

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming all students back on Wednesday 4 January, 8.50 a.m.

# Celebrating Achievement

## Headteacher's Commendations

Were awarded to:

Amina Marshall 6SM, Arzoo Ali 6RA and Olivia Evans 6AB for being a brilliant ambassador for Conyers Sixth Form at Acklam Grange School.

## Hot Chocolate Awards

Year 11: Olivia Rix, Will Johnson, Phoebe George, Leya Koshy, Shonee Hodgson and Ruby Taylor.

Year 12: Isabel Cowan, Charlie Kaye, Daniel Tin, Lucas Higgins, Eve Rigby and Francesca Marshall.

Year 13: Philip Larkin, Ella Gerrard, Jonathan Day, Nathan Magnone and Lilli Gibbons.

Year 7: Inaya Bhatti, Macey Gibbons, Junior Gregory, Josh Richards-Osborne, Mia Parkinson and Emilia Johnson.

Year 8: Katie Hutchinson, Toby Meek, Will Craven, Sofia Omran, Amelia Parry and Toby Flight.

Year 9: Isabel Conti, Finn Alderthay, Josh Stolweather, Lola Young, Arthur Dobson and Lo Scott.

## Sixth Form

The Sixth Form team are looking forward to the highly anticipated Open Evening on 17 January 2023 where we will welcome students from Conyers and elsewhere.

During the first term, Year 12 students have settled in well, adapting to their new level of study with optimism and resilience. Year 12 students have focused on future steps across two Focus Days already this year and have utilised Unifrog to begin their search for potential careers and post-18 destinations. Parents and carers can support their children with Unifrog by engaging in conversations and navigating the platform with them. Year 13 students have also worked well with many deadlines fast approaching, with UCAS applications being sent off, and offers coming in thick and fast. It has been a wonderful start to the year



places. In addition, students have engaged in a wide range of workshops to best support them in their future endeavours. We have welcomed external speakers into school to deliver workshops on interview skills for Oxbridge applicants and these



to see so many students receiving offers for their first choice

students have had mock interviews with our Deputy Headteacher. EPQ presentations were underway in early December and these were a joy to behold as students passionately spoke about their chosen research projects with great enthusiasm. Staff and students really enjoyed making their way around the 'market stalls' to discuss such a wide range of topics and ideas.





Tuesday 17th January 2023 - 18:00-20:00

We welcome you to attend our final Open Evening ahead of the September 2023 intake.

You will have to opportunity to explore our facilities; speak with teachers and the Sixth Form leadership team; meet some of our fantastic students, and hear about how we are the best post-16 provider in the Tees Valley.

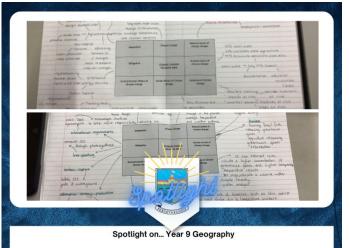






Spotlight on... Year 10 Biology!

Mr Walton's Y10 biologists were getting hands-on today as part of their science curriculum at Conyers. Students were busy dissecting and identifying all the key parts of the heart today with all things valves being targeted - Tricuspid, mitral, aortic, pulmonary - you name it they were looking for it. We are so very pleased with the engagement and effort Year 10 are showing in their first term at GCSE - they continue to shine with their excellent attitude to learning, well done Year 10!



Climate change and the environment takes a centre stage in our Key Stage 3 Geography curriculum and this week we were really impressed with the detailed independent work from Year 9 in Miss Hodgkiss' lesson in preparation for their assessment. Our students engage with global and local issues as part of their study in Key Stage 3 Geography, focussing here on alternative energy productions, international agreements and carbon capture initiatives. With preparation like this we are sure you are going to do great in your assessments Year 9 - keep up this great work.

## Food Bank Visit

As part of their Princes Trust course, last month a group of Year 11 students visited Billingham Food Bank for their community impact work. They were given a little tour and met the manager. They asked many questions and helped to pack a couple of boxes whilst there. Inspired by their visit the students organised a food bank donation and a cake sale managing to raise an amazing £140.77. All of the donations and the money raised will be sent to the Billingham Food Bank to help out a number of families who are struggling at a difficult time of the year.





