



Corfe Hills Newsletter

Learning today for a better tomorrow

A word from Sara Jones, Deputy Headteacher

Dec 2025

As 2025 draws to a close and we reach the end of the longest term of the academic year, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. School life is always busy, and this term has been no exception. Our students have achieved an incredible amount and have made the most of all that is on offer at Corfe Hills School. However, the success of this is only possible because of the strength of the partnership between home and school. As a staff team, we really appreciate contact with home and I am grateful to the many parents/carers who have taken the time to support events, our teachers and our pastoral team as we work together (even during challenging times) to support your child. I am thankful for those who have taken time to provide helpful and constructive feedback.

The school calendar has been packed this term with the school show, mock examinations, our sixth form open evening and careers convention, UCAS applications, curriculum drop down days and our carol service which took place earlier this week at Wimborne Minster. All these events have taken place alongside the many regular activities that take place week by week. Many of you will have seen the excellent production of Chicago (tenne diction) that took place at the end of November. We are incredibly proud of all those who participated in what was an exceptional production. I would like to thank all the staff involved and especially Miss Penny (Head of Drama), Mrs Inskip (Head of Music), Mark Grigsby (parent and LSC member), Oliver Grigsby (Year 13 student) and Dan Diamond (IT/AVA) for their hard work in making this production possible. Our school show is an important part of school life, and I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of both staff and students.





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Our annual sixth form open evening took place in November, alongside our careers convention, providing an excellent showcase of post-16 and post-18 opportunities for Corfe Hills School students. We were delighted to see so many students, from across the year groups, and parents at these events exploring opportunities available within our sixth form and beyond. We are incredibly grateful to have had representation from so many local and national businesses, education providers and an excellent presentation on apprenticeships.

Final preparations have been made for our end of term assemblies which will be a great celebration and recognition of the hard work and commitment of our students as they have learnt to the max this term. As we celebrate our students, I would also like to thank our dedicated staff team who have gone above and beyond in so many ways to ensure we are able to deliver the very best for our students this past year.

Start of term

The new term will begin for all students on Tuesday 6 January 2025. The term will begin on week two of our two-week timetable. Monday 5 January is an Inset day which means that students are not expected to attend school.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Dates for your Diary



- 6 January – All students return to school
- 13 January HPV vaccinations (catch up)
- 15 January – Year 11 Subject Evening
- 26 January – PTA uniform sale
- 26- 30 January – Year 13 Mock exams
- 28 January – Drama Trip to The Lighthouse
- 29 January – Year 9 Core subject Evening
- 16-20 February – Half Term

Photography

Our Autumn term photography competition was on the theme of 'Reflections'.



Oliver Year 10



Year 9 Winner - Jai



Year 10 Winner - Daniel

Photography



Elena Year 12



Jasper Year 10



Year 12 Winner - Elena



Year 11 Winner - Isabelle

Iceland Trip

As the name might suggest, Iceland can be somewhat chilly in November, but this did not stop 32 students from having an amazing time on the trip run by the Geography department. Despite some of their best efforts to ensure otherwise, all students managed to make it to Iceland with all of their mobile phones and suitcases accounted for. Our first day of adventure started with a swim at the Secret Lagoon, where some of them decided the 40°C water was too comfortable, and opted for a dip in the plunge pool which was 4°C! After the swim we went around the corner for a tour and talk at the geothermally heated greenhouses, where thanks to “free” heating they can grow tomatoes all year round. This was a great opportunity for students to see (and taste) the benefits of living in a tectonically active part of the world. Unlimited fresh tomato soup and home made bread made sure we were well-fed for the rest of the day which included a walk around Geysir geothermal area, the stunning Gullfoss waterfall and then a walk through Thingvellir national park. We were then treated to an Aurora display later that night. The next day was an early start and a steep climb up to view Skogafoss waterfall from the top, before going for a closer look at the bottom where those brave enough got soaked! After that we had time to dry off while we drove to Reynisfjara black sand beach near Vik. After a lunch stop in Vik we went to view the Solheimajokull Glacier which was yet another WOW moment, leaving time for one more waterfall on the way home.

