

HGSF Weekly Newsletter

Monday 15th December 2025



PT Time


PT Time	
Monday	Key Messages
Monday Launchpad	Year 12 (Atrium) : Elliot Holt - Old Laureate Visit Year 13 (SF7/8) : Consent and Party Safety
Tuesday	KASH Reflection
Wednesday	Year 12 : The Big Conversation Year 13 : The Big Think
Thursday	End of Term Celebration Assembly (Atrium)

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What's on this week

Tuesday 16th December	Exam Workshops (P1&2) in SF5: Managing exam stress, coping strategies, building resilience and everything in between - run by Daisy who is our mental health in school practitioner
Tuesday 16th December	A Level Certificate Evening for our previous Year 13 cohort - sixth form will close at 5.15pm
Thursday 18th December	Festive Bake Off Judging at breaktime Festive Bake Sale at lunchtime
Thursday 18th December	Sixth Form closes for Christmas 
Friday 19th December	School closes for Christmas

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Upcoming

Monday 5th January	Return to Sixth Form
W/C Monday 12th January	Year 12 Common Assessments
Wednesday 14th January	UCAS Deadline for applications for most undergraduate courses
W/C Monday 19th January	Year 12 Common Assessments
Monday 28th January	Deadline for Y12 Work Experience Placement Form to be completed
Monday 2nd February	Oxbridge Entry Session with Jonathan Padley - <i>more details to follow</i>
Wednesday 4th February	Life Drawing - Year 12 Art Trip - <i>further details to follow</i>
Wednesday 11th February	Spanish Exchange Trip - <i>all students involved have been informed</i>
Friday 13th February	Finish for Half Term

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Student Notices:

Silent Study: The Silent Study Space is just that. Silent. If you wish to collaborate, work together and discuss then we support this. But not in the Silent Study Space.

Areas available for collaborative work:

- Classroom (if booked)
- ICT suite
- Atrium
- Refectory
- Landing study space upstairs
-

iPads are always available for you to use should you need access to the internet, these can be booked out at the office.

As you can see, we have many more spaces to work together. Use them if you need to talk. It is vital you get this right for each other. It is unfair to your peers to not respect this.

Mobile Phone Use: Please remember that mobile phones should only be used within the Sixth Form building and the courtyard. Phones must not be used in other areas of the school or while walking to lessons held outside the Sixth Form building.

Your Sixth Form Building: REMINDER!

- Please do not consume food or drinks (apart from water) in any of the classrooms.
- Please use the refectory where possible to eat, if there are free tables/seats you must use this space.
- If there are no tables/seats in the refectory you can use the Atrium to eat, however, you must only use the first two rows.
- You are still free to use the top of the Atrium as a study space, or a socialising space during break and lunch, however, please do not eat up there.

The 16-19 Bursary: The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help students facing financial hardship to continue in full time education after Year 11. We would encourage all students to read the information [here](#), or to see Mrs Gill for further advice. The bursary is discretionary and you do not always need to meet the criteria outlined.

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The University of Law Business School Work Experience Evening

When: Tuesday, 16th December, 5pm - 7:30pm

Where: Virtual Event

Who: Y12 & Y13 Students

We have some great workshops lined up, and it will be an excellent opportunity for you to have a mini-taster session on the subjects you could be studying at university. We will also be doing a mini session on applying to UCAS and how to make a standout personal statement. This will be great to take part in for the Christmas holiday application prep.

Workshop Overview:

During the event, we will be running three highly interactive workshops on the following:

- Management - Do we really need managers, and what do they do in companies?
- Marketing - Strategies used in businesses to attract customers effectively
- Accounting & Finance - 40-minute workshop session on a live case study

[APPLY HERE](#)

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Trinity's Languages, Powers, and Cultures Programme

Hosted by: **Trinity College, Cambridge**

Application Deadline: **Monday, 5th January 2026**

Are you curious about cultures, fascinated by history, or passionate about languages? Trinity College invites Year 12 students to apply for the **2026 Languages, Power and Cultures Programme** – an exciting opportunity to explore how language and culture shape societies across the Classical and modern worlds.

What's Included?

- **Six Live Online Lectures** from Cambridge academics on Classics, Linguistics, Archaeology, and Modern & Medieval Languages.
- **Small Group Seminars** led by Trinity undergraduates for selected participants.
- **Residential Experience at Cambridge** for the most engaged students.

