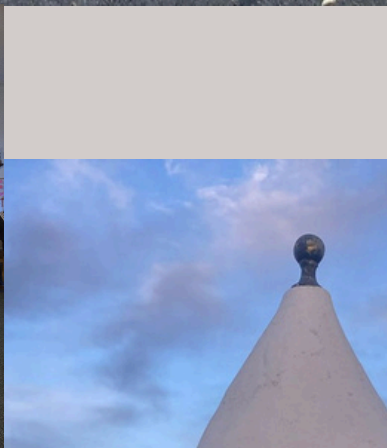


# SAVIO HOUSE YEAR 10 RETREAT



A walk took us up to the beautiful White Nancy, where we were delighted to be joined by Fr Godlove.

We ended the evening with a special Mass followed by a lively disco — complete with plenty of karaoke singing!  
A fantastic end to a memorable day!







# CANDY CANE



# AND COOKIE SALE



**When:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Where:** Oasis 2 classroom – every lunch and break

**Why:** To raise money for Braille machines for a school in Malawi

**How much?** Only £1





# Year 7 Netball Match Report

The Year 7 netball team took part in another league game at Whitby High School, this time against Neston A. The team played with real focus and effort throughout, coming away with a well-earned 22-5 win.

All players contributed strongly, working hard to move the ball effectively and support one another across the court. The shooters were particularly sharp, making the most of their chances and helping the team build a steady lead. Defence and mid-court players also played their part, staying on the ball and keeping the game flowing.

It was a cold evening, but the team stayed positive, worked well together, and represented the school brilliantly.

As the saying goes, "Great teams are built on working together and enjoying the game." The Yr 7 squad showed exactly that.  
Well done Yr 7 - MISS LODGE



# EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

Punctuality and attendance matters at EPOCHS

To make the best start to the day, students should arrive on site by 8:40am.

Every minute really does make a difference — to learning, confidence and success.

Thank you for supporting positive routines, strong punctuality and excellent attendance at EPOCHS.

## EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

5 MINUTES  
LATE

3.4 DAYS MISSED — 98.4% ATTENDANCE

10 MINUTES  
LATE

6.9 DAYS MISSED — 97.6% ATTENDANCE

15 MINUTES  
LATE

10.3 DAYS MISSED — 94.6% ATTENDANCE

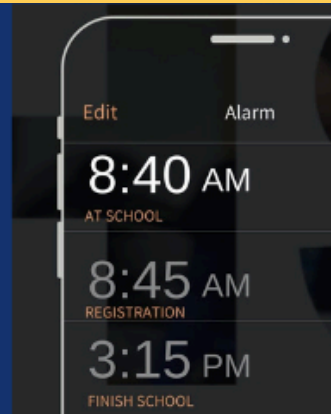
20 MINUTES  
LATE

: 13.8 DAYS MISSED — 92.9% ATTENDANCE

30 MINUTES  
LATE

20.7 DAYS MISSED — 89.2% ATTENDANCE

**DID YOU KNOW THAT ARRIVING JUST A FEW MINUTES LATE EACH DAY CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON YOUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE?**







Young Enterprise 2026 has returned with an outstanding early success. Our Year 12 team was invited to the impressive Spectrum Brands headquarters in Manchester to showcase their product range at the company's Indoor Christmas Fair.

Spectrum Brands is a global consumer products organisation, home to well-known household names such as Russell Hobbs and Tetra. During the fair, staff were encouraged to visit stands from various local schools and colleges, and our students certainly made an impact. The team's innovative product idea received high praise, and they impressively sold out their entire stock to Spectrum employees.

In addition to strong sales, the group also benefited from valuable, constructive feedback on their product design, pricing strategy and marketing campaign, insights that will help them as they continue to refine and develop their business.