Another early start meant we could squeeze in an extra stop at the Kerid crater, which has a frozen lake at the bottom of it. After that it was a whirlwind tour of a geothermal area (with a lovely smell of rotten eggs), a lake which I can't pronounce the name of, and a drive through the town of Grindavik which is now all-but a ghost town since the earthquakes and eruption at the start of this year. Seeing the damage inflicted by the power of nature up-close was quite an experience. We then made our way into Reykjavik where students had some free time to explore, and some even tasted a local delicacy... Fermented shark. Bleurgh. As the sun set we went inside for the lava show where we saw (and felt the heat from) molten rock. Our final day began with a visit to a geothermal power station, and then continued back with more rotten eggs smells at geothermal pools, a famous wooden church, a rugged coastline, a light house and then the grand finale of the bridge between the continents.

Please follow this link to watch a very condensed highlights reel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYjNMgdFU_M

The final details are being put together to run the trip again next year, so watch this space...



Set for Success

Inspiring Our Students with Paralympic Mentor Kate Ager

This term, we have been proud to launch Set for Success, an exciting personal development programme designed to support students in building the skills, attributes and mindset needed to thrive both in school and beyond.

A key highlight of the programme has been working alongside our Paralympic mentor, Kate Ager, whose story and experience have already had a powerful impact on our students. Kate, a former international athlete, brings real-world insight into resilience, goal-setting, teamwork and overcoming adversity. Her sessions encourage students to reflect on their own challenges and recognise that success is built through consistency, effort and belief.

During the first Set for Success session, students explored teamwork and communication, learning how effective collaboration underpins success in sport, education and future careers. Kate shared her own journey, reinforcing the importance of adaptability, perseverance and maintaining a positive mindset when things do not go to plan.

What makes Set for Success particularly exciting is its student led approach. Each month, students will help choose a sport or activity to act as the focus for developing key skills such as leadership, confidence, resilience and problem solving. These activities will take place on site and will provide practical, meaningful opportunities to apply the skills discussed in Kate's mentoring sessions.

Set for Success reflects the commitment to developing well-rounded young people, not just academically capable students. By learning from elite performers like Kate Ager, our students gain valuable insight into what it truly means to succeed not just in sport, but in life.



Design & Technology

Year 12 Charcuterie Board Project – Craftsmanship & Creativity

This term, our talented A' Level Product Design students have been working on an exciting project: designing and making their own charcuterie boards. These boards are not only stylish and functional but also showcase the advanced skills they've developed in their Timbers units.

Each board reflects a combination of precision and creativity, incorporating techniques such as:

Biscuit Jointing – for strong, seamless joins that ensure professional finish.

Laser Cutting – adding intricate patterns and personalized designs for that unique touch.

Routing – creating smooth edges and decorative profiles that elevate the aesthetic appeal.

Complex Shaping – pushing boundaries with ergonomic designs and elegant curves.

The project has been a fantastic opportunity for students to apply their knowledge of materials, tools, and processes in a real-world context. These boards aren't just classroom exercises—they're perfect Christmas gifts, combining beauty and practicality.

We're incredibly proud of the craftsmanship and innovation our students have demonstrated. Their work highlights the importance of design thinking and technical skill, preparing them for future pathways in design, engineering, and beyond



CAM – Changes are Made



In the first week after half term, Corfe Hills welcomed Tracy Jose from the local charity Changes Are Made to our four assemblies.

Tracy is the grandmother of Cameron Hamilton, an 18 year old Bournemouth boy who was fatally stabbed on a night out in the town centre two summers ago

Since her family's devastating loss, Tracy has worked tirelessly to educate local teenagers about knife crime. She hopes that if even one person chooses not to carry a weapon, if even one life is saved, if even one family is protected from the horrific reality of the consequences of someone carrying a knife, then she is making a difference and making Cam proud.

