

DECEMBER 2025



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers

Merry Christmas to you all as we enter the festive season in all of its glory!

Christmas is all about family and friends and sharing in the delight and wonder with everybody. It is also an occasion for recognising and celebrating the small joys in the everyday things that we experience every day.

Christmas is a time for remembering all the things that bring us joy in our lives and warm our hearts and the thing that warms my heart, is the joy that I see on the children's faces at the school every day. Their care for one another, their empathy for one another, the way they encourage each other and the way that they work so hard to achieve their goals. This has been really evident, this term, as I've watched students in both my own classes that I teach and students across the school. I've observed across multiple classrooms, students enjoying praise when it comes their way from their teachers, attentiveness and their willingness to engage in choral response in the classroom and the work that they achieve that they are proud of. The highlights for me are always the child who is desperate to show me the piece of work in their book or has their hand raised to show me how much knowledge they have and can share in the classroom or the homework that's been completed, the project that's been made, or just that they've had a really successful week and they want to show me how many Class Chart points they've earned.

As you may know around Christmas time, some costumes may appear! And so students have seen this month, an inflatable gingerbread man, an inflatable snowman, the Grinch and a penguin! These things are what make us special. We do this because relationships are at the core of everything that we do. We believe fundamentally that good learning is supported by great relationships and the relationships that we strive to have with the children are what make this a very special place to work.

Today had been a magnificent last day of term to celebrate all that is the very best of us, with children on inflatables, receiving awards, taking part in all of the fun activities, watching the Christmas Show and seeing and hearing the inordinate amount of talent on display. But today is also tinged with sadness because we're also saying goodbye to some members of staff at this point.

Two members of staff this term are retiring from our school.

Mrs Lynda Fearn who has worked at the school for an amazing 19 years is retiring from her role as Attendance Manager. In that role, she runs the daily task of making sure registers are accurate and making sure that we are safe and secure, that we know where children are and we know if they're on site. Doing the task of making sure that we have absence notes from young people and their families, so records are accurate, but also ensuring we know that our young people are safe and well; whether they're in the school building or not. It is a busy job and a difficult job at times and it is also a job that

Courageous ~ Ambitious ~ Respectful ~ Encouraging

the school is really reliant on. She's a morning greeter to our children who arrive after 8.30am because of difficulties in bus transport etc. She is the person that makes sure we have all of our registers when there is a fire bell so we can check that every child and every member of staff is accounted for. Attendance Managers are a hugely important role in any school and we are really sorry to see Lynda leave, but also really happy for her that after 19 years, she is ready for retirement, ready to embrace life in its fullest and we will all miss her.

Also leaving, after 25 years and 8 months of service, is Mrs Mandy Underwood. Mrs Underwood has been an amazing source of support. A confidante, a mentor a lean on me for a moment, a guide and a positive motivator.

A worker of many, many, many different roles and responsibilities, but fundamentally, the role that Mandy will be remembered for most, by the children, will be her daily sessions in the canteen on duty and in those moments, she is a friend and guide to every single student that comes through that canteen. She is part of our culture.

We are so sad to lose her but so happy that she is retiring and is going to have a life filled with all of the things that she's been looking forward to doing for some time. But my goodness, do both of these people leave big shoes to fill.

The College is still undergoing active recruitment measures at the moment, but we have appointed in some of those roles. Our wonderful Receptionist, Mrs Taz Locke, has been appointed as our Attendance Manager, so will be stepping into a new role in January, a role that she's really excited about, a role which she takes on the mantle from Mrs Fearn. And we wish her the very best of luck in her new role and we know that she'll absolutely smash it.

You may see some adverts going out over the Christmas break and into the new term as we seek to fill the Receptionist role, so please bear that in mind and be patient with us in the new term as we'll be a little bit short-staffed in some areas as we work systematically to fill those roles with the right people who have the same values and moral fibre that we do.

So, with that news...I wish you all a Merry Christmas and I hope that it is truly a restful and wonderful break with family and friends and good health and joy.

Thank you all so much for your support over this term and we look forward to seeing you all revived and rested after the break.

Kind regards
Wendy Ainsworth



CHRISTMAS SHOW!

The last day of term saw the return of our annual, and eagerly anticipated, Christmas Show! A variety of acts from all year groups performed for their teachers and their peers.