Our talented team consists of:

Lib, Managing Director  
 Reuben, Finance Manager  
 Owen, Operations Lead  
 Cleo, Marketing Manager

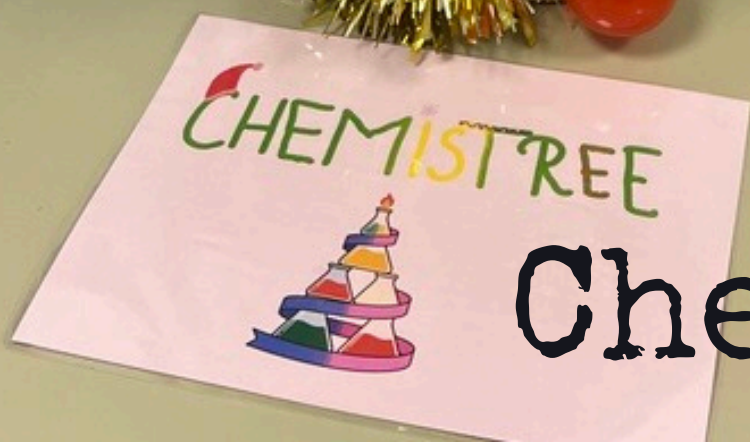
I am incredibly proud of their achievements so far and I encourage everyone to support them in the next stages of their Young Enterprise journey. With the County Final approaching in March, the team will be working hard to prepare for what is likely to be an exciting and challenging event.

Please support them by joining their Instagram page and purchasing one of their beautiful Baby Lithop plants, presented in a cute little terracotta pot. Mindstones special Christmas edition comes in a festive "Christmas House" gift box and is available for just £4.99.

Thank you for your support!  
 Francoise Williams



Y13  
Chemistry  
students  
needed a  
break from  
their PPE's  
and decided  
to get  
festive and  
make a  
'Chemistree'!



Chemistree



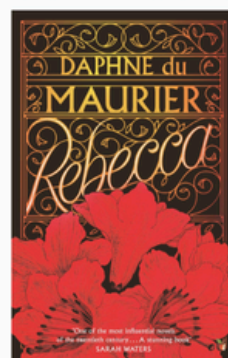
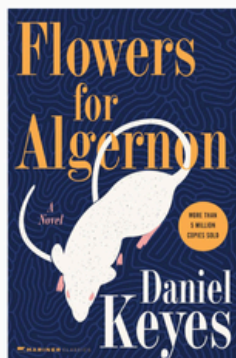
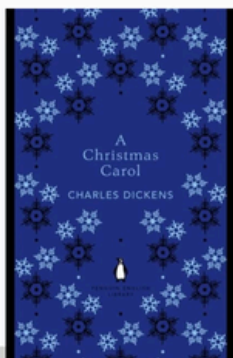
"Distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December" -

Edgar Allan Poe

## A CLASSIC(S) CHRISTMAS

This December, we encourage you to get cosy and visit the Classics. Pop into the library to choose from our range, including titles such as...

"A classic is the term given to any book which comes to represent the whole universe, a book on a par with ancient talismans." - Italo Calvino





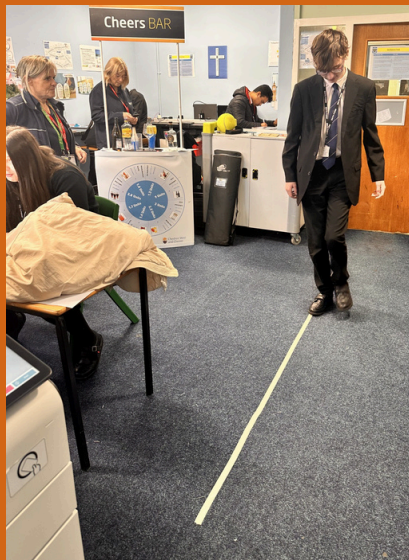
# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Well Done to everyone who has been awarded Achievement certificates and badges this week.





# CHEERS BAR



On Tuesday, we welcomed Sarah and Debbie, Road Safety Officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council, who brought their interactive 'Cheers Bar' to Sixth Form.

They delivered an engaging and eye-opening session on the dangers of driving – or being a passenger – with someone under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

A valuable and impactful workshop for our students as they prepare for life on the road.



# PARISH INFORMATION

A gathering for those with a heart for young people (teachers, parents, chaplains, youth workers, priests, religious).

