



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Carmel’s first newsletter of the academic year. It has been great to see our Year 13 students return from a well-earned summer break and also lovely to welcome so many Year 12 students into the Carmel community. It has been a busy half term and I am pleased that so many students are already taking the opportunity to get involved with college life; ‘Inspire Me’ talks, subject tutorials, trips, enrichment, chaplaincy and charity events!

This newsletter will, hopefully, give you an insight into our Carmel College community, outlining some of the fantastic opportunities and events that have taken place already, as well as giving more information about college life.

Best wishes
Janet Gater
Principal



Message from our Principal

Key Dates for your Diary

Staff Spotlight

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Our Newest Endeavour

Criminology and Justice

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Student Council

Upcoming Events



Key Dates

Half-term: 25th October – 3rd November

CAP 1 Assessment (update on Year 12 progress):
The week commencing 8th November

Open Evening: 9th November

Year 13 Mock Exams:
27th November – 30th November

CAP 5 Assessment (update on Year 13 progress):
The week commencing 11th December

End of Term: 20th December

Year 13 students are currently looking to the future and working on their next steps after college. They have signed up to UCAS (the university admissions service) and are completing their applications. Alternatively, they are researching apprenticeships and employment options.

UCAS Applications - Key Dates 2023/2024

16th October 2023- Early Apps UCAS official deadline.

10th November 2023 -Internal deadline for all other UCAS applicants to have final draft of Personal Statement and form complete ready to send off.

31st Jan 2024 - UCAS Deadline for all other applicants.



Staff Spotlight

Rebecca Blakey
Head of English Language and Literature

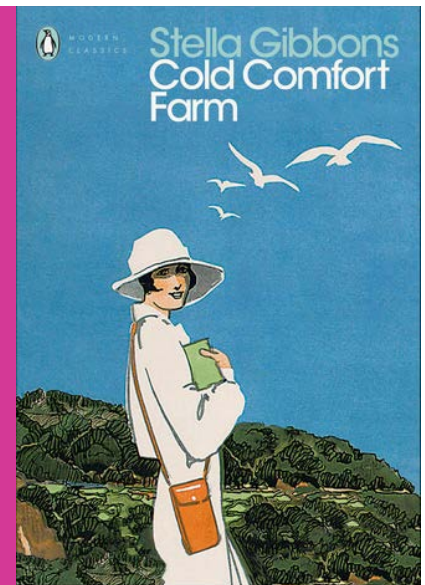
What I love about working at Carmel?

Working in class with our bright and personable students is a real pleasure - there is nothing more rewarding than watching them grow in confidence and ability over the two years they study with us.

Book recommendation: Cold Comfort Farm, Stella Gibbons (1932)

I read this for the first-time during lockdown after seeing it at the top of the Penguin Books “guaranteed to make you laugh” list - quite possibly the funniest novel I’ve ever read. It’s all about the female voices...

“Don’t fuss, Mary. I will write the letters tomorrow, before lunch. I would write them tonight, only I think we ought to dine out -don’t you? - to celebrate the inauguration of my career as a parasite”.



Carmel Farm Shop

Our Foundation Learning students operate a weekly Farm Shop selling fruit and vegetable boxes to college staff. Working to produce orders for staff across college develops a range of skills including independence, communication, maths and teamwork.



Every week, the Farm Shop team email staff advertising boxes of vegetables and fruit for £5. Once they have their order, students contact their local supplier, James Mitchell of YourChoice Fruit and Vegetables, St Helens, to place an order. Orders are delivered to college on Thursday mornings and the team work hard to collect the delivery from James’ van before putting together boxes to be delivered that day to staff. With their distinctive rainbow logo, and personal delivery service, it’s a highlight of the day to take delivery of your fruit or vegetable box. And you never know what surprises await you!

Carmel Fruit and Vegetable Boxes are great value and include the freshest produce. The group have different jobs each week including finance, managing orders and Team Leader. Fruit boxes are the top seller but the team have started initiatives to get Carmel staff to eat healthier veg options including designing boxes around different themes from stir-fry veg to Sunday roast and winter warmer soups.

The Team have plans to develop the business by working on advertising around college using the TV screens and a website, and trialing Microsoft Forms to make ordering produce easier for their customers. They also have lots of plans in the run-up to Christmas to produce Christmas-themed boxes including sprouts, cranberries, and even special items like cheese and crackers. We can’t wait!

