



Principal's Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

Over the half-term we were ever so busy with preparations for our Open Event which takes place on site on a Saturday 12th November. We look forward to welcoming perspective students and their families as they look around the site and meet with our students and staff.

We are delighted to be celebrating our 30th Anniversary this month and to mark this special occasion there will be a mass at St George's Cathedral on 16th November.

I hope that you enjoy reading about what our students have been up to at St Mary's.

Ms Crampton

CTK St Mary's Principal

Newsletter

November 2022



Chaplaincy Thought

November, the month of remembrance, affords the opportunity for the Chaplaincy team to offer bereavement support to those thinking of loved ones. The liturgical feast of All Saints', celebrating the grace of God working in ordinary people through extraordinary ways, allowed us to attend Mass on all sites, and on All Souls', invited students and staff to record the names of loved ones in the Chapel remembrance books.

Promoting the poppy appeal reminds us of the many men and women who made sacrifices to serve the King and country and also those who served the late Queen. The power of service, embracing one's personal gifts and power to make a difference, was an important theme of our student retreat to Kintbury. The student retreatants had special moments together at St Cassian's Youth Centre, on a residential weekend retreat.

They explored themes of welcome, awareness, reconciliation and good news, sensitively led by a young international volunteer team. Faith, fun and friendship are the focus of these retreat experiences, giving unique opportunities for personal, spiritual and moral development.

Finally, our CTK Christmas Gift appeal has been launched, inviting contributions from staff, students, supporters and our wider CTK family. All are welcome to bring happiness to needy families and children in these challenging times.

Amen.



CTK 30th Anniversary

This November is the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Christ the King Sixth Forms, and we will be marking the occasion with a celebration mass of thanksgiving on 16th November at St George's Cathedral, Southwark in the presence of Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East Pastoral Area.

The past 30 years have seen remarkable changes and growth of CTK, starting with one site in Lewisham, the College now has three specialist Sixth Form centres in South East London and Kent. Christ the King Sixth Form College was set up in 1992 through the generous efforts and tireless work of the Diocese of Southwark, Lewisham Education Authority, partner schools and a small group of dedicated individuals. In the early days approximately 650 students attended the College, which is under a quarter of the current size. From the very start, Christ the King established a tradition of excellence for education in South East London. The Chaplaincy played a central role in the College life, with its mission to foster and develop the spiritual life of the sixth form community based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

CTK Fast Track Programme and Pathways

Everyone needs to be aware of the career opportunities available to them in the future, and how to best take advantage of them. To support this, the October half-term saw the annual CTK Fast Track Programme and Alternative Pathways Events take place on separate days.

As in previous years, the programmes involved a large number of students from all three CTK sites coming together at CTK: Emmanuel.

The Fast Track Programme was led by CTK alumnus Trevor Gomes who spoke about his own experiences and how students can "Develop a professional work ethic." During the event Trevor covered topics including the importance of time keeping, personal presentation and the skills needed to work well and succeed in the modern workplace.



The CTK Family grew, but the Christ the King way and community spirit remained at its core, as three sixth forms became one Christ the King family, underpinned by our Catholic values.

In 2019 Christ the King Sixth Forms underwent its most ambitious transformation yet. A launch of specialist sites, with unique identities. The Christ the King vision remained the same, with each sixth form dedicated to the education and development of the whole person. Christ the King Sixth Forms have a long tradition of excellence, we take pride in our strong sense of community, our students aim high and go on to become ambitious, confident young adults. We look forward to this new chapter, where Christ the King Sixth Forms will continue to grow and to prosper, to build on our Catholic mission and values and to remain an outstanding provider of sixth form education within the local community.



During the second part of the Fast Track Programme, we welcomed Trevor's Vodafone colleagues to join our students in a 'Digital Bootcamp.'

Working in small groups, students had the opportunity to tackle and come up with solutions for a number of real-world business challenges. The Alternative Pathways Event was run in partnership with award winning charity Unloc. The event helped students to explore the alternatives to Higher Education including Apprenticeships and Entrepreneurship.

Feedback from students and guests was that the training was hugely beneficial and will have a positive impact on their career aspirations and goals.

Christmas Gift Appeal



We are really pleased that we will be running our annual Christmas Toy Appeal again this year. As in previous years we will be partnering with the Kent-based EKC Group to organise a donation drive for gifts in aid of those less well-off this Christmas.

For many of us, Christmas is a magical time, however, for the families we support it can often cause added stress and difficulty. Family and financial pressures and the fallout from a challenging year mean many of the families we support are struggling. By supporting our Christmas Toy Appeal you can make a difference. For many children, the present they receive from our Toy Appeal is the only one they will get at Christmas. With your support, this year we hope to reach even more families and make Christmas magical for even more children. If you are able to donate a gift please bring into St Mary's reception.

CTK students awarded University Scholarships worth £15,000 each

The Metric Capital scholarship programme with Christ the King Sixth Forms is in its eleventh year and to date has awarded almost £500,000 in scholarships to hardworking, ambitious, Christ the King students. Metric Capital, works in conjunction with Our Turn Global, a charitable organisation that uses social media to raise awareness about initiatives that have a positive impact on society, to award the scholarship.

