# The Eagle



## **Culcheth High School**

Issue 132 - November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. I hope that everyone enjoyed the break after what was a very busy first half of the term. It was great to see so many extra-curricular visits and in-school activities at Culcheth High School, in such a busy period, with so many students participating in a wide range of activities.

I'm sure you will enjoy reading about these experiences, in this newsletter, as much as the students and staff enjoyed participating in them. We have also seen many Year 11 students attend the varied revision sessions and targeted interventions to help them prepare for their PPEs and their GCSE examinations, next year.

In October, Culcheth High School held its annual Open Evening. Students, staff and governors welcomed parents, carers, teachers and young people from over 40 different primary schools from far and wide to our wonderful school. It was very pleasing to receive around one thousand visitors into our school building to showcase everything that we do in our school community.

Our Student Leaders and Year 7 students addressed the audiences and spoke passionately about our school community, impressing visitors with their speeches about what CHS means to them and how they enjoy being part of our community. I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of a school where students have the ability, confidence and willingness to get involved on occasions like this. That's exactly what we mean when we say #WeAreCHS.

The sheer number of complements that the students, staff and school received from the many visitors is a testament to the whole school community. Thank you to all the staff and students involved in making the evening such a success.

We also welcomed a team of His Majesty's OFSTED Inspectors into Culcheth High School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The visit was not an actual inspection but a voluntary pilot activity that allowed the inspection team to trial the new school inspection toolkit that will be used to inspect schools from mid-November. It was a very interesting experience which allowed us to see how the new toolkit will be used in schools. The team of inspectors were very complimentary about the school, students and staff.

We have a very busy half term ahead of us with many exciting opportunities for everyone to get involved. I look forward to sharing more details with you as the term progresses. #WeAreCHS Mr C P Hunt, Headteacher

## CHS in the Community - Year 11

Harrison and Archie completed a phenomenal back-to-back double winning season for Leigh Miners U15.

They first won the Lancashire Cup on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, before sealing the League and Cup double the week after.

We are extremely proud of both students and all of their efforts both in and out of school. Well done boys. #WeareCHS!





## **Key School Dates**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 **Y11 Parents' Evening** (B Side)

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November **Year 11 PPEs** 

27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 **Year 10 GCSE Info Evening** 

16<sup>th</sup> November 2025 School Christmas Event

## **Monday Week 2**

10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

## **Publication Dates**

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

## **Open Evening 2025**

Our 2025 Open Evening was an unforgettable event, packed with energy, creativity, and learning at every turn! Visitors explored the school and got hands-on with dance, sports, art, spelling challenges, cooking, programming, language quizzes, and even laser cutting.

Tours of the school highlighted some real show-stoppers: the Maths Department's Darts Club Mocktail Ratio Masterclass and the Modern Foreign Languages Department's French and Spanish Café. Science was nothing short of spectacular, with live demonstrations involving electricity, water, and fire! And for the bravest of visitors, students wowed with live dissections – not for the faint-hearted!

Throughout the evening, students proudly shared their roles in exciting projects like the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, while bacon butties and tea kept everyone fuelled. The Food Technology Department served up delicious treats, and along the technology corridor, machines in the Design and Technology Department whirred and buzzed. Book lovers were in heaven exploring the ILC, while Humanities, Business Studies, English, and Computing Departments came alive with interactive activities that engaged and inspired.

The Drama Department transported visitors straight into the world of musical theatre with wonderful live rehearsals. PE showcased incredible sporting talent through trampolining and badminton, while the Music Department filled the halls with both melodic tunes, infectious beats and the chance to be heard on CHS Radio.

Culcheth High School's 2025 Open Evening proved once again that our school is a place where learning, creativity, and fun come together in the most exciting ways.













