

CHARTER NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Events calendar updated**



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***In Loving Memory Of
Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, The Queen Mother***

***With deepest respect and heartfelt sorrow,
the Charter International School community
honours Her Majesty's grace, compassion,
and lifelong devotion to the people of Thailand.***

***Her boundless kindness, wisdom, and love
will forever remain in our hearts.***





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's that time of year, when every news article, blog, social media post talks of wrapping up the year. Even Spotify does it. And no, I am not telling you what my 'Spotify age' is! (the dangers of the data that platforms collect on us is for another Charter News.)

I do want to take a moment to reflect on everything our community has achieved together this term. The past months have been filled with learning, creativity, perseverance, and countless moments that remind us why schools are such special places. Watching our students grow: not just academically, but in confidence, kindness, and curiosity is always a true privilege. I am sure you and your children have their own special, unique memory and highlight of the term.

This time of year also invites us to slow down, reconnect, and make space for the things that nourish us. One of the simplest yet most powerful gifts we can share with

one another is the love of reading. I know I will be doing plenty of it over the break!

Not just reading because your teacher tells you to, but reading because it is fun, it is the passport to a world of deep knowledge that can take us back to the past, and into someone else's head,

Whether it's a familiar story revisited, a new world waiting to be discovered, or just a quiet moment spent with a book and a cup of something warm, reading has a way of bringing comfort, inspiration, and connection. I encourage all our families to find time over the holidays to read together—aloud, side by side, or simply sharing recommendations. These moments build memories and strengthen the foundations of lifelong learning.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our teachers

and staff for their extraordinary commitment throughout the term. Their dedication, care, and tireless effort ensure that our students feel supported, challenged, and valued every day.

To our parents and families, thank you for your partnership, trust, and encouragement. And to our students—your enthusiasm, humour, and determination are what make our school community vibrant and joyful.

As we head into the festive season, I wish every one of you peace, rest, and time with the people who matter most. May your holidays be filled with warmth, good stories, and moments of quiet joy.

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Ho ho ho!

Neil Elrick
Head of School

AMAZING THAILAND MARATHON

Mr. Brown and Ms. Waite took on the ATM Half Marathon, both achieving personal bests. It was an especially memorable milestone for Tom, as it marked his very first half marathon.





PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

Messages from Head of Primary

What an amazing term of learning it has been.

I was so sorry not to be in school for the final week, but I am incredibly grateful for the outstanding deputisation from Mr Tom Brown and to Mrs Janet McDonald for stepping up and leading the school during such a fun-filled and celebratory week. Christmas is always a special time at Charter, as we come together through song, performance, and community spirit.

A heartfelt thank you to Miss Air for her exceptional work on both Christmas shows. They were

once again of an excellent standard and sensitively adapted to honour our Thai national period of mourning. The children also thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas parties as well as the traditional visit from Santa to our youngest learners.

Thank you, as always, to our Charter families - you truly hold our community together, and the children are always so proud to share their learning with you.

When we look back on the highlights of Term 1, there is so much to celebrate: our incredible Sports Days, memorable trips to the theatre and the Chocolate

Factory, daily reading routines across every class, amazing progress the students are making in their reading, rich play-based learning in Early Years, and the many joyful year-group assemblies.

It has been a term full of growth, laughter, curiosity, and connection.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful and safe Winter Break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year on Monday, 5th January 2026.

Warm regards,
Julie Kelly
Head of Primary



WHAT'S HAPPENING...



5 SENSES IN KINDERGARTEN

Over the past five weeks, we have been exploring our five senses in Kindergarten: sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste.

For smell, the children explored a variety of scents, from familiar ones such as chocolate, soy sauce, soap, and coffee to stronger smells like vinegar, onion, garlic, and dried fish. They enjoyed guessing each scent and sharing their reactions.

When learning about taste, we tried salty sticks, sweet chocolate biscuits, sour lemon juice, spicy crisps, and bitter dark chocolate balls. The children talked about each flavour and which ones they liked or disliked.

We explored sight through shadow hunting and hide-and-peek, noticing how light helps us see and how shadows change as we move. For hearing, we took a nature walk and listened to birds, cars, water dripping from the fountain, and splashes from the gardener's hose.

For touch, the children felt smooth, rough, soft, hard, warm, and cold surfaces. These activities helped them understand how their senses work together.



