

Head Teacher's Note

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of the long term, with the daylight hours getting shorter, we have been reflecting in school of the things that we have to be grateful for. Students have been encouraged during wellbeing, and their sessions with the pastoral team, to think about ways that they can promote their own mental health and well-being, as well as looking out for friends and family over the winter season.

It has been a pleasure to read the lovely comments that teachers have written on the certificates that will be presented to students after the Christmas quiz. At times, we may all need reminding of the power of our words. The students joining us have all settled in well, and it has been good to see relationships building. It has been especially good to see how our students have supported one another during the mock exam period and how focused they have all been in the exams.

We are always proud of our students' achievements and miss them when they move on, so it has been especially lovely to receive visits and updates from previous students. Some who are pursuing college courses, attending university or have started successful careers, and we always enjoy hearing about their progress. We hope that their success, along with the numerous visits to colleges, university and careers events inspire our existing students to work hard to follow their ambitions.

Finally, thank you for all the gifts, cards and well wishes as we approach the end of term. They are truly appreciated by the whole team.

Enjoy the festive break,

Rez





Pastoral

At Connie Rothman Learning Trust, we are committed to supporting the wellbeing and mental health of our students. All staff play an active role in promoting a positive and nurturing environment, working collaboratively to help each student thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. For those who require more focused support, we offer weekly therapeutic sessions tailored to individual needs. Alternatively, students can access regular check-in sessions to ensure they feel heard, supported, and valued. These sessions will be reviewed every 6-8 weeks.

For any Pastoral concerns please contact:

Em Adlem - Pastoral Lead eadlem@crlt.org.uk

Rudi Coulter - Pastoral Assistant rcoulter@crlt.org.uk

Deep Listening

Deep listening is a concept that has been around for a while. I was recently reminded about it after reading an article, which got me thinking about what we do in school, how we employ it and what we can do to improve communication with the young people we serve. Deep listening is not always conscious and has been part of our ethos since the inception of our charity, the school and our other provisions.

Deep listening is focusing on what another person has to say and doing it without the distractions of mobile phones, laptops, and the detritus of noise that envelopes us. However, it is more than that. It is being completely present for that person – being non-judgemental, picking up on nonverbal clues, paying attention to the other person's emotions, and responding to them. Letting the person talk without interrupting is an important and, often, unique skill.

I am lucky because I get to see how deep listening works daily with the way our pastoral team, Emma and Rudi, interact with students. The way in which they check in with all students and the time they take, picking up on each young person's fears, anxiety, and needs is exemplary. Our school is exceptionally lucky to have such a great team caring for our students.

Edward - CRLT Chief Executive

Everyone has been working hard at Approach this term. Our GCSE students are making great progress towards taking their exams next year, including sitting mock exams. They have been coping exceptionally well with taking on and retaining new learning and we are very proud of them.

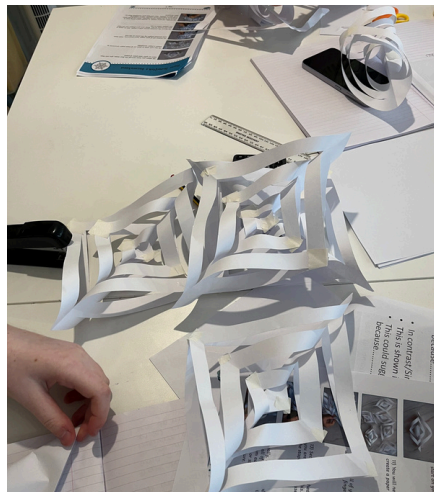
The morning group have also been working hard. We have been looking at some different genres of writing, including non-fiction and are currently learning about Gothic literature. In maths we have been learning about fractions, measures and data handling and are currently working on algebra.

It has been lovely to welcome some new staff and students to Approach and I hope that everyone has a lovely Christmas break.

Tracy

At Approach Learning, this term we have looked at and discussed body image in teenagers and positive self-image (including social media influence), identity in teenagers, the teenage brain, and sleep in teenagers, as well as safely navigating social media.

Rudi



Paper Star Making at Approach Learning



Our last day of term is Friday 19th December. Where we finish at 12pm. There is no afternoon session. If your child normally comes in the afternoon, please let us know if they would like to come to the morning session instead.

We hope all our Approach Learning families enjoy a lovely break over the Christmas holidays, whatever your plans may be. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday the 5th of January 2026.

-The whole team at Connie Rothman Learning Trust

Important Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th January 2026	First Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 20th January	Parents Evening (please follow the link in the e-mail to book)
Week of 19th January	Year 10 test week
Monday 16th-Friday 20th February	Half Term break
Tuesday 9 th March	Parents Evening (link to be book will be sent before half term)
Week of 2nd March	Year 11 mock week
Friday 27 th March	Term ends at 12pm
Monday 30th-Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	First Day of Summer Term

Useful Contacts

Childline: 08001111

Shout: Text 85258

Samaritans: 116 123

Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com>

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm, please contact the Police on 101 or 999 if urgent, and/or use the contact information below.

If you are a member of the public please telephone:

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole: 01202 123334 (01202 738256 if out of normal working hours) or e-mail the Children's First Response team at childrensfirstresponse@bcpcouncil.gov.uk.

Children's First Response Hub website: [BCP Children's First Response Hub](#)

Dorset: 01305 221000 [Worried about a child - Dorset Council](#)

Hampshire: 0300 555 1984

Please note that our school safeguarding email will be monitored during school hours throughout the holidays. Please email concerns to:

safeguarding@crlt.org.uk