We saw juggling, singing, drumming, a pantomime and even a staff band! It is such a special way to celebrate the talent at our College, and get together on the last day. Perhaps most wonderful of all is the unwavering (and very loud) support our student members in the audience give each other - truly embodying the Christmas Spirit!

Thank you Mr Lane, Miss Turner, your technical team and, of course, the performers for a fantastic show!

YEAR 7 AND 8 STEM EVENT

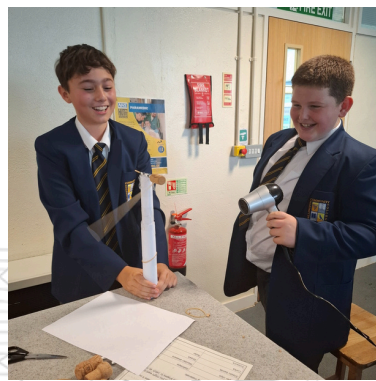
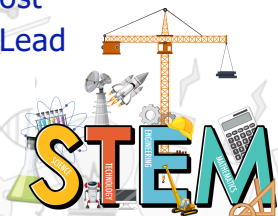
On 3 October, Hayley Hill from Cornwall Climate Care, ran two events for 60 of our Year 7 and Year 8 STEM students.

Year 7s took part in a workshop about renewable energy, climate change and had fun making wind turbines.

Year 8 students took part in a workshop about oceans and climate change, and looked at the difference between preindustrial oceans and acidic oceans and biodiversity, using lego to model different sea creatures.

It was another enjoyable and thought provoking workshop run by Hayley, with great questions from the students.

Mrs Frost
STEM Lead



DUKE OF EDINBURGH 2025-2026

I am pleased to report that as we round off awards from 2024/25, 31 students have achieved their Bronze award and 11 Silver. A number of students have one or two things to finish having completed their expedition and most of their goals, I am optimistic that these numbers will rise over the coming weeks.



The momentum we have generated over the last couple of years has continued in to this year. Having just launched DofE 2025 I am pleased to report we currently have over 50 Bronze and 22 Silver participants.

Having started a number of students on their Gold journey last year, completing their expedition at the end of Year 11, I am hopeful a number of this year's cohort will start their Gold award as they turn 16.

The 2025/26 cohorts have embarked on their DofE journey, beginning their volunteering, skill and physical goals. I look forward to updating you on their progress in the next newsletter.

If there are any students who would like to get involved, and are yet to, please come and see Mr Mercer.



(A selection of photos above, to show some of the goals started this year. Developing cooking skills, learning how to care for pets, developing art skills, improving the local environment by collecting litter)

MATILDA MUSICAL AUDITIONS LAUNCH AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT

On Monday 1 December, students from across Callington Community College took to the stage to audition for our school musical, Matilda. Over 40 enthusiastic performers got involved in the audition process, and every single one impressed with their confidence, talent and energy.

Rehearsals will begin in January as we embark on this exciting production. The project forms part of the Change My Story programme, delivered in collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Theatre Royal Plymouth.

As well as performing in our school show, participating students will also have the incredible opportunity to attend a dress rehearsal of the currently touring Matilda at Theatre Royal Plymouth in January.

We can't wait to get started and see this magical story come to life on our stage.



YEAR 9 FOOTBALL - NATIONAL CUP FIRST ROUND

This term, the Year 9 team travelled away to Lipson in the first round of the National Cup.



Despite loss, the team battled throughout against a very tough, physical and good side.

The goal of the game coming from us when our Captain Noah K curled in a free kick into the top corner of the net from 35 yards.

We take confidence from this into training and look forward to the Cornwall cup games starting in January.

**MONDAY 5 JANUARY IS AN INSET DAY
- STUDENTS RETURN TO COLLEGE ON
TUESDAY 6 JANUARY**

YEAR 8 LEARN VALUABLE FIRST AID SKILLS

During December, over 150 Year 8 students were been taught vital life-saving First Aid skills including CPR, defibrillator use and bandage/dressing application.

These sessions were expertly led by Peter Salisbury from PCS Medical and our very own Year 12 student, Amilee C-S.

Students engaged respectfully and enthusiastically throughout the training.