Lewis Hancox

Inspires Carmel Students with His Journey



We were thrilled to host the extraordinary Lewis Hancox, a renowned bestselling author, talented illustrator, and a prominent comedy content creator, at Carmel College. Lewis visited our campus to engage our students in a captivating discussion about life and the unique experiences of being transgender. Lewis Hancox has authored a compelling book entitled 'Welcome to St. Hell: My Trans Teen Misadventure,' available for purchase both in local bookstores and online. The visit by Lewis Hancox to Carmel was undoubtedly a remarkable experience for the students, fostering understanding, empathy, and unity. As we continue to seek ways to build an inclusive and compassionate society, figures like Lewis play a pivotal role in dismantling stereotypes and bridging the gap between different walks of life. Their impactful book and engaging social media presence are testaments to the power of storytelling and authenticity, proving that sharing one's experiences can be a catalyst for positive change and acceptance.



Unveiling a Path to Success: Dr. Dominic Johnson Inspires Carmel Students

We were honored to host Dr. Dominic Johnson at Carmel for the inaugural 'Inspire Me' alumni lecture. Dr. Johnson, a distinguished Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and the Vice Dean (Clinical) of the School of Medicine at the University of Liverpool, graciously

shared the intricate tapestry of his career journey with our students. His insightful reflections provided a wealth of inspiration for our students as they chart their own paths toward future success.

Championing Mental Health: A Day of Yellow at Carmel

Staff and students came together to embrace this year's compelling theme: "Mental Health as a Universal Human Right." We adorned ourselves in vibrant shades of yellow to underscore the paramount importance of mental health and overall well-being. The day was brimming with

engaging activities designed to foster awareness and a deeper understanding of mental health. These activities included the delightful "Feel Good Food" experience, a treasure trove of books and games in the library, as well as a thrilling poster competition that showcased creative expressions of mental health. In our unwavering commitment to promoting well-being, we directed our efforts toward fundraising in support of the Young Minds charity. We hosted a raffle sale, and our brave souls took on a challenging 10k run at the picturesque Tatton Park to raise funds for this vital cause.

For comprehensive information about the continuous support services available at Carmel, we invite you to explore Carmel Connect. Additionally, you can discover more about the incredible work of the Young Minds charity by visiting their website at <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>. Together, we are championing the cause of mental health and ensuring that it remains a fundamental human right.



Empowering Youth Through Digital Skills

The 'IT/Digital Champion' Initiative in St Helens Town Centre

Victoria Moran, our Work Experience Coordinator, plays a pivotal role in empowering our young people to acquire invaluable work experience. She is currently motivating students to become Sefton CVS Volunteers (Council for Voluntary Service), all the while honing their digital skills and contributing to the community.

Our students have been presented with an exceptional opportunity to lead an 'IT/Digital Champion' Drop-In session in St Helens Town Centre every Wednesday afternoon, lasting approximately 1 hour.



Chaplaincy Soup Kitchen

Our fantastic Student Council Reps and volunteers ran the Solidarity Soup Kitchen in aid of those affected by the Moroccan earthquake and Libyan floods. Together we raised over £120.



Celebrating Youth Leadership and Social Justice

CAFOD's Inspiring Event at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Our dedicated Year 13 CAFOD team recently attended a celebratory event at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, where they joined forces with sixth formers from across the North West.

The event was led by Bishop Tom Neylon, who inspired and guided them through an enriching experience. During the event, the team had the privilege of hearing from MP Ian Byrne, who shared his personal motivation for advocating social justice in their local area. Additionally, Bishop John Arnold shed light on the global impact of CAFOD's essential work.



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Paul Evans, Jann Mariano, Lucy Thomas, Rachel Davies, Amy Kilroy, Amelia Smith, and Grace Yates. Their unwavering dedication over the past year has been instrumental in raising awareness of CAFOD and leading our college community towards meaningful social justice actions. Our newly appointed CAFOD Young Leaders, including Taylan, Joy, Stefan, Katy, Shallom, and Faith, have recently completed their inaugural training day. They eagerly joined their peers from across the Archdiocese to prepare for the challenges ahead. Their primary focus for this term is to elevate awareness about CAFOD and its vital work throughout our community. We eagerly anticipate their plans and initiatives, which will undoubtedly make a positive impact.