YEAR 1 - EXIT POINT

Year 1 concluded their IPC topic *What's It Made Of?* with a wonderfully creative Exit Point, joined by their parents and guardians. As part of their international learning, the children explored houses from around the world, comparing similarities and differences and discussing the materials used and the reasons behind these choices.

To add a touch of festive magic, the children created their very own winter houses! Working in pairs, they carefully planned their designs before guiding their parents and guardians in bringing their imaginative ideas to life. The afternoon was filled with teamwork, laughter, and plenty of glue, paint, and glitter! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and guardians for their enthusiasm, creativity, and support. You truly helped make this Exit Point sparkle!



YEAR 2 - DROP EVERYTHING AND READ



Year 2 were really lucky to have so many parents turn up to our D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read).

We started off showing the parents some reading tips that we use in class, (paired and shared reading) then the children chose some books and sat with their parents reading.

We had a lovely turnout, so thank you Year 2 parents for making that happen!



YEAR 3 EXIT POINT - VANISHING RAINFORESTS

Year 3 held their Exit Point for our Vanishing Rainforests unit. Parents, teachers and other classes joined us as the students led a range of activities they had prepared themselves.

Families took part in rainforest animal games, explored a fact hunt around the primary hallway, learned how to create a mind map, and helped design posters about deforestation.

The children did a wonderful job explaining their learning and guiding each activity with confidence and enthusiasm. It was a busy and joyful afternoon, and we would like to thank everyone who came along to support the students and celebrate their work.



CELEBRATING CHOCOLATE: A SWEET SUCCESS!

What a delightful exit point we had for our Year 4 Chocolate IPC! It was wonderful to see so many family members join us in celebrating the students' hard work. The enthusiasm was infectious, and it was clear that everyone was eager to share in the amazing tasting chocolate that our young entrepreneurs had created. The atmosphere was filled with chatter and excitement as families sampled the delicious treats. It was a joy to witness our students showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit, demonstrating creativity and teamwork. They truly are entrepreneurs in the making!

As we enjoyed the sweet rewards of their efforts, we also took a moment to reflect on an important message behind our project: the significance of buying fair trade products. By choosing fair trade, we can help support farmers and communities around the world, ensuring that everyone benefits from our love of chocolate. Thank you to all who participated and made this event so enjoyable!



5G WEATHER VANES

Class 5G had a fantastic time designing and making their own weather vanes as part of our IPC unit on *Weather and Climate*.

Using cardboard, card, protractors, pens, scissors, pencils, and pins, the pupils carefully constructed and adjusted their instruments before putting them to the test.

They experimented both inside the classroom and outdoors to observe how their weather vanes responded to changes in air movement. Through this hands-on activity, the class developed a deeper understanding of how weather is reported, particularly how wind direction is measured using compass points and degrees.

They learned how accurate readings help meteorologists describe and predict weather patterns. It was a fun, practical experience, and the class gained a great deal of knowledge along the way.



EY & KS1 CHRISTMAS CONCERT: DRUM DREAM GIRL

Our young performers delighted the audience with a beautiful Christmas Concert inspired by Drum Dream Girl. Each year group showcased different drums, along with joyful singing and dancing.

Year 2 students also narrated the story, bringing the performance to life. A wonderful celebration of music and festive cheer!



KS2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT: CHRISTMAS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our KS2 students presented a heartfelt Christmas Concert titled Christmas of Remembrance, honouring the passing of the Queen Mother of Thailand.

The concert opened with beautifully read poems dedicated to Her Majesty, creating a thoughtful and respectful atmosphere. Each year group performed with confidence, singing beautifully and showcasing a range of instruments.

It was a meaningful and memorable tribute from our young performers. Well done, everyone!



MANDARIN CLASS END-OF-TERM KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION

To conclude the term, our Mandarin classes held a lively Knowledge Competition. Students worked in teams and took turns choosing and answering questions, with each question worth different points depending on its difficulty. The group with the highest total score became the winner.

This activity was not only enjoyable but also an effective way for students to review the vocabulary, sentence structures, and cultural topics learned this term. The competitive format encouraged quick recall, teamwork, and clear communication, as students had to work together and make confident decisions.

Most importantly, the competition helped students recognise what they had mastered and which areas needed more practice. It brought great energy to our final lesson and gave everyone a meaningful sense of achievement as they wrapped up their Mandarin learning for the term.



