

Senior School Welcome Handbook

YEARS 7 TO 10

2023-24

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY



stChris

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YEARS 7 TO 10

2023-24

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Welcome to the Senior School

This booklet is designed to answer the questions that new families may have before joining us and during the first weeks and months of starting at St Chris.

If you have any further queries before your start date, please contact the Admissions team. Once your child has started at St Chris, the Company Adviser will be your main point of contact, and there is more information about this further on in the booklet.

OUR AIM

St Chris seeks to be a continuously developing community of children and adults working together to enable all to achieve their best academically and beyond the classroom in an open atmosphere.

All are valued as individuals and encouraged to develop in curiosity, competence, judgement, kindness and courage.

St Chris aims for students to become both self-disciplined and self-motivated individuals; independent learners and creative thinkers able to make informed choices in a modern world with a commitment to service, informality, healthy living and self-government.

The School seeks to prepare students for happy and fulfilled lives in the service of others.

We treat children and young people as individuals and aim for them to develop competence and resourcefulness, social conscience and moral courage, the capacity for friendship and a true zest for life.

SENIOR SCHOOL

When a young person moves forward in their education, everything feels new and different, and it can be a challenge to settle in. We know that students who are joining us need lots of help and guidance, especially in the first few weeks, and we have strong systems in place to provide that support. However, if you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Company Adviser.

St Chris is a very welcoming school.

I am certain that this will be an exciting and fulfilling journey for all of us, and we are looking forward to welcoming you to our community.

RICH JONES
HEAD

Welcome to the Senior School

MESSAGE FOR PUPILS FROM HEAD STUDENTS, AMAR AND RACHEL

As Head Students of St Chris, we want to wish you a warm welcome.

We thought you might find it useful to know a little bit about our roles and what we do.

At St Chris we have a team of twelve Major Officials (similar to prefects in other schools), who represent the student body and do a wide range of jobs throughout the School:

Head Students	Amar Raja and Rachel Annette
Deputy Head Students	Harley Pope and Karishma Mahtani
Chairs of Events & Fundraising	Hannah Hayes
Chair of Be Green	Scarlett Somerville
Chair of Council	Jack Ingram
Secretary of Council	Oliver Kingsland
Chair of Human Rights Committee	Arjan Sarai
Chair of Food Committee	Zach Guthrie
Treasurer	Tom Johnson
Boarding Rep	Freya Rutherford

The School Council is an important feature of our community. It gives students a chance to voice their views and opinions. We have a Council meeting every term where we discuss ideas and motions that students have put forward to their Company Rep for consideration. Once a motion has been passed through Council it is taken to a whole school meeting, chaired by the Head Students, where it is discussed further before taking it to a final vote. Everyone gets a vote at the whole school meeting, including you.

Coming to a new school may feel daunting, but everyone is very supportive and friendly. We were all new to St Chris once (even the teachers!) so please do not hesitate to talk to us about any problems or queries you may have. As Head Students we feel a personal responsibility to ensure that you feel comfortable and happy, and we look forward to meeting you soon!

With best wishes,
AMAR & RACHEL

KEY CONTACTS

A full staff list can be found on the website: www.stchris.co.uk/about-us/staff

Sarah Davis

Senior Admissions Registrar
sarah.davis@stchris.co.uk

Sarah and Lucy remain your main contacts before you start with us.

Lucy Coddington

Admissions Registrar
lucy.coddington@stchris.co.uk

After joining, your main contact will be your child's Company Adviser.

Ranjan Parmar

Finance Assistant
billings@stchris.co.uk

Ranjan is your contact for any queries regarding invoicing or payment of fees & extras (such as school lunch).

Simon Holmes

Director of Finance and Operations
dofo@stchris.co.uk

Please contact Simon with questions about any aspect of the running of the school not related to teaching and learning for example catering, buses or school fees.

www.ridekura.com/st-christopher

Please use this website to view bus routes & book journeys. You will be invoiced by Finance at the end of each term.

