



# St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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Autumn Term Week 13

12th December 2025

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:

William B

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Caitlin Jacob  
Ted Liam  
Jim Bailey  
Charlie-Joe Alex  
Cosmo Sophia



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Charlie E Kaelan  
Megan Kayan  
Sharlene William B  
Nicholas Ted  
William P Amy  
Lilly Levi  
Elliot Eli  
Eric Olivia



The Principal's Praise award has been presented to:  
Imogen

Well done to all students who received awards this week!



## ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 98.15%  
6ILP - 100%  
6JG - 98.15%  
Austen - 91.11%  
Bloom - 94.44%  
Branson - 91.14%  
Burton - 93.06%  
Goldberg - 90.7%  
Hopkins - 100%  
Newton - 98.41%  
Oliver - 80.77%  
Packham - 96.3%  
Radcliffe - 94.44%  
Watson - 80%



Well done to all classes who were here everyday this week!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### December

13<sup>th</sup> St Catherine's Christmas Market  
16<sup>th</sup> End of Year Celebration Meal - College  
17<sup>th</sup> End of Year Celebration Meal - School  
17<sup>th</sup> End of Term Consultations  
18<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning, End of Term Assembly and Consultations



## THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are holding 'The Grove' after school club every Tuesday 3:30pm - 5:00pm.

### December

16th - Christmas Bonanza

### January

6th - Basement Games

All activities are weather dependent. If the weather is not suitable for an outside activity, an indoor alternative will be arranged. Sessions have to be booked in advance and parents/carers are able to book block sessions. If you have any queries or would like to book, please contact The Grove Team on: [the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk)  
Transport must be arranged by parents. £2 per week.



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
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## BLOOM CLASS

In PSHE this week, we have been learning about the difference between public and private, and identifying places and situations that fall into each category. In Maths, we continued our work on subtraction, using our subtraction facts to help us solve a range of word problems. PE was great fun - we played a game of basketball and everyone got involved enthusiastically, with most of the class scoring a goal! In RE on Wednesday, we explored the Christmas story. We sequenced the events, answered comprehension questions, and then focused on the angel Gabriel. We also discussed the 'angels' in our own lives - the people who help and support us. To finish the lesson, we created lovely angel crafts using paper plates and toilet rolls.



## RADCLIFFE CLASS

In PSHE, we were learning about keeping safe. We looked at lots of scenarios, some of which were dangerous and some were perfectly safe. We spent a long time discussing why some situations could be dangerous. Everyone agreed that it is safe to use a zebra crossing when crossing the road. In English, we continue to describe our ideal house in a housing brochure. The students have printed out some absolutely amazing photos of bathrooms, living rooms and kitchens.

## HOPKINS CLASS

This week in Maths, we have been looking at all the different types of triangles such as; isosceles, scalene, equilateral and right angled. This has been a lot for us to learn so we will definitely need to revisit the topic during the year. During English, we have been finishing off our leaflets for Osborne House in preparation for our visit next week. In PE, we have been practising dribbling and shooting in basketball. In Topic, we are carrying on our studies of houses and will be making wattle and daub which is what Celtic houses would have been made from. For Art this week, we went to the Chapel and drew the Christmas tree using special 4B and 2B pencils, which helped with showing light and dark. We had RE day this week; we explored the Christmas story and the roles of the angels. In the afternoon we participated in related workshops. Finally, this week after a few weeks of preparation, we are showing our presentations of our favourite things. We are all looking forward to learning about each other's favourites.

## PACKHAM CLASS

In English, we are using descriptive language to describe events in the pictures from the book. We have been learning lots of great, new words. In Science, we have finished up learning about forces and magnets with some more investigating and showing our knowledge in a Kahoot quiz. We learnt about how the Vikings lived and worked in Humanities, studying longhouses and comparing the foods the Vikings ate with the foods we eat. We have created a group piece of music in Music. We have been listening to Christmas carols and their structure and then using this knowledge in our group pieces of music.

## OLIVER CLASS

It was a very wet Forest School session so we worked on woodworking projects in the hut. We carried on making decorations for the hut Christmas tree we have built. In Science this week, we have been bringing all our knowledge about electricity together to problem solve circuits that don't work and explain why. In English, we have been making ancient looking book covers to put our instructions in for 'How to Train Your Dragon'. We had some wonderful discussions on RE day about Advent and what it means for our own homes to prepare for Christmas time.



## AUSTEN CLASS

During PSHE, we had a brief chat about our weekends and what we had learnt in assembly about different countries, and how they celebrate Christmas. In English, we grouped some sentences together to look at the story outlines in each chapter. During Speech and Language Therapy, we started some ideas about our personal passport. In Science, we finished off our muscles and started to plan our own experiment. On RE day, we talked about advent and light. We had lots of discussions and worked well as a class. In the afternoon, we chose a workshop and some of us did art and some did sports relevant to the topic.

## GOLDBERG CLASS

In Tutor this week, we had a catch up on our alcohol lesson and worked through some role play scenarios about how we should deal with people offering us alcohol. In ICT, we worked on designing and creating our brochures and posters to advertise our new holiday complex as part of our desktop publishing project. In Maths, we have been looking at shapes and fractions. In English, we have been working on a book called 'Journey to Jo'burg' and writing up our thoughts on what has been happening along the way. In Science, we have been studying electricity, where and how it's produced and how it can be used. In Music, we have been writing a piece of music about Vikings.

## BURTON CLASS

During Humanities, we looked at Viking longships, labelled the different parts and learnt what each part was for. For example the dragon's head at the front of the boat was to scare enemies and evil spirits. In Science, we used our speaking and listening skills to describe to our partners how our arm moves. We had to use the vocabulary bicep, tricep, contract and relax. We learnt that our muscles work in pairs and do the opposite actions. We made a model of how our triceps and biceps contract and relax. In English, we have finished writing our instructions on how to catch a dragon and are now publishing these on scrolls. In PSHE, we have been looking at healthy lifestyles. This week, we focused on the reasons we need exercise and the different types of exercise that we can do to help us stay fit and healthy.

## NEWTON CLASS

In English, we have been finishing our planning for 'Journey to Jo'burg'. In Maths, we have been revising fractions. In OT we have been baking, which has been really fun. In Science, we made a model solar system. It was interesting seeing how big some of the distances are.

## BRANSON CLASS

In PSHE this week, we looked into healthy lifestyles and have each chosen a topic to create an informative poster about. In English, we finished our book 'Journey To Jo'burg'. We had to sequence the story and worked very hard. In Maths, we have been working on polishing our times tables skills. On Wednesday we had RE day. We compared advent and the symbolism of light within Christianity and Diwali. We drew a symbol that was important to us for advent. We then used glass paints to paint our designs onto glass bottles which we are putting bottle lights into. Some of us painted crosses, stars and repeating patterns. We put fairy lights into them before we took them home.

## WATSON CLASS

In Maths this week, we have been looking at translations of a shape and vectors which show us how to translate the shape. In English, we have been carrying on with our storyboard for our book. In PE, we have been practising handball skills and looking at playing games. Throughout Humanities this term, we have been looking at the history of St Catherine's and making comparisons. During Music, we have started to look at Christmas music. Finally, in Science we have been researching space, looking at the different planets, the weights of them and what a model is.

## 6JG CLASS

In PSHE, we have been looking at different types of tax. In Photography, we have been creating a mini project to create another final outcome to display. In Vocational, we are narrowing our ideas towards a final piece and finalising our progression plans. In Science, we have been finishing up our assignment on the different properties and uses of chemicals. Our Land Based students enjoyed a second trip to Brading Meadow to care for the animals. We all have our favourite chickens and look forward to returning again soon.



## 6AMD CLASS

In PSHE, we talked about scams and different types of fraud. We have finished off our latest Science assignment (yay!) and are close to finalising our mixed media projects in Photography. Land Based students visited Brading Meadow animals again. It was great fun to hold our favourite chickens, clean the equipment, feed the badger face sheep family and take Tufty the sheep for a walk. In Science, we have been finishing up our assignment on the different properties and uses of chemicals. In Music, we have looked at ornamentation and continue to work on our set briefs and harpsichord projects.



## 6ILP CLASS

6ILP were very busy this week. We were able to continue our journey with some challenging noun and verb activities. We were feeling creative and decided to make up some unusual words with even stranger definitions. We were able to measure pasta and plain flour as we concluded a section of our OCR Maths unit. We were able to create some repeat patterns using stamps. Our trip off campus brought us to the supermarkets, we were able to estimate product prices as well as ascertain the actual prices. We were shocked at the increase of prices for basic goods. We completed our assembly slides for our assembly presentation next Monday. Wish us good luck!

## FOREST SCHOOL RE DAY

For the Forest School RE day workshop, we discussed what we had learnt from the morning lessons, then some of us made angels from wool and natural materials, while the rest used the woodworking tools to craft a woodland candle to celebrate light.



## COOKING CLUB

In Cooking Club, the students are learning independence and made the most amazing mince pies last Friday. This week, we are going to make some Christmas treats. We hope you enjoy them!



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION LUNCH

Our end of term celebration lunch for students will take place on Tuesday 16th December at the College, and Wednesday 17th December 2025. Students can wear their Christmas jumpers over their uniform if they would like to. You can find the menu on page 8 of this newsletter.

## RESIDENTIAL ENRICHMENT NIGHTS

Our weekly "Residential Enrichment Nights" offers students a safe, supportive, and enjoyable space to build essential life skills beyond the classroom. Through structured activities, shared games, and collaborative projects, students have the opportunity to develop their social communication, teamwork, and play skills in a relaxed environment.

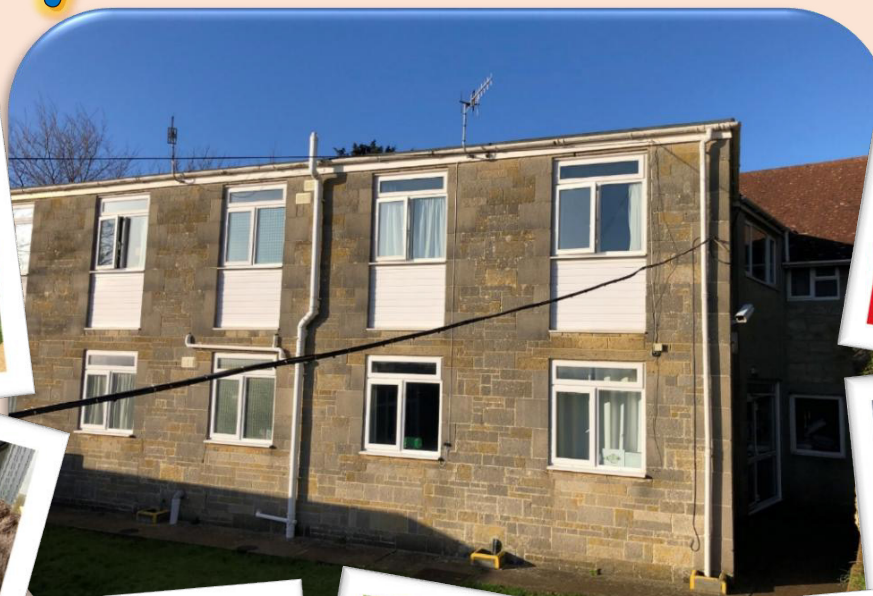
Each night costs £75 + VAT, which covers an overnight stay, all meals, in-house activities and staffing, ensuring students receive high-quality support and a well-rounded experience.

Many of our students have shown noticeable improvements in confidence, problem-solving, and positive peer interaction. The sessions also encourage independence, resilience and practical life skills—helping students to thrive both within the residential setting and in their wider daily lives. Enrichment Nights have quickly become a valued part of our provision, nurturing personal growth while ensuring students have fun and feel part of a community.

Please see our poster on the next page or contact Siobhan on [smcguigan@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:smcguigan@stcatherines.org.uk) for more information.

# St Christopher's

Stay - Learn - Grow



**How do you feel the opportunity to stay in Residential has benefitted your young person?**



“She loved the activities and staff were fantastic even down to plaiting her hair in the morning” - Parent



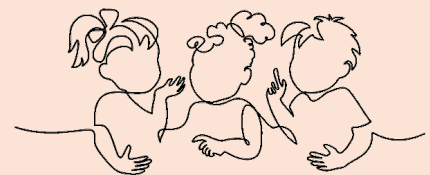
“Great opportunity for our child and family unit. Helps them develop coping strategies away from the family home” - Parent



“Starting to build great resilience and confidence away from home” - Parent



**How do you feel about staying at St Christopher's?**



“I enjoy seeing everyone, the activities and having a lay in” - Student

“I love the food and doing my life skills to get better” - Student

“I love staying at the house with the staff and they play fun games and I try new foods” - Student





## Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

Our personalised care addresses your child's specific needs while building practical life skills, communication abilities, and independence.

Professional, caring support tailored to children with additional needs. Our experienced Personal Assistants help develop skills, build confidence, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Over 20 years of trusted care for children and young people up to age 25 with

ASCAID, ADHD, PDA, SEMH, LD and other complex needs.



### Personal Assistant Services

Dedicated one-to-one support and respite care



### Building Independence

Developing confidence and life skills in line with EHCP and other desired outcomes



### Tailored Family Support

Coaching, mentoring and buddy schemes, Respite



### Experienced and Trained

Our staff are all experienced and trained to our mandatory standard, additional training can be sought as necessary.



### Matched Support

Personal Assistants carefully selected to meet your child's specific needs and interests



### Professional Team

Experienced consultants supporting families in Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, Dorset & Isle of Wight.

Ready to learn more?

See our detailed brochure [HERE](#)

[www.freedomcare.co.uk](http://www.freedomcare.co.uk)

0800 0851444

[supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk](mailto:supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk)



# The Footprint Trust

Isle of Wight's Energy Charity

## Want to cut your home energy bills?

**FOR FREE HELP:**

 [info@footprint-trust.co.uk](mailto:info@footprint-trust.co.uk)

 01983 82 22 82

 [www.footprint-trust.co.uk](http://www.footprint-trust.co.uk)

Drop in: Newport Library every Monday  
10:00am - 1:00pm

Reg. Charity No. 1106024

## SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken/ Vegetable Curry or Jacket Potato with choice of filling  Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel  Fresh Fruit Platter	Jumbo Sausage, Chips & Beans or Jacket Potato with choice of filling  College Celebration Dinner  Salad Bar Cheese & Egg or Mackerel  Jelly	School Celebration Dinner  College Cooking their own meal  Salad Bar Ham or Mackerel  Fresh Fruit Salad	Packed Lunches	Development Day - School closed to students

Fresh vegetables and salad are available with all main meals. Fresh fruit and yoghurt are always options for dessert.



# *End of Year Celebration*

## **MENU**

### **MAIN**

ROAST TURKEY

ROAST POTATOES

PIGS IN BLANKETS

STUFFING

YORKSHIRE PUDDING

BROCCOLI & CARROTS

OR

SPINACH & PUMPKIN BAKE

### **DESSERTS**

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

OR

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

OR

ICE CREAM



ST CATHERINE'S

SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

10:30am till 4pm

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St Catherine's Church

Church Street, Ventnor

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LOCAL CHRISTMAS STALLS

SPIDERMAN, ELSA AND THE GRINCH

REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE

LIVE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

### EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases, knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested. Children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sellers.

### ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unverified sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

### NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

### RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

### REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to feelings of isolation and disappointment.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

### SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

### ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

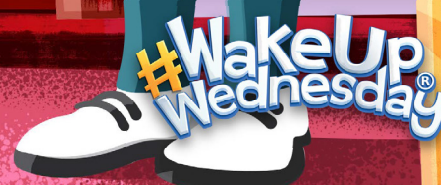
### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: