



Headteacher's Comment

It has been a busy week at Chase High School, with staff and pupils celebrating the successes of the term in their **ARK** assemblies. This week, the Trussell Trust collected all the tins that our Chase community kindly donated over the last few weeks. This collection will help support people within our local community during the festive period.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generosity and continued support. As we come to the end of the term, we wish all our students, families, and staff a happy, restful break and send our very best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a bright, successful New Year ahead.

#ProudtobeChase #happynewyear



Reading Books

As part of our ongoing commitment to reading across the school, from Tuesday 6 January 2026, all pupils will be expected to carry a reading book with them. Our library is well stocked with a variety of books pupils can choose from. Alternatively, pupils are welcome to bring in their own, age-appropriate, book from home.

Pupils have been notified of this expectation prior to the winter break and will be issued with new **ARK** cards on their return to school reiterating this expectation.



Duke of Edinburgh

On Tuesday, a group of Chase High School pupils involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme took part in a planning visit to support future Bronze and Silver expeditions.

Accompanied by staff members Ms Rock, Ms Walker and Mr Krawetzke, the pupils visited three potential expedition sites: Skreens Park Activity Centre, Essex Outdoors Danbury, and Rushbanks Farm Caravan and Camping Site. The purpose of the trip was to assess the suitability of these locations and complete risk assessments to ensure safe and successful expeditions.



Sixth Form Celebration

On Wednesday, our Sixth Form students joined together to celebrate their achievements this term during their **ARK** assembly. Mrs Mulford and the Sixth Form team were delighted to recognise the hard work and commitment of those who received certificates. A massive congratulations to tutor group HTU for winning the Sixth Form League this half term and being awarded the prestigious trophy, with TNO finishing as runners-up and LMR close behind in third place. To round off a fantastic celebration of success, students enjoyed pizza and karaoke together.



SPORTS ROUND UP!

Last Thursday, our Year 7 boys' basketball team defeated Cecil Jones Academy in the Borough League by two points. Arthur was awarded Player of the Match. Our U13 girls' football team narrowly lost to Shoebury High School, with Isla and Belle named Players of the Match.

On Friday, in the Essex Cup, the Year 9 boys' basketball team defeated St Helena School of Colchester 76–68. Jack was named Player of the Match. Also on Friday, the Year 7 boys' basketball team defeated Belfairs 25–20, with Thomas receiving Player of the Match.

On Monday, our Year 9 boys' basketball team were defeated in the Essex Cup by a strong Great Baddow High School side. Elliott was named Player of the Match. Our Year 7 boys' basketball team lost by just three points to Mayflower High School in the Essex Cup, with Arthur again receiving Player of the Match.

On Tuesday, our Sixth Form football team were defeated away at Cecil Jones Academy. Rehan was named Player of the Match. Our Year 10 boys' basketball team played very well at Woodlands School before falling to strong opposition, with Emmanuel named Player of the Match. Our Year 11 football team defeated Southchurch High School 6–0, with Zion awarded Player of the Match. Our Year 7 and 8 netball teams were defeated by strong Eastwood Academy sides, with Florence, Isla and Neve all receiving Player of the Match awards.

On Wednesday, the Year 10 boys' basketball team narrowly lost 54–52 at Southchurch High School. Player of the Match was the ever-improving Fejiro. Our U13 girls' basketball team scored their highest number of baskets to date in a narrow defeat to Eastwood Academy. Mrs Lane said they are making great progress — keep it going, girls! Isla and Belle were named Players of the Match. The Year 9 boys' B football team lost to Shoebury High School, but it was great to see so many boys representing the school. Joe was named Player of the Match. Our Year 7 boys' basketball team lost in the Essex Cup to The Appleton School, with Corey receiving Player of the Match.

There have been a record 112 completed fixtures across a variety of sports this term, including netball, football, basketball, rugby, cross-country, athletics, table tennis, badminton and tennis. The PE Department are continually impressed by our pupils' hard work and commitment. **Keep it up, everyone!**



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

Chase High School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



Winter Ball

The annual Winter Ball was hosted by the Friends of Chase Charity on Friday evening, giving pupils in Year 7 and 8 pupils the opportunity to dance the night away and spend some quality time with their peers. We saw some fantastic dance moves and the Christmas Spirit was in full swing.



Silent Cinema

Last week all pupils who received 100% attendance and 100% punctuality in the first half term were given the opportunity to attend the Silent Cinema event. The Silent Cinema Company set up a 30ft screen and gave pupils individual pairs of silent disco headphones to enable them to watch The Grinch in a fun way. Pupils were also treated to bags of popcorn and drinks to enhance their cinema experience. Congratulations to everyone who was invited to this event.



