CIST OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2026

SERVING SCHOOLS.

As schools are returning after their half-term break, we've been looking back at what we've been up to during the last few weeks. In our October 'Hall of Fame' primary assemblies we quizzed the pupils on classic food combinations including fish and chips, mac and cheese and locusts and honey! Pupils learned about John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus and put him first, encouraging others to follow Jesus. Pupils were challenged to think of how they could put other people first both in school and at home.

Our secondary pupils have been exploring their identity and how they've changed since primary school. Through the story of David being chosen as king, pupils discussed their ideas about what God thinks of us. Pupils raised so many interesting questions: Is God proud of us?; Do our stories matter to God?; Does God care about our strengths and weaknesses?; What about AI and identity? What a privilege it is to explore with pupils the relevance of the Bible to life today!

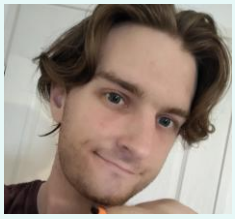
St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy held a special assembly for parents where Year 7 pupils presented something of their experience on their retreat days led by CIST and the Coach House Church. It was lovely to present each form with their identity banners made during each retreat which remind pupils that they are God's masterpiece, and to listen to pupils talk about what the retreat meant to them as they start their Year 7 journey.

PARTNERING CHURCHES

We have been so blessed to be going into Bramhall High with Noel and Dorca, interns from Hazel Grove Baptist Church during October. We are really looking forward to sharing ministry with them over the next few months- here's a little bit about them!



My name is Teodora Hecker, but all my friends call me Dorka. I'm from Budapest, Hungary. I'm 22 and I've just got my university degree in Speech and Languaue Therapy this summer. During my university years, I was active in the Hungarian Fellowship of Evangelical Students where we aimed to reach out to students who don't yet know Christ. I'm super excited to take part in a similar ministry but for a different age group with Christians in Schools. I'm spending 11 months in the UK, from this September to end of July 2027. I'm here to join the Children and Youth Ministry at Hazel Grove



My name is Noel, I'm 24 years old from Hungary. I have been working with HGBC for a month now, and have already learned a lot about Jesus, and about myself. I have a burning desire to know the Lord more, and to show others how much He for cares each and every one of us. God gave us a purpose, to love Him and everyone around us, sharing this with people has become a huge part of my life.

Baptist Church as an intern. Throughout this period I hope to learn more about God, about people, and gain wisdom and courage in sharing the gospel and the love of God.

Please pray for Noel and Dorca as they experience new ways to serve God and settle in, make new friends and worship with our Christian communities.

We are pleased to let you know that we have started a new group at Cheadle Hulme College. Pupils moving from our Cheadle Hulme High group wanted to continue their discussion group as they moved on, and this group is now up and running! God is good!

One of the great joys of partnering with churches is that the capacity of CIST to serve schools increases beyond the CIST workers. We have a number of official partnerships with different churches and volunteers go with us into our secondary schools.

We were approached by Reddish Vale High School to start a 'Big Questions' group, but were unfortunately not able to accommodate the day and time they needed. Our existing partnership with their local church- ECC- meant that we were able to link them up with this school and now a weekly discussion group is being led by their church staff and volunteers with 25 pupils attending!

We are passionate about partnering with any church who has a heart for young people and serving schools, and we are seeing great things happening when God's team across Stockport work together. If your church would like to know how we could work together and support each other, we'd love to hear from you! Email teamleader.cist@gmail.com to start a conversation!

During the last week of term, we joined with All Saints Church Marple at their church week. Pupils visited church each day and explored the theme of 'Pilgrimage'. There was lots of singing, dancing and fun games and activities. Our activity raised some great ideas from pupils of all ages as they matched a huge pile of footwear to appropriate activities and imagined themselves on a walk with God and what questions they would like to ask Him: Are you ok God? Do you like lollipops? Does war make you sad? Will you help guide my life? What's Heaven like? How did you create everything?- Just some of the great questions they came up with! Well done to the All Saints team for hosting such a great week of activities!

Thank you to everyone who came to our supporters' meeting and to All Hallows Church for letting us use their church to host this event. There was so much prayer for our work and for the young people in Stockport. If you were unable to attend, here are the prayer points we shared that could be a focus for you as you uphold our work:

- THANKFUL prayers for all God is doing in our schools.
- For new groups started at Reddish Vale High and Cheadle Hulme College.
- Prayers for Werneth High- we have not been able to arrange for this group to continue this year but believe God still has a plan for His work in this school.
- Prayers for Noel and Dorca
- Prayers for seasonal workers and for financial resources so we can increase our staffing and work in schools.

Thank you as always for all your support- we hope you've found our October news encouraging as you share in a glimpse of just some of the blessings we see every day. Cist Team