



**Royal Wootton Bassett
Academy Sixth Form
Weekly Newsletter #129
24 November 2023**



**Advice For Aspiring
Oxbridge, Medics, Vet
and Dentists**

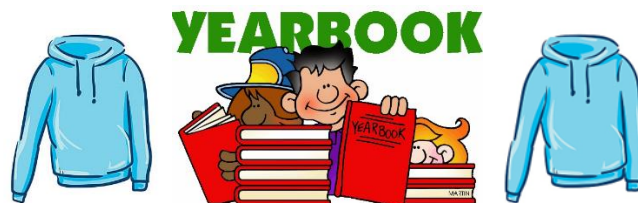


Mrs Vaughan will be starting the RWBA Oxbridge and medics group in the coming weeks. If you are in Year 12 and interested in studying medicine, dentistry, becoming a vet or considering Oxford or Cambridge University then please sign up using the form below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/MExjYySmUJ>



Year 13, please complete the following MS form to make your voice count in the leaver's arrangements.



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=spD4XJRqLOWMKZ9zZbaLoHYTF_KEYsNcKMLdgBrQBbJUMUhBSzVHTjvJTVpLMEk1MU4yNTMyNzhWMC4u



Thank you to all the students below who attended the Diana Award training to become volunteers at '**RWBA Centrepoint**'.

Your support is much appreciated by staff and the students seeking support.

Amelie Cooper, Sheilja Gurang, Olga Dolik, Kate Warlow, Courtney Godwin, Jasmine Hughes, Halle Sykes, Mollie Gallagher, Tiana Kariuki, Caitlin Young, Aaliyah Nickles, Emily Billett, Lillie Holmes, Amber Newman, Maria Luiza Nogueira De Oliveira, Kayleigh Hendry, Imogen Jones, Ninam Bantawa, Isabella Thorp, Lusiana Senikuraciri, Jemima Sadiq, Marissa Temo, Taraivini Tuinabua, Manahyl Khan, Phoebe Bemrose, Katie Jackson, Naomi Coombs, Grace Gould, Chloe Lewis, and Charlotte Crowley.



This week we ran the Sixth Form Tuck Shop to fundraise for our Sixth Form Charities:



Well done to the Student Leadership Team you raised £54.15 which will be split over the 2 charities.

Tuck Shop will be back again in December - so keep an eye on your emails!





A huge thank you to the students that supported the RWBA Sixth Form stand!





The Class of 2023 legacy garden is now finished. Thanks to Phoebe, Isobel and Molly who worked hard to complete the laying of the gravel for our picnic bench. We are just waiting for some spring days now, hopefully to see the bulbs we planted and to see students using the space.



Black Friday and Cyber Monday have ballooned in popularity during the past few years, as prices on almost everything are slashed for a few precious days. With consumers in the UK alone spending a staggering £9.4 billion over last year's discounted digital shopping weekend, it can often become a frenetic rush to grab tech, games and other products at knock-down prices.

Such radical reductions are especially welcome at this time of year – but Black Friday and Cyber Monday are also peak season for scammers, who bet on a sense of urgency blinding shoppers to the red flags in their 'offers'. Our guide highlights some common warning signs to help you bag the goods without being left out of pocket.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online; they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious; providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of Tech Addict The Magazine, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, author and consultant.





TASTER DAYS

12TH DECEMBER 2023

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



- 9.30 Arrival and Registration
- 9.45 An introduction to physiology
- 10.30 Protein assay practical and write up
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.15 Meet our students
- 1.45 Exploring cell biology
- 2.30: Wrap up

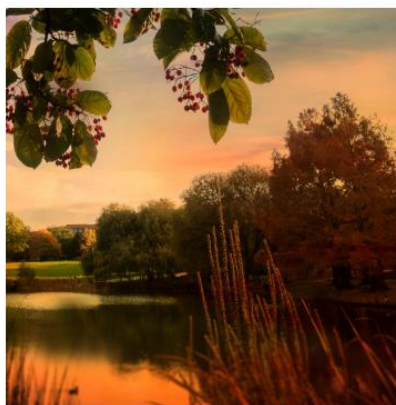


Please note - This event will take place on our Stag Hill campus
- students will need to provide their own lunch, we will have cafes and eateries on site to purchase lunch if required.

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES



- 9.30 Arrival and Registration
- 9.45 Nutrition Support – a whole spectrum
- 10.30 Meet our students
- 11.00 Contemporary topics in Nutrition
- 12.15 Lunch
- 1.00 Practical explorations in food science
- 2.30 Wrap up



Please note - This event will take place on our Stag Hill campus
- students will need to provide their own lunch, we will have cafes and eateries on site to purchase lunch if required.

NURSING



- 9.30 Arrival and Registration
- 9.45 Welcome
- 10.00 What is Nursing? What do the different fields of nursing do?
- 10:50 Simulation Suite – session 1
- 11.50 Lunch
- 12.30 Simulation Suite – session 2
- 13:40 What does caring mean to you?
- 14:30 Depart



Please note - This event will take place on our Manor Park campus
- students will need to provide their own lunch, we will have cafes and eateries on site to purchase lunch if required.

TO BOOK ANY OF THESE SESSIONS PLEASE USE THE
FOLLOWING LINK;

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/surrey/december-taster-days-2023>

**You've got the
power.**

UCL Masterclasses



Masterclasses

Masterclasses are a range of online, subject-specific, hour-long sessions for students in Year 12. Sessions run weekly on Tuesday and Thursday (4-5pm) from January to April. Applications are now open!

About Masterclasses

Masterclasses are online, subject-specific, hour-long sessions for students in Year 12 to get a taste of university. Masterclasses will introduce you to subjects available at UCL in 2024. The hour-long sessions will feature a lecture on a specific topic from UCL academics and PhD students.

This year, Masterclasses will be online. The sessions are interactive, and we encourage you to engage with the presenters, as there is an opportunity at the end to ask questions about the topic presented.

In the **Subjects** section of this page you can find out more about the topics covered, who is presenting the session, and the date of the Masterclass.

Deadline for applications:

- January Masterclasses - Tuesday 2 January, 11:59pm.
- February Masterclasses - Sunday 21 January, 11:59pm.
- March Masterclasses - Sunday 18 February, 11:59pm.
- April Masterclasses - Sunday 24 March, 11:59pm.

https://qualtrics.ucl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_3JyjHyEo0AqMEgS

Topic: History of Art: Is it All Old Masters?

Presenter: Cora Chalaby

Date: Thursday 18 January 2024, 4 - 5pm

The History of Art programme at UCL encourages you to see the world differently. This Masterclass will respond to the prompt "History of Art: Is it All Old Masters?" using the abstract paintings of Alma Thomas, an African American woman artist working in the 1960s and 1970s, as a case study. The session will allow you to explore how diverse, interdisciplinary, and dynamic History of Art is as a subject.

Topic: An Introduction to Sustainable Built Environments

Presenter: Dr Nahid Mohajeri

Date: Tuesday 23 January 2024, 4 - 5pm

The Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources trains future sustainability leaders. In this Masterclass, you will be introduced to the Sustainable Built Environments, Energy and Resources programme at UCL.

Topic: Creative Writing, Film/Moving Image, and Performance

Presenter: Dr Rebecca Birch

Date: Thursday 25 January 2024, 4 - 5pm

The Creative Arts and Humanities programme is a bold and exciting interdisciplinary undergraduate degree, uniquely bringing together creative writing, film and moving image, and performance, and is the first of its kind in the UK. In this Masterclass, you will be introduced to concepts from Year One of the degree to develop your critical understanding of these three modes. You will also take part in a taster workshop to develop your own creative skills.

Topic: An Introduction to Linguistics

Presenter: Dr Beth Malory

Date: Tuesday 30 January 2024, 4 - 5pm

The Department of English Language and Literature at UCL is of the most enduring and respected in Britain. This Masterclass will provide students with a linguistic toolkit for approaching literary texts and to assist with your close reading skills. The session will also give you an insight into the range of linguistic topics that are covered at undergraduate level.

Topic: An Introduction to Studying Medicine

Presenter: Dr Sarah Bennett

Date: Tuesday 06 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

UCL has educated doctors since 1834. Working closely with several major teaching hospitals, it provides a truly world class medical education. In this Masterclass, you will hear from a doctor about their career journey. You will also discover more about the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme at UCL. The session will also include an outline of the medicine application process, and tips for preparing to apply.