No prior language study required – just curiosity and enthusiasm!

Why Apply?

- Gain a taste of university-level humanities teaching.
- Explore diverse themes across languages, history, and culture.
- Experience life at Cambridge through an exclusive residential.

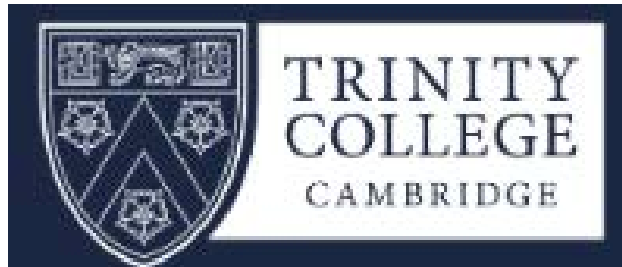
Applications are now open!

For details and to apply, visit: [Trinity's Languages, Power and Cultures webpage.](#)



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Women in Maths Programme & Residential – Apply Now!

When: 26th to 28th March 2026

Who: Female students in Yr12, who are interested in studying Mathematics and adjacent highly mathematical courses at selective universities.

Application Deadline: 9am on Monday 2nd February 2026

Participants will be able to explore both Trinity and Christ's Colleges during the residential, take part in lectures led by Cambridge academics, and meet current students. This programme is an excellent opportunity to experience first hand what it is like to study Mathematics at Cambridge.

Trinity College and Christ's College annually host a residential programme for women interested in studying maths, or highly mathematical adjacent courses, at top universities. This is a highly successful programme where attendees study maths related topics in a supportive cohort, get to experience life as a Cambridge Maths student, and receive admissions guidance and advice.

. The residential is particularly aimed at students who come from a background that is underrepresented at the University of Cambridge.

[APPLY HERE](#)



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Outreach Events across the University

Check out the Upcoming Events page to see a calendar of outreach events organised by the University, colleges and departments. This page is updated regularly, and we would encourage you to review it often to spot future events of interest.

[Upcoming Opportunities for Students – Apply Now!](#)

Women in Computer Science Seminar Series

- **When:** Weekly webinars in January & February
- **Who:** Female and non-binary Year 12 students
- **What:** Explore topics like computational complexity and interfaces with members of Cambridge's Computer Science Department.

St Catharine's Composition Workshop

- **Date:** One-day event
- **Who:** Year 12 students
- **What:** Hear your composition rehearsed, receive feedback, and meet music students and academics.
- **Deadline:** Monday 15th December

Corpus Christi Pelican Programme

- **Who:** Y12
- **What:** Fortnightly online sessions across 10 subject streams, admissions talks, and July residential.
- **Deadline:** Friday 12th December, 5pm

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Fitzwilliam College Women in STEM Programme

- **What:** Online webinar series (Years 10–12) + in-person visit day for Year 12.
- **Deadline:** Saturday 31st January

Homerton College Essay Programme

- **Starts:** Wednesday 4th February
- **Who:** Year 12 students
- **What:** Learn university-style essay writing and attend Homerton's Health & Sustainability Conference.

Exploring Law Conference

- **Dates:** 30 March – 2 April 2026
- **Who:** Year 12
- **What:** Residential programme offering insight into Law as a subject and profession.
- **Deadline:** Wednesday 31st December



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**Manchester
Lit&Phil**

From climate science to climate policy in a world of changing geopolitics

A talk from Professor Piers Forster, Director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures, Chair of the UK Climate Change Committee June 2023 – July 2025

Date and time

17 February 2026
6:30pm - 8:00pm

[Book now](#)

Location

Lecture Theatre, Renold Innovation Hub
81 Sackville Street
Manchester M1 3NJ

Price

£15.00 General Admission / £6.00 Students / Members book for FREE

Who Should Attend?

This talk is for anyone who wants to understand the UK's response to the climate emergency, including:

Professionals in healthcare, science, education, law, finance, and policy, who may be grappling with the implications in their own fields. Students and young people, who will live longest with the consequences.

Community leaders, business owners, and decision-makers.

Anyone interested in the intersection of government, science, society, and survival.

Questions to Reflect On

- Why did warnings about climate change go unheeded for so long?
- What does a world at $>4.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ of warming really mean for our society and citizens, not just ecosystems?
- How do issues of policy, economy, and national security intersect with climate change?
- What practical actions can individuals and communities take now to make a meaningful difference to government policy?
- Is there still time to change course, and what does "immediate action" actually look like in the UK?