School Nurse

nurse@stchris.co.uk

Absence

attendance@stchris.co.uk

If a pupil is ill and going to be absent from school or us running late, parents must email this address and copy in the student's Company Adviser, **before 9.00am.**

All staff can be reached by email using the format

firstname.surname@stchris.co.uk

Term Dates

2023–24

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Staff Conference Days	Monday 4 to Tuesday 5 September
Induction Day for all new pupils in the Junior and Senior School. Includes all Year 7 (I Grp) pupils	Wednesday 6 September
Year 12 Conference Day	Wednesday 6 September
Start of Term	Thursday 7 September
First Half Ends	Friday 20 October (15:20 for Junior School, 15:55 for Senior School)
Half Term	Monday 23 October to Friday 3 November (2 weeks)
Second Half Begins	Monday 6 November
Term Ends	Friday 15 December (12:00 Noon)

SPRING TERM 2024

Staff Conference Day	Friday 5 January
Start of Term	Monday 8 January
First Half Ends	Friday 16 February
Half Term	Monday 19 to Friday 23 February
Second Half Begins	Monday 26 February
Term Ends	Thursday 28 March (12:00 Noon)

SUMMER TERM 2024

Staff Conference Day	Monday 15 April
Start of Term	Tuesday 16 April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
First Half Ends	Friday 24 May (15:20 for Junior School, 15:55 for Senior School)
Half Term	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May
Second Half Begins	Monday 3 June
Summer Celebration	Saturday 22 June Compulsory for Senior School pupils
Term Ends for LSP (Senior School only)	Friday 5 July (12:00 Noon)
Term Ends	Friday 12 July (12:00 Noon)

THE SENIOR SCHOOL DAY

8.30am	School starts
8.30 to 8.40am	Registration
8.40 to 9.00am	Company Time / Morning Talk
9.00 to 10.00am	Period 1
10.00 to 10.30am	Little Break (On Mon and Fri Little Break is 10.10 – 10.30am)
10.30 to 11.30am	Period 2
11.40 to 12.40pm	Period 3
12.40 to 1.40pm	Lunch
1.40 to 2.45pm	Period 4
2.55 to 3.55pm	Period 5
3.55pm	School ends
3.55pm onwards	After School Activities

YEAR GROUPS

Key Stage 3	I Group	Year 7
	II Group	Year 8
	III Group	Year 9
Key Stage 4	IV Group	Year 10
	V Group	Year 11
Sixth Form	Lower Sixth	Year 12
	Upper Sixth	Year 13

A-Z OF SENIOR SCHOOL

ABSENCE

If a pupil is ill and going to be absent from school, parents must email **attendance@stchris.co.uk** and copy in the student's Company Adviser, **before 9.00am**.

If parents would like their child miss school for any reason other than illness or a medical appointment they need to request permission in advance from the Head by emailing **head@stchris.co.uk**.

If parents would like to request their child miss school for half a day or less, this request can be made by the parent to their child's Adviser or Head of Year.

If a pupil has an appointment during the school day, they need to sign out and back in again with the Pastoral Assistant in Room 12.

If a pupil is unable to participate in a PE lesson, parents should inform the Company Adviser by email.

Lateness should be avoided whenever possible; it disrupts a child's learning routine and the school day as a whole. Late arrivals should report to the Pastoral Assistant in Room 12.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

On the first day, all students are issued with their weekly timetable, School email and computer network account, and access details for the Satchel One (Show My Homework) website. Names of teachers are given on timetables and everyone is called by their first name - staff and students alike.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There are lots of lunchtime and after school clubs at St Chris, some of which

are for specific year groups but many of which are open to all.

Our Late Bus can be booked from 5.30pm for students wanting transport to the train station or in to London.

With the exception of specialised provision (for example scuba diving or horse riding), all lunchtime and after school clubs are included in the fees.

A list of current clubs will be sent to students at the start of term and is available on the board outside Room 12. Students/parents will be able to book clubs through our online system, "MyEvolve". You will be sent further information about setting up an account for MyEvolve at the start of the school year.

If you have any questions about clubs, please contact Emma Roskilly, Director of CoCurricular:

emma.roskilly@stchris.co.uk.

BANK DETAILS

The bank details are the same for all payments to the School, so it is important that parents use a reference for each, e.g. **SURNAME FEES** or **SURNAME TRIP**.

