



# CASTLE RUSHEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following an exceptionally busy and productive first half-term, we hope all our families take the opportunity for a well-deserved break to rest and recharge. First, allow me to share a few highlights and important updates from the past weeks.

## HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

A key part of ensuring your child's success and wellbeing is excellent school attendance, and we are writing to clarify our position on holidays during term time.

The link between attendance and achievement is undeniable. Our own 2025 GCSE results show that 74.5% of students with attendance of 97% or more achieved 5 good passes, including English and Maths. This figure dropped dramatically to just 27.5% for students with attendance below 90%. Every lesson builds upon the last, so our school target is **97% attendance** to give every student the best chance to succeed.

We understand that as island dwellers, there can sometimes be unique family travel circumstances. However, we must balance this with our duty to provide a consistent education and the legal framework we work within. The Isle of Man Education Act 2001 (Section 24) places a legal duty on parents to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

In line with government policy, the school can authorise a maximum of 10 days of leave for family holidays in an academic year. **It is important to note that this is a maximum allowance, not an automatic entitlement.** Each request is considered on an individual basis, taking into account the student's attendance record, academic progress, and the reason for the request.

Any absence beyond this will be recorded as unauthorised.

Recently, we have seen a significant increase in requests, and the amount of learning being missed is a growing concern. To ensure your child does not fall behind, we ask for your full support in planning holidays and trips outside of school term time.

If you believe your circumstances are exceptional, please contact the school office for a **leave of absence request form** before making any travel arrangements.

Thank you for helping us maintain high standards of attendance and achievement for all our students.

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### Swap Shop & Lost Property

During the half term break the school office will be open Monday to Friday, 9am-2pm.

All **lost property** will be on display in the school hall from lunchtime on Monday 24th.

We will also have our free **Uniform Swap Shop** rails up. Donations of uniform in good, washed condition is appreciated.

### Attendance & Reporting Absences

Consistent attendance is crucial for students' academic progress, as a single day of absence can mean up to five hours of lost learning.

To help families report absences quickly, you can now notify us of **same-day illnesses** using the Arbor Parent Portal App.

Please continue to report longer sickness absences via [CRHSAbsences@sch.im](mailto:CRHSAbsences@sch.im) or 693500.

### September – October Half term

38 days of school = 190 hours of lesson time

Attendance Threshold	Lost learning hours
100%	0 hours
98%	3 hours 48 mins
95%	9 hours 30 mins
93%	13 hours 18 mins
90%	19 hours
85%	28 hours 30 mins
80%	38 hours
75%	47 hours 30 mins
70%	57 hours
65%	66 hours 30 mins
60%	76 hours
55%	85 hours 30 mins
50%	95 hours

**NOTE:**

Lost learning time does NOT include tutor time, break and lunch.

Learning time is ONLY lesson time (5 hours per day)

# YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF MANN 2025



Congratulations to our Year 12 Student Matthew Coates who had 2 winning photographs selected in the Young Photographer of Mann 2025 Competition. Matthew's winning photographs were selected from 121 entries from 26 young photographers, submitting photos that reflected the "Moods of Mann". His photographs will be displayed in the Rotary Club of Rushen 2026 calendar. Congratulations Matthew!

## Duke of Edinburgh Success!

This summer was outstanding for the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award, highlighted by 24 Year 13 students earning their Gold Awards, representing over 60% of the island's total Gold achievements!

This success is supported by a strong current cohort of 24 Gold, 32 Silver, and 91 Bronze participants.

Our students showed phenomenal resilience on their expeditions: seventeen Year 12s battled tough conditions on peaks like the iconic Striding Edge in the Lake District, while an all-girl team demonstrated exceptional grit by completing a demanding four-day hike down the length of the island.

In addition to all of this, CRHS students collectively contributed over **3,000 hours of volunteering**, making a significant positive impact on our local community.

Well done to all involved!



## Fantastic Start for CRHS Sport

We've seen outstanding participation in our PE and Games curriculum, along with excellent attendance across our wide range of extracurricular activities. The "WE R CR" spirit has been strong at every fixture, with consistent success from Year 7 right through to our senior teams.

Amid all the sporting success so far, a special shout-out goes to both the **Year 7 Hockey and Rugby teams** for completing an undefeated season, having now played against all other high schools. An incredible achievement, especially in their very first season in these new sports!

And it doesn't stop there; the rest of our teams are gearing up for spots in the semi-finals and finals of their leagues!



## Key Dates

<b>Year 7</b>	Parents' Evening - Wednesday 10th June 2026
<b>Year 8</b>	Parents' Evening - Wednesday 25th March 2026
<b>Year 9</b>	Parents' Evening - Thursday 22nd January 2026
<b>Year 10</b>	Parents' Evening - Thursday 14th May 2026
<b>Year 11</b>	Mock Examinations 17-28 November 2025 KS5 Pathways Evening - Thursday 5th March 2026
<b>KS5</b>	Y13 Mock Examinations 17-28 November 2025 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 10th December 2025
<b>Events</b>	Prize Night 13th November 2025 The School Show 11-13 February 2026

Year 11 Cookery group recently produced this intricate Harvest Loaf which was displayed at the Glen Maye Chapel Harvest 'Tea in the Barn' Event.



Well done to all our students for their efforts this term. As you can see they truly are developing their whole selves through their studies and extra-curricular activities.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.



*K. Winstanley*