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**Manchester
Lit&Phil**

Rewilding the Lowlands: Lessons from Knepp and Beyond

Charting the next chapter in Britain's evolving relationship with the wild

Date and time

14 January 2026
6:30 pm - 8:00pm

[Book now](#)

Location

Cross Street Chapel. Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL

Price

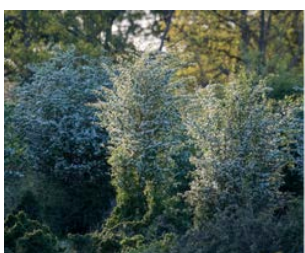
£15.00 General Admission / £6.00
Students / Members book for FREE

Overview

Over 20 years ago, Knepp Wildland in West Sussex took a bold step: abandoning intensive farming to let nature lead. Today, it's a thriving mosaic of scrub, wood pasture, wetlands, and meadows, home to species like turtle doves, purple emperors, and nightingales.

Charlie Burrell will share Knepp's story and explore the broader rewilding movement reshaping conservation and land use across Britain and Europe. Key themes include:

- The Spectrum of Rewilding: From large-scale wilderness restoration to community-led projects.
- Drivers of Change: Climate action, biodiversity recovery, and economic benefits.
- Funding Nature: The role of philanthropy and innovative models like Nattergal, aligning private capital with ecological restoration and carbon capture.



Join us for an inspiring look at how nature-based solutions can transform landscapes and create sustainable futures.

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Christmas Bake Off

GET READY TO WHISK, MIX AND SPRINKLE
SOME FESTIVE MAGIC...
THIS CHRISTMAS, THE CHRISTMAS BAKE-OFF
IS COMING TO HGSF!

ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN
A SEASONAL BAKING CHARITY EVENT. THIS WILL
CONCLUDE WITH A FESTIVE BAKE SALE ON THE
18TH OF DECEMBER 2025. ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO
TO CHARITY, SO YOUR BAKING WILL SPREAD JOY
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

HGSF STAFF WILL BE JUDGING YOUR CREATIONS
AT BREAKTIME OF THE 18TH. THE SALE
ITSELF WILL KICK-OFF AT THE LUNCHTIME!

REQUIREMENTS:
CHRISTMAS THEMED
MUST BE 1 CAKE OR 6 CUPCAKES MINIMUM
MUST BE HOME-MADE!

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMES EVEN IF
YOU'RE NOT COMPETING! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT
YOU COME UP WITH AND GOOD LUCK!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE SPEAK TO
JACK WALKER & HGSF CABINET

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Child Trust Fund

Background

In 2000 Gordon Brown's government created Child Trust Funds – every child born between 1 Sept 2002 and 2 Jan 2011 received a £250 voucher (it did reduce to £50 in 2010) that parents could invest. Many have morphed into a Junior ISA. At 18, the child gets access to it. The £250 could now be worth £1900 so can pay for driving lessons, university support etc. When parents had done nothing with the £250 by the child's 1st birthday it was invested by HMRC. It is estimated that there are 2 million young adults who this applied to resulting in £2bn of "disconnected accounts" – the children or young adults do not realise they have one. Equally even if parents did invest in something, they may have forgotten about it.

Action for YOU!

Please ask your parents/carers if they know where your CTF is.

If they don't remember, or never invested it, or if you want to find out yourself: visit <https://findctf.sharefound.org/> or <https://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund> to find the money – they will do a check against the CTF Register.

You will need your National Insurance number. Always seek appropriate financial advice if you are unsure about the best option for your situation.

CTF Maturity

18

Before reaching age 18 the individual will be informed of their options and outline next steps



Instruction Received

TRANSFER INTO AN ISA

And/or

TAKE CASH

No Instruction Received

MONEY PLACED IN A PROTECTED ACCOUNT
(maybe called either a Matured CTF or Protected ISA)

NOTES:

1. Will not use up ISA allowance. Will use up LISA allowance
2. Normal proof of identity will be required

NOTES:

1. Can be full or partial Withdrawal
2. Only an instruction covering the full proceeds will be accepted
3. Normal proof of identity will be required

NOTES:

1. Held in the account until Instruction received and then as above
2. No further payments allowed
3. No significant change to investments, charges or other terms and conditions
4. If it remains unclaimed could be paid to charity as a dormant account, although could still be reclaimed later.