Bake Off for Macmillan

We are so pleased to announce that we raised a total of £492 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated.



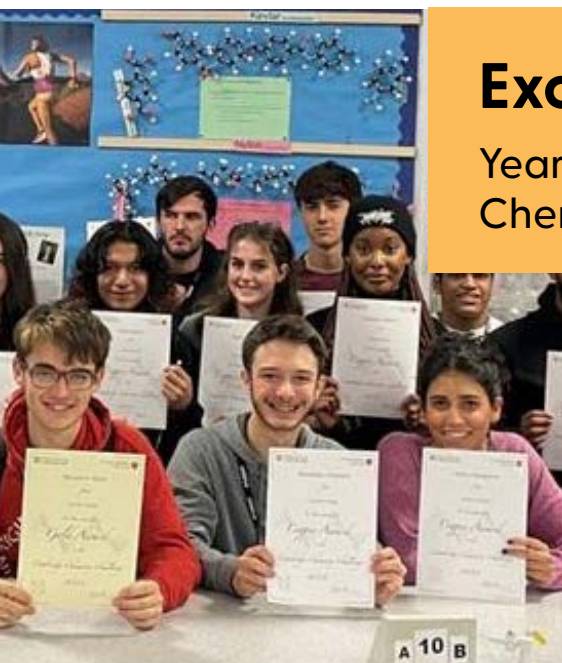
Introducing Our Newest Endeavour: EPAS Society Enrichment

This year, we're excited to bring a new addition to our enriching experiences: the EPAS Society Enrichment! EPAS invites our students to delve into the dynamic world of the European Parliament and its profound impact on the lives of young individuals in both the United Kingdom and the European Union. We extend a warm welcome to all students, who join us every Monday during lunchtime in room W121.

Criminology & Justice

Year 13 Students Dive into the World of Criminology and Justice at Edge Hill University

Carmel College is proud to announce that 30 Year 13 students recently participated in a transformative subject taster day at Edge Hill University. The event centered around the captivating theme of Criminology and the Criminal Justice System, offering students a unique opportunity to explore the world of law and justice first-hand. During their visit to Edge Hill University, students were immersed in a rich educational experience that included a comprehensive campus tour and engaging workshops led by esteemed university lecturers. These workshops not only broadened their knowledge but also honed their practical skills, particularly in the context of the legal system.



Exceptional Talent and Recognition

Year 12 Chemistry Shines in Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Year 12 Chemistry have showcased their exceptional talent and commitment to the field of chemistry by participating in the renowned Cambridge Chemistry Challenge this year. Their outstanding achievements have earned them well-deserved recognition in this fiercely competitive academic arena.

Student Council

A Year of Outreach, Charitable Initiatives, and Cultural Celebration



The Student Council for the academic year 2023-2024 held its inaugural meeting at the beginning of this term and continues to convene regularly to address various student-related concerns at Carmel. This year's leadership is composed of Anna Morgan as Student President, along with Megi Bukaci and Kemi Akeredolu serving as

Vice-Presidents. The Council, led by this dedicated team, has taken on several charitable and educational initiatives.

Presently, they are actively engaged in a campaign to collect gently-used prom dresses for distribution to young students in Liverpool who cannot afford their own. Collaborating with the Chaplaincy, they are also involved in multiple charity initiatives, such as fundraising for the victims of flooding in North Africa. Closer to home, their efforts to enhance road safety outside the college persist.

A primary objective for this year's council has been to increase their visibility among the general student body. In pursuit of this goal, they have revitalized the council's presence on social media platforms, garnering more followers on Instagram than any previous council.

A major project in the lead-up to Christmas is the organisation of Carmel's inaugural Culture Day. In collaboration with the Equality and Diversity committee, the council is working diligently to create a celebration that highlights the rich tapestry of cultures within the Carmel community. This event will feature a diverse array of elements, including food, music, attire, and art, promising to be a day of joyous celebration.

Upcoming Events

Inspire Me talk- Dr Joanna Parry

Education and Child Psychologist (Alumni) 10th November

Inspire Me talk - Dr Dominic Johnson

HA+ MDV progression workshop 6th December

Inspire Me talk and workshop - Paula Tully

(Alumni) Founder of Escentia Ltd 9th February

**A PLACE TO
IMAGINE.**