We invite you to gather with us ONLINE at 4pm on Monday 15th December for a time of Advent formation and reflection post-COP30 and pre-Christmas.

More information here: [click here](#)

Register for the Zoom link here: [zoom link](#)



The poster features a central text area with a starry background. At the top left is a logo with a green leaf and a cross, labeled 'Spirituality and EcoJustice'. To its right is the 'COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN' logo. The main title 'Looking ahead with Hope?' is in large, bold letters. Below it, a paragraph describes the event as a moment of advent formation and reflection. A red starburst graphic on the right contains the date and time. At the bottom, a red banner provides the registration link. To the right of the text are two photographs: one of lit candles and another of people in a meeting.

**COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN**

**Looking ahead with Hope?**

A moment of advent formation and reflection for those with a heart for young people, post-COP30 and pre-Christmas.

**MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 4PM VIA ZOOM**

**REGISTER AT**  
<https://bit.ly/LookingAheadWithHOPE>



The poster has a dark background with a central photograph of a family huddled together. Text is overlaid on the image and in separate boxes. At the top, the competition title is in large, bold letters. Below it, details about the competition are provided. A quote from the UN Secretary-General is featured in a large, stylized font. At the bottom, prize information is listed in a table-like format, and the Columban Missionaries Britain logo is on the right.

**SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION**

The Columban Missionaries are looking for students in Britain and Ireland (aged 13-18 inclusive, parental permission required) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:

**"BECOMING A REFUGEE IS NEVER A CHOICE, BUT HOW WE RESPOND IS."**  
(UN Secretary-General António Guterres)

**COMPETITION LAUNCH:**  
21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 - WORLD PEACE DAY  
**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:** 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
**WINNERS ANNOUNCED:** 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026  
More details: [www.columbancompetition.com](http://www.columbancompetition.com)

PRINT PRIZES		IMAGE PRIZES	
1 <sup>ST</sup>	£300	1 <sup>ST</sup>	£300
2 <sup>ND</sup>	£150	2 <sup>ND</sup>	£150
3 <sup>RD</sup>	£100	3 <sup>RD</sup>	£100

**COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN**

The second is the **Columban Schools Media Competition.**

This year we are inviting entries from artists and writers inspired by the theme "Becoming a refugee is never a choice. But how we respond is."

More information here  
[Click here](#)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## National Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

#### 1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

#### 2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

#### 3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

#### 4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

#### 5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

#### 6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

#### 7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

#### 8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

#### 9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

#### 10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

#### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



@wake\_up\_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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Everyday devices make life easier, but they can also pose hidden risks if not used safely. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide shares simple steps to prevent overheating, fires, and other hazards, helping parents and educators spot warning signs and model safer habits for young people.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HAF

### FREE WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Funded by  
Department  
for Education

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS  
ACROSS WEST CHESHIRE



Cheshire West & Chester

# HAF

Holiday Activities & Food



KEEP UP WITH ALL THE HOLIDAY FUN ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES...

Go\_cheshirewest and EdsentialUK Cheshire West and Chester Council and EdsentialUK #HAF2025

If you would like help booking please call 07827 877820 or email [HAF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



[www.edsential.com/haf](http://www.edsential.com/haf)

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL...

Please scan the QR code and contact the relevant provider using our interactive online map.

## Parent carer forum



# NEWSLETTER

## November 2025

Your November Parent Carer Forum News is Here!

[PCF Forum link - click here](#)

# TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026
<b>INSET: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April <b>BANK HOLIDAY: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May</b> Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>HALF-TERM</b> Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>HALF-TERM</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF-TERM</b> Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December <b>INSET: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February - Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July <b>INSET: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> - <b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b> Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b> Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April (includes Easter Bank Holidays)	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July - Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August
<b>Return to School : Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026</b>		

