

18th July 2025

Dear Families,

End of year update

What a year it has been! We are delighted with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection in May, confirming that Churchill Academy & Sixth Form is graded “good” in every category. The inspection has validated the hard work of the past two years, and given us really helpful information to continue the journey of improving our school even further. We are really looking forward to September, so we can get to work - after a summer break, of course!

Beyond the inspection, there is a great deal for us to celebrate. I am writing this update letter after a fantastic Activities Week, which has seen our students broadening and deepening their learning beyond the standard curriculum, as well as developing their confidence and character in new situations.

We also had a wonderful Sports Day. Participation levels were higher than ever, which means that points scores were off the scale: the points total for fourth placed Stuart House this year would have been enough to win Sports Day in 2024! Congratulations to Lancaster, who won by the narrowest of margins.

I should also mention that our students are now officially Guinness World Record holders, after participating in the largest cooking lesson ever held! As one of the only local schools to offer a curriculum in food and nutrition from Year 7 to Year 13, it was natural that we would be singled out by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver for a special mention as our students joined an estimated 15,000 globally taking part in this mammoth online event!

Looking ahead

After our well-deserved summer break, we have much to look forward to next year. If their induction days are anything to go by, we have a wonderful group of students joining us as our new Year 7 and Year 12 students in September,

and our Year 11 class of 2025-26 are already setting new standards as student leaders and role models. It's also a school production year, with auditions for *Legally Blonde: The Musical* taking place in September and "curtain up" on what promises to be a spectacular show in February 2026. Stay tuned to our newsletter, social media channels and website to stay up to date next year!

House Cup

Today, we have awarded our House Cups. The Head of House Challenge Cup, awarded for extra-curricular and inter-house competitions, went to Tudor House. The Academics Cup, awarded for the house with the best attendance and conduct points score, was won this year by Windsor House. And finally, the House Cup, which combines all elements of inter-house activity, was won by Tudor House - many congratulations! See our e-newsletter for pictures and a full report.

Staffing update

Miss Sheppard, Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form and Careers) starts her maternity leave over the summer. We wish her every happiness! During her leave, Mr Heysham will be joining us from Gordano School as Head of Sixth Form, whilst Mrs Crocker takes on the leadership of careers. We look forward to working with them both as part of the senior leadership team next year.

I am delighted to confirm that we have made excellent recruitments, and we are fully staffed for September. I have been delighted with the calibre and quality of applications we received. We are really looking forward to working with our new colleagues. The following new staff are joining us, or have already started:

Staff name	Role
Mr T Heysham	Assistant Headteacher - Head of Sixth Form*
Mr S Fearon	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss K Jones	Teacher of Social Sciences and RE
Mr T Knock	Teacher of RE and PSHE
Miss E Shopland	Teacher of Dance and PE
Mrs H Whiteley	Teacher of Design Technology and Law
Mrs C Thomas	Teacher of Modern Languages
Mrs H Putterill	Teacher of Science

Staff name	Role
Ms V Kalababu	Teacher of Science
Mr A A'Court	Teaching Assistant
Miss A Carter-Bradley	Teaching Assistant
Miss M Fry	Teaching Assistant
Mr D Hudson	Site and Facilities Assistant
Mr J Redclift	Design and Technology Technician

*Maternity cover

We also have a number of staff moving to new roles within the Academy, as follows:

Staff name	New Role
Mrs A Crocker	Associate Assistant Headteacher: Careers* and Director of PSHE and RE
Mr L Smith	Deputy Head of Sixth Form
Mrs J Wilson	Sixth Form Head of Year and Leader of Learning for Science post-16
Mr J Turner	Director of Maths, Business and Computing
Mr R Skeen	Deputy Director of Mathematics

*Maternity cover

We also welcomed Mrs Dearn (co-Director of Faculty for Design & Technology and Leader of Learning for Food) back from maternity leave this week.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to a number of colleagues at the end of this term. We say farewell to:

- Mrs L Howe, Teacher of Modern Languages, after 27 years at Churchill
- Mrs E Slocombe, Specialist Assessor and Exam Access Arrangements Coordinator, after 22 years at Churchill
- Mr P Mason, Teacher of PE, after 20 years at Churchill
- Mrs J Davey, Director of Business Studies, IT and Social Sciences, after 20 years at Churchill
- Mrs A Graham, Pupil Premium Specialist Teacher
- Mrs L Pattison, Sixth Form Head of Year and Lead Teacher of Chemistry
- Ms L Bessant, Teacher of Art and Design
- Mrs M McGraw, Teacher of Science
- Mr J Butcher, Network Manager
- Mr T Starr, Teaching Assistant and Teacher of PE

- Mrs Y Belcher, Administrator
- Mrs J Cattani, Teacher of Modern Languages
- Mrs L Murphy, Teacher of Performing Arts
- Mr D Saddler, Teacher of Design and Technology
- Mr L Cantle, Teacher of Humanities

We thank them all for their contribution to the Academy over their time with us and wish them all well in the future.

Arrangements for the start of term: September 2025

Finally, a reminder about the arrangements for the start of term in September 2025:

Date	Details
Tuesday 2nd September	INSET day for staff only. Academy closed to students.
Wednesday 3rd September	Term starts for Year 7 and Year 12 students only.
Thursday 4th September	Term starts for all other students.

Dates for the diary

Over the course of September, we will be holding a parent information evening for each year group. These evenings are designed to provide you with detailed information about the curriculum, outline the expectations and offer an overview of the year ahead. Staff will also make suggestions on how you can support your children and the Academy throughout the year. Please save the date for your child's year group:

- Year 7: Monday 22nd September
- Year 8: Tuesday 9th September
- Year 9: Tuesday 16th September
- Year 10: Monday 15th September
- Year 11: Monday 8th September
- Year 12: Wednesday 17th September
- Year 13: Tuesday 23rd September

The evenings will start at 6:00pm and will last approximately an hour (90 minutes for Year 11 and Year 13). We will send out a further reminder about these dates when we return in September.

A full list of term dates and INSET days can be found on our website here: <https://www.churchill-academy.org/Information/Term-Dates/>.

With thanks for all your support over the past year. On behalf of all at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form, we wish you a restful, relaxing and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hildrew

Headteacher