## English

A busy term in English has seen students celebrating National Poetry Day and exploring Black History Month, as well as continuing to produce amazing work in their normal lessons. We have seen Year 12s going to an English Day at Newcastle University. A lucky group of Year 11s visited the theatre to see a production of A Christmas Carol, which involved songs and some interesting dances. On a more sombre note, students worked in English to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth, though this was more a celebration than a lament, appropriately enough. The School Magazine and the Writing Club have continued to thrive this term. Students in Year 11 were able to attend lunchtime sessions on how to achieve high grades in GCSE English Language and Literature. We wish all our students and their families a peaceful, relaxing and fun holiday season and don't forget to do the Fezziwiggle!



## ICT and Computing

#### **Girls into Computing**

This half term has seen our Girls into Computing club looking into games programming! Our students have been using Roblox Studio to design their own game levels and begin to develop programming techniques that will allow them to showcase their skills and have a taste of what the games industry is really like. Next term, we will see our Head Boy, Joe Fixter, taking a lead with the club as we delve deeper into teamworking aspects and get some practice in before we start our annual competition with Playground Games, trying to defend our title!



#### **Focus Day**

During the Focus day this half-term, the theme was Creativity and Innovation. Our Year 8's spent half of the day becoming game developers! We looked into what makes a good game and students used Roblox Studio to create a parkour style game from scratch. Our students came up with some great designs and produced some fantastic pieces of code. When students had created their game, they had the task of creating a game cover and logo. Students experience a wide range of roles that can be undertaken in the computing industry and has allowed them to see what kind of careers are available to them.



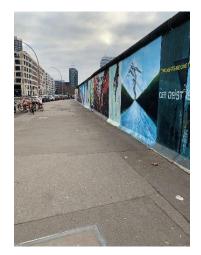
## Berlin

Miss Marshall took her five A-Level German students to Berlin for 4 days of culture, food and festive atmosphere. They left Conyers on Sunday 11 December and travelled to Berlin via Manchester. Whilst in Berlin, they visited a number of places of historical significance such as the Berlin Wall, Reichstag government building, DDR Museum, spy museum and an exhibition called 'die Mauer' which looks at life on both sides of the Berlin wall. Plenty of visits to the Christmas markets were, of course, necessary. They sampled plenty of German food and got to see how a Christmas market is done properly – German style. Overall, everyone had a fun-packed few days and lots of German was spoken!











# Year 7 Settling in Survey

Year 7 students were asked recently to fill in a survey about how they have settled into life at Conyers. Here are some key findings from the survey:

The overwhelming majority say they have settled in well and that they have friends. Many cite forming new friendships and their relationships with teachers.

These are the things that students enjoy most about Conyers: friends, dinners and opportunities to be involved in school life. Of the students who responded, 53.7% regularly take part in extra-curricular clubs.

Thirty nine students who responded also attended Summer School in August 2022. They are positive about the usefulness and helpfulness of attending.

In the "Mission: Perseverando" transition project, the students who responded most enjoyed the creative tasks such as art, cooking and code-cracking. There were regular references indicating that they could understand the value of completing the project.

Regarding the aspects of school life that are going well for Year 7 students, there are regular references to friends, facilities, clubs and new subjects e.g. music, DT.

Regarding iPads, students were overwhelmingly positive. They identified that doing their classwork and homework is more straight-forward as they have easy access to everything they need. Some students said that they liked not having to carry around lots of books.

# A Positive First Term for Key Stage 3

#### Year 7

Huge congratulations to Year 7 who have managed to accrue over 31,500 achievement points since September! The average number of achievement points per pupil is 141, which is truly fantastic!

The average Attitude to Learning score in Year 7 is 1.6.

The average Homework score in Year 7 is also 1.6.

A very impressive start – keep this going!

#### Year 8

Well done to Year 8 who have successfully accrued over 14,000 achievement points since September! The average number of achievement points per pupil is 63.

The average Attitude to Learning score in Year 8 is 1.6.

The average Homework score in Year 8 is 1.7.

These are all extremely encouraging signs! Keep working hard, Year 8!

#### Year 9

Year 9 have successfully accrued over 10,000 achievement points since September – well done! The average number of achievement points per pupil is 54.

The average Attitude to Learning score in Year 9 is 1.7.

The average Homework score in Year 9 is also 1.7.

Keep persevering, Year 9!

If your family's circumstances have changed recently and you feel your child may be entitled to free school meals, please follow the link below.

https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/conyers

# Young Carers

This half-term and beyond, we have been endeavouring to identify and support our superhuman carers at Conyers. We are currently supporting more than 30 students at the school. Through our specific support time, we are able to give them some down time, some time to have more support with schoolwork and an opportunity to spend some time with others in similar situations.