## **Parking Around School**

A note for parents who drive students to school and use the school car park, Withington Avenue and Culcheth Hall Drive. If you drop your child off or collect them from school, please use the drop-off bay in the school car park or, if using Withington Avenue or Culcheth Hall Drive:

- Please drive slowly children are crossing to and from the ginnel
- Please park considerately so that driveways are not blocked and grass verges are not damaged
- Please do not use residents' driveways to turn

Please also be reminded not to use the primary school car park

## School Uniform 2025-26

School uniform for 2025-26 has not changed, however there are a number of points that parents/carers need to be aware of:

- The 'School Shoe Guidance' that remains applicable for 2025-26 is available on the school website, along with the 2025-26 uniform statement and the 3G Pitch Footwear and Guidance.
- Hairstyles must be suitable for school. (Extreme hairstyles including patterns, lines or indentations shaved or sculptured onto the hair are not acceptable. Other examples include 'Mohicans', 'Skinheads' and inappropriate use of natural coloured dye to create clashing and/or extreme hair colour patterns. Non-natural colours are not acceptable.)
- 3. Excessive make-up is unnecessary and inappropriate and must not be worn; this includes false eyelashes and fake tan

## **School Gates**

A reminder to all parents/carers that the school gates open at 8.15am. Students arriving on site before 8.15am will be unable to enter the school site until this time.

## **Parent Code of Conduct**

Unfortunately, Culcheth High School has had to adopt a 'Parent Code of Conduct' following an increase in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, from parents, towards members of staff in school. It is a simple code that outlines the school's expectations of parental conduct when communicating with school, examples of behaviour that will not be tolerated and the steps the school will take if inappropriate behaviour, from parents, takes place. The 'Parent Code of Conduct' can be found on the home page of the school website and also in the school policies section.

## Student Possessions and Belongings

Students' possessions and belongings that they bring into school are their own responsibility and, as such, students must take care of them. We provide every student with a locker where they can store their belongings and possessions throughout the school day.

Given the expense of some of the items that students now bring into school, they do so at their own risk. The school can accept no responsibility or liability for loss, damage or theft of personal items. Often students bring expensive items into school that are not required for school; we discourage this, but we also encourage students to look after their personal possessions such as coats, phones, watches etc. ensuring that they don't misplace them or leave them unattended. It is not the responsibility of school staff to search for missing items, due to the impact this would have on missed learning time.

Please be aware that, from September 2025, CHS is a 'phone-free school' and mobile technology should be placed in the students' Yondr pouches all day.

## CHS has a New Website

We are very pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website! We have been hard at work to give the website a modern, fresh look and most importantly, a quicker and easier way to find the content you're looking for. The new website is also fully mobile-friendly, so you'll have a great experience whether you're browsing on your computer or your phone.

You'll quickly be able find what you're looking for, including:

- Essential Information: Easily access key documents like term dates, school policies, uniform details, and staff contact information.
- School News: Stay up-to-date with #ThisWeek, The Eagle Newsletter and the latest announcements and events.

We hope this new website will be a valuable and easy-to-use resource for every member of our school community. We invite you to take a few minutes to explore the new website, you can find it at the same familiar address: <a href="https://culchethhigh.org.uk/">https://culchethhigh.org.uk/</a>



# **FOCUS ON PUPIL PREMIUM**

### The First Half-term

The Pupil Premium team would like to thank all of the Pupil Premium families for their engagement in any events that have been attended across the first half-term. The Year 11 GCSE Information Evening and Pastoral Parents Evening were excellent.

Well done to all of the Year 7 Pupil Premium students who have settled into Culcheth High School brilliantly and have been utilising the support that was outlined to them in their welcome session last month. The Independent Learning Centre (ILC) has been well-attended with students having a calm start in the morning during Breakfast Club.

## **Booster Sessions**

The Pupil Premium Team and booster staff would like to recognise the Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students who have attended their allocated morning booster sessions. The Maths Department has focused on key maths skills to support all learners with their curriculum knowledge in Key Stage 3. Likewise, for Key Stage 3, the English team has been completing tasks based around ambitious and academic vocabulary, alongside some literature pre-learning for Year 9. The Year 10 and 11 students have honed in on GCSE content and revising with a subject specialist. Well done to all of the students involved.