Topic: Nature-Inspired Chemical Engineering: A NICE Approach to Sustainable Development

Presenter: Marc-Olivier Coppens

Date: Thursday 08 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

This Masterclass will cover the systematic, Nature-Inspired Solution (NIS) methodology as a pathway to innovation. You will discover how we learn from trees, lungs, kidneys, and dunes to transform chemical and energy processes, from fluid mixing to catalysts for efficient, cleaner manufacturing, hydrogen fuel cells, and durable membranes for water treatment and bio-separations. NICE is also an avenue to discover materials for biomedicine, the built environment, and even technology to preserve water for space missions.

Topic: An Introduction to Game Theory

Presenter: Dr Alexander Watson

Date: Tuesday 13 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

When you play a game with other people, you need to think not only about what is likely to be a successful strategy under the rules, but also how other people will decide to act. How do we imagine that others will respond to a guessing game, and how accurate are those mental models? In this Masterclass, we will play some games ourselves, talk about the mathematical questions that underlie this situation, and dive into a statistical investigation of the area.

Topic: Population Health Sciences: a UK Perspective

Presenter: Alison Moody

Date: Thursday 15 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

How healthy are we as a society? How do we define “healthy”? How and why does health vary between different population groups? This session will explore population health sciences from a UK perspective. We will examine changes in population health over time, and the differences in health experienced by different groups. We will seek to understand why, if you took the Jubilee line from Westminster to Canning Town, local life expectancy would decrease by one year for every two stations you passed.

Topic: Solving the Complex Challenges Puzzle: a Multi-Disciplinary Perspective

Presenter: Dr Irina Lazar and Dr Elisa Randazzo

Date: Tuesday 20 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

We often hear that modern societies are currently facing complex global challenges, which trespass borders and are not easy to solve or even tackle. But what are the most pressing problems? How do we identify them and whose job is it to try to solve them? In this Masterclass, we will explore how science and engineering can help address these challenges when combined with the social sciences and public policy. We will bring in the Sustainable Development Goals framework of the United Nations and explore the topic from an interactive and multidisciplinary perspective. Tackling complex issues from multiple angles ensures that we can produce technologically-sound sustainable solutions that are equitable and can be implemented on a large scale in society.

Topic: How Could Space Exploration Benefit Life on Earth?

Presenter: Myles Harris

Date: Thursday 22 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

IRDR aims to achieve leadership in risk and disaster reduction and emergency response both in the UK and internationally. This IRDR Masterclass will ask: How could space exploration benefit life on Earth? A new space age has begun. The global exploration roadmap has brought together national space agency to bring humankind to Mars by 2050. To get there, we must overcome enormous challenges and risks – isolation and confinement during spaceflight, muscle, and bone density wastage, and providing healthcare with no option of evacuation to a hospital. However, some argue that the money spent on space exploration is

better spent on Earth. In this Masterclass, you will discover how space exploration can benefit life on Earth and what research is currently being done to bring humankind to Mars safely.

Topic: An Introduction to Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences

Presenter: Joseph Warwick

Date: Tuesday 27 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

This Masterclass will give you a snap shot of what you can study across the second and third year of the Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences programme (SEM). The session will help you to understand key components from the multidisciplinary team that are involved in SEM. Whether you want to be a physiotherapist, doctor, sport scientist, or strength and conditioning coach, this degree will set your career up with the best foundational platform to excel in your chosen field.

Topic: Cancer Research: Past, Present, and Future

Presenter: Callum Oddy

Date: Thursday 29 February 2024, 4 - 5pm

The UCL Cancer Institute is the hub for cancer research at UCL. This Masterclass will highlight how scientific research is being used to fight back against cancer. You will consider cancer from a historical context, and then we will examine modern definitions, including the types of cancer and who may be diagnosed. We also discuss how research can be used to stop cancer's ability to endlessly proliferate, using real scientific examples. Finally, we will consider how much more work is still needed in this area; however, there is still hope.