These young people spend their time at school working hard for their future, but their amazing nature doesn't end there; they continue to work hard at home, supporting family members and being no less than super heroes.

In order to recognise this, Mr Gallacher, Miss Calvert and Mr Earl have organised a trip to celebrate these young people, one which will include bowling fun, pizza eating and a celebration of Christmas during the afternoon.

If you know of someone who spends time helping someone at home, please get in touch with Mr Gallacher, Mr Earl or Miss Calvert and they will dedicate some time to supporting this person if they need it.

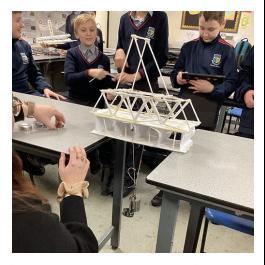
## Science Club

This term the Year 7 and 8 Science Club have been learning about how engineers use their knowledge of physics to build the strongest bridges possible. They have learnt about all the different types of bridges, what makes them strong, and why certain shapes like triangles are very good for holding and distributing weight. The students were then challenged to use their newly acquired knowledge to design, build and test a bridge of their own using a limited set of resources. The student's blueprints showed great potential but their final bridge designs were incredibly successful. Every bridge was able to hold at least 1kg of weight and the winning bridge held 10kg before showing any signs of collapsing. The winning bridge was designed by Martha Kay and Katie Hutchinson. The other students who also produced amazing bridges were Joseph Ainsworth, Theo

Dryden, Layla Frost, Rahma Mohamed, Tyler Garvey, Matthew Gee, Sam Nicklin, Zakk Windebank, Benny Wilson, Will Swindells, Uzair Mughal and Shamiso Tiyenga. Well done to everyone for producing such amazing structures. During the next half term the Science Club will be looking at forensic science and the different tests that are performed by scientists involved with investigating crime scene evidence. If you are in Year 7 or Year 8 and want to join then please

come to Room 302 on Mondays between 12.50 and 1.20pm. A notice for parents: if you are involved with the scientific industry in the local area and are willing to be contacted regarding careers in science please could

you email Dr. Hallam: rhallam@conyers.org.uk



### CONVERS SCHOOL SCIENC CLUB EVERY MONDAY LUNCH 12:50



#### WHY JOIN?

- \* NEW EXPERIMENTS YOU DON'T DO IN CLASS!
- \* LONGER INVESTIGATIO
- \* MEET NEW PEOPLE!

THIS CLUB IS OPEN TO YEAR 7-8 AND The only requirement is that you come willing to join in and explore science

MORE INFO: Speak to Miss. Crosby: Email - ncrosby@conyers.or Poom - 302



## **Conyers Student Parliament**



In September 2022, Conyers School launched its Student Parliament, which included a politics workshop from Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen. A selection of students from Years 7-13 are representing their peers to take part in four committees that look at a particular cause.

The Wellbeing Committee led by Erin Scott and Charlie McMurdo aims to create a welcoming and safe environment in which everyone is valued and respected. They have organised an inclusive youth club for some students to partake in games and activities.

The Kindness Committee led by Arzoo Ali and Isabel Cowen aims to make Conyers and the local community a kinder place. They have recently organised a visit to Ayresome Court Care Home where along with Health and Social Care students they presented residents with homemade Christmas cards and spread festive cheer.









The Environment Committee led by Joe Fixter and Daniel Sauron aims to promote ways that staff and students can reduce plastic waste. The committee is currently in talks with looking at ways we can reduce reliance on single-use plastics.

Finally, the Diversity Committee aims to create a culture of inclusivity for all people at Conyers. This has involved committee members speaking to relevant staff about ways in which relevant issues can be addressed within lessons, Focus Days and as activities during break or lunch time.

#### **Children in Need 2022**

On 18 November, the Student Parliament organised a bake sale raising almost £400 for Children in Need. It's wonderful to know that Conyers staff, students and parents contributed to the £35,273,167 raised on the night, which will go towards transforming the lives of young people in the UK and allow them to thrive.



#### **Mission Christmas Campaign 2022**

A massive thank you to all those involved in the Mission Christmas campaign. The cost of living crisis put a lot of strain on family finances and there has been a sharp increase in the number of families accessing foodbanks. There is also a real risk of some

children going without a gift this Christmas. Yet we have all pulled together to ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are able to have a better Christmas.

Thank you to all Conyers staff, students and their parents for your contributions and your efforts by bringing in gifts, food and toiletries. The amount received has exceeded all expectations!