CHRISTMAS BOXES

A massive thank you to all families that donated in our Christmas box house fundraiser.

We raised an incredible 170 boxes. Lanta raised 70 boxes, Samet raised 52 and Phuket raised 48.

This will go a long way to helping the children of the mercy centre have a wonderful Christmas and New Year period.

A special thank you also goes to our brilliant house captains who helped to run the event.

Thank you all and have a wonderful holiday season.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



ANGIE

We are delighted to celebrate Angie (Year 3), who recently participated in the Bambi Games Gymnastics Competition (Bambi Games Invitational Meet).

Angie delivered an outstanding performance, proudly earning four gold medals, one in each apparatus. This is a remarkable achievement that reflects her dedication, discipline, and passion for gymnastics.

Congratulations to Angie on this fantastic accomplishment. We wish her continued success in her sporting journey.



NIKE

We are delighted to celebrate Nike (RT) for her wonderful achievement at the Rising Star Competition 2025.

Nike proudly received the Gold Prize in the 4-6 years age category. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a reflection of her confidence, dedication, and talent at such a young age.

Congratulations, Nike! We are very proud of you and wish you continued success in the future.



KYUU AND KEEN

We are pleased to celebrate the achievement of Kyuu (Year 5G) and Keen (Year 5N), who recently took part in the Youth Ice Naka Championships 2025, U9 Division 1, as members of the BKK Thailanders Team, held from 5–7 December.

In a highly competitive final match against a strong team from Hong Kong, both teams demonstrated excellent skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Kyuu and Keen’s team achieved 1st Place in the tournament.

Congratulations to Kyuu and Keen on this wonderful accomplishment, and well done to all athletes for their dedication and effort throughout the competition.





SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Head of Secondary

As we come to the end of term, I would like to wish all our students and families a very happy and restful Christmas break, wherever you choose to spend it. I hope this time provides an opportunity to pause, recharge, and enjoy time together after a busy and rewarding term.

The final fortnight of term has been truly exceptional. Our Residential Week provided rich and meaningful experiences for students across Secondary, with some wonderful feedback highlighting the independence, resilience, and personal growth demonstrated throughout the week. These experiences continue to play an important role in developing confidence, teamwork, and a strong sense of responsibility in our students.

We then rounded off the term in fantastic style with an outstanding Christmas Concert and Service Project Fete. The quality of performances in the Lily Theatre was exceptional, and it was particularly special to see so many students given the opportunity to perform on the fete's outdoor stage. The vibrant atmosphere created by students, families, and staff reflected a genuine sense of community and celebration, and showcased the creativity, enterprise, and service ethos that sit at the heart of our Secondary provision.

Please note that all students in Years 11-13 will return to school as scheduled during the break to sit their mock examinations. We wish them the very best as they continue

their preparation and encourage them to use the break to rest well while also revising thoughtfully.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for your continued support throughout the term. I wish you all a safe, joyful, and well-deserved break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Warm regards,
Mr. Adam Plant
Head of Secondary

WHAT'S HAPPENING...



YEAR 7 - KANCHANABURI TRIP

32 excited year 7s set off for the wilds of Kanchanaburi. Over four days they conquered paddleboarding on the famous river Kwai, a long sweaty hike up to Erawan waterfall and mastered the traditional techniques of raft building.

We enjoyed a whole day on a riverside campsite and the eager pioneers learned how to cook outdoors, put up and fold down tents, and most exciting of all they learned the vital bushcraft skill of fire making using flint and tinder.

Students were very well behaved and are a credit to parents and the Charter community.



YEAR 8 - SAMUT SONGKHRAM TRIP

Year 8 students enjoyed an engaging 4-day, 3-night experiential learning trip across Samut Songkhram and Ratchaburi, filled with hands-on activities and cultural exploration.

The journey began at a local salt farm, followed by a visit to the Klong Khon Mangrove Forest for wildlife spotting, mangrove planting, and an evening firefly tour. Students then explored the vibrant Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, learned the art of shadow puppetry at Wat Khanon, and created their own pottery designs in Ratchaburi.

On the next day, the group visited the Amphawa Chaipattananurak Project, where they learned about sustainable community development through agricultural exhibits and local demonstrations. Students have a variety of hands-on activities there. They then continued to Na Satta Park on the last day, immersing themselves in Thai culture through sculptures, architecture, and interactive displays that brought history and traditions to life.

