



Headteacher's Comment

The Christmas break is fast approaching, but that doesn't stop Chase High pupils from striving for success both in and out of school. LRB pupils took part in the annual Panathlon bowling competition in Basildon, and our Year 7 pupils visited the local church to broaden their cultural awareness. Tinkerbell, Wendy and the Lost Boys made an appearance in this year's fantastic pantomime, Peter Pan. Jakki Cassar, Anna Clifford Tait and Stephanie Larkin produced the show and supported the wonderful cast, performing to packed audiences every night.

#ProudtobeChase

Christmas Fayre

The library has been a hive of activity this week with the annual Christmas Fayre. The librarians decked out the library in tinsel and balloons and everyone has enjoyed getting into the festive spirit. There has been a cake sale with plenty of delicious treats, a tombola and a raffle for pupils to partake in. Overall, it has been a great success! The money raised will be purchasing specialised books and resources for our library.

UH Year 13 Hertfordshire University Trip

This week, our students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the University of Hertfordshire. They took part in an informative personal statement and finance workshop, which really helped them understand what universities are looking for and how to prepare for the next steps. The visit also included a guided campus tour, giving everyone a real feel for university life and what studying in a vibrant, supportive environment could look like. Overall, it was an inspiring day that left our students feeling motivated and excited about their futures!



Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 17 December

There will be an opportunity for pupils to purchase and enjoy a Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17 December. The cost will be £3.75. Pupils in receipt of free school meals, who choose the Christmas dinner option, will have this paid in full. Pupils will also be able to purchase the usual alternatives such as paninis, pasta pots, sandwiches etc.

Can you find the elves?

Each day this week, ten elves have been hiding around the school; well done to all those pupils who found them and cashed them in for chocolate. Next week we will have 50 elves hiding each day! Every day pupils are in school next week they will also receive 10 bonus house points. Every day counts and next week is an opportunity to finish the term with excellent attendance.

SPORTS ROUND UP!

It's been a busy week of fixtures across the school, with plenty of determination and teamwork on display. Our Year 10 boys' football team put in a solid effort in the South-East Essex Cup, despite a defeat to Appleton School, with Callum earning Player of the Match. Last Friday, our Year 7 football team drew 2-2 with Cecil Jones Academy in an exciting game. Well done to Jimi, who was named Player of the Match.

On Tuesday, our U13 girls' basketball team were narrowly defeated by Sweyne Park School, while our Year 8 boys' basketball team faced a strong St Martins School side in the Essex Cup, with Rufus taking Player of the Match. Our Year 9 basketball B team also played Cecil Jones Academy, with Jackson awarded Player of the Match for his performance.

Wednesday brought more action, with our Year 9 boys' basketball team securing a great win against Eastwood in the Southend League. Congratulations to Elliott on his Player of the Match award. Our Year 7 basketball team also showed great spirit in their fixture against Westcliff High School for Boys.

A huge congratulations to Dexter in Year 9, whose brilliant 4th-place finish in the Borough Cross Country Championships has earned him a place on the Southend Borough team for the Essex County Championships in January. Congratulations as well to Jack in Year 9 for breaking his own 300m and Long Jump indoor school records, and to Malachi for setting a new school indoor record in the 200m. Fantastic achievements all round!



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Year 7 Christmas Service

Over the last two weeks, our Year 7 pupils have walked to St Peter's Church for two special Christmas services. Reverend Colin, who leads our Christian Lunch Bites club, with Markus King from St Michael's Church, led the service. Pupils enjoyed listening to the story of Jesus' birth — from ancient prophecies to the time of King Herod — along with Bible readings about the Nativity. There was even a fun tug-of-war style quiz! The service finished with a thoughtful prayer, and our pupils were fantastic throughout the visit.



LRB Bowling Competition

The LRB took part in the annual Panathlon Bowling competition in Basildon on Tuesday. The pupils competed against nine other schools from across the area, and our team represented the school with great enthusiasm. All the pupils performed brilliantly, celebrating each other's successes and showing fantastic teamwork throughout the event. Their positive attitude and effort were a credit to the school, and we are incredibly proud of what they achieved.



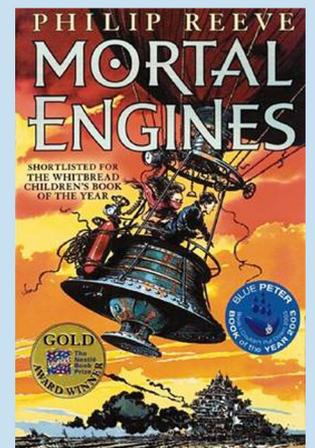
BOOK OF THE WEEK!