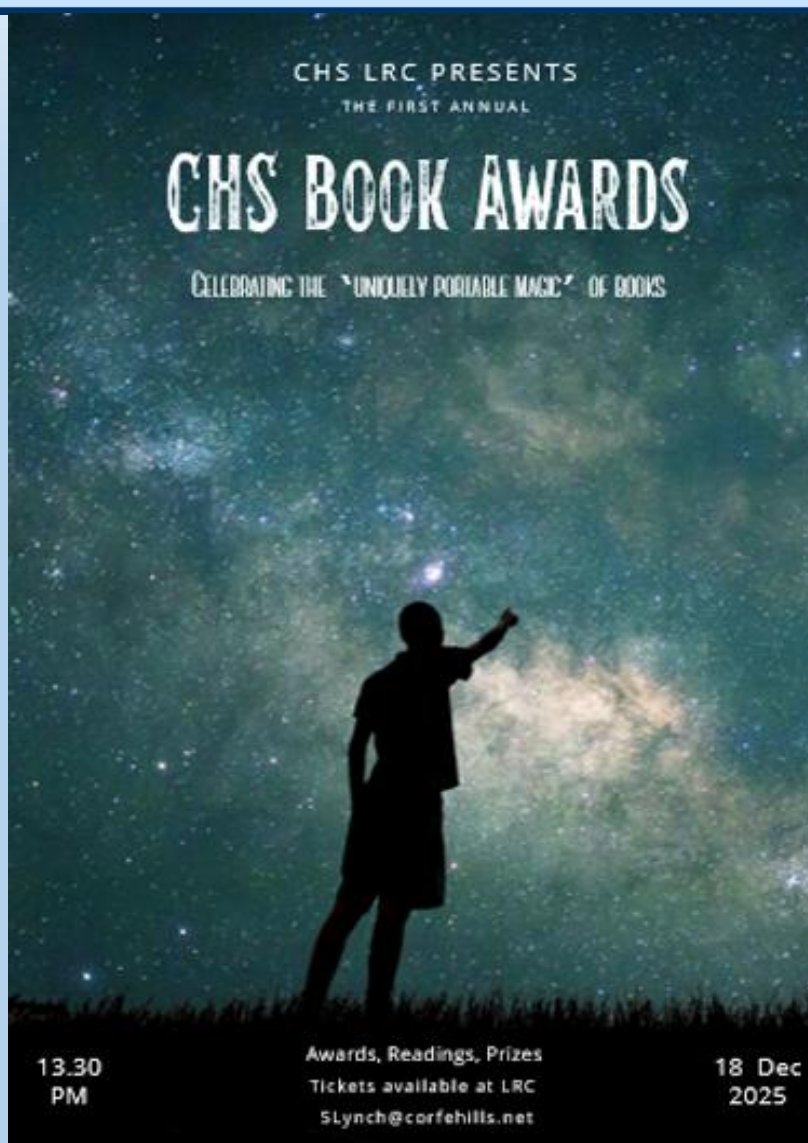
Tracy has her own full time job but takes time off to deliver small group sessions in schools. These assemblies were the largest groups she had ever addressed (approximately 250 students in each of the talks) and, although she was nervous, the opportunity to get CAM's message to so many young people was gratefully received.

Her speeches were powerful and emotional and definitely had an impact on all of our students. Her bravery was also admirable and many students stayed behind to talk to her and thank her for her words.

We hope her visits prompted some open and honest conversations with your child and we are committed to continue working with CAM in the future to safeguard all of our students and other local teenagers.

Following her visits, students decided to donate all monies raised during Anti-Bullying Week to CAM. We managed a cash donation of £120 raised from two bake sales and the epic staff karaoke. Tracy was incredibly grateful and has pledged to continue working with Corfe Hills in the future.

CHS Book Awards



We couldn't be more excited that the government has commissioned 2026 to be a National Year of Reading and with support from the Art's Council aims to change the nation's reading culture for the better!

We love sharing and recommending books at Corfe Hills School and we have finished the term with a wonderful afternoon in the LRC giving out our CHS Book Awards. The awards were nominated by students from across all year groups and showed what amazingly diverse readers we have. Mr Sutton picked up the award for the 'Teacher who most brings reading to life' and was noted for his commitment to a wide range of very authentic accents!

We are really looking forward to bringing more book related events to the LRC next year and don't forget the school library is open every day at break and lunchtime to borrow & return books or to browse for reading inspiration!



Beyond the Book



'Beyond the Book' is a unique reading group that we run at Corfe Hills School. Each term a small group of students are invited to join this interactive reading experience in the LRC. We share reading a book and the students open gifts they can keep, that link to the book we're sharing. This month we have finished with a terrific story, 'Jurassic Park' by Michael Crichton. This is a higher level book that got our students considering the appropriate use of genetic engineering and what it's consequences might be.

Students from years 9,10 and 11 joined together to read this epic tale of dinosaurs and man made disaster.

