

Blog – Fri 7th October 2022

Chesterton Sixth Form (CSF)

Post-16 Evening

Directors of Sixth Form Mr Ed Bowles and Mr James Mephram and Deputy Heads of Sixth Form Miss Mollie Legg and Mr Cameron Reed were delighted to talk to students and families at the Chesterton Post-16



evening this week. They look forward to continuing to discuss the CSF offer with Year 11 students in the coming weeks.

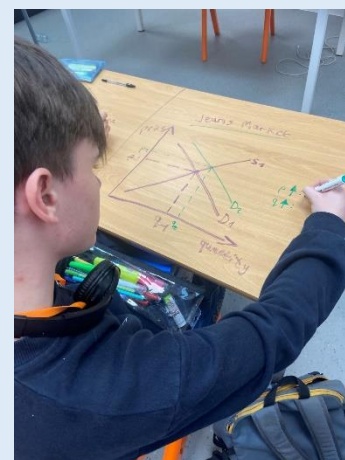


Debate Club

Sixth formers joined in the debating club this week – it was a fantastic opportunity for students across Key stages 3, 4 and 5 to work together and share ideas and thoughts.

Staff Development

This week sixth form teachers across the subject areas came together in a professional development workshop which focused on delivering the KS5 curriculum. Staff enjoyed the opportunity to share good practice and celebrate the successes of their courses.



Open Evening

The *Chesterton* Sixth Form Open Evening will be taking place on **Tuesday 18th October**. This will be a great chance to come and see our bespoke academic offer in action, as well as meet our amazing students and teachers, who will be happy to answer all your questions and talk about their experience in the Sixth Form.

To join us, please scan the attached QR code and we look forward to you joining us on the

18th.



PTA Updates

It's been a busy start of term for the PTA and we have a lot happening in the background and exciting planning for the rest of the term.

We were delighted to have a fantastic update from Catherine Wilson, Head of Music, about the newly purchased mini Macs that are really making a difference to the quality and access that GCSE students are having in their Music lessons. Also, Kathy Stringer reports that the newly installed sewing machines in the Textiles Department are in great demand and much appreciated.

Welcome Drinks

We are looking very forward to welcoming new parents at Chesterton for a Welcome Drink in the school Library next Thursday 13th October at 6 pm.

We have very limited remaining tickets so do book now if you are still hoping to come. We'll be taking donations so please bring cash.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/chestertonpta/764674>

Many thanks to established parents who have offered to help.

Christmas Fair

Eve is busy in the background getting ready for the Christmas Fair which is a fun and rewarding annual event for students run by the PTA, this year on the 16th December. There is plenty to do so please let us know if you'd like to help with that. It's such a fun event to be a part of.

PTA Annual General Meeting

On the 8th November is the PTA AGM which we hope that many of you will be able to come to. We'll discuss how funds raised will be spent, including outdoor furniture and teachers' requests.

For any more info on any of the above, email us PTA@ccc.tela.org.uk

Second-Hand Uniform

Sierra and Katie send a big thank-you for all the second-hand uniform donations you've sent in. These are so appreciated and really support our school community.

We are particularly short of second-hand polo shirts from Fawcett, Hill, Equiano and Cavendish Houses, so if you have any outgrown polo shirts at home, please send them to reception for the attention of the PTA.

We'll be running a second-hand uniform sale on Tuesday 8th November (before the AGM) from 4 pm until 6 pm - please do come along and also let us know if you'd like to help.

Please email 2ndhanduniform@ccc.tela.org.uk

Music Department

Well done to all those students who are attending music extra-curricular activities. There have been some great rehearsals in the first few weeks of term and we will soon begin to prepare for the Carol Service and the Spring Concert. It is not too late to join a music group – please see a music teacher for more information.

Our brass teacher currently has space for students in any year group who may be interested in learning a brass instrument. Please do email Miss Wilson for further information.

The Year 7 beginner brass group is another opportunity for Year 7 students who might like to try an instrument, free of charge. The group meets on a Monday lunchtime and all Year 7 students are very welcome.

On Tuesday after school we will see our first 'Live Lounge' Teatime Concert of the year. This is for Year 7 students only to sign up and perform – it is not too late for students to sign up and they should do so on the sheet on the Music Office door – there are still plenty of

spaces. It is a great opportunity for students to practise playing or singing in front of a small, friendly audience. All instruments and styles of music are welcome and piano accompaniment can be provided or backing tracks played. Students from all years and families are very welcome to come and watch; anyone watching who is not a Chesterton student should meet at school reception at 3.40pm. The concert will begin at 3.45pm. Refreshments will be provided.

New Table Tennis Link

We're really pleased to announce that there's a new table tennis club at Chesterton - every Wednesday after school until 4.30pm. The PE Department has developed a link with Cambridge City Council's Ping Parlour in the Grafton Centre, which has provided a coach for the club. The intention is that students will use the Ping Parlour in their own time, as a result of enjoying the club at the college.

Extra-curricular Sports Clubs

The extra-curricular sports clubs are in full swing again this term. Activities include rugby, badminton, table tennis, football, fitness suite, trampolining and basketball, with more activities starting as we progress through the year. There are also inter-school fixtures and tournaments taking place in rugby, football and badminton. All welcome.

