



LA MARE DE CARTERET HIGH SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Overlooking Cobo Bay: Dec 2024

I write this as we complete the last-ever Autumn Term at La Mare De Carteret High School. The merger process with Les Varendes is in full swing with the initial preparatory works to alter the building taking place over the summer break, the new uniform introduction at the start of term and our detailed planning for staff, students (and families) moving sites in September 2025 - now published as part of the recent newsletter. But it would be incorrect to assume that all eyes are on the events of nine months hence - the very important matter of the business of learning as usual for all of our students, especially those in Year 11 continues apace as ever.

As ever, the academic year commenced with a review of our (best ever) set of GCSE results where the grades not only celebrated the hard work and effort of our students and staff but our Attainment8 KPI in particular which placed us on almost equal footing with the best in the Senior School Partnership. The highly enjoyable Year 11 Presentation Evening later in the term was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the collective and individual achievement of the class of 2024. With Mrs. Tomlin as our keynote speaker the event was the appropriate balance of formality and frivolity where each student received praise, recognition of their own unique characteristics and the all-important certificate-folder with written proof of the efforts.

The calendar shows how crammed the term was with the usual markers of progress through the 15 school-weeks from September to December. From assemblies to house competitions, parent meetings to academic mentoring, photographs to fundraising the

school year appears to run on tram lines thanks in no small part to the hard work and dedication of our administrative colleagues. These milestones of our everyday life are overlaid on top of the school timetable which provides a breadth and depth of academic and enrichment experiences for all students at KS3 and KS4. We rounded off the first half term with the McMillan Cancer Cake Bake Sale and the success of the Poppy Bus visit where our winning design for this year's bus was on display. Once again, our contributions to the Rotary Guernesiais Shoebox Appeal were truly impressive to witness as they were collected for onward distribution.

Post midterm, with the clock change and shorter days the journeys to school and home were in semi-darkness which contrasted to the bright activities around school. In addition to our academic teaching and learning activities the full calendar of events in the Pastoral Curriculum continued with various assemblies, form activities, post-16 events and further fundraising for Children In Need. Of particular note, was our participation in the Historical Association Great Debate, hosted at Ladies College - a first for La Mare High. Our Year 11 Parents' Evening was the chance for an update on progress and to set out next steps to the post-Xmas Mocks and final GCSE examinations in May (which are only 16 school weeks away!). Performing Arts continue to punctuate the school day - with Show Rehearsals and notably the Touring Musicians visit to Browhill Residential Home where Christmas Carols were well received by all.

The latter of these marked the opening of our advent celebrations which continued with our Christmas Dinner and Musical Soiree in the school hall. Just as some of us celebrate

Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali or Saturnalia to mark the winter solstice, our school community banishes the cold and dark and welcomes in the light of participating in joint, social occasions recognising our individual contributions to, and membership of, the La Mare family.

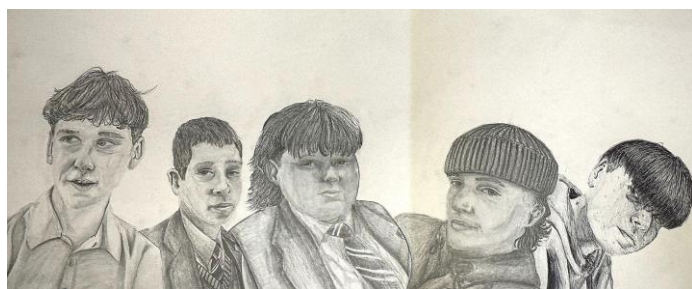
With very best wishes for the festive period.

Mr. M. Ramsay,
Head of School.

Art & Technology

Sovereign Arts Finalists Shine at Prestigious Event

We are incredibly proud to announce that former students from Year 11 (2023-24), Otis Machon and Charlie Hynes, had their work exhibited at a prestigious annual event. This recognition highlights their exceptional talent and hard work. Congratulations, Otis and Charlie!



Drawing by Otis Machon



Painting
by
Charlie Hynes

The following students were also recognised for their outstanding artwork and received a merit award and a Lexicon voucher:
S Browning, M Lowe, T Roussel, W Coleman, E Friedrich, D Robert, L Morton



Years 9 and 10 Excel in Poppy Bus Competition

A huge congratulations to all Year 9 and Year 10 students who participated in the Poppy Bus competition. Every student entered and showcased their creativity. Special accolades go to Evie Langlois, whose design won the competition, with runners-up S McCreight, L Robins, and I Grant.



We also had a visit from the Poppy Bus, thanks to CT Plus, and it was fantastic to see the winning design displayed so prominently. Congratulations to all Year 9 students—your work was not only exhibited at the Town Terminus and as a frieze on the Poppy Bus but has also been donated to the school for exhibition.



Year 9 Resistant Materials went to visit a loophole tower at Vazon as part of their research and have created clay towers in their lessons. They have been learning building methods using clay.



They also enjoyed making these clay houses as part of their creative process.



Year 9 Digital Arts class went to Grandes Rocques for a beach photo shoot and had a great time practicing photography composition rules.



These achievements reflect the dedication and artistic talent of our students. Well done, everyone!

Food Technology

The Year 10's have been busy this week cooking mince pies to demonstrate pastry making with some mouth-watering results.



English Department

As well as studying George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and literacy, Year 9 have been writing 14-line poems to enter into the *Guernsey International Poetry Competition 2025*. So far students have produced thoughtful and moving poems that are sure to impress the judges who include Imtiaz Dharker, herself a well-known poet whose works are studied in schools.

Year 10 have concluded their study of *Macbeth* and are now, appropriately enough for the time of year, beginning *A Christmas Carol*.

Year 11 have spent this term learning about non-fiction writing techniques in preparation for GCSE English Language Paper 2, which will feature in their January mock exams. They have also been preparing their Speaking and Listening talks which will be recorded in January. After Christmas they will complete their study of the Power and Conflict poetry anthology as well as discovering how to write about unseen poems. These feature on GCSE

English Literature Paper 2, along with *An Inspector Calls* (which we studied in the first autumn half-term), and will be the second paper for the January mocks.

[S Sullivan, HoD English]

New Initiative: Project Retail

Six of our Year 9 students are taking part in the Project Retail course run for the first time in Guernsey by the Channel Islands Cooperative Society (Co-op). The course consists of four modules ranging from marketing, customer service, operations, product lines and visiting on island suppliers.



Module One: The students will have the opportunity to understand and be involved in product sampling and decision making. The students will understand more about categories and what it takes to market a product and get it onto the shelf.



Module Two: The students will learn about what happens when products get to the 'goods in' section of the store, the importance of this process, and also what it takes to get the product onto shelf. They will also have an understanding of the importance of customer service in retail.

Module Three: The students will learn the importance of local growers and the time it takes to grow products. The importance of

local growers in food security and the local economy will also be explained. The students will see the passion and commitment our local growers have for their products.

Module Four: This session is where the students will take part in the annual membership meeting to support the Trade Team in sampling some of the 'Hero' products and meet other suppliers and also members. If the students are confident to speak to the audience, they will be encouraged to talk about the experience they have had over the course.

The students attended and enjoyed taking part in their first Module: Hope E (9D); Emil F (9D); Eden G (9A); Erica G (9D); Emilie H (9C); Harper T (9C). The food sampling was very much appreciated!



Staff News

Sea Swimmers Extend into the Winter



We're thrilled to report that our dedicated sea swimmers are braving the colder months and continuing their swims into the winter season. Their commitment to staying active and

enjoying the beautiful Guernsey coastline is truly inspiring. Keep up the great work, swimmers!

Guernsey Arts Open Exhibition

Congratulations to Miss Shapcott for having her painting on display at the Guernsey Arts Open Exhibition. This is a wonderful achievement, and we encourage everyone to visit the exhibition at the Crowson Gallery to see her beautiful artwork.

Christmas Wreath Making Event

We had a fantastic evening of Christmas wreath making with staff from LVHS and LMDCH. The event was filled with festive cheer, beautiful carols, and creatively crafted wreaths. Thank you to everyone who participated and made it a memorable occasion. The wreaths turned out amazing!

These updates reflect the vibrant and active community spirit among our staff. Well done, everyone!

Student Community Activities

We applaud the following students who performed in GATE's production of 'ELF jr' in mid-November at PRPAC:

J Morgan Year 9
C Toumine Year 9
K Duncan-Kurz Year 11
B Carre Year 11
F Toumine Year 11

Music Box performed 'The 12 Days of Christmas' at the end of November beginning of December at Beau Sejour; our student A Clarke Year 9 played a Villager.

In January B Le Page Year 11 will star in 'The 3 Musketeers' at PRPAC.

Modern Foreign Languages Update

It has been another busy term for French and Spanish, with Year 11 preparing for their

imminent mock exams with help from our fantastic language assistant Sabrina with their speaking.

Year 11 French are reminded to use their revision guides over the coming weeks and months in preparation for their exams, whilst Year 11 Spanish students are recommended to invest in a revision guide covering the AQA GCSE curriculum. French revision is offered Wednesdays after school until 4pm in week A, and the first half of Friday lunch in week B. Vocabulary lists for both languages have also been sent out to students and parents/carers.

Those going on the French trip to Paris in March are reminded that the second payment instalment of £200 is due on 10 January, with the final payment of £250 due on 7 February. The excitement is building as the weekend draws nearer! Please remember to check passports are in date, with at least three months remaining from our date of return (i.e. beyond 10 June 2025). There are still limited places available – please contact Mr. Huitson if interested.

We are also running a Spanish trip to Búho to try Mexican food, followed by a Spanish cinema session on Thursday, 06 February. Limited places are still available and are now being offered to Year 9 students showing aptitude and effort in the language in their first year of studying it.

Back in September, we marked the European Day of Languages with the very first competition under the newly formed house system. Well done to all who participated, especially Siân C (11B) for getting every answer correct! And congratulations to the best house, L'Erée, for winning overall with 19 points. Full result:

1. L'Erée - 19
2. Havelet - 16
3. Bordeaux - 10
4. Fermain - 9

¡Feliz Navidad!

[Mr Huitson – HoD Modern Foreign Languages]

La Mare students take on the Historical Association's Great Debate!

Each year the Historical Association holds a national event where students are given the opportunity to research, write, and deliver a 5-minute speech about a historical person or topic of their choosing in order to answer the given question.

This year students were asked 'How can your local history tell a global story?' and three Year 10 students from La Mare High School rose to the challenge to compete against their peers from across the island in the first regional round of this competition. Molli McC (10B) spoke on how a global event like the Black Death had a local impact here in Guernsey and what that can reveal about individual experiences, whilst Amélia C (10B) focused on the history of folklore and how stories that have been shared here on the island mirror those across much of Europe. Finally, Barney H (10B) dedicated his 5 minutes to James Saumarez and how he deserves wider recognition for his role alongside Nelson. The three spoke with confidence and passion about their chosen subjects and made eloquent cases for how Guernsey's history can tell a global story. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to supporting them and hopefully even more students at the Great Debate next year. Well done Year 10! [Mr Goddard, HoD History]

Stop Press

The Guernsey Swimming Club has been advised that Emma Bourgaize (Year 11) has been shortlisted for the below awards as part of the Guernsey Sporting Achievement Awards.

- Lambourne Shield
- Guernsey Sports Commission Team Trophy (Over 4 competitors) as part of the Malta Team

The awards are being held at Beau Sejour on 9th January. Congratulations, and we wish her good luck!

Performing Arts Highlights 2024

Battle of the Bands 2024

Congratulations to our school band, 'Cheezy Beanz'. Following their victory in Battle of the School Bands this year, they have gone from strength to strength, performing many gigs including Hermfest, Harbour Carnival and SOPM Battle of the Bands.



School Production 2024 - Sister Act

LMDCH's performance of the musical Sister Act was a highlight of the second term. The cast and crew worked together for months to produce a polished and entertaining show that was much appreciated by audiences. A special mention goes to Eleanor S (9C) for her lovely interpretation of the lead character, Deloris Van Cartier/Sister Mary Clarence.



Christmas Musical Soirée

Our GCSE musicians finished the year with a lovely Christmas Soirée. Supported by Year 9 readers, they performed a variety of Christmas

music with real beauty and skill. It is a reflection of the advanced skills of our older students that they were able to perform such complex music.



Our singers and instrumentalists continue to succeed in Trinity and ABSRSM grade exams. Special congratulations go to Siân C (11B) – Clarinet; and Jess P (11A) – Violin; who have both achieved their grade 7 qualification and are now studying for the final, grade 8, certificate. [Miss Pogson, HoD Performing Arts]

La Mare High Christmas Tree



Dates for Your Diary 2025

Tuesday 7 th January	Spring Term begins for Students, 8.30 a.m.
Wednesday 15 th January	Year 11 GCSE Taster Morning
Thursday 16 th January	Year 11 SFC Taster Day
Monday - Friday 20 th -31 st January	Year 11 Mock Exams
Thursday 30 th January	Year 9 Options Evening held at <u>LVHS</u>
Thursday 6 th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4-7 p.m.
Friday 7 th February	Staff only (Inset Day)
Monday – Friday 10 th – 14 th February	Year 11 Level 2 Catering Practical Examination
Thursday & Friday 13 th & 14 th February	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exam
Monday – Friday 24 th – 28 th February	Half-Term
Monday 31 st March	Year 11 GCSE 3D-Design, (Day 1)
Tuesday – Friday 1 st – 4 th April	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Examination
Wednesday 2 nd April	Year 11 GCSE 3D-Design, Day 2
Monday & Tuesday 7 th & 8 th April	Year 11 GCSE Art & Design: Photography, 2 Days
Friday 11 th April	Spring Term Ends
Tuesday 29 th April	Summer Term Begins for Students, 8.30 a.m.
Tuesday & Wed. 29 th & 30 th April	Year 11 GCSE Art, Craft & Design (2 Days)
Monday 5 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 8 th May	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4-7 p.m.
Thursday 8 th May to 25 th June	GCSE Written Examinations Summer Series 2025 begin
Friday 9 th May	Liberation Day 80 Years Anniversary Celebration
Friday 27 th June	Year 11 Prom at St Pierre Park Hotel