Peter has shared that he hopes to make Callington one of the safest places to live through this high quality training to local students.

Many thanks to the Callington Lions and the Rotary Club of Callington for their sponsorship and support of this training.



POETRY WINNER!

Piran B (Y9) recently entered a poem into the Gunnislake Art Exhibition and won first place! Congratulations Piran, a fantastic achievement!

The Beautiful Sunflower

The lone seedling was stretching up to see his friend, the sun.
The seedling was neon green like a sign, flashing in the night sky.
While the seedling fought through the soil, others slept silently beneath the soil.
As they grew, the vibrant sunflowers swayed in the wind like hoisted flags.
A choir of golden faces, crowns of molten light,
Like golden compasses, each seeking the sun's warm hand,
Like clocks set to the hour of hope,
Their faces were like unique coins stamped by the gods.
The largest sunflower had a centre like a peacock's tail
And petals that were lemon stained.
The inner pollen buds look like golden-crowned kernels of corn,
Ready to explode at any minute.
The petals were yellow daggers standing like a fence to protect the sunflower.
The rest of the sunflowers were soldiers standing to attention,
Facing the sun, at early dawn, like warriors in their places -
Those voiceless watchers at the morning's gate.
Their petals, like tattered pages of a summer diary,
Fluttered as the menacing but small butterfly
Was sucking the life out of the innocent, frail sunflower.
The yellow-striped, winged invader viciously attacked the pollen
Of the ochre-stained, peaceful flower.
The night was black as ink.
The once-radiant, towering sunflower wilted as if it were dead,
With its flame-edged seeds ready to start the journey all over again.
The empty seeds look like mini daggers,
Silent beneath the stars,
Waiting for dawn's command.



A BUSY AUTUMN TERM FOR THE MFL DEPARTMENT



The Autumn term has been a busy one in the MFL department.

We started the academic year with assemblies, activities and competitions for the European Day of Languages, where we had a record high number of entries for the MFL themed front book cover competition with over 120 entries of great quality!



We were also very fortunate to have David Binns, CEO of Sanako, visiting our Year 9 students to talk to them about the importance of language learning in the job market. His assembly was as inspirational as always, with some brilliant feedback from students and parents alike, with one parent saying about their children:

"They seemed extremely inspired by the gentleman you had in talking to them yesterday. I think they are starting to dream big and realise they are capable of anything they set their mind to."

Languagenut, our Spanish learning platform, has been incredibly busy with three competitions in total so far this term and students scoring thousands of points.



One of our students became 7th in the country, against hundreds of thousands of students and Callington Community College finished 33rd!

Mr G Alcaniz
Curriculum Leader for MFL

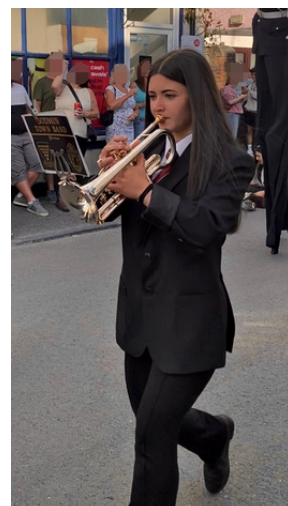
Rank	Name	Points
28	Cressex Community School	34,053,200
29	Sir Robert Pattinson Academy	32,915,300
30	Grace College	32,708,100
31	Ivybridge Community College	32,507,100
32	St Julian's School	31,824,500
33	Callington Community College	31,569,700
34	Rainham Mark Grammar School	31,471,900
35	The Hundred Of Hoo Academy	31,062,100
36	Nova Hreod Academy	30,444,400
37	Oulder Hill Leadership Academy	30,429,700

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S YOUTH BRASS BAND SUCCESS!

We're delighted to share that Elsie C (Y9) has earned a place in the National Children's Youth Brass Band of Great Britain following her outstanding audition in October.

Elsie achieved an impressive overall mark of 89/100, with the examiner praising her performances of Time for Peace and Paragon as "stylish, accomplished, and confident."

All the music staff are incredibly proud of Elsie's achievement and her dedication to music at Callington Community College — well done, Elsie!



RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP

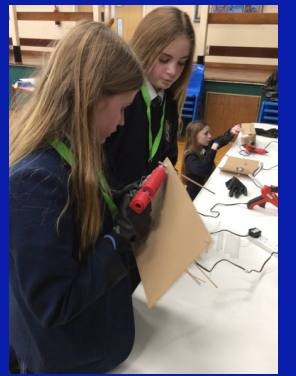
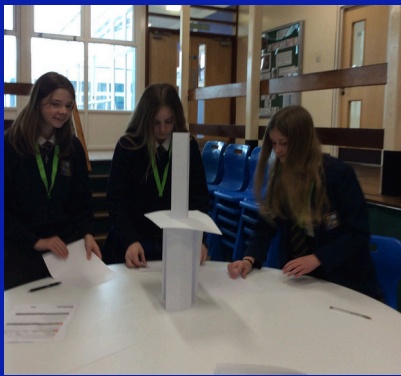
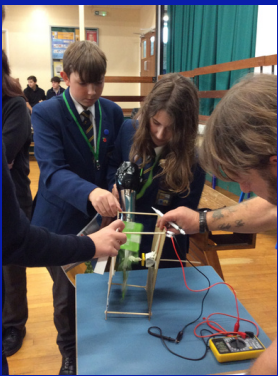
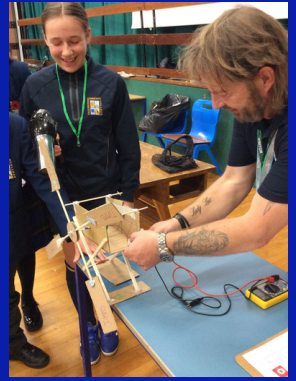
On Thursday 13 November, Fred Boucher from the Smallpeice Trust and two ambassadors from SWW came and led a workshop on renewable energy.

It was highly interactive, with various competitions throughout and students were so engaged and focused on planning and making various renewable energy sources, such as houses with solar panels to wind turbines.

All 60 students took part in a presentation, showcasing their work, and then their wind turbine was tested to see which one produced the highest potential difference.

Every student will receive a CREST Discovery Award and the top three teams received medals.

Fred said the students were incredible and he was extremely impressed with them all!



Sparx Maths Update



Thank you to all of the Parents and Carers that have supported our students with their homework completion, the impact is being seen in class every day.

For the final homework of the year students will be given 3 weeks to complete, so we hope to see our highest completion ever. It will be set on 18 December and due on 8 January.

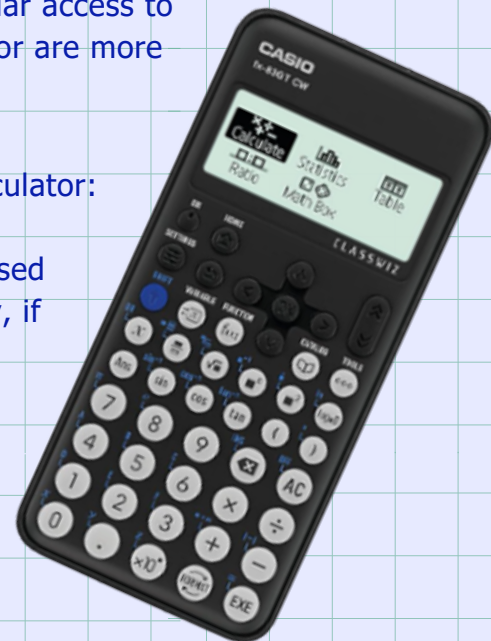
Please support your child to complete as much as they can before we return on 6 January and we will help with any difficulties on our return.

Have an amazing Christmas break and enjoy family time!

Students with regular access to a scientific calculator are more successful.

Recommended Calculator:
Casio fx-83GT CW
This can be purchased via School Gateway, if needed.

A Perfect addition to any students holiday stocking!



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR WEEKLY HIGHEST SPARX XP ANNOUNCEMENTS!



PANDEMONIUM CHOIR SPREADS FESTIVE CHEER AT ST MARY'S CHURCH



The College's "Pandemonium" choir helped to open the festive season in style at the Callington Christmas Tree Festival Opening Ceremony, held in St Mary's Church. The evening brought the community together, featuring joyful performances from Callington Town Band and Callington Primary School, alongside our own talented students.