Account Name

St Christopher School
(Letchworth) Limited

Account Number 90800643

Sort Code 20-41-38

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Students can stay on after the end of the school day at 3.55pm to take part in clubs or work in the Library, which is staffed until 5.00pm.

For parents needing before and/or after school care beyond the normal school day, we offer Day Boarding. Please refer

to our website for costs <https://www.stchris.co.uk/admissions/fees/>

If parents have children in both the Junior and Senior School, there is provision which dovetails the end of the school day. Please contact the Junior School Office via junior.school@stchris.co.uk for details of the Sibling Club for Junior School students, which is free of charge.

BOARDING: "FLEXI BOARDING"

Flexi or occasional boarding of up to three nights per week is very popular at St Chris, particularly amongst students who travel some distance to school each day. If you would like to book regular dates, it is a good idea to do this at the beginning of each term, although we do offer booking at 24 hours' notice, subject to availability.

To book please contact the boarding Houseparents: via cecilia.drayton@stchris.co.uk.

BONDING TRIPS

New students joining Year 7 and Year 12 go on a bonding trip in September, to get to know their peers and key staff. You will receive a letter in the Welcome Pack about these trips.

BREAKS

There are two breaks during the school day: Little Break from 10.00 to 10.30am and Lunch Break from 12.40 to 1.40pm. There is a Tuck Shop open at Little Break and students are also welcome to bring their own snacks. During Lunch Break, students can go to clubs, their common room, or play outside.

BUDDIES

All new students at St Chris are allocated a buddy who looks after them for the first few days.

BUS ROUTES & BOOKING

St Chris has a partnership with a bus company so that students can travel from a number of areas directly to school.

For more information about bus routes and prices, or to book a space on the bus, please visit the website of our School transport provider:
www.ridekura.com/st-christopher/

If you have specific questions about this service, please contact Simon Holmes, Director of Finance and Operations: dofostchris.co.uk. After school, coaches leave from the swimming pool car park and there are staff on hand to ensure students are on the correct bus.

CAREERS & WORK EXPERIENCE

St Chris has a dedicated careers programme embedded in our PSHE curriculum, with lessons focussed on careers for all year groups in the Senior School and Sixth Form.

These lessons run in conjunction with our bespoke careers programme which is designed to support students in developing their employability skills and readiness for the world of work, not only through traditional routes via universities and higher education but also through employment opportunities, vocational prospects, and apprenticeships.

For further information about our careers programme visit our website: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/senior-school/careers/>

CLOTHING

Everyday Clothing

There is no uniform at St Christopher School, but clothes must be appropriate for a school environment, clean and mended. Camouflage and military-type clothing are not allowed. Please name all clothing, including coats and shoes, using a laundry pen or labels.

Other Equipment

Students need to bring a school bag, pencil case and water bottle to school every day. Please ensure the school bag is of a reasonable size as the lockers have limited space. There are water fountains around the campus where bottles can be re-filled.

PE Kit

All students are expected to attend practical Physical Education and Games lessons with correct kit. This ensures their own and others' safety, as well as enabling students to participate to their full potential.

St Chris PE kit is available through our suppliers, SWI;
<https://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>

Students are expected to wear the following School kit items during Games lessons, dependent on their preference and the weather:

- Performance SS Training Top (male/female fit)
- Shorts (male/female fit), skort, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Performance tracksuit top (Female full zip or Male ¼ zip)
- ProTec rugby top (Female/Male fit)
- Base Layer (a plain white version is available on the website, or students may wear their own)

A plain white sports polo or t-shirt and plain navy shorts, leggings, tracksuit bottoms or sports jumpers are also permitted.

Additional, personal, items are also allowed to be worn in colder/wetter weathers:

- A waterproof layer
- Woolly 'beanie' and warm gloves

Students will also require appropriate footwear:

- Football boots (plastic studs only) and long socks for football and rugby.
- Well-fitting astros or trainers (not fashion shoes, please) which give effective grip and support for all other sports

Additional items are also needed and PE Staff will alert students as to when they will need these:

- Gum shield (e.g. for hockey). - Purchasable for £1 through the PE Department
- Shin pads (e.g. for football). Students must source their own – any type is allowed.