Uniform reminders

As we finish for the Autumn Term, we would like to extend our thanks to everyone in the school community for upholding our high uniform standards.

A reminder please, all pupils are expected to have the school tie and blazer as part of our uniform. Pupils are also reminded trainers, sweatshirts and hoodies are not permitted in school. Shoes should be non-sports branded, skirts must be pleated and knee-length and trousers must be regular fit and length.

Also, a reminder, especially after the festive season, false nails and eyelashes are not permitted in school and there are no extreme hairstyles and hair should be a natural colour. Pupils may wear a pair of plain, small stud earrings, one in each ear lobe and a wrist watch.

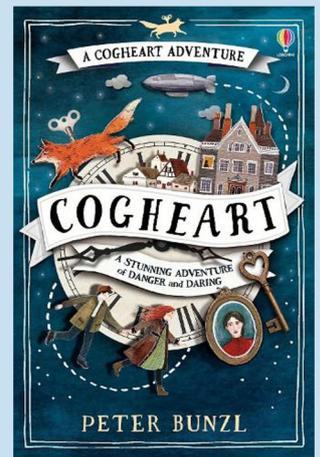
BOOK OF THE WEEK!

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl

Age recommendation: Perfect for KS3

Short synopsis: Swept into the bright hustle-bustle of New York, Lily, Robert and Malkin discover that danger lies beneath the city's surface for there are chilling goings-on...a strange boy held captive who needs their help and a shadowy professor with a treacherous plan. Searching for clues, Robert and Lily are plunged into deep water...But will they uncover the deadly truth in time to survive?

Why choose this book: "A gem of a book." - Katherine Woodfine, author of The Clockwork Sparrow



Dates for your Diary:

05.01.26 INSET Day

06.01.26 Back to School on Week 1 Timetable



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CHASE HIGH PE DEPARTMENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

1st HALF SPRING TERM 2026

CHASE HIGH SCHOOL
AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Before School 7.30am-8.10am</p>	<p>Basketball Year 10/11 Boys Mr Copsey/Mr Biggie</p> <p>Netball Year 10 & 11 Girls Miss Thompson</p>	<p>Cross Country All Years Boys & Girls Mr Copsey</p> <p>Netball Year 7 & 8 Girls Mrs Lane</p> <p>Basketball Year 9 Boys Mr Sturge</p>	<p>Football Year 8 & 9 Boys Mr Sturge</p> <p>Basketball Year 7 & 8 Boys Mr Gridley/Mr Copsey</p> <p>Trampolining All Years Boys & Girls Miss Thompson</p>	<p>Basketball Year 7 & 8 Girls Mrs Lane/Miss Mayes</p> <p>Racket Sports All Years Boys & Girls Mr Biggie</p>	<p>ESA Training Invite Only (Miss Mayes)</p>
<p>Lunchtime 1.25pm-1.50pm</p>	<p>Badminton All Years Boys & Girls Mr Biggie</p>	<p>Basketball All Years Boys & Girls Mr Copsey</p> <p>Tennis All Years Boys & Girls Mr Biggie</p>	<p>Badminton All Years Boys & Girls Mr Biggie</p>	<p>Basketball All Years Boys & Girls Mr Copsey</p> <p>Tennis All Years Boys & Girls Mr Biggie</p>	<p>Basketball All Years Boys & Girls Mr Copsey</p> <p>Tennis All Years Boys & Girls Mr Biggie</p>
<p>After School 3.15pm – 4.15pm</p>	<p>Staff Meetings</p> <p>Football Year 10 & 11 Boys Chelsea Coach</p> <p>Football Year 10 & 11 Girls Chelsea Coach</p>	<p>Basketball Year 9, 10 & 11 Girls Miss Thompson/Mrs Lane</p> <p>Basketball (upper gym) Year 9 Boys Mr Sturge</p> <p>Year 11 Intervention Miss Mayes/Mr Biggie</p>	<p>Football Year 9 Boys Mr Sturge</p> <p>Football Year 8 Boys Mr Biggie</p> <p>Basketball Year 7 & 8 Girls Miss Mayes/Mrs Lane</p>	<p>Football Year 10 Boys Mr Copsey</p> <p>Netball Year 7, 8 & 9 Mrs Lane/Miss Mayes</p> <p>Basketball Year 7 & 8 Boys Mr Gridley</p>	<p>Football All Years Girls Miss Mayes</p> <p>Football Year 7 Boys Mr Gridley/Mr Adekola</p> <p>Netball Year 10 & 11 Girls Miss Thompson</p> <p>Basketball (upper gym) Year 10 & 11 Boys Mr Copsey/Mr Biggie</p>



AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

KS4 EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE SPRING TERM1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKTIME 11.00-11.20	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN
LUNCHTIME 13.25-13.50	SEN DEN V Bradley MM30 LRB Vryan Knight Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12 Esports N McGauley PS5 PROM L Westover LG3	SEN DEN V Bradley MM30 LRB V Knight Chat and Chill – N Ringrose – LG4 French Club LF5 E Saidou Homework Club L Bayliss ML12 Esports N McGauley PS5	SEN DEN V Bradley MM30 LRB V Knight Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4 Politics LG4 S Mustafa Homework Club L Bayliss ML12	LGBTQ+ G Bates LS5 SEN DEN V Bradley MM30 LRB V Knight Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4 Chess Club library L Bayliss ML12 International Film Club E Saidou LF5 Christian Lunch Bites J Whitfield LS6 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12	Film Club J Whitfield LS6 SEN DEN V Bradley MM30 LRB V Knight Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4 Fundraising Club L McCusker PF7/PF8 Advanced RPG Society G Bates LS5 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12
AFTER SCHOOL 15.15 – 16.15	Dance club E Kempton MU34 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12	STEAM in DT H Stokes MM32 Performance Choir (Bellacapella) A Clifford-Tait MU30 RPG Society G Bates LS5 Creative Writing M Dewsbury / H McHugh ML39 Spanish Club T Ohakwe LF3 P1 & Psychology H Turner PS1 Dance Club S Larking/N Heighway MU34 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12	Show Rehearsal J Cassar/A Clifford-Tait MU34 Film & Photography B Krawetzke PS7 GCSE Psychology Hannah Turner PS1 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12 Duke of Edinburgh S Walker / B Krawetzka- London Building Canteen German Club S Jackson LF6	Careers Drop in L Procter/R Willy ML12 Drama Club S Larking MU34 Esports N McGauley PS5 STEAM in Science J Cooper ML4 Art GCSE Taster club G Miller MM45 History Club S Jones LF4 Homework Club L Bayliss ML12	Homework Club L Bayliss ML12

KS3 EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE SPRING TERM1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKTIME 11.00-11.20	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN	SEN DEN D Ringrose SEN
LUNCHTIME 13.25-13.50	<p>SEN DEN V Bradley MM30</p> <p>LRB Vernan Knight</p> <p>Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4</p> <p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>Esports N McGauley PS5</p>	<p>SEN DEN V Bradley MM30</p> <p>LRB V Knight</p> <p>Chat and Chill N Ringrose - LG4</p> <p>Gaming Club- ML22 S Butcher</p> <p>French Club E Saidou LF5</p> <p>Geography Club S Magnus-Condappa LS1</p> <p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>Esports N McGauley PS5</p>	<p>SEN DEN V Bradley MM30</p> <p>LRB V Knight</p> <p>Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4</p> <p>Politics LG4 S Mustafa</p> <p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>Gaming Club (Wk 1 only) S Butcher ML22</p>	<p>LGBTQ+ G Bates LS5</p> <p>SEN DEN V Bradley MM30</p> <p>LRB V Knight</p> <p>Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4</p> <p>Chess Club I& Homewok Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>Art Club E Scates MM44</p> <p>International Film Club E Saidou LF5</p> <p>Spanish Club T Ohakwe LF3</p> <p>Geography Explorers Club S Green LS3</p> <p>Christian Lunch Bites J Whitfield LS6</p> <p>Gaming Club (Wk 2 only) S Butcher ML22</p>	<p>Film Club J Whitfield LS6</p> <p>SEN DEN V Bradley MM30</p> <p>LRB V Knight</p> <p>Chat and Chill N Ringrose – LG4</p> <p>Advanced RPG Society G Bates LS5</p> <p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p>
AFTER SCHOOL 15.15 – 16.15	<p>Dance club E Kempton MU34</p> <p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p>	<p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>STEAM in DT H Stokes MM32</p> <p>Performance Choir (Bellacapella) A Clifford-Tait MU30</p> <p>RPG Society G Bates LS5</p> <p>Creative Writing M Dewsbury / H McHugh ML39</p> <p>Spanish Club T Ohakwe LF3</p> <p>Dance Club S Larking/N Heighway MU34</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 Only B Krawetzka/ S Walker Main Building Canteen</p>	<p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>Show Rehearsal J Cassar/A Clifford-Tait MU34</p> <p>Film & Photography B Krawetzke PS7</p> <p>Food Fiesta Yr7/8 N Heighway MM29 WK2 only)</p> <p>German Club S Jackson LF6</p>	<p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p> <p>Food Fiesta Yr. 8 & 9 (Week 1 only) C Spencer MM26</p> <p>Drama Club S Larking MU34</p> <p>Careers Drop in L Procter/R Willy ML12</p> <p>STEAM in Science J Cooper ML4</p> <p>Esports N McGauley PS5</p> <p>History Club S Jones LF4</p>	<p>Homework Club L Bayliss ML12</p>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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