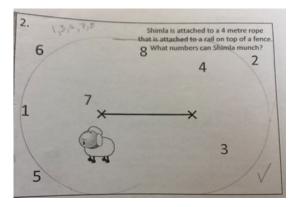


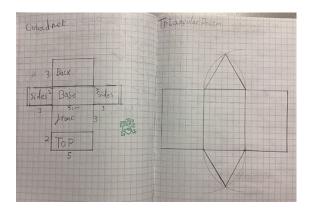
## Maths

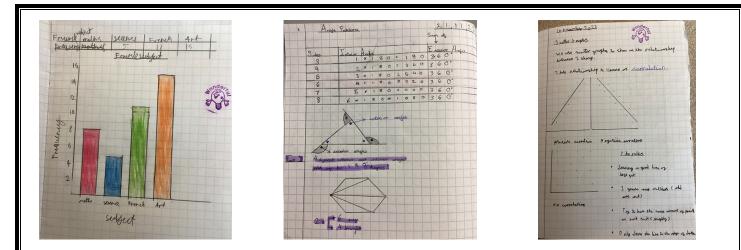
The first term has seen students producing some outstanding work.

Students in Year 7 have done lots of work on developing their number skills as well as investigating properties of shapes and angles. In Year 8, students have been improving their understanding of data handling as well as exploring using fractions, decimals and percentages. For Year 9, the first term saw a focus on developing skills in Algebra, along with learning how to use constructions to solve loci problems.

Here are some of the great pieces of work produced by Key Stage 3 students:

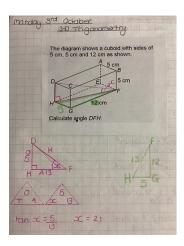


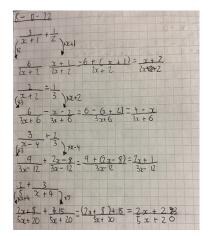




Many students have also been engaging in additional activities such as the weekly Parallelogram Challenges or the Stockton Sumdog Competition.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have made an excellent start to their GCSE journey and Year 11 have worked hard to prepare for their mock exams this month.





And the hard work continues into the Sixth Form - Year 12 students have started looking at stats and mechanics as part of their A-level, while Core Maths students have been investigating personal finance, looking at student loans and Interest rates. While Year 13 students have been focusing on understanding differentiation and using trig identities to solve problems. Further Maths students have been looking at decision maths and algorithms! Keep up the great work everyone!

## **Remembrance Service**

Three students represented the school at the Remembrance Day Service at Stockton Parish Church. The service was held in the Remembrance Garden next to the Church.



## Thackeray Museum Visit

Year 13 Health and Social Care students attended the Thackeray museum in Leeds to learn about public health through time. They had an in-depth talk about how illness and disease were treated, and explored medical advances over the years. The students explored the Victorian street with all its smells and conditions. They had a great time and this visit has informed them for their unit on Public Health.









Learning to sing or play an instrument is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable activities a young person can do. It is widely recognised that studying Music helps develop a wide range of skills and abilities that benefit the student both academically and

emotionally. This is especially true for students who participate in ensembles such as bands and choirs.

#### **New Starter Offer**

In addition to only being £20 for the first half term, we are offering free loan of brass, woodwind or string instruments for anyone having lessons. Please email gomusic@conyers.org.uk for an enrolment pack to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

@gomusicconyers on Twitter.

#### Assisted purchase

We recommend that any student who has passed their grade 3 invests in their own intermediate instrument. The best way to do this is through our assisted purchase scheme where the cost of the instrument can be spread to the end of the academic year and the instrument can be bought without having to pay VAT. For more information please email gomusic@conyers.org.uk This term the musicians at Conyers School have finally had the chance to perform live again, entertaining audiences at the school Awards Evening, Return to The Forbidden Planet show and the Carol Service. Overall a very busy and successful half term for our Go Music musicians! Twitter: @gomusicconyers (more pictures, and videos!) email: gomusic@conyers.org.uk





# GO MUSIC COMMUNITY BAND

# THURSDAY 6:30 - 7:30PM

# Location:

Conyers School, Green Lane, Yarm , Stockton-on-Tees <u>TS15</u> 9ET

If you would like to join please let us know Email: gomusic@conyers.org.uk



Adults who play...Woodwind Strings Brass Keyboard and percussion

## Creative Arts

It has been a fantastic term for Creative Arts, with Drama, Art and Music students attending many out of school activities and events.