We opened our camouflage bags to receive Jurassic Park security passes, magnetic bookmarks, maps, small pieces of amber and dinosaur keyrings. We ate beef jerky (in honour of poor Nedry) and we played the John Williams soundtrack as we shared the reading of this epic adventure story. Our thanks go to the Science technicians who set us up some microscopes so we could look at bird embryos and frog samples.

Students commented 'I thought the book would be similar to the film but the book was far more graphic and exciting and it killed off some key characters, which I didn't expect' and 'I hadn't read a book for fun for quite sometime and I wouldn't have chosen this one but it was really good!'

If you would like your child to be involved in 'Beyond the Book' please email Mrs Lynch, LRC Manager slynch@corfehills.net or contact your child's English teacher to nominate them for one of our groups in 2026.



Year 9 Rugby

Today marked a real milestone for our Year 9s; our first rugby fixture in many years and what a spirited return to the field it was. We were able to field 19 keen and committed players, all eager to pull on the shirt and represent the school with pride.

From the first whistle, the boys showed passion, perseverance and no shortage of courage, putting in some thunderous tackles and making several strong carries. Despite facing a well-drilled BCS side who have been playing and training together for the past two years, our lads refused to shy away from the challenge. The physicality never dipped, the effort never wavered, and the team spirit was evident throughout.

The final scoreline of 38–0 doesn't reflect the determination or the heart shown by our players today. For many, this was their first ever competitive rugby match – and they handled it superbly.

This is just the beginning. With more fixtures lined up in the New Year and the Dorset Schools 7s tournament on the horizon in the spring, the future looks bright for this developing squad. Plenty to build on, and plenty to be proud of.



Bath University Trip

We had an inspiring and action-packed day out at the University of Bath. From cutting-edge laboratories to world-class facilities, the experience brought theory to life in the best possible way.

Our visit began in the sports science labs, where we learned how researchers analyse performance, movement, and physiology at the highest level. Seeing the equipment in action gave us a clear insight into how data is collected and used to improve athletic performance and reduce injury risk.

We then moved into the sports hall for field-based testing of key components of fitness. Using professional timing gates, we tested speed and agility, while strength testing equipment allowed us to measure power and force output. It was exciting to experience the same methods used with elite athletes and to compare results across the group.

The day finished with a tour of the University of Bath's outstanding sports facilities. From indoor halls to outdoor training spaces, everything was designed to support performance, recovery, and development. The scale and quality of the facilities were genuinely impressive and showed why Bath is regarded as one of the UK's leading universities for sport.

Overall, it was a motivating and memorable day that deepened our understanding of sports science and highlighted the opportunities available in this field.



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Charity Wreath Making

Our Christmas wreath-making workshop in support of Lewis-Manning Hospice was a great success this year. The event welcomed 40 guests, expertly supported by 10 student leaders from our Sixth form, who volunteered their time and energy to help the evening run smoothly. The atmosphere was relaxed, festive, and full of creativity, with everyone enjoying the chance to design beautiful wreaths — alongside mulled wine and mince pies — while socialising and supporting a fantastic local cause.

We are incredibly proud to share that the event raised over £1,000 for Lewis-Manning Hospice, helping to support the charity's vital work providing specialist care, practical support, and companionship to patients and families living with life-limiting illness. To learn more about the charity and the work they do, please visit <https://lewis-manning.org.uk>.

It was a truly fun and rewarding evening that brought students, staff, and families together for a meaningful purpose, and we are delighted to confirm that the wreath-making workshop will return again next year so we can continue supporting this organisation.

Thank you to the volunteers from Lewis-Manning and our student leaders, for hosting this special evening.

Finally, if you wish to support Lewis-Manning after Christmas, they offer a Christmas Tree collection service — please visit [Christmas Tree Collection - Lewis-Manning Hospice Care](#) for further details. Merry Christmas!



Charities

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Hope for Food Christmas collection, our sixth form student leaders will be delivering a generous array of food, toiletries and warm blankets before the end of term.

Hope for Food are a locally based Bournemouth charity who provide family and community support as well as assisting the homeless. Huge amounts of time and effort are put in by their volunteers and behind the scenes to help people in need. Thank you for all your kind donations.