## Year 11

Year 11 Pupil Premium students have received their 'Revision Pledge' booklets with a full calendar and an outline of rewards that are available. Students are encouraged to attend lunchtime and after-school revision sessions to ensure they are prepared for their upcoming PPEs and GCSEs beyond. The 'Revision Timetable' is printed within the pledge booklet for reference.

### Pupil Premium Information Booklet 2025-2026

All Pupil Premium families have now received a copy of the 2025-2026 Information Booklet outlining what support is available for students with Pupil Premium status. The booklet also includes information about our purpose, ethos, and strategies.

## Pupil Premium Educational Voucher and Uniform Reminder

Pupil Premium students have access to a £75 Education Voucher to use for the academic year. Should you wish to use your child's Educational Voucher to purchase any uniform, you need to visit the school website. You will find the order form under 'Curriculum - SEND and Pastoral - Pupil Premium Uniform Order'.

If you have any questions regarding the use of the Educational Voucher, or wish to use the balance against educational items other than uniform, you can contact the PP team here:

- PPteam@culchethhigh.org.uk (the PP team as a whole)
- KMC@culchethhigh.org.uk (PP Progress Leader Miss McFadden)

## CHS in the Community - Year 8

Year 8 student, Ralph, is currently preparing for a huge challenge – to play darts non-stop until he reaches 20,000 points!

Ralph is taking part in this activity, which is taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> December, to help raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society, to help people with dementia.

Ralph is a regular attendee at the Luke Littler Darts Academy, in Warrington, and he is really looking forward to taking on the challenge, as well as raising money for such a good cause. We wish Ralph the very best of luck.

If anyone would like to sponsor Ralph, you can do so via the following:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/ralphdartsfordementia?newPage=true#sharePage



## **MFL Flag Design Competition**

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Department recently held an exciting competition for students in Years 7, 8, and 9 to design our official MFL Department flag! The competition was held in the first half-term, to celebrate European Day of Languages.

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We were thrilled by the response - a massive thank you to every student who took the time and effort to submit an entry.

We are delighted to announce that the winning entry came from a student in Year 7! Anna's winning design perfectly captured the essence of the MFL Department, incorporating fun elements that will make a fantastic and fitting banner for our students and our subject area. Congratulations to our winner - Anna De Sousa in 7M!

Do you have any suggestions for future MFL related activities or competitions? Let us know!



## Focus on Staff - Fundraising Skydive

On 27th September three brave members of Culcheth High School's staff traded the workplace for the clouds, leaping out of a plane at

15,000 feet in a charity skydive for Dementia UK. The jump was an incredible, exhilarating experience - a true test of nerve!

However, the motivation behind the jump made every second worthwhile. We chose to support Dementia UK in memory of a family member and in support of a dear friend and colleague recently diagnosed at a young age.

We are delighted to report that, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our friends, family, and the school community, we have raised a magnificent total of £3,383! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed. Knowing that we've raised such a phenomenal amount to help families facing dementia is the best feeling in the world. It proves that, together, we can make a huge impact! Mrs Maudsley, Mrs Tanner and Mrs Morgan









## **Careers Update**

It's been a busy and inspiring term in the Careers Department as we continue to help students plan their future pathways with confidence and ambition.

Year 11 careers 1:1 appointments are now well underway. Every student will receive a personal guidance meeting to explore their interests, post-16 options, and possible career routes. These meetings provide tailored advice on college applications, apprenticeships, and employability skills. Students who have not yet had their appointment can request one easily via their Form Tutor — and we strongly encourage all students to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Earlier this month, we hosted a hugely successful Year 11 Information Evening, which was extremely well attended by students, parents, and a wide range of post-16 providers. The event brought together local colleges and training organisations, offering students the chance to speak directly with representatives and gain first-hand insight into the courses and opportunities available to them.

