Costello Insights

Our latest news straight from the class!

Issue 04 - December 2023



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Costello Family,

As we approach the end of another wonderful term at The Costello School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the achievements, festivities, and joy that have filled our hallways. The holiday season is upon us, and it's the perfect time to come together as a school community and celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

The past term has been filled with accomplishments that make us proud to be a part of The Costello family. From academic achievements to outstanding performances in sports and the arts, our students continue to impress and inspire us. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication they have shown working with the support of our talented and passionate staff.

Christmas is truly a magical time. Our classrooms are adorned with festive decorations, and students have been spreading cheer through various holiday-themed activities. Christmas Dinner was spread over two days to allow us to cater for all those who wished to join in with this festive meal. A huge thank you to both Mrs Jordan and our wonderful catering team for all the hard work here to organise this event. Top 100 of course had the pleasure of attending the Pantomine at The Mayflower Theatre. Panto is a great British tradition at Christmas. It was wonderful to share this moment with those students who rightly deserved a special reward for their dedicated hard work this term.

As we bid farewell to 2023 and eagerly anticipate the arrival of 2024, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that the new year will bring. We remain committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for our students to learn, grow, and excel in all aspects of their lives.

Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year:
On behalf of the entire staff at The Costello School, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family this holiday season. May your Christmas be filled with joy, laughter, and precious moments shared with loved ones. We look forward to another year of learning, discovery, and success in 2024.

Ms. K Protheroe

ENGLISH

We were incredibly lucky to have The Lantern Theatre Company come in to perform to Year 10 and 11 students. Students watched a performance of Charlie's Dickens A Christmas Carol, in order to support their understanding of their GCSE literature text.

The actors were very talented at playing multiple roles and really brought the characters to life.

Miss Peszkowski







MATHS

Year 10 Elevate Trip to Bletchley Park

On Monday 11 December, Elevate took a group of Year 10 students to Bletchley Park where they began to understand the story behind the site and its wider relevance to contemporary history and our own lives today.

We had an extremely interesting day where we used practical problem-solving skills and worked in teams to break codes and release valuable information. In the first session, students were able to touch a real Enigma machine and then use a demonstration version on iPads to decode messages and then translate them from German into English. It was amazing how many potential combinations they had to go through to start to break the codes.

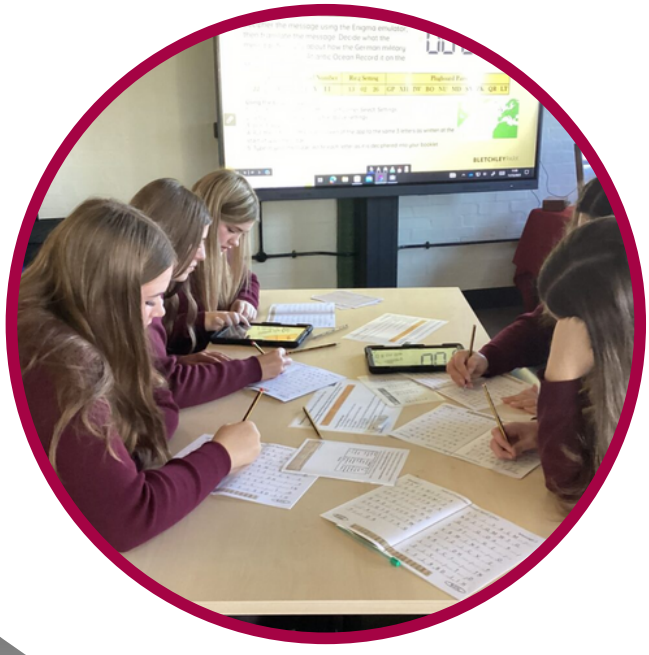
We then had time to go around the buildings and delve deeper into the history of Bletchley Park and the process of sending, intercepting and decrypting coded messages. After a guided tour focused on the D-Day landings we finished with time to explore the Mansion, the Huts and time for a photo around Santa's sleigh.

Mrs Wilson











ELEVATE

Elevate – Comms and MFL

The latest departmental mash up was between Communications and Modern Foreign Languages. They used Virtual Reality technology to transport students to France, Germany and Spain in what was a highly engaging and interactive Elevate activity. Using the VR headsets students had access to face-to-face communications with a native speaker to practice using their language skills in an immersive way. All the students and the supporting teachers had great fun.

Watch out for the next Elevate session between geography and PE in the New Year.

Mrs Wilson







ELEVATE

Elevate Year 9 trip to the Royal Observatory Greenwich

Nearly 50 students had an amazing Discovery Day at the royal Observatory on 1st December and even experienced a snow flurry whilst walking along the Greenwich Meridian.

Our day started with a self-guided tour around the Flamsteed House. We viewed the famous Harrison clocks and spent time looking through an easy telescope. We then enjoyed a comfortable planetarium experience called the Solar system, the Galaxy and the Universe! There was a teacher guided activity in the Galaxy room and after lunch we participated in an interactive workshop called maths in the Milky Way.

Another excellent trip from the Elevate team. Watch out for what's coming next term.

Mrs WIlson











FOOD TECH

Our Year 10 students are currently working on milk, cheese and yoghurt and making the most amazing dishes of Potato Dauphinoise.





Students have been learning that the starch in the potato acts as a thickening agent to the milk and cream. This practical focused on their knife skills, creating thin slices of vegetables and how they could adjust the dish and make it their own.

A great effort from everyone!

Miss Turner











We set a technical challenge for Year 9's a week ago.

To finish off their unit on bread, pasta and pastry, they faced making chocolate eclairs (Choux Pastry).

During this term, they have made filled pasta, pitta, focaccia, flaky pastry, pinwheels and mince pies before working on these eclairs!

It has been a challenge, and Miss Turner is proud of them all.

ART

During their first term here at Costello School, Year 7 students have been exploring a colour project. Investigating using a full range of varied materials and mediums. Students have painted, collaged, drawn, use oil pastels and now investigating Vincent Van Gogh. Daniel B from 7AT1 went above and beyond with his homework, writing a full descriptive piece and his opinion on Vincent van Gogh's most recognisable pieces, The Starry Night.

Mr Spacagna



Vincent Van Gogh

1. In his famous starry night painting, I can see to me a windy and slightly foggy night illuminated by the stars and sits above a small town/village. In the town i can see what I think is a church surrounded by many houses. I also see a tall thin dead tree on the left taking. Bottom left to the dead tree is a little what looks like house/shed.

2.When attempting to recreate the art piece, I used pencils to sketch it first then dabbed oil pastels to slowly layer up the different colours to recreate the famous night sky. Although I believe Vincent Van Gogh used the same technique, I think he used paint and not oil pastels.

3.In stary night, Vincent Van Gogh used a blue/purple colour for the sky and some bright orange/yellows for the stars. He also used browns for the tree and some greys for the village/toun.

4.For the layout, there is a small house/shed hidden behind hind a small hill. To the right of the house/shed, is a big dead tree. This tree is very tall and is wide at the bottom but thin at the top. Next to the tree is a small town/village with a few houses and what looks like a church. Behind the village is a hill which leads halfway up the page. The lowest part of the hill is on the very left side of the image and gradually gets taller as it moves to the right of the page. The rest of the painting is the sky. Top right is a large bright star and to the left of it is a slightly smaller star. Moving up and to the left is another one and the moving even more to the right are two small stars very close together. To the left side of them is the smallest one and a bit of a bigger one underneath. Underneath those stars a light blue wavy kind of air swirl which separates the sky into two parts. Under the swirl, there are four more stars the most prominent one being a very bright one that sits on the tip of one of the trees big branches.

5. In my opinion I really like the aesthetics of the painting as the stars are bold and the swirl adds variety and stops it from looking like a blank night sky. I also like how the town below looks and I think it adds a lot to the atmosphere of the painting.

6. I think Vincent Van Gogh decided to use a layered technique to build the sky with a unique texture. He used the same technique for the tree as I can see the individual strokes building up and adding to the colours also think the hills and mud patches were made with the same technique. For the materials, I think he used pencils to sketch and then went over with colour and layering the colour for a unique text finish as well as a bright vibrant master piece.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 9 Photography – Toy Project

Students have been trying to bring toys to life! Incorporating different techniques with practical and digital effects.

We think these are incredible examples of how creative our students are.

A huge well done!

Mr Spacagna







PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Rugby

Great effort from the Year 8 rugby squad at the BET cup earlier this month! A cold but great game.

Well done everyone!

Miss Lewis



Year 7 Football

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls football team who were runners up in the 5-a-side Basingstoke and Deane District League.

Miss Borthwick is especially proud of the progress the team has made!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Netball

Great effort from our Year 8 girls but unfortunately we lost in the semi finals to The Hurst a couple of weeks ago. We can't deny that The Hurst were on fire. Congratulations to them, they will play Bishop Challoner in the final. Thank you to our students for your commitment to Costello Netball - you are a fantastic team.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

achieve

County Team Table Tennis Finals

Due to the Under 16 Boys team winning the District Competition in October, they represented Basingstoke in the County Finals.

This event was held at Aldworth School as a change this year, but is usually in Totton, Southampton.
The Under 16 team comprised of: Harry R, Jasper W, Ben A and Tomas J.

During the tournament, they faced the other District winners from around Hampshire so the competition was a good standard as usual.

The tournament was played in a round robin style, with each team playing the others and the team with the most points at the end would be the County Champions.

Costello played really well, winning their first three games 4-0 against Horndean, Salesian and Mountbatten. In the last match, they faced John Hanson.

John Hanson had also won all three of their matches, so effectively the last match of the tournament was the 'final', which was a fitting end to the tournament.

Costello continued to play well and won their last match 3-1, meaning they were County Champions.

They will now have the opportunity to represent Hampshire in the South East regional competition, which is in February at Croydon.

Mr Reed



Individual District Table Tennis Tournament



Costello entered five students into the tournament, which was held at Brighton Hill. The age groups were under 13 and Under 16's, where students would play matches against students from the other Basingstoke schools in various formats.

Unfortunately, the entry from the Under 16 girls was very low and Costello won this by default. Rose W and Ava F were our two entries here.

Anna W played in the Under 13 girls' competition. She played well and enjoyed the tournament, but unfortunately didn't make the knock out stages.

In the Under 16 boys' event, unsurprisingly, Costello did very well with Harry R winning the event and Jasper W finishing runner up, losing to Harry in the final.

Students finishing first or second now go on to represent Basingstoke in the County competition, which is being held at Solent University on Wednesday 10 January.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Well done to one of outdoor groups for making some authentic Christmas wreaths with Miss Edwards!

These look great!

Mr Page





Here are some more outdoor learning images taken over the last couple of weeks... our students have loved their treats by the camp fire!







HARRIET WELLBEING CENTRE

Our Harriet Wellbeing Centre has been looking very Christmassy! Our students love coming in here and decorating their safe space.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Students were delighted with their Christmas dinner to celebrate the festive season.

A huge thank you to our brilliant catering team for all their hard work in cooking all the meals and getting everything set up. Another great event!





















CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

A huge thank you to those who supported Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) with us early December. We raised just over £302! A great amount for a fantastic cause.

Thank you
Miss Borthwick

















IMMUNISATIONS

Thank you to the immunisation team that came in last week. They managed to vaccinate 643 students. It was a very busy day, which worked seamlessly in the school. Thank you to all the staff and students who made it such a success!

We are proud to be able to work alongside the School Nursing service to provide immunisations to our community. This is the first year that secondary age students have been offered this service, and we were pleased with the uptake.

An excellent protection for the winter months. Well done, everyone!

Mrs Chase



CADETS

Our cadets and staff volunteers wish you all a Merry Christmas! We hope you like our theme of "Heroes & Villains"!

Mr Page



GAME CHANGERS

Aimee and Jess F with their bronze medals in the U15 National Age Group Championships for Water Polo, representing Worthing.

Congratulations ladies - a fantastic achievement.



TOP 100

On Thursday 14 and Friday 15 December, we took our top 100 students to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. pantomime at The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton.

If you haven't seen it - we recommend you do. A fantastic performance and students loved it!

Boo! Hiss! He's behind you!

















Our wonderful staff had a jolly good time, too. Oh yes they did!

REMINDERS

Here are some important dates for your diary: -

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
20 Dec	**LAST DAY OF TERM** Christmas Holidays	School finishes at 12:55pm (end of P4)	-
5 Jan	Inset Day	-	-
8 Jan	Back to school	8:30am	Tutor Classes
11 Jan	Year 11 Parents' Evening	3:45pm - 7:15pm	Sports Hall
25 Jan	Year 8 Parents' Evening	3:45pm - 7:15pm	Sports Hall
8 Feb	Year 8 Options Evening	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Main Hall
9 Feb	Last day of term	2:25pm	-
20 Feb	Back to school	8:30am	Tutor Classes



MERRY Christmas

NOTES

Outdoor Education

We need more adult volunteers to help us offer the very best outdoor programmes for students.

By supporting our students you could:

- Gain recognised qualifications and training e.g. First Aid, Outdoor Leadership, Minibus driving
- Join the students for exciting adventures on paddle-boarding, expeditions and camps

Use the QR code to register your details and find out more!

New year, new career?

If you're interested in training to teach - please get in touch or register for our online information evening via teachertraining@bohunttrust.com. We would love to hear from you.



