

December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move towards the end of another busy term, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to all our families to wish you a good Christmas and a happy new year.

Highlights from the Autumn Term here at CRHS have included:

- High levels of success for CRHS students representing the school in inter-school competition; all the CRHS girls' hockey teams won their respective finals, which meant a clean sweep across Years 8, 9, 10 and seniors. In addition, all our rugby teams got through to their respective finals with the Year 8 Boys' team winning their inter-schools rugby competition. This year we must say 'well played' to our neighbours at KWC who won the annual 'Big One'. Well done to all those students who have represented the various school sports teams so well.
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards – the autumn term marks the end of the DofE season as groups finish their expeditions and students complete their individual skills, physical activity and volunteering sections. This year CRHS students received a total of 62 DofE awards, with 12 earning the prestigious Gold Award, this represented half of the whole island total. We already have an even larger number of students lined up for the Duke of Edinburgh award in 2024/25.
- The Christmas Concert saw over a hundred young people perform in a variety of drama, musical theatre, music and public speaking pieces. Thank you to all those who attended and made the show a sell-out.
- Year 10 winning the UK 'The Power of Poetry Young Writers' Award for their collective efforts.
- One of our senior students, Hana Bridson winning the Public Vote for her Textiles piece in the Sovereign Art Competition. Congratulations to Hana.
- The very popular Year 7 Halloween Disco and Year 9 Christmas Film Night were both organised by our Senior Students with funds raised given to Isle Listen. All of Key Stage 5 had a Christmas pyjama day and held a 'Prime' raffle, also to raise funds for the charity. A huge number of Year 12 and 13 students also took part in a 'Tough Mucka' challenge in aid of Isle Listen back in October. The students got completely filthy, had a fantastic time and raised a large amount of money for the charity.
- Formation of the CRHS Student Ambassadors. Each subject area nominated students who have shown exceptional application and been good role models for others. 97 students were awarded ambassador status and recognised via an assembly in early October. Ambassadors have then been used in pupil interview panels, to welcome visitors into school and to work with younger students, both from within CRHS and from the southern primary schools.
- The school being awarded the Raising Attainment with Wellbeing (RAW) Gold award in recognition of the ongoing work we are doing in putting wellbeing at the heart of our learning, teaching and leadership. We are the first on the IOM to achieve this and one of only a few educational establishments across the UK.

I would also like to let you know about our various Christmas fundraising efforts at CRHS during the final week of term. We have started a whole-school collection for the Isle of Man Food Bank which is going well; thank you to those of you who have generously donated already. The Food Bank have asked us for anything non-perishable with a long sell-by date. In particular, they are currently short of cooking oil, sugar, long life milk (green and blue), cordial, jam, peanut butter, honey, tinned hot

dogs and tinned corned beef. Any donations can be given to your child's form tutor and we will be taking all the items to the Food Bank at the end of term.

We are holding our annual Christmas Jumper Week in aid of Save the Children during the last week of term. Donations of £2 can be made via Parent Pay 'additional items' or in cash to your child's form tutor. Students should continue to wear full school uniform (Monday-Thursday), with the Christmas Jumper under their blazer.

On Friday 22 December we are having a non-uniform day in aid of Isle Listen. The School Council have chosen Isle Listen as this term's charity. Donations of £1 can be made via Parent Pay 'additional items' or in cash to your child's form tutor. On this last day of term, the final lesson will be with form tutors.

We are saying goodbye to some colleagues at the end of this term. We wish Dr Podmore, Dr O'Hare and Mrs Grove well. A particularly fond farewell to Mr and Mrs Brookes who are off to Scotland for a new adventure. Many parents will know Mr Brookes through his role as a long-serving Maths teacher and subject leader, and equally his wife Melissa, who has been my PA since I took up my role as Headteacher at CRHS. We hope their future endeavours are successful and will miss them all.

We wish all members of the Castle Rushen community a very happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the new term on Monday 8th January.



Mr K Winstanley  
Headteacher