Visitors included Winstanley College, renowned for its outstanding A Level provision and university progression; Priestley College, offering a broad mix of A Levels and vocational courses, alongside excellent enrichment opportunities; and St John Rigby College, which combines strong academic results with a welcoming, community ethos. Salford City College showcased its wide range of technical and creative programmes, while Wigan and Leigh College highlighted specialist vocational routes, including engineering and construction. Warrington and Vale Royal College presented hands-on learning opportunities linked to local industry, and UTC Warrington shared details about its employer-led STEM curriculum for students aspiring to technical and engineering careers. We were also delighted to welcome Waterside Apprenticeships, who provided expert advice on apprenticeship pathways and work-based training options.

The event gave our students a fantastic opportunity to explore the full spectrum of post-16 routes — academic, vocational, and work-based — and to begin making informed choices about their next steps. A huge thank you to all the colleges, training providers, staff, and families who supported the evening — and to our students for their enthusiasm, ambition, and curiosity about the future.

## **Drama Workshop**

Year 10 GCSE Drama students were lucky enough to take part in a professional theatre workshop with Tmesis Theatre Company, concentrating on devising and physical theatre. This will help with their first exam at the end of the year. The students were great and really challenged themselves for two hours. Well done Year 10 for your superb efforts.









# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Our Commitment to Personal Development and Preparing Students for Success

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we want to update you on significant educational changes and the strategic work we are undertaking to ensure your child continues to thrive at Culcheth High School.

By November 2025, a new inspection framework will be fully in place, replacing the single overall grade with a detailed 'Report Card' that uses a five-point scale (including 'Expected Standard' and 'Strong Standard') across several key areas. The most important change is the introduction of a dedicated, standalone evaluation area: **Personal Development and Wellbeing**. This shift places a much stronger focus on the holistic growth and preparation of every child for life beyond school

Our Core Focus: Confidence, Resilience, and Independence -

Our aim is to meet and exceed the new 'Strong Standard' in Personal Development. This standard requires us to demonstrate that students are consistently confident, resilient, and independent.

To achieve this, we are reinforcing our whole-school approach to ensure all students:

- **Develop Resilience:** They are taught systematic strategies for emotional regulation and are coached to use them effectively when facing challenges, actively building their capacity for self-support.
- Understand Society and Citizenship: Our updated curriculum, effective from September 2026 in line with new statutory guidance, will further ensure students are prepared for life in modern Britain. This includes promoting British Values and ensuring pupils develop a deep understanding of, and respect for, the protected characteristics of all people in our community.

## World Mental Health Day - Focusing on Future Skills

On World Mental Health Day (10<sup>th</sup> October 2025), our assembly focused on equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate complex modern challenges. Key themes included:

- Mental Health and Resilience: We covered crucial topics such as grief and loss and the importance of resilience in navigating change and disappointment.
- Online Safety and Relationships: Students were given essential knowledge about new risks, including online safety (deepfakes and Al risks), healthy relationships, consent, and online misinformation.
- Support Network: We reminded students of the comprehensive support available, including our internal team of Progress Leaders, Pastoral Support Staff, and Safeguarding Staff, as well as external resources such as KOOTH.COM and Chat Health.

Our focus for the rest of the year will be to reinforce these lessons so that every student leaves school prepared with the character, knowledge, and self-belief to succeed.

With this in mind, Megan W, 11I, shares her experience of overcoming setbacks and how utilising personal resilience skills have helped her thrive and achieve success:

"I started playing Rugby League at 8 years old and Rugby Union at 11. When I was 13, I broke my leg in a cup final for Leigh Miners Rangers, which kept me out for five months. It was a tough setback mentally and physically, but it made me even more determined to come back stronger. After surgery and months of physio, I worked hard to rebuild my fitness and confidence.

Two years on, I've signed a two-year contract with the St Helens RFC Pathway to Performance. I currently play Rugby League for Leigh Miners Rangers and Rugby Union for Liverpool St Helens, coached by my Dad in Union.

Earlier this year, I represented England in two Talent Hub matches at half back and was reselected for Lancashire U16s Rugby Union for the second year. I also had the amazing experience of playing against the Australian Wanderers in rugby league — earning Player of the Match from their coach."





## Focus on 7H

Our Year 7 form have settled into high school life wonderfully. It's been fantastic to see how quickly they've adapted to their new routines and surroundings - no one's getting lost anymore! The students have been managing their homework responsibly and showing excellent organisation skills as they navigate this exciting new chapter.