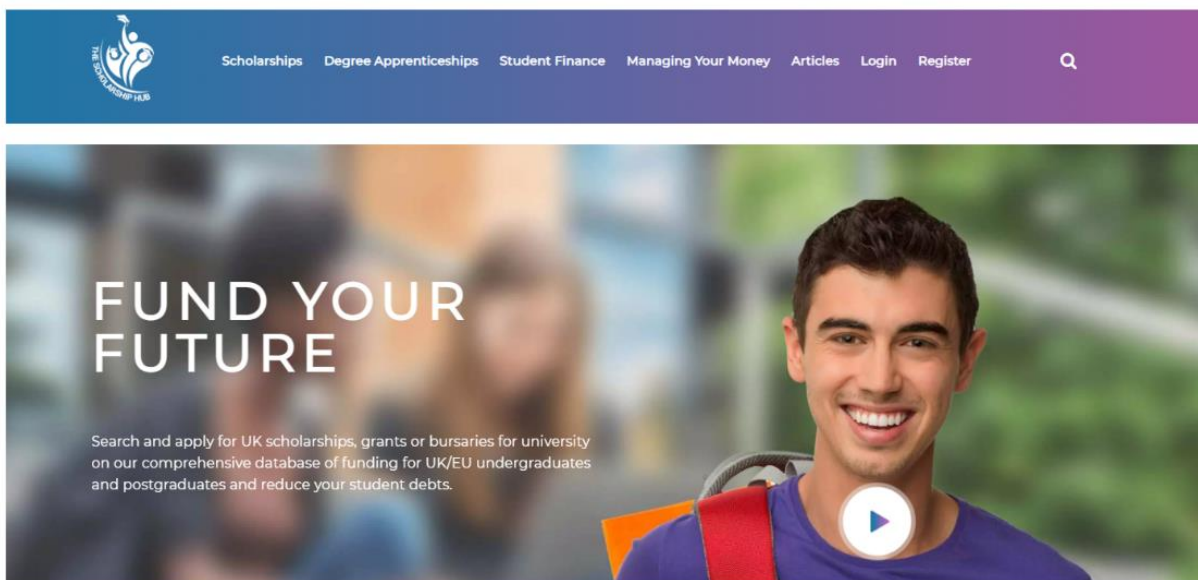
Click here to register for one of these masterclass sessions or many more in the coming months.

https://qualtrics.ucl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_3JyjHyEo0AqMEgS

Scholarships Information

As discussed on Skills for life day.

<https://www.thescholarshipub.org.uk/>



The image shows the top portion of the website. The header is a dark blue/purple gradient bar. On the left is the logo for 'THE SCHOLARSHIP HUB', which features a stylized figure holding a torch. To the right of the logo are navigation links: 'Scholarships', 'Degree Apprenticeships', 'Student Finance', 'Managing Your Money', 'Articles', 'Login', and 'Register'. A search icon is on the far right. Below the header is a hero section with a background image of a smiling young man with a backpack. The text 'FUND YOUR FUTURE' is overlaid on the left side of the hero image. Below this text is a short paragraph: 'Search and apply for UK scholarships, grants or bursaries for university on our comprehensive database of funding for UK/EU undergraduates and postgraduates and reduce your student debts.' A play button icon is overlaid on the bottom right of the hero image.

FUND YOUR FUTURE

Search and apply for UK scholarships, grants or bursaries for university on our comprehensive database of funding for UK/EU undergraduates and postgraduates and reduce your student debts.

How to find scholarships for university

Going to university can be really expensive. So, a little bit of extra money to help you on the way will always be welcome. That's where scholarships come in.



https://www.whatuni.com/advice/money/how-to-find-scholarships-for-university/80189/?campaign=57991&utm_source=wusocial&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=General2023&utm_term=brand&utm_content=wu_social_wusocial_general2023_brand_scholarships



<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-hub-live#webform-client-form-375971>

Coming up live in the UCAS Hub...

Wherever you're at with your plans, we've teamed up with careers, higher education, and application specialists to help you take your next steps. Plus we'll be talking to current uni students and apprentices who will be bringing you some serious insight on student life, the things they wish they knew, and how to choose the right path for you.