For swimming students will need:

- A black swimsuit or trunks. Swimming trunks can be "Speedos", Jammers or looser shorts which finish above the knee. Swimsuits should be one piece and can be styles such as razor, atom or t-back, hydrasuits, or legsuits to the knee.

In addition, students will also require to source their own:

- Swim hat (preferably silicone): this is essential for taking part
- Towel

- Goggles
- Rash vest/T-shirt and/or shorts (optional items to wear in addition to their costumes/trunks)

Jewellery must be removed to a safe standard. Long hair should always be tied back and nails need to be sufficiently short to prevent injury to self and others.

Students should wear the official school PE kit when representing St Chris during fixtures. Please ensure all items of PE kit are named.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Getting Organised

Some students have genuine organisational difficulties, and if, after the first few weeks, things have not improved, parents can contact the Company Adviser for support.

Lost Belongings

Belongings do get mislaid but using the student lockers and ensuring everything is named helps prevent problems. Lost property is handed in to Room 12.

Friendships

Most friendship patterns sort themselves out naturally without adults getting involved, and children form lasting, happy relationships. However, parents should contact the Company Adviser if their child becomes unhappy or withdrawn, or if they are struggling to settle in, and students should also feel free to speak to their Adviser at any time. Parents should also contact the Company Adviser if they suspect that behaviour towards their child may be deliberately unkind.

Social Media

As children explore the use of social media outside of school, it is really important that parents support and guide them through this.

Maintaining access and involvement in your child's online life will help to avoid problems happening "below the radar" which can then spill over into school.

Children need space to learn and make mistakes, but please actively monitor your child's online activity, the length of time spent on their mobile phone or computer, and the types of apps and sites that they are visiting or the games that they are playing. Ideally you should be open and trusting with your child, so they know that you are monitoring their online activities.

Please can parents ensure that they have set up appropriate parental controls on their broadband at home.

For further information, Internet Matters is a one-stop-shop for parents about: online issues, advice by age, setting controls, guides and resources. Please visit www.internetmatters.org

Sleep

Young people need time to switch off (literally!) and recharge after a long day. We strongly recommend that your child does not have their mobile phone, laptop, tablet or other such device in their bedroom overnight. Setting this up as an expectation from the outset will ensure that excessive screen time does not become a problem later on.

COMMUNICATION

Effective communication between home and school is essential in supporting social, emotional and academic progress. To aid this, please ensure that we have up-to-date contact details.

An up-to-date list of all St Chris staff can be found on our website www.stchris.co.uk/staff

All staff can be reached by email using the format:

firstname.surname@stchris.co.uk

The Company Adviser

The Company Adviser is the “first port of call” for both parents and students for all day-to-day issues or questions, such as absence, late arrival or even lost PE kit.

Head of Year

Each year group has a single Head of Year. Parents are always welcome to contact the Head of Year to discuss more serious matters, or even to request help with an issue that may need additional support beyond the day-to-day provision of the Company Adviser.

Room 12

The pastoral area at St Chris is known as Room 12 and is situated in the Courtyard. This is where the Pastoral Assistant is based during the school day, and the Heads of Year have an office next door. Parents and students can contact Room 12 if they need advice about most day to day issues.

Parent Portal

We use an online parent portal (and App) to communicate with parents. Prior to starting at St Chris, the Admissions team will send you further information and your log in details.

Once you start at St Chris, you will receive a weekly school mailing through the portal on a Friday with updates on upcoming events and activities.

You will also be able to view your child’s timetable, messages for your year group, the weekly menu and your child’s school reports on the portal.

School Activities & Events

Details of events can be found on the School’s online calendar at <https://www.stchris.co.uk/news/calendar/>

COMPLAINTS

The open climate of St Chris encourages parents, along with children and staff, to voice their concerns. Usually discussion of the matter allays or removes the worry without the need for formal procedures.