It's also been lovely to see so many new friendships forming across the group. The class have proven themselves to be polite, respectful, and a genuine pleasure to teach. Their positive attitude and enthusiasm have really stood out this term.

A special well done to all those who have joined the football teams or taken part in after-school clubs; it's great to see such strong involvement in school life. And congratulations to **Emil**, who has been appointed as our form captain! Well done, Year 7, keep up the brilliant work!

Mrs R Hudson, Form Tutor 7H



## Focus on 7U

With our second half term approaching, 7U has made an exceptional start to life at CHS, settling in smoothly during their first term of high school. They've adapted impressively to the pace of secondary school life, embracing their lessons and forming strong new friendships along the way.

Academically and pastorally, 7U continues to impress. Collectively, the students have achieved nearly **500 hours of lessons rated 'Outstanding'** by their teachers — a remarkable accomplishment for a new year group.

Beyond the classroom, 7U has enthusiastically embraced the wider school community, diving into extra-curricular activities. From sports clubs and music lessons to drama auditions, these students are making the most of every opportunity. It's been a fantastic start to the year — and to their CHS journey. There's certainly more to come!

Mr C Simms, Form Tutor 7U



## Year 9 Conquers Rivington Pike for the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

In October, a dedicated cohort of 60 Year 9 students successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award qualifying expedition, navigating the challenging terrain around Rivington Pike. The students, split into A and B sides, demonstrated exceptional resilience, proving that true adventure often lies in overcoming the unexpected.

## The A-Side Adventure: Detours and Determination

The A-Side groups faced immediate tests of character. Despite the mild weather, which mercifully held off the threatened rain, their first day required an immediate, lengthy detour. A path closure due to maintenance on the Winter Hill TV aerial added an unexpected hour of walking to their morning. The students handled the change with maturity and good humour. All groups eventually made it back to camp, rewarded with a well-deserved meal of pasta and hot dogs and the classic expedition treat: a campfire and s'mores.

Day two brought another hurdle when groups arrived at their first checkpoint only to find it completely inaccessible due to extensive repairs on the local dam. Our fantastic staff, Mr Hiller and Miss Getty quickly sprang into action. They successfully located all the groups and safely rerouted them, ensuring the expedition could continue and we made good time back to school to pick up students within the B-Side.

## The B-Side Journey: Rugby and a Rescue

Learning from the challenges of the previous groups, the B-Side had new routes hastily drawn up in school before they even left, successfully navigating around the dam closure. This preparation paid off, allowing all groups to make quick time to the campsite. With their tents quickly pitched and equipment stowed, an impromptu game of rugby began, showcasing fantastic team spirit. The evening was capped off by Mr Bolton, who built an impressive bonfire for everyone to enjoy another round of s'mores.

With well-planned routes over Winter Hill for Day 2, most groups found the hike straightforward. However, the expedition's most dramatic moment came when one group missed the final checkpoint turning and continued walking for an extra hour. Mr Nolan and Mr Hiller were dispatched and eventually found the slightly lost, but safe, team about three miles off course in a pub car park. The relief when the minibus pulled in was evident on all their faces. No injuries, just wounded pride and a great story to tell, making it an unforgettable visit for the group.

Thank you to Mr Nolan, Mr Hiller, Mr Bolton and Miss Getty for spending three days and two nights on the side of a hill in a cold and damp Chorley.













# **FOCUS ON SPORT**



## **Football**

Our inter-school football programme has reached its mid-term break, with most of our teams sitting in good positions to push on and challenge for the league title.

The Year 7s finished top of their geographically based East Warrington league, placing them in the top division for the second half of the season, in which they will face Penketh, St Gregory's and Cardinal Newman. Year 8s solitary win from their four Division 2 fixtures was just enough to keep them in the division, but much improvement will be needed in the second half of the season if they are going to maintain their Division 2 status for next year. Year 8 football training is on Week 2 Wednesdays, so if you think you can help to strengthen the squad, make sure you come along and get involved.