The scheme is led by Metric Capital's Managing Partner, John Sinik. John was inspired to create the Metric Scholarship Programme ten years ago, after meeting high performing, aspirational students at Christ the King, who dreamt of going on to University, but faced financial challenges in doing so. Two or three Metric scholarships are awarded every year – usually one to a student attending each of the three sixth forms that make up the Christ the King Sixth Form group.



(Franklin)

Two hard-working, talented Christ the King Sixth Form students, have this year each been awarded a University scholarship worth £15,000.

The students, Franklin and Adeola were selected due to their academic performance and after taking part in an interview process, which includes financial means testing. Christ the King Sixth Forms are a group of Catholic Sixth Forms, with three centres in South East London and Kent. Many of the students come from disadvantaged backgrounds and are the first in their family to go to University. Franklin, who is now studying Aviation Engineering at Kingston University London, has had an amazing first term living in Halls of Residence. The scholarship has been a significant help to him as 'it has helped to pay for both his accommodation and books' and he can see when he compares himself with new friends on his course how much pressure, in terms of finances, the scholarship has removed.



METRIC CAPITAL PARTNERS

Metric Capital's Managing Partner, John Sinik, says: "Tuition fees are only a part of the expense of going to University. There are living expenses that can be overwhelming for people and ultimately drive their decision not to go. The scholarship plays a key role in allowing the students to pursue their dream of obtaining a University degree".

Christ the King Sixth Forms Executive Principal, Shireen Razey, says; "We are delighted that our relationship with John and Metric Capital goes from strength to strength. Our students work incredibly hard, and we are so lucky to be able to reward our students with this unique scholarship opportunity".

On studying, Franklin was keen to point out how much studying at CTK helped prepare for life in Higher Education although he admits "it is still a big jump!" In terms of Career aspiration Franklin hopes for a career in aviation engineering and then try to become a commercial pilot.

Adeola, who is now studying Social Work, has also had a fantastic first term living in Halls of Residence. The scholarship has also been a significant help to her in terms of paying for both accommodation and books. Her advice to anyone looking into scholarships or other financial support is "to really make yourself known to people and don't be afraid to ask if there is any additional support or help out there."



(Adeola)

Remembrance Day



On Friday 11th November we honoured those who have given us everything. Our Chaplaincy offered a bereavement service for those who have lost loved ones.

All Saints' and All Souls' Day



Celebrating **ALL SAINTS' DAY & ALL SOULS' DAY**

On 1st November students and staff celebrated All Saints' and All Souls' Day with spiritual discussion and a mass. All Saints' Day is a day when we celebrate all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have made it to heaven. Catholics believe that we can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us and bring our requests to God. The saints also give us a model of holiness. We can be inspired by the love, sacrifice and witness of the saints' lives and follow in their example.

College Prayer



As members of the Christ the King Sixth Forms family we ask for your continued blessing upon our work and study.

You are the source of all truth and wisdom.

May we experience in full the Life that you offer us each day, to become the best that we can be.

Let no distractions or fears prevent us from trusting in your endless care for us.

Shine your Light into our lives that we may become brighter beacons of faith, hope and love in our community.

We make this prayer through Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Student Subject Enrichment

Business Students attend Careers

Insight Day

Before half-term CTK Business students from St Mary's enjoyed a fantastic Careers Insight Day with Legal and General Investment Management, one of Europe's largest asset managers. The day was organised by Urban Synergy, a youth empowerment charity on a mission to inspire, guide and ignite the ambitions of young people.

Students got to meet Role Models from Legal and General who discussed their career journeys and took part in a Q&A session. They then had the opportunity to take part in a panel discussion, a peer mentoring activity, an interactive skills masterclass and a job applicant assessment centre.



Retreat to Relics of St Bernadette at Aylesford Priory

At the end of October our chaplaincy team and some students had an enjoyable day when they went on a retreat to Aylesford Priory. The staff and students visited the Priory grounds and afterwards visited the relics of St Bernadette in the Relic Chapel.

They had the opportunity to write down prayer intentions which, with all the prayer intentions during the national relic tour, will be taken and placed in the shrine at Lourdes, France. During the day they also took part in a joyful musical folk Mass with Bishop Paul Hendrick (the Kent Area Bishop) and fellow clergy singing and clapping.

The day was a great success and allowed time for reflection and prayer.



30
1992-2022



CHRIST THE KING
SIXTH FORMS

Christ the King
Catholic Sixth Forms
warmly invite you to a

Celebration Mass of Thanksgiving

on the occasion of the
30th Anniversary
since its founding

In the presence of Canon Victor Darlington,
Episcopal Vicar for the South East Pastoral Area

Taking place at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HR

Wednesday 16th November, 2pm

Refreshments will be served in the Amigo Hall afterwards

rsvp l.harrison@ctksfc.ac.uk