All complaints are carefully considered and it is usually helpful for there to be a discussion at an early stage about the issue, the procedures and the possible outcomes. In the first instance, please contact the Head: **head@stchris.co.uk**

A copy of our Complaints Policy can be found on our website. <https://www.stchris.co.uk/about-us/policies/>

CONTACTING THE GOVERNORS

The Chair of the Governors may be contacted in confidence by email at **jakub.kozlowski@stchris.co.uk** or c/o the main school address:

Chair of Governors, St Christopher School, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JZ.

CURRICULUM QUESTIONS

Queries around curriculum matters should be sent to the subject teacher or Head of Department.

COUNSELLING

We offer a counselling service for students at St Chris, which is scheduled during the school day. If you would like to discuss this, please get in touch with the School Nurse or Cordy Lewis, Senior Pastoral Lead:

cordy.lewis@stchris.co.uk

DOGS

Other than guide or hearing dogs, dogs are not allowed in the School buildings. Please keep dogs on a lead at all times and under your direct control.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

All students need to be in school by 8.30am for registration. There are a number of entrances for Senior School students which all have a key pad, and from there students should make their way to their Company room. After school, collection can be made from outside the Theatre area, and Senior School students can of course travel home on their own.

Please make sure that you have clearly agreed the arrangements with your child and communicate any changes with their Adviser. Please also check that your child has a full set of contact information on their phone, including the school number.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Students in Year 10 (IV Group) onwards can sign up for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which runs during Options on a Thursday with additional training and expeditions at separate times.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

St Chris prides itself in providing equal opportunities for all children regardless of ability, religion, sex, culture, ethnic origin or class. We ensure that discrimination in any form is treated as unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We respond positively to difference and ensure that all members of the School community are valued and encouraged to develop their potential.

FOOD

School Lunch

We enjoy fresh, tasty vegetarian food. Every day there are two hot choices, and a salad bar. There is also a pudding and fruit. Weekly menus can be found on the parent portal.

Students in different year groups take it in turns to go into lunch first; the order can be checked on a list outside Room 12.

Please note that we need to be made aware of any allergies or intolerances that your child may have to nuts or other ingredients.

Students eat lunch together in the Dining Hall, known as the IG (because many years ago it was used as an Indoor Gym!)

Packed Lunch

Students are welcome to bring a nut-free vegetarian packed lunch, which is eaten alongside students having school food. Parents should email the Finance Office before the start of each term to let us know if a student does not require school lunches as these are billed for in advance each term: **billings@stchris.co.uk**.

GREEN SLIPS

These are commendations given by staff to students for a kind act, good piece of work, etc. They are put into the student's register for distribution by the Company Adviser.

HEALTH

The School has a School Nurse. It is very important that the School Nurse has updated medical information for every student; please ensure that any changes are communicated directly to them.

If a child becomes ill while at school, we will contact their parents to collect them. If a child has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea, parents are asked not to let them return to School until they have been clear of the symptoms for 48 hours.

Prescribed medicines are administered at the request of a child's parent or guardian and with the consent of the School Nurse. Medication is kept in the School's surgery and administered by the School Nurse, who keeps details of its administration.

The School Nurse can administer non-prescription medicines in accordance with a child's completed medical forms. Please contact the School Nurse to arrange this, rather than sending non-prescription medicines into school.

Staff are trained as appropriate in the health conditions of students (e.g. asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy) and the administration of medicines.

HOMEWORK

Students at St Chris are given regular homework and this plays an important role in developing study skills and reinforcing learning. In addition, good

time-management, sensible patterns of working and independent learning become well-established and the norm.

Teachers will add homework tasks to Satchel One (Show My Homework), which all students are given a log-in for. Parents can also sign up for the app, allowing them to receive homework alerts!

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

There are a wide variety of instrumental and vocal music lessons available at St Chris run by a range of external teachers.

Please visit our website to find out more about which instruments are taught and to download the booking form: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/senior-school/senior-activities/music/>

LAMDA

We offer LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) lessons which are scheduled during the school day. If you would like to know more, or wish to book LAMDA lessons, please go to the following page on our website: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/senior-school/senior-activities/drama/>

LIBRARY

The Library – in the main Courtyard – is open from 8.00am to 5.00pm for students to use to do homework, read, etc.

LATE SUMMER PROGRAMME (LSP)

The LSP is a week of activities that takes place during the last week of the Summer Term each year for students in Years 7 to 10 (I - IV Group).

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in a trip with their year group, usually to an

outward-bound themed residential to take part in activities that help bond the students together, as well as it being an opportunity to get to know staff better.

Students in Year 10 also take part in activities during this week and can select from a series of residential and work experience.

MORNING TALKS

Students in the Senior School have two Morning Talks a week on Monday and Friday. These are our version of assemblies and can be led by staff and students alike.

OPEN DAYS

St Chris runs regular Open Days for prospective families. Students are asked to support these events by giving tours of the School or by taking part in performances and activities. Open Days are an enjoyable way for our students to showcase what they have been working on and to practice their conversational and presentation skills. Information about these events are communicated in advance to parents and students.

OPTIONS

The Options programme at St Chris is an integral part of the curriculum which takes place every Thursday for all students in Years 7 to 12.

The aim of Options is to give students an opportunity to expand their horizons, learn and develop new skills and to discover opportunities.

Students are able to select from a broad range of topics – creative, physical, community/social awareness and academic.

PARENTS' CIRCLE

All parents and guardians are members of the Parents' Circle. Newsletters are sent out to inform parents of meetings and events. All are warmly welcomed.

Each class has its own Parents' Circle Rep who makes contact with parents of children in their class to organise events, such as quiz nights. If you are happy to share your contact details with your Class Rep please contact the Parents' Circle via email: mail@stchrispc.co.uk.

We would also encourage you to sign up for ClassList which is the main communication tool for the Parents' Circle at: www.Schoolclasslist.com

PARKING

Parking is available in the car parks by: the Junior School playground; the swimming pool; the mini-roundabout. We request that parents park in the bays provided and not on yellow lines or in the disabled bays unless a blue badge is displayed.

Please be considerate of local residents when parking on nearby streets.

PEER MENTORS

Peer Mentors are Sixth Form students who act as mentors to younger students in the Senior School.

Mentors offer a wide range of support – it can be anything from helping new students to settle in, or spending time with a younger student to help with a particular academic or social issue that they may have.

Students volunteer to be a Peer Mentor at the start of Year 12 and this continues throughout their time in Sixth Form.

The programme is a particularly popular way for students to commit to helping the whole school community and both Peer Mentors, and those that they work with, find that it's a very rewarding role.

PE & GAMES

The St Chris PE Department aims to give every child the chance to enjoy a carousel of sporting, creative and fitness activities.

There is a focus on inclusivity and fitness, and the benefits of sport's wider impact on a child's development in terms of team work, resilience, well-being and leadership.

St Chris students regularly achieve excellent results in individual and team competitions with regular stand out performances in athletics, cross-country, swimming, basketball and netball.

Teaching ensures students are teamed with other similarly experienced students; they are also all taught in mixed gender groups so that they have access to a broad range of sports, and are not funnelled based on gender.

In lessons, a year group will develop performances in team sports such as tag rugby, football and netball as well as improving in racket sports, aesthetic activities (dance, gymnastics) and experiencing different methods to improve fitness. Students also take part in associated fixtures.

In Year 7 (I Group), children take part in two PE/games lessons per week and one of swimming. In Years 8 to 11 (II to V Group), swimming is part of the PE/Games rotation (and starts to focus more on aquatic activities); so students have

half a term of swimming, amongst the other sports offered.

All students are expected to attend practical Physical Education, Games and Swimming lessons with correct kit. Please see the section on clothing in this booklet for further information.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please ensure that all belongings are named, including shoes, coats and PE kit. Lost property is handed in to Room 12.

Lockers

Each child is given a locker to store their books, bags and personal belongings. They will need a small padlock for securing this, and spare keys can be kept in the Room 12 Pastoral Office for emergencies. Please name all belongings!

Mobile Phones

In Year 7 (I Group) each student is provided with a mobile phone locker that they must use while at school. To encourage our Year 7 students to play and socialise, they are not permitted to carry their phones with them at all during the school day. If they need to contact home, or parents need to contact them, this can be arranged via Room 12.

From the end of Year 7 onwards, students are given the responsibility of looking after and using their phones independently, but the School policy is that all mobile phones must be switched off and stored out of sight around the campus and during lessons unless specific permission has been given by the teacher for educational purposes.

PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS

Consultations are essentially Parents' Evenings, during which parents and students can meet with the Company Adviser, subject teachers and Head of Year. Parents book the appointments online and you will receive an email confirming your bookings.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A comprehensive list of our policies and procedures can be found on the school website:

www.stchris.co.uk/aboutus/policies

PSHE

Personal, Social, Health and Economics Education (PSHE) is delivered in weekly lessons, following a programme created with the PSHE Association.

Each year, we explore a range of topics under the three themes; Health & Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationships.

These are taught in a spiral curriculum, building in an age-appropriate way, to cover the knowledge and skills needed by young people to make safe, well-informed choices. Lessons encourage pupils to reflect on topical issues and develop social skills through discussion.

Signposting to support is also a key element of PSHE so that children and young people know how to make healthy decisions and seek appropriate help with difficulties. Further information about PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) can be found in our policies on the school website and through regular newsletters which update parents on what we have been learning about.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

At St Chris, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the person appointed to take central responsibility for child protection issues and safeguarding concerns in the School.

The St Chris community shares the goal of helping to keep children safe by contributing to a safe environment for all through communication, vigilance and taking appropriate action.

For a student or a parent, the best person to approach with any concerns in the first instance is the Company Adviser or Head of Year (or both). However, if it is felt that this is not appropriate in the circumstances, other members of staff may also be approached, including the Head.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Nat Baker

nat.baker@stchris.co.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Rich Jones

rich.jones@stchris.co.uk

Cordy Lewis

cordy.lewis@stchris.co.uk

REPORTS

Reports are sent to parents via the parent portal.

Interim Reports

Interim Reports are used to supplement the more comprehensive Full Reports, and are designed to provide a brief 'snapshot' midway through the term of how students are progressing.

Full Reports

Full Reports are sent at the end of the Autumn and Summer Term and give a comprehensive picture both of the subjects being studied and the progress being made. The Company Adviser also includes a pastoral report, highlighting extra-curricular activities and involvement in the wider life of St Chris.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council was founded in 1919, and our self-government system is still an important part of St Chris, empowering students to play an active role in school life and giving them an early taste of democracy in action.

The system is run by a group of elected Major Officials. These are students who are elected in Year 12 to run the various school committees including Be Green (our environmental committee); the human rights committee and the events and fundraising committee.

The Council is made up of one Councillor from each Company (tutor group). Anyone may attend Council meetings and put forward motions for discussion, but only Councillors may vote.

Proposals passed by Council are then discussed at a meeting of the entire Senior School chaired by the Head Boy and Head Girl. These take place twice every term.

A vote is taken and it is the responsibility of the Major Officials to ensure that resolutions passed in a School meeting are enacted.

While the Head does have a power of veto, it has only been used five times in the past 30 years.

Recent initiatives that have been proposed, passed and enacted by Council include the redevelopment of the School's cookery classrooms (the 'Vege Centre'), the introduction of a skate park and the development of a Zen garden.

SECURITY

Entrance and Exit

Senior School students can enter the buildings via several entrances. Certain buildings (for example the Theatre) have an entrance code which we ask students to keep confidential.

Visitors

All visitors (including parents) must report to the Senior School Reception on arrival at the School, where they will be given an identity badge and made aware of our Safeguarding and fire procedures.

Parents of boarders are not allowed into the boarding house with students unless they are accompanied by a Houseparent.

SILENCE

The Silence is a tradition at St Chris where the staff and students take a moment together to pause, think and listen. It's an important part of our Morning Talks, school meetings and many lessons.

SNACKS

There is a student run "tuck shop" in the Senior School called the Coffee Shop, situated in the main Courtyard. Profits from the Coffee Shop go directly to a charity chosen by the Sixth Form Major Officials. Students are also welcome to bring in their own nut-free, vegetarian snacks.

SWIMMING

Students in Year 7 have a weekly swimming lesson which is led by experienced and qualified instructors. Students in Year 8 to Year 11 have swimming once a week for one term per year.

Parents can also book additional swimming lessons through Swim School; these take place after school hours and at the weekend. You can find further information on our website: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/school-life/swim-school/>

TOURS

Families joining St Chris are offered a private tour with current students, and when new students join us we ask current students to take part in this important aspect of our admissions process.

Tours are run by the Admissions department in partnership with Heads of Year, and students may be asked to undertake 2-3 per term on a rota basis. We do not “prep” students but ask them to be themselves – they are our best ambassadors!

TRIPS

There are a range of trips throughout the academic year, including compulsory curriculum day trips (for example to an art gallery), but also optional “extra” trips, some of which take place each year and some of which alternate annually.

Trips may be offered to the whole school or to specific year groups. Recent trips have included visits to Iceland and Borneo, and also activity holidays to ski, kayak, climb, play netball and tennis.

Parents will receive letters from the subject teacher regarding curriculum trips (including the cost which is added to the next invoice), and from the School via the Friday newsletter regarding bigger, whole school trips.

ST CHRIS GLOSSARY

Over the past 100 years St Chris has developed a lexicon all its own, so here is a list of the most common words and phrases that you might need to know about.

Arundale	Our School boarding house. It is on the first floor in the central part of the School and is out of bounds to day students.
Arunfield	Located next to the Sports Pitches, Arunfield is used as a venue for some school events and exams.
Cells	The rooms painted white on the outside down the left hand side of the Courtyard, opposite the Library.
Coffee Shop	The St Chris Tuck Shop which can be found in the Cells opposite the Library. Doesn't sell coffee but does sell snacks at Little Break for around 50 pence.
Company	Your Form or Tutor Group
Company Adviser	Form tutor/teacher for Years 7 to 11. Your Adviser is the best person to help with anything and everything!
IG	Indoor Gym. But it's no longer a gym! It's now the Dining or Lunch Hall (or Cafeteria!) and is off the main corridor.
Little Break	The first break in the day. From 10.00 to 10.30am.
LSP	Late Summer Programme. The various residential trips we take at the end of the summer term.
Lunch & Theatre Clearing	Each Company takes it in turn, once a term, to help with moving the chairs and tidying the Theatre and the Dining Hall (IG) after lunch.
Major Officials (MO's)	Sixth Form students who have been elected by the students to various posts of responsibility.
Morning Talk	Our name for Assembly. Monday: Whole School, Thursday: Years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form), Friday: Whole School
Notices	Announcements and messages that are made at the end of Morning Talk, telling everyone what's happening. These are also given to each Company and shown on the screen outside Room 12 in case you miss anything.
OG	Outdoor Gym. This is a gym and can be found near to the School Field and minibus parking area.
Options	Every week on a Thursday, the last lesson is open for you to choose what you would like to do, from a long list of Options – at the beginning of term you will be given a list of possible activities to choose from.
Peer Mentors	Year 12 students, led by the Deputy Head Boy and Girl, who are available to talk through issues and support you. Please ask your Company Adviser for more information.
Room 12	Heads of Year and the Pastoral Assistant are based there. It is in the central courtyard area.
School Council	The students' representative body, made up of children from all years.
School Meeting	A gathering of the whole School to discuss Council matters. Normally follows the week after a Council Meeting.
Silence	Taking time for a Silence has always been an important part of the School – when everything stops for a few seconds so that people can quietly compose their thoughts and get ready for the rest of the day. We hold a Silence during Morning Talks.
Social Library	Not a library but a meeting place/social venue. It is opposite the IG on the main corridor.
Wombles	Students who choose to help out in the Theatre, perhaps operating the equipment behind the scenes or moving the stage set around in the dark!

the 1990s, the number of people with a disability in the United States has increased by 25% (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997).

As a result of the increase in the number of people with disabilities, the need for accessible information has become more acute. The National Center for Accessible Information (NCAI) has estimated that the number of people with disabilities who are unable to access information is 100 million (NCAI, 1997).

The purpose of this study was to investigate the barriers to accessible information for people with disabilities.

The study was conducted in a large, urban, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic community.

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