The College's choir delighted the audience with a sparkling mix of Christmas classics and favourite songs from festive films, including Winter Wonderland, Santa Claus is Comin' to Town, and Carol Of The Bells.

We are incredibly proud to be part of community celebrations like these, sharing music, laughter, and Christmas spirit with our local friends and families.

Mr A Lane

BABCOCK ACTIVITY SESSION

Sixty Students from Year 7 and Year 8 STEM groups (and some of our A level students) took part in another fantastic workshop delivered by Babcock on 11 December.

Mike Thompson led the group of six Babcock employees who explained their amazing jobs and how they got there.

Emma, Dylan and Leo (all ex Callington students) with Adam and George (on the graduates training programme at Babcock), helped run the Lego manufacturing activity, which was highly competitive!

The students absolutely loved the session and I am excited to be planning more events in the New Year with Mike and his team...watch this space!

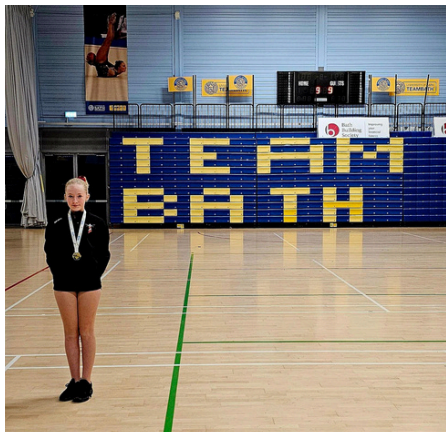
Mrs Frost
STEM Lead



Babcock



BOUNCING INTO FIRST PLACE



Isla H (Year 7) recently competed in the South West Closed Trampolining Competition against other regional clubs, and her team came away with a gold in the Women's U13 Trampoline!

Well done, Isla!

GRADE 8 FOR LILLIE



We are so proud of Year 11 student, Lillie E, who has secured a Grade 8 (with distinction!) in her recent flute examination. Lillie is a permanent fixture in our Music and Drama department and her creativity and talent is endless.

Well done Lillie - what a super star!

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS ROUND UP

This term has seen fixtures, festivals and trips across a number of sports and activities.

We are incredibly proud of all of the students who have taken part, showing real confidence and representing the College brilliantly.

Some highlights are listed below:

U16 football cup matches - the boys team have competed in both the County Cup and ESFA Cup, losing out but showing real character and team work.

U15 girls football cup match ESFA Cup - a fantastic performance from the girls against a strong opposition, this team are keen to improve and develop after the Christmas break.

U14 boys football Cup matches - County and ESFA - some great team performances and lots of potential for this squad heading into the second half of the season.

Cross country league races at Wadebridge and Tavistock - our dedicated runners have enjoyed a strong start to the league this season. With the two most recent races postponed, they are looking forward to the racing resuming in the new year.

GOSH Fun Run - Year 7 and 8 took on a fun run on the 3G, many in fancy dress, in order to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The atmosphere was one of fun and positivity, with many laps completed and £200 raised for the charity.

Yr 9 friendly netball v Launceston - the girls showed real tenacity and skill in this fixture, beating both of the teams that Launceston brought with them. They are looking forward to more fixtures in 2026, to continue developing as a team.

SPORTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY EVENTS

Primary football festival - Year 8 students led skill drills and matches for six local primary schools. For many of the leaders it was their first time being involved in the Leadership Academy, but they all showed confidence and enthusiasm, ensuring that the primary children had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Cornwall School Games - we hosted the qualifiers for the netball and basketball events and our Year 9/10 netball team qualified for the Games Finals (to be held at Brannel School in January). We also supplied leaders to support with the running of this event, followed by leading and umpiring the primary element of the competition later that afternoon. The leaders at the primary netball event were commended by the accompanying primary school staff, for their confidence and enthusiastic approach to working with the young children.

Time2Lead programme in Bodmin - we were delighted to secure places on this County Leadership Programme again this year. Fifteen of our excellent Year 9 leaders went to the Dragon Leisure Centre to work with students from across Cornwall, receiving specialist training and input as they continue on their leadership journey. We are looking forward to seeing them embrace this programme and get out into some of the local primary schools next term.