The Year 9s have produced three wins from their matches against Lymm, Birchwood and Bridgewater, and sit in second place in Division 1 at the halfway stage of the season. Hopefully they can build on this promising form and challenge the currently unbeaten Birchwood for the Year 9 title in the build up to Christmas! The Year 9s also produced an excellent performance in their first round Cheshire Cup match to beat Ellesmere Port's Whitby High School 5-2, and now face a second-round tie against Upton High from Chester.

The Year 10s have also had a successful first half of the season, with three wins and a draw from their first six games placing them joint second in the top division. In a very tight league, ourselves, Great Sankey and Birchwood will be challenging hard for the title in the second half term, so hopefully the team can end their season on a high and secure the title. The Year 10s are also in the Cheshire Cup, and as this article is written, face their first-round tie against Ellesmere Port Catholic High, so we hope to have positive news to report about this fixture in the next edition!

## Girls' Football

We have not yet received the mid-term league standings from the organiser of the girl's football leagues, so can't update you on exactly where each team lies, but it's been a promising start to the season for our Year 7 and Year 8 teams, both of whom remain undefeated so far. The Year 8s also have a second round Cheshire Cup tie on the horizon against Wade Deacon High School, having received a bye in the first round so, once again, I hope to be able to report a positive outcome from this match in my next report.

Somewhat disappointingly, the Year 9 and Year 10 girls have not been getting enough players to training to enable them to field a team for their opening fixtures of the season so, if you're a Year 9 or Year 10 girl, who's interested in football, get yourself along to training on Tuesdays after school and help to get these teams up and running!!

## Rugby League

As with last season, the Warrington rugby competitions are starting after the February half term, to coincide with the start of the Super League season. After school rugby sessions will therefore begin after the Christmas holidays, in preparation for these fixtures commencing, so there's not too much longer now to wait for all you rugby players out there!

## Other Activities

Remember, we also have Badminton Club on Tuesdays after school, trampolining on Wednesdays after school, and there will be inter-house football competitions on Thursdays after school this half term, so if you're not already involved in some of these activities then come along and join in. See below for the full timetable of extra-curricular activities:

Day	After School (Week 1)	After School (Week 2)	
Monday	School Meetings	School Meetings	
Tuesday	Girls Football Fixtures (OCR & VPI) Girls Football Club (OCR & VPI) All years Badminton Club (BWE)	Girls Football Fixtures (OCR & VPI) Girls Football Club (OCR & VPI) All years Badminton Club (BWE)	
Wednesday	Year 7 & 9 Football Fixtures (CHA & BWE) Year 8 & 10 Football Training (AFI) Year 8 / 9 Girls & GCSE PE Trampolining Club (OCR) Handball Club (VPI)	Year 8 & 10 Football Fixtures (BWE & CGR) Year 7 & 9 Football Training (CHA & AFI) Year 8 / 9 Girls & GCSE PE Trampolining Club Handball Club (VPI)	
Thursday	Fitness Training / Boxercise Year 9 & 10 Inter-house Activities (BWE & OCR)	Fitness Training / Boxercise Year 7 & 8 Inter-house Activities (BWE & OCR) GCSE PE revision (MCU)	





improve

communication

parentingehst@warrington.gov.uk

problem solve

with your child

FAMILY

Cheshire and Merseyside

TERM TIME ONLY

TUES 9.30-10.30AM



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Warrington

**Partnership** 

**WED 2-3PM** 



Fire & Rescue Service

## **DELIBERATE FIRES**

## Is your child involved?

- · Do they talk obsessively about fire, lighters, or matches?
- · Have you found fire-starting materials or accelerants in their belongings?
- Have they got unexplained burn marks?
- Do they come home smelling of smoke?

Your child's safety, and the safety of others, could be at risk. Deliberately starting fires can lead to serious injury, loss of life and prosecution.



IF YOU SEE A FIRE, CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY USE WHAT3WORDS TO SEND THE PRECISE LOCATION.

## Report it

Contact Cheshire Police online or call 101 Contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111