A level Art students have been to York on a photography project. Drama students have been on Theatre visits to see 'Noughts and Crosses' and 'An Evening with Stephen Berkoff'. We are extremely proud of the effort and commitment the Year 11 and Year 13 students have put in to preparing for their examinations this half term.

It was wonderful to be back performing at The Forum Theatre, Billingham, and our school production this term was 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'. We had four shows over 2 days, which included



performances to the local primary schools and our Year 7 and 8 students. This was another superb performance by our students, who never fail to impress with their commitment and endless talents and they richly deserved the standing ovation they received.





Comments we received included "Just wanted to say congratulations for another wonderful job, we absolutely loved it" and "I would just like to say a very big thank you, to yourself and everyone involved in the production - it was fantastic!' We are already planning our next show at The Forum Theatre, which we hope to announce shortly.









The Convers School annual Carol Service took place at Yarm Parish Church. The service was a special evening and celebrated Christmas with readings, carols and student performances. The atmosphere created was a wonderful start to the Festive Season.

A very special thank you to the students who practiced and performed through the autumn term, and to the dedicated staff who made these events such memorable occasions.

# Help for Our Families

## Holidays are Fun Sessions

Stockton Council are providing 'Holidays are Fun' (HAF) free holiday activities sessions, that include a meal over the Christmas holidays, for all children and young people aged 5 to 16 years old who live in Stockton-on-Tees and are entitled to a benefits-related free school meal. For further information, go to <u>www.stockton.gov.uk/HAF</u>

## Household Support Fund

<u>www.stockton.gov.uk/household-support-fund</u> has information about additional support that is currently available to a wide range of low-income households and how to apply for it.

## Preloved Uniform

Our Preloved Uniform scheme has continued to be a huge success across Conyers this year, helping so many of our families. Lots of parents and students have donated items of uniform and PE kit, which no longer fit or are no longer needed. If you have any donations or are struggling to purchase a uniform, please contact Mrs McLean at <u>kmclean@conyers.org.uk</u> and we try to help where possible and always appreciate and welcome donations. The Preloved scheme is not only a way of helping families who are struggling financially but is an extremely environmentally friendly scheme - helping with landfill issues.

#### **Calendar Dates**

Tuesday 20 December, 2.30pm	Students finish for the Christmas holidays, buses early
Wednesday 4 January 8.50am	Students return after the holidays
Thursday 12 to Friday 13 January	Sixth Form trial exams
Tuesday 17 January	Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 24 January	Year 11 subject consultations
Tuesday 7 February	Year 9 subject consultations (including options)
Monday 20 to Friday 24 February	Half term
Tuesday 28 February	Year 12 subject consultations
Tuesday 7 March	Year 13 subject consultations
Friday 31 March 3.40pm	Students finish for the Easter holidays
Monday 17 April 8.50am	Students return after the holidays
Monday 1 May	Bank Holiday, school closed
Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June	Half term
Tuesday 18 July, 2.30pm	Students finish for the summer holidays, buses early

## Social Media

We celebrate the successes of our students on social media so make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Convers School and Sixth Form is at Convers School and Sixth Form. .... Published by Instagram • - 16 December at 19:20 - Yarm - 🔊 What a spectacular final Hot Chocolate with the Head of 2022. We celebrated the hard work and



Conyers School and Sixth Form 7 December at 12:48 · 🕲

A HUGE congratulations to 70 who are the first tutor group to win the 100 Book Challenge! In only 12 school weeks, the group have smashed their target. Big rewards will be coming their way next week.

We love reading at Conyers 💙 🤎



Conyers School and Sixth Form 9 December at 14:04 · 🕲

Stockton schools U12's 5-a-side winners. Well done!



Conyers School and Sixth Form

Some of our Year 11 students enjoyed a Domino's pizza rewards lunch to celebrate their excellent behaviour, punctuality, attendance, homework and general attitude to learning. Well done, keep up the amazing work!



## **Considering Training to Teach?**

Applications for September 2023 are now open

You may be entitled to/qualify for a bursary or scholarship to support you while you train.

> Start in autumn 2023, & once qualified you will start on a minimum of £28K.

Train in local schools with practising teachers & teaching leaders to guide you.

We offer primary and secondary PGCE courses.

Embark on a teacher training journey based within the Tees Valley region. Apply now and receive high-quality support, subject training, & unique opportunities.

Campus Stockton Teaching Iliance

Train to Teach with us

Visit our website for helpful links and all the information you need to get you started



# **Arbor Overview for Parents**