Ice Cream Van

A big thank you to Ice Cream Bournemouth who have donated £550 to the school from the sales of ice creams during the Summer and Autumn term after school.

Save The Children
Christmas Jumper Day.
Thanks to everyone
who took part in
Christmas Jumper
Day. We raised over £100



News from the LRC

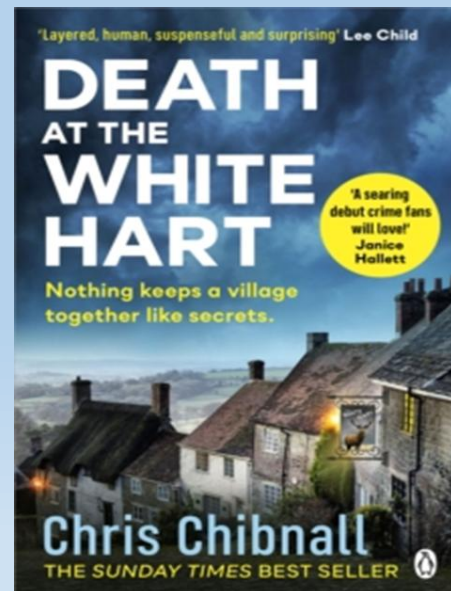
Little Free Library

Students from our Year 12 book club have ensured that the Little Free Library at the front of the school is looking suitably festive. It's well stocked with books by Charlie Higson, Philippa Gregory, Chris Bradford, Katie Fforde and even some Michael Morpurgo, so don't worry if Santa doesn't deliver what you want - there's a good supply of free books for you to take or donate. The CHS Little Free Library is open throughout the Christmas break. Keep reading!



Parents' Book Club

Our Parents' Book Club has had a wonderful final meeting of 2025 with mulled wine and festive treats in the LRC! We are a small, friendly group and everyone is welcome. If you would like to make your New Year's resolution to get into reading, then please join us on Monday 19 January 2026 from 6pm. (we meet on the third Monday of the month). We will be discussing 'Death at the White Hart' by Chris Chibnall - this is a must read, contemporary murder mystery set in a village in Dorset.



Chris Chibnall was the creator of Broadchurch and this is his first novel that is just as pacy and gripping. It's full of secrets but will you guess the murderer's identity before the final pages? If you would like to join the Parents Book club please send an email to slynch@corfehills.net and we look forward to seeing you on 19 January at 6pm.

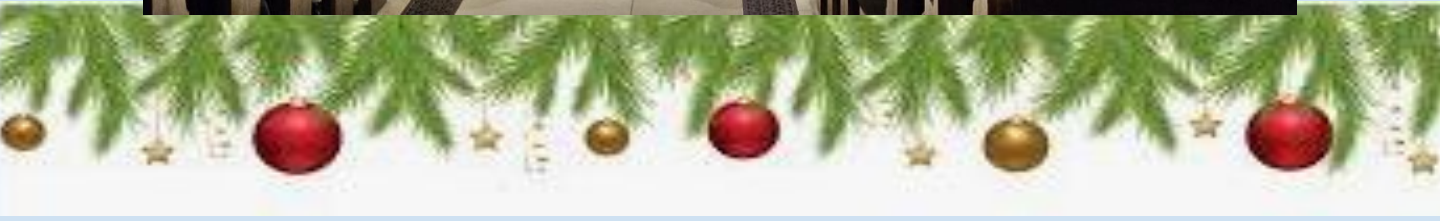
Carol Concert

On Monday 15 December, our school community gathered in the magnificent setting of Wimborne Minster for our annual carol service. This year's theme, 'Joy', was beautifully reflected throughout the evening, creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere as we entered the final week of term.

The service featured wonderful music from our talented school choir and soloists, whose performances filled the church with festive spirit. Interspersed with these were meaningful readings delivered by members of our school community, reminding us of the true essence of joy during this season.

A special thank you goes to our tech department for designing and crafting the lovely tree decorations that added a personal touch to the occasion. We are also deeply grateful to our organist for the evening, Mr David Beeby, whose exceptional playing brought an extra layer of grandeur to the occasion. Finally, our heartfelt thanks to Wimborne Minster for once again welcoming us into their historic and awe-inspiring church.

The carol service was the perfect way to begin the festive celebrations and share in the joy of music, community, and reflection. As we move beyond this special evening, let us continue to spread joy—not only throughout the festive season but into the year ahead.