So, whether you're looking for practical tips on how to start your application or write a winning personal statement, or simply looking for some inspiration, we're here with the experts to help.

Hub live sessions

How to finish your uni application.

With the 31 January fast approaching, we've got experts on hand to answer your last minute questions so you can finally hit submit.

Ask a question in advance for the panel to answer

17 January 2024 16:00

How to apply for an apprenticeship

Hear from employers and apprentices on what the application process involves, what you should include and common mistakes to avoid.

Ask a question in advance for the panel to answer

7 February 2024 16:00

Application sent! What next?

We'll talk you through your next steps when it comes to applying for finance and accommodation and give you some tips on how to survive as a student.

Ask a question in advance for the panel to answer

21 February 2024 16:00

How to make yourself employable

Hear from the experts on how to future proof your career and how to make your CV stand out from the crowd.

Ask a question in advance for the panel to answer

6 March 2024 16:00

Studying in the UK

There's a lot to consider when moving to a new country. We explore accommodation, visas, scholarships and everything in between.

Ask a question in advance for the panel to answer

20 March 2024 11:00

YEAR13

Mock exams are now completed, and marking is underway.
Students will receive their exam grades on a mock results day

Monday 11th December.

Year 13 Parents evening will take place on

Wednesday 13th December.

Booking information will be emailed out shortly. This will be a face to face event in school where parents, teachers and students can discuss progress, predicted grades and how to achieve the best outcomes possible in the summer.



We wanted to update you with the latest information on the contextual offers UWE Bristol will make to eligible applicants for 2024 entry.

Our contextual offer is a UCAS tariff point reduction of 16 tariff points for all undergraduate degree courses and 8 tariff points for foundation year courses (below the standard entry requirements). This applies to all full time and part time undergraduate and foundation courses, for home applicants only.

This year we are further expanding the eligibility criteria of our offer, providing support to more under-represented learners. These now include UCAS's Widening Participation questions that applicants complete as part of the standard UCAS application form. For more detail on what these questions cover, please see our [contextual offers web pages](#).

Applicants don't need to fill in any additional forms to see if they qualify for a contextual offer from us. They just apply through UCAS in the normal way and we will be in touch with eligible students if we are able to make them a contextual offer.

Contextual offer holders will have the opportunity to sign up to our 'Access to UWE' programme. This includes support with transition into university level study and student life, including online webinars and activities.

To find out more about our approach to contextual admissions, please see our contextual offers web pages below.

https://www.uwe.ac.uk/courses/applying/undergraduate-applications/contextual-offers?utm_campaign=14227998_11-2023%20Schools%20and%20Colleges%20-%20Contextual%20offers%20%26%20Access%20Fair%20invite&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Dotmailer%20-%20General%20account&dm_i=1HO4,8GYE6,F3WKD3,YZUTH,1

Access to UWE Bristol – Access Fair

Wednesday 27 March 2024

Event itinerary

12:00 – 12:30	Arrive at Frenchay Campus and registration. Meet Student Ambassadors. (2X242)
12:30 - 13:00	Welcome and introduction to UWE, delivered by the Widening Access Team (2X242) Includes information from support services: UWE Cares, Access and Learning Strategies, Wellbeing Services, Student Advice and the Widening Access team to explain contextual offers.
13:00 - 13:30	Student Money Service – Talk Includes information about financial support whilst at UWE Bristol. (2X242)
13:30 – 14:00	Support Services Fair (1X102) Individually meet representatives from the different support services here at UWE Bristol. This is an opportunity to have a chat and ask any questions you may have.
14:00 – 15:00	Campus tour with UWE Student Ambassadors

15:00-15:30

Evaluation and departure
2X242

Support services involved in support services fair

- UWE Cares (support for carers, care leavers and estranged students)
- Library/ Study Skills and PAL (Peer Assisted Learning)
- Disability Support Services
- Access and Learning Strategies (supporting neurodivergent students including ADHD, ASD, dyslexia)
- Equity (personal and professional opportunities for minority ethnic students)
- Wellbeing and Drugs & Alcohol Support
- Student Advice
- Accommodation Services
- Centre for Sport & Centre for Music
- UCAS Application Support
- Student Money Service



Next week sees the start of December and the launch of our Christmas celebrations.