

Prayer Items

Pray for staff and pupils as they come to the end of another academic year, that they would be able to rest and relax with their families during the Summer break and be refreshed.

Pray for children and young people who will be starting school, moving up a year, moving on to secondary school, college or university. Pray for teachers who will be moving onto new schools as well in September.

Pray for the *It's Your Move* Book that will be delivered to Junior Schools over the coming weeks for Year 6 pupils to help with their transition to Secondary Schools.

Pray for a time of refection for Christopher as he comes to the end of another academic year with CIS and as he prepares for the next academic year.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 11th October, 7:30pm - CIS Annual Celebration, Grange Baptist Church.

Friday 25th November, 7pm - CIS Quiz, The Icknield Centre (*The home of LGCC*)

Details on both events to follow.

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CIS Newsletter



Christian
Initiative to
Schools



Summer
2022

in partnership with



Scripture Union

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Christopher doing an It's Your Move Presentation

As I write this, just after the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we seem to be in a period of grey somewhat drizzly weather, which belies the fact that this is a millennium newsletter!

However, it seems to be summer as far as CIS is concerned. Thanks to the Covid epidemic and to a generous donation, Christopher, our schools worker, gained great experience in video techniques which enabled him to produce assemblies on zoom and is now enabling him to produce even more effective "live" assemblies now that restrictions have eased.

As well as the usual Christmas and Easter assemblies, he has given food for thought on such attributes as kindness, faithfulness, truthfulness, integrity and justice. He has used optical illusions, learned lessons from the Harry Potter films, celebrated differences and taught pupils and staff not to judge a book by its cover. All of these themes are linked to examples from the Bible. We give thanks that, without exception, his efforts are received with grateful thanks by pupils and staff alike.

This last part of term, the Year 6 pupils in several schools in our area will be presented with "It's Your Move" booklets, produced by Scripture Union, which we trust will help them as they move up to their Secondary Schools.

Please keep praying for Christopher as he brings the good news of Jesus into our schools.

Roger Aldridge - Trustee

Christopher Baker's Report

The end of the academic year is only a few weeks away. Children, young people and staff from the various schools in our area are looking forward to the Summer break. Hopefully, a time of rest and relaxation with family and friends for all of them.

For CIS this past year has been a challenging one. On the one hand being able to be back in school taking in person assemblies has been very positive. The Chaplaincy/Pastoral role that I have in a couple of schools has been restarted. On the other hand, however, Hubs/CUs have not recommenced due to various issues which has been frustrating. Hopefully in the new academic year that will change as we look to see how we can reinstate them as we continue to build relationships with schools.

The impact of Covid is still very present with us. Although in person assemblies have started again there have been a couple of occasions this year where I've had to go back to recording assemblies or doing them virtually due to cases of Covid being high in schools. Skills learnt during Lockdown are still coming into play which enables us to maintain good relationships with them.

It was a joy to be able to take part again in the Christmas and Easter Journeys held at St. Paul's. Being able to be part of activities that bring the true message of what the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus is about to children, and to the staff that accompany them, is something that excites me. A big thank you goes to St. Paul's for continuing to invite me to be part of the team.

The end of the Summer Term is significant for pupils of all ages as they prepare to move up a year, move on to secondary school, college and university. Big changes in the lives of our children and young people that can bring with it anxiety and fear. In a recent assembly I talked about my fear of heights, and how I dealt with that when going on the London Eye (The Millennium Wheel as it was called initially for those of you who remember that far back!).

The challenge of going on the Eye was incredibly big in my mind, as

was the wheel when I got close to it. A lot bigger and higher than I expected. And in all the anxiety and fear that I felt, I alone had the decision to make of whether to get on it or not. To have the courage to face the fear and anxiety head on, or walk away from it.

Nelson Mandela said this,

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

So what did I do? Well, I got into one of the capsules with my family and had a great time! Has my fear of heights gone? Far from it. Looking up at buildings like the Shard gives me the shakes, yet because my wife would like to go up it I will have to try and face the fear head on again at some point in the future.

Looking back on that experience I realised that the key to my being able to face my fears was the support and love of my family, and this reminded me of verses from 1 John 4 where John writes,

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them...There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...

My hope and prayer is that our schools become places where pupils and staff feel secure, supported and safe, that they feel loved and valued by others just as God loves and values them.

One final thing. Although I have a fear of heights I love flying. This is me flying a Microlight Aircraft in February. Yes, I know I'm very strange!

Have a great Summer and thank you again for your continued prayers and practical support of CIS.