Chiacago School Show



CHICAGO
TEEN EDITION

“The final week of November saw students from all year groups come together to perform ‘Chicago Teen Version’ musical. The four performances were truly excellent and really demonstrated the collaborative spirit, commitment and talent the young people involved possess. Such endeavours do not happen overnight and I hope the students feel rightly proud of their dedication, enthusiasm and skill which created such great entertainment.” Mrs Penny & Mrs Inskip

“It was really amazing! I had such a great time and I made lots of new friends, I loved my parts in the show and the rehearsals were very fun, I think we all did amazing and I am grateful that I did it, also a huge thanks to Mrs Penny and Mrs Inskip and everyone in it!!” Yr 11 Student.

“It was an amazing experience, especially as playing the role of Roxie. The music and directing was incredible and it was truly an experience I will not forget.” Yr 11 Student

“I really enjoyed this because of how many new friends I made whilst the rehearsal and performing.” Year 9 Student

Food Technology

Year 10 have been making gateaux in Food Tech over the last 2 weeks. They have all done amazingly well with their sponge and decorating skills!!



Examination certificates



Exam certificates from the Summer of 2025 can be collected from the school reception if you no longer attend Corfe Hills. If someone is collecting them on your behalf, they will need to have their ID and written permission from you.

Certificates are kept securely for 12 months and can be collected from reception.

If you are still attending the school, you will receive your exam certificates from your tutor.

External Events



"An Evening of Song"
in aid of the
Mayor's Charities

Monday 26 January 2026 - 7pm
Tickets £10 - Doors open at 6.30pm

Allendale Community Centre
Hanham Rd Wimborne Minster

Join us for a lovely evening filled with beautiful performances by talented local choirs, all in support of a great cause.

to book please call the Allendale Centre 01202 887247 or contact Gary Mason 01202 881655



Open Morning
Saturday 17th January
10am & 11am sessions

Coastland College
KINGSTON MAURWARD



Open Evening
Tuesday 20th January
5pm - 7pm

Coastland College
WEYMOUTH



family lives

Anxiety around ADHD

The workshop helps parents and carers navigate:

- What is ADHD
- Understanding why a child with ADHD may also have anxiety
- Explore strategies to help support you and your child
- Signposting to other support that is available

Tuesday 27 January 2026, 9.30am - 11.30am
Thursday 29 January 2026, 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Online via MS Teams

UNDER 18'S YOUTH DARTS

Alderney West Community Centre
Bedford Road South
Poole BH12 4PR

Most Saturday mornings from 09:30 until 12:30, please check before attending.

£2 per week. Refreshments available.

Players must be able to throw from the standard throwing distance of 7ft 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in and be able to retrieve their own darts from the board (stool may be used).

Please contact:
Kevin: 07841 406067
Donna: 07887 685790
for more information.



Tuesday 27 January 2026, 9.30am - 11.30am
Thursday 29 January 2026, 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call **Lesley** on **020 4522 8701**, email services@familylives.org.uk or scan our QR code to use our online referral form

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: The Annex, York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, AL9 5AD.

Social Media



@CorfeHillsSchool

@CorfeHillsSchool



@CorfeHills



Keep in the loop of what is going on at Corfe Hills School!

Spread the great work CHS students and staff do by sharing CHS posts on social media or/and letting friends and family know of our school events!

Friends of Corfe Hills – PTA

Second-hand uniform to buy



Blazer	£10.00
Hoodie	£7.00
Jumper	£5.00
Trousers	£2.00
Skirt	£2.00
Sports shorts*	£5.00
Sports tops *	£5.00
<u>Girls</u> leggings*	£5.00
<u>Boys</u> tracksuit bottoms*	£5.00
White shirts	Free
Socks	Free



*Please note that only current Year 11s are permitted to wear the old PE kit.

NEXT SALE: Monday 26th January 2026 5-6pm

If you have any unwanted uniform items,
please recycle them by dropping them into reception.
(Please ensure they are washed and inside a carrier bag if possible)

Money raised will be put to good use by the PTA!

Sales usually take place in January and July.
Unfortunately, we're not able to organise individual sales at other times.

If you're able to help out at a sale (and get first choice of the uniform),
please contact the PTA: pta@corfehills.net