You may be wondering what happens once you submit your UCAS application. It is important to note that universities have until 13th May 2026 to respond to applications. Here is a UCAS guide on [“What happens after you submit your application?”](#) and what types of offer you may receive.



What's it like to work at your dream company? [HIGHERiN](#) provides lots of reviews for placements, internships, graduate jobs and apprenticeships, all written by university students and school leavers.



Quiz

The [InvestIN Career Quiz](#) is designed to help students aged 15-18 discover an industry that aligns with their aspirations. Through a series of questions, we'll assess your skills and interests, and analyse how these align with different career sectors.



You have probably heard of accountancy and advisory services before. Think you know what professionals in this field really do? Embark on this [virtual work experience](#) to explore the world of accountancy and advisory services with BDO.



“At Virgin Media O₂, we are powered by an epic, diverse and high performing team providing customers with a range of services they love to use and rely on every day. We're all about working together as one team to put the customer first in everything we do. If your ambition matches ours, [see what you can do with us.](#)”



[Discover EDT: Parent/Guardian webinar](#). Discover the exciting journey into the world of STEM - 29th January - 16:00-17:00



You can join this free [EDT Placements Open Day](#) session to find out more about the Placements programme and how it can help to find a paid work placement to enhance skills and gain experience and professional development. 21st January - 16:00-17:00

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Careers Advisor](#)

As a careers advisor you will help people make decisions about their education, training and work options. You can work in a variety of fields and may specialise within a number of areas. It's likely you'll work in a generalist role, helping people from many backgrounds and giving impartial advice regarding routes into multiple different careers and industries.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

In 2024, 87.6% of working age (16-64 years old) graduates were in employment compared to 68.0% of non-graduates.

67.9% of working age (16-64 years old) graduates were in high-skilled employment compared to 23.7% of non-graduates.

[Source](#)

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



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

OPPORTUNITIES



Futures for All online [Work Experience Finder](#) is designed to showcase placements and for you to explore the latest opportunities. You can search, filter, and sort, and browse by featured career types, industries, subjects, and closing soon. Virtual opportunities can be found under the Opportunity Type dropdown.



Join the Uni of Worcester for their online Nursing Q&A panel on Friday 9th January, 5–6pm. During the session, Nursing academic staff and current students will be answering any questions you have about studying Nursing. [Register here.](#)



Unifrog Computer science taster: how will AI and cyber change future careers? If you're interested in computer science, AI, or tech, don't miss this chance to learn how you can be part of the next big wave in technology. 12th January 17:30 - 18:15. [Book your place.](#)



Not sure what to consider once you've sent off your university application? [Join this series of webinars](#) to find out more about what it's like to study at university, how to choose between your university offers, how much university really costs, and how parents and caregivers can support through these next steps.



Meet Jocelyn: Telecoms Graduate at Network Rail who ended up in Network Rail after the Graduate scheme was recommended to him by a uni friend... [Read more here.](#)



Life at a Toyota and Lexus dealership is fast-paced, collaborative, and full of purpose. No matter of your role, you are part of a team that thrives on innovation and customer care. Check out their live apprenticeship opportunities [here.](#)



Could teaching be your calling? Join the Uni of Portsmouth virtually to learn about teacher training courses. Whether you're interested in Primary, Secondary, or Further Education, our teacher training courses cover a wide range of subjects, and you may be eligible for a bursary. Find out more on the 13th January by booking your place [here.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

“At UCAS, our beneficiaries and customers are central to our purpose, which is rooted in a charity-led mission to connect people to education and life-changing opportunities. It's work that feels meaningful, where your expertise contributes to a cause that truly matters. Our culture is inclusive and collaborative, built on trust, accountability, and a shared commitment to increasing participation in education.”

Find out more [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

“At Portsmouth, we're proud to be a breath of fresh air in the academic world – a place where everyone gets the support they need to achieve their best. We're always discovering. We don't fit the mould, we break it. Just as the world keeps moving, so do we. Since the first day we opened our doors, we've looked towards the future. And we're here to help you shape it.

Read more [here.](#)

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