Twitter - Follow the PE Department

You can catch up with all the news, photos and activities from the PE department via our Twitter account - @pechesterton

Drama News and Performances

The Drama Department would like to invite the Chesterton community (students, staff, family, friends and visitors) to attend 'Blue Tiger', devised performances of Year 11 GCSE students on Thursday 13th October, which will begin at 6.30pm in the Atrium Theatre. There will be four performances that night, which will finish approximately at 8.15pm (if you need to leave before this or arrive later into the evening, there will be an opportunity to enter/exit between each of the pieces).

The event is free and you just arrive on the door (the house will open at 6.15pm). Age guidance is 12+ and the event contains strong language and scenes which some spectators may find upsetting.

These performers are mind-blowingly creative, formidably driven and their performance skills are razor-sharp. You'll find it a really engaging, uplifting and mind-expanding evening. The pieces are based on three stimuli: Miles Davis's 'Blue in Green'; Bruegel's 'Landscape



with The Fall of Icarus'; and Judith Kerr's 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. The Year 11s are also counting on audience feedback for their portfolios, so will be grateful to hear your thoughts on the audience survey supplied at the event. We look forward to seeing you there (seats are first-come first-served). Please bear in mind that this is an examined performance being filmed for external moderation. Thank you!

We are also holding auditions for '*Matilda the Musical*' next week (to be performed in mid-December). You might have seen the letters we've sent out. For information about how to book an audition and what to do to prepare for it, please watch this video (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ent_vu-yWmgSXmYUnWx7lf6h7WxsvBti/view?usp=drivesdk) and then follow the QR code which will take you to the form to sign up.

Chesterton Youth Theatre will also be rehearsing for NT Connections on Fridays after-half-term (to be performed in March and April at the Royal & Derngate Theatre, Northampton). More information will be sent about that in a separate letter to those who have expressed interest in this prestigious project on the form below (Years 8–10 actors plus former students only): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPA6CXEqJWPi0rIW3-QwFDB-B_FtLFQ9HOdER95MBYq6lupQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

There are still a couple more days for you to complete the form if you are interested in being part of this.

Please do be in touch with Ms Marston (smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk) or Mr Cooper (lcooper@ccc.tela.org.uk) if you require any further information about events in Drama.

Year 10 Fine Art

Year 10 GCSE Fine Art students are honing their painting skills by studying the artist Kelley MacDonald's donut paintings. Next week, students will set up their own photoshoots, creating images inspired by the artist, which they will then transform into paintings using the skills they've learnt this week.

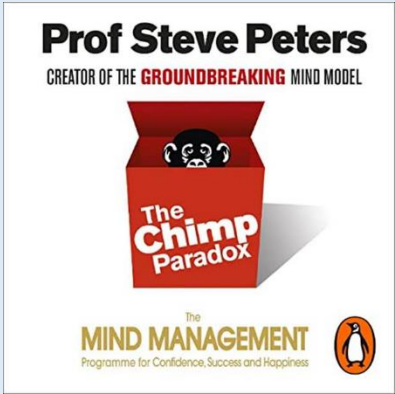


Kettles Yard Stress Art Programme

On 24th October, Chesterton students are invited to join

artist Kelly Briggs for a fun, free and

creative workshop. Students will discover quick activities and art-based ideas to keep chilled every day. The Young People's



Workers team has been working with Kettle's Yard who have organised a free art programme around stress/mental health. Please see the flyer for more information, and express your child's interest by contacting karen@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk.

Macmillan Fundraiser

We would like to thank all of our students, families and staff who supported the Macmillan cancer fundraising event on Friday 30th September. A grand total of £667.02 was raised for this amazing cause. Thank you for all your kind donations and thank you to Assistant Head, Sophie Hawkins for organising.

Reading at Chesterton

Reading recommendations

This week's staff reading recommendation is from Mr Mephram (Director of Sixth Form and PE Teacher). He recommends "*The Chimp Paradox*" by Prof Steve Peters.

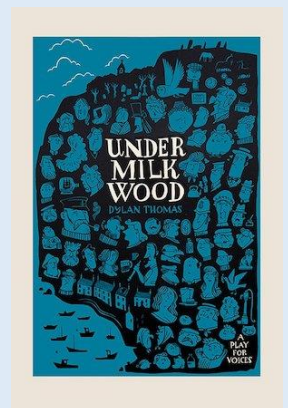
Mr Mepham says, “Great book that provides an insight into the workings of the brain and basic human psychology, that is accessible to people that do not have a background in psychology. Can apply to a range of facets of life to aid performance.”

Students can add their own reading recommendations to the Year group Teams (see the reading recommendation channel in each Team). This is a great resource for seeing what their peers are reading and to comment on each other’s ideas. The channels are monitored by staff and every reading recommendation posted gets an ABP reward.

Just a reminder about the fantastic new ‘Reading at Chesterton’ area of the school website, which provides support to students and parents about developing reading and choosing books. This can be found by selecting 'Life at Chesterton' followed by 'Curriculum' or by using this link <https://padlet.com/sbaywood/rbry582t6nncg0gb>

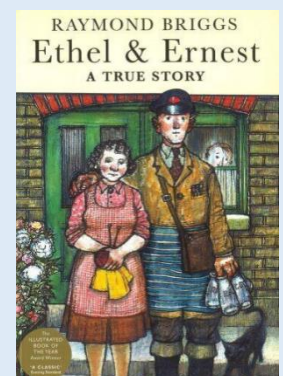
Reading clubs

It’s not