The trip offered students meaningful learning experiences, strong cultural connections, and unforgettable memories—blending education, creativity, and adventure at every step.



YEAR 9 - VIETNAM TRIP

Our trip to Vietnam was filled with excitement, enjoyment, and unforgettable shared experiences. We began at the War Remnants Museum, where students explored powerful and thought-provoking exhibits that deepened their understanding of Vietnam's complex history. Later, the Cu Chi Tunnels proved a major highlight, with many students bravely navigating the underground tunnel system and gaining a real sense of the conditions faced during the war.

Across the trip, we enjoyed an abundance of incredible Vietnamese food. Students (and teachers!) tucked into steaming bowls of pho, flavourful noodle dishes, freshly made bánh mì, and a variety of magnificent sweet treats that quickly became group favourites.

In Hue, the Ancient Imperial Citadel fascinated students as they learned about past kingdoms and the lives of Vietnamese royalty, but it was the third evening that undoubtedly stood out for most: the royal banquet. With fantastic food and the chance to dress as emperors, empresses, and members of the royal court, students enjoyed unforgettable moments and plenty of terrific photo opportunities. The night continued with enthusiastic bus karaoke on the journey back, complete with students and teachers wholeheartedly performing Last Christmas by Wham and even the Backstreet Boys!

The following day's countryside bike ride was great fun, and not even the wet weather could dampen the students' enthusiasm. Throughout the entire trip, every student behaved exceptionally well and was a true credit to the Charter community and their fellow Year 9 students.



YEAR 10 - KHAO YAI TRIP

Our Year 10 students recently completed their International Award practice journey in Khao Yai National Park, developing key skills in teamwork, resilience, and independence. Over the course of the journey, students navigated planned routes, managed their own equipment, and worked collaboratively to overcome physical and environmental challenges.

The experience provided a valuable opportunity for students to put their training into practice while building confidence and perseverance in a real-world setting. Well done to all students for their positive attitude, commitment, and determination throughout the journey as they continue their preparation for the qualifying expedition later in the year.



YEAR 11-12 - DIVING

Our Year 11 and 12 students recently took part in an outstanding PADI diving expedition to Koh Chang, completing their PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water certifications in partnership with BB Divers. Throughout the trip, students trained and dived in a range of conditions, exploring vibrant coral reefs and historic wreck sites while developing their technical diving skills, confidence, and underwater awareness. The experience demanded focus, teamwork, and responsibility, with students demonstrating excellent commitment and maturity both in and out of the water.

Congratulations to all students on successfully achieving their PADI qualifications and representing the school with such enthusiasm and professionalism.

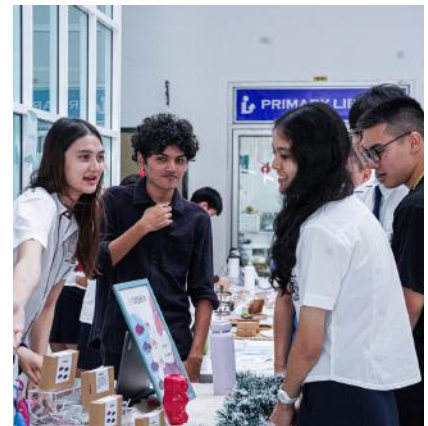


CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS FETE

Our Secondary Christmas Concert and Fete was a joyful celebration of talent, creativity, and community spirit. The concert showcased top-level student performances in the Lily Theatre, with a festive programme that brought a wonderful Christmas atmosphere to the evening.

Following the concert, the celebrations continued with the Christmas Fete, where students demonstrated impressive entrepreneurial skills through their service projects, designing and running a range of games and stalls. A vibrant outdoor stage added to the lively atmosphere, creating a memorable event enjoyed by students, families, and staff alike.

Thank you to everyone involved for making this such a festive and successful community event.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



TAN TAN

We are proud to share that TanTan recently participated in the American Math Olympiad (AMO), an international mathematics competition that challenges students in higher-order thinking, logical reasoning, and non-routine problem solving.

TanTan delivered an outstanding performance, achieving:

- Gold Award
- 7th place in Thailand
- 171st place globally (Gold category)

Congratulations to TanTan on this excellent academic achievement. We commend his dedication and hard work and wish him continued success in his learning journey.