**Inset Day - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026**



# CONTACT US

**Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, Capenhurst Lane,**

**Whitby, Ellesmere Port CH65 7AQ**

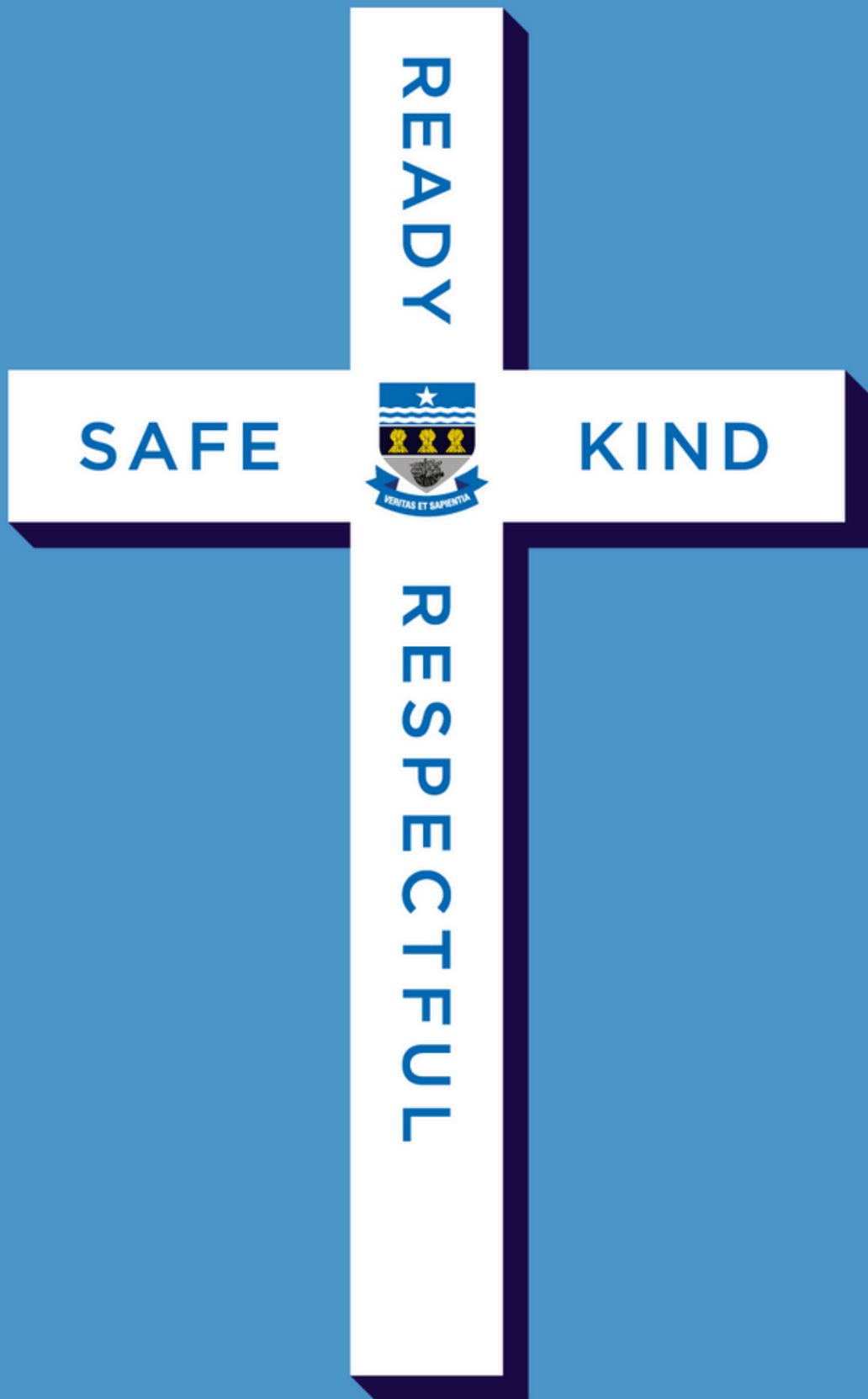
**0151 355 2373**

**admin@epchs.co.uk**

**Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 3.45PM**



**Our Lady Help of Christians  
Catholic Academy Trust**



*"I Have Come So That They May Have  
Life And Have It To The Full" – John 10:10*