



ANCORA, CASTLE PARK NEWSLETTER

Autumn / Winter 2025

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. It was lovely to see the young people involved in giving to support others. We say good bye to Sue O'Sullivan, one of our teaching assistants, who will be retiring this term. We wish her well and thank her for all of her hard work during her time with us. I know she will be missed. We have welcomed Katie Cross as a teaching assistant this term to carry on the good work. 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 5th January 2026. Have a restful holidays.

Carli



SPIRIT OF THE HERD

Students have continued to attend Spirit of the Herd this term and the ponies have provided hours of wellbeing time. Some students have taken their love of horses further, by learning new skills, such as how to pick a horse's hoof, the anatomy of a pony, signs of a healthy horse and different grooming techniques. This new knowledge has been put to good use at SOTH, and some students have received Unit Award Schemes to reflect their learning.



CAREERS

Careers Fair - a small group of Year 10 and Post 16 students visited the Careers Fair held at Ellesmere Port campus in October. They had the opportunity to visit a range of stalls to gather information and speak with colleges, universities, organisations and local employers. Chester Zoo was very popular and it was interesting to hear about their Apprenticeships. We even got the chance to create a soundtrack on the Spirit Studios stall!



SAY HELLO TO ISLA



The school welcomed a new student this term - a border terrier therapy dog called Isla! Therapy dogs are known to have a positive effect on students - supporting emotional wellbeing, reducing anxiety and stress and helping to enhance social skills. The students, and staff, love having Isla in their lessons - she likes to lie with them getting fussed while they complete their work and enjoys hearing all their tales about their pets.

BAKING

Students have been busy making gingerbread men and trees in well-being baking sessions. In the run up to Christmas we've also made mince pies and fairy cakes. The students and staff love the sweet treats at the end of the week!



FOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who donated to West Cheshire Foodbank. You all contributed to 49kg of food, toiletries and treats.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



A group of young people represented Ancora House School on Tuesday 11th November at the Frodsham War Memorial. A year 11 student laid the wreath with dignity. It was a lovely service and we are very proud about how well the young people conducted themselves



WORK EXPERIENCE

A group of our Year 11 students are taking part in a weekly Reading Partner Project at a local primary school we are linked with in Frodsham. The students have made a fantastic start, getting to know their Year 3 reading partners, designing bookmarks and listening to them read. This opportunity helps to boost confidence, develop transferrable skills and explore settings in the context of a work placement. One of our students shared "it's a fun experience and I'm learning how to explain things clearly to the pupils."

STEM



Before Halloween students made some spooky paper puppets in STEM

ENGLISH

It has been a busy first term for the students. KS3 have been studying the novel, Refugee Boy and examining issues raised in the text through language analysis and creative writing. KS4 have been completing their Speaking and Listening Assessments, with an eclectic mix of topics. It is really intimidating imparting formal information to peers, but the young people worked particularly hard and delivered their topic's with confidence and knowledge. Language Paper 1 has been a key focus of study, with the students practising exam technique for questions 1-4 and learning how to effectively plan for question 5- a written narrative or description based on an image or title. Students studying Literature have focused on A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and Poetry, this term. Students enjoy exploring contextual elements and delight in the cross-curricular knowledge they can exhibit in this, from History, to Art and Geography. Next term, KS4 students have a pre-recorded version of A Christmas Carol and Macbeth to watch, with KS3 participating in a live Zoom with author, Katherine Rundell!

PASSION FOR LEARNING CHRISTMAS DINNER

Passion for Learning cooked us another delicious Christmas Dinner that went down a treat for both students and staff. The students were made up with the gift bag of sweets!!



ALUMNI VISIT



We were really pleased to welcome two of our past students, who took the time to come into school to talk to our current students about their own experiences of Ancora, and college. It was lovely to see how well these students were doing, what they had achieved at college and hear about their next steps... with both of them heading off to university! They gave some good advice on college applications, the support available to help settle into college and information about the course they completed. We are very proud of their achievements and the resilience they have shown.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The theme for Chester Cathedral's Christmas tree decorations this year focussed on Christmas Around the World.

Students in Post-16 spent time researching how Christmas is celebrated across the world and students at both Castle Park and The Countess created decorations such as gingerbread cookies, stars using map paper, globe baubles and paper chains. The tree is on display throughout the Christmas period at Chester Cathedral.



SCIENCE

This term our year 11 have been studying genetics, homeostasis and the nervous system. A big thank you to Cowards our local butcher who supplied us with some pig eyes for dissection! Kidneys next on the list!



NAIL ART



This term, the nail art students have been designing their Christmas nails.

POST 16

Post 16's are enjoying developing independence skills this term. Some students have signed up to get their library card and are taking ownership of choosing and returning a



variety of books - one group member even discovered a book for sale and bought it for 10p! What a good buy!

Students also enjoyed decorating for Christmas together!



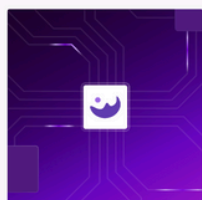
DETAILS FOR LOCAL HOLIDAY CLUB



ONLINE SAFETY RESOURCE

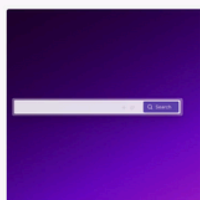
How Ripple saves lives

Simple to use. Safe by design. Secure for everyone.



1. Protection

When installed on a device or network, Ripple identifies harmful user searches across the web, forums and video sharing sites.



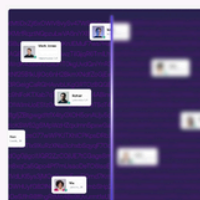
2. Intervention

Harmful searches are instantly identified and intercepted with a calmly presented pop-up and a message of hope.



3. Support

The person in crisis is signposted to localised 24/7 helplines and mental health resources for both immediate and long-term support.



Private and Secure

Ripple is an invisible guardian. When installed on a network or a device, Ripple never collects personally identifiable information or interferes with existing technology.

<https://www.ripplesuicideprevention.com/>

Ripple is digital crisis intervention tool.

A resource for parents/carers at home to help monitor and safeguard internet searches in support with mental health support

AUTISM SUPPORT

Link to the Autism Service Family Padlet for families who may wish to seek support or help over the holiday period.

<https://padlet.com/autismteam/cwac-autism-service-family-support-padlet-2ktj5o3e2wzr61d1>

MYMATHS



Reminder of the schools MyMaths username and password!

We have subscribed to MyMaths. Please make a note of our login and password:

Login: ancora

Password: triangle3