KS1 rugby/multi skills with leaders - working with our School Games Coordinator, a group of leaders with some new faces delivered an engaging and inclusive festival for the youngest members of the primary community. It was lovely to see our students experiencing their first taste of sports leadership by inspiring the little ones with exceptional role modelling.

Primary netball festival - only this week we have seen a group of 19 girls lead skill drills and umpire games for 8 primary schools from across East Cornwall. Acting as coaches and team managers, our students were praised by the event organiser for their proactive attitude and their encouragement of all of the young players.



A VISIT FROM OUR LOCAL MP



We were delighted to host local MP Anna Gelderd at the start of the month to share the importance of UK Parliament Week and her role in supporting local communities.

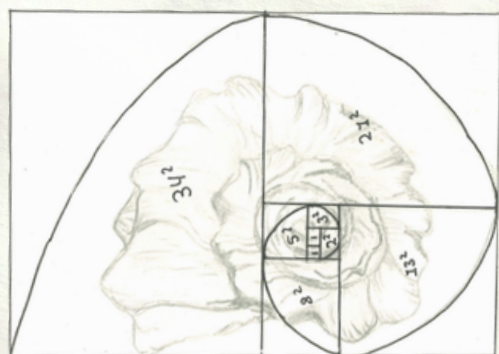
We felt really honoured to have this visit and our students were exemplary once again in making our visitor feel welcome and also asked some really thought provoking questions like 'What inspired you to

become an MP?', 'What is the biggest misconception people might have about your role' and 'How are you supporting your local community' and 'What is your ambition for 2025 - what do you hope you will have achieved?'.

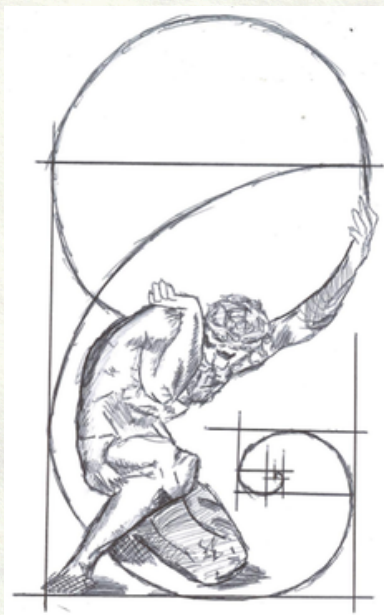
We were so proud of the manner in which they conducted themselves and the consideration and empathy they had for issues and themes. They really did shine!

MATHS AUTUMN TERM HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS

1st Eleanor M



2nd Asya Y



3rd Aggie C

Students were asked to create a piece of art inspired by Fibonacci
or take a photo of Fibonacci in nature

Dates for your Diary

Fri 19 Dec: Inset Day - College closed to students

Mon 5 Jan: Inset Day - College closed to students

Thu 8 Jan: Year 7 Parents' Evening

Tue 6 Jan - Fri 23 Jan: KS3 Assessments

Mon 2 Feb - Fri 13 Feb: Y11 and Y13 Mock Exams

Mon 16 Feb - Fri 20 Feb: Half Term

TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

First Day of Term	Friday 5 September 2025 - Year 7 and Year 12 only Monday 8 September 2025 - all remaining Year Groups
Half Term	Monday 27 October 2025 - Friday 31 October 2025
Last Day of Term	Thursday 18 December 2025
Inset Days (College closed to students)	Wednesday 3 September 2025 Thursday 4 September 2025 Friday 24 October 2025 Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

First Day of Term	Tuesday 6 January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 February 2026 - Friday 20 February 2026
Last Day of Term	Thursday 2 April 2026
Inset Day (College closed to students)	Monday 5 January 2026

Summer Term 2026

First Day of Term	Monday 20 April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 May 2026 - Friday 29 May 2026
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 22 July 2026
Inset Days (College closed to students)	Friday 26 June 2026 Thursday 23 July 2026

A copy of the Term Dates can also be found [here](#) on our website



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) CHRISTMAS 2025



moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BILLS

2 Kids Eat Free on Boxing day 2025

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat FREE from Fri 19th Dec - Sun 6th Jan 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARSTONS PUBS

from 29th Dec - Jan 9th 2026 in selected locations

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays



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