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

Age recommendation: Perfect for KS3

Short synopsis: London is on the move again: the traction city trawls the world on wheels, capturing and eating smaller towns. But when he is thrown off the city by his childhood hero Valentine, young hero Tom joins forces with the mysterious Hester, and is soon forced to reassess life as he knows it.

Why choose this book: This is a classic must-read for fans of dystopian literature.



Dates for your Diary:

- 17.12.25 Christmas Lunch/ Christmas Jumper Day
- 18.12.25 ARK Assemblies
- 19.12.25 End of Term – Early Finish 12.45
- 05.01.26 INSET DAY – School closed for pupils
- 06.01.25 Pupils return to school



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases, knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested. Children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sellers.

ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unverified sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to feelings of isolation and disappointment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

The National College

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The National College

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CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

OPPORTUNITIES



On December 17th join Dr Lowri Ann Rees for a festive online taster session exploring the origins of familiar traditions and learn how history shaped the way we celebrate today. [Register here](#).



“On Campus with... History” with Dr Emily Stiles. In this podcast Dr Emily and hosts from the Uni of Winchester discuss museum culture and representation and public history. [Listen here](#).



The Uni of Bristol Virtual Summer School will take place in May 2026. The 3 day event comprises academic talks, social sessions, and information, advice and guidance. The summer school runs online from 10 am to 5 pm on the 27th - 29th May (inclusive). Applications open early 2026 - [register here](#).



[World Human Rights Day](#) happens on the 10th December and the theme is “Our Everyday Essentials” which aims to show how human rights are a part of daily life. By bridging the gap between human rights principles and everyday experiences, we aim to spark awareness, inspire confidence and encourage collective action.



History Subject Spotlight with the Uni of Birmingham - In this experience, you'll explore how the US South is not just a place but a cultural and political concept shaped by slavery, segregation, and media. [Get started here](#).



[Careers in Heritage with Historic England](#). Discover Historic England's career areas and pathways, and gain insights into life at the company through activities, quizzes, and interactive content.



The Document Services department of the National Archives offers a 5 day placement scheme to young people aged 14 to 18. Spaces for our 2026 Work Experience Programme will open on Monday 12th January 2026 - [click here](#) for more information.

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Historian](#)

Historians devote their careers to studying notable past events, such as military conflicts, political milestones, and social movements. They work in universities and other educational settings, as well as for various public, private and nonprofits. Their efforts make it possible for individuals and societies to learn from history in order to chart a better course for the future.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Learner participation in Apprenticeships in 2024/25 increased by 3.4% to 761,480 compared to 736,530 the previous year.

Under 19s accounted for 21.2% (74,990) and learners recorded as having a learning difficulty or disability increased by 6.9%, to 56,810 from 53,150
[Source](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please email careers@chasehigh.org



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

OPPORTUNITIES



Join this 2-day online experience (10th and 11th February) to meet apprentices from different industries and job roles, to get an understanding of what an apprenticeship is, how apprentices learn on the job and why they believe apprenticeships are an excellent pathway into the world of work. [Deadline for applications](#) is 14th January.



Practise video interview responses and get direct feedback on delivery, structure, and tone. Learn how to perform naturally and confidently in online interviews used by top employers for degree apprenticeships. View other Masterclasses and [register here](#).



Festival of Apprenticeships - Online Careers Fair 2026. This FREE online event is a one-stop shop for anyone looking to learn more about apprenticeships. The event will cover everything from discovering opportunities with organisations first-hand and guidance on how to apply for and make the most of an apprenticeship! [Save your spot](#).



Don't let writer's block hold you back—join us and get the support you need to make your Personal Statement stand out. In [this webinar](#) on 13th January, get expert tips on crafting a standout Personal Statement that grabs attention.



10 money tips for starting uni or college - No matter how excited you are about studying at university and building your long-term future, day-to-day money planning helps you feel in control. [Read these tips from UCAS](#).



Want to figure out your dream career, including what options are available to you after graduating and how to choose the right graduate role? Check out [this advice](#) from Target Jobs.



21st January Free Webinar: What is Higher Education? Useful information for Parents and Carers covering the basics of higher education and university-level study, explaining key opportunities, terminology, and timelines to consider. [Book here](#).

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

“The UK’s archives are vital record keepers of the country’s history, enabling us to re-visit and learn about crucial events, stories, and moments from all corners of our communities.

At The National Archives, we believe in making the archive sector as inclusive and accessible as possible so that anyone who wants to embark on a rewarding career in archives is able to do so.”
Find out more [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

“At the University of Exeter we combine teaching excellence and high levels of student satisfaction with world class research at our campuses in Exeter and Cornwall. We are a member of the Russell Group of leading research-intensive universities. Our success is built on a strong partnership with our students and a clear focus on high performance.”
Read more [here](#).

If you have any questions or need support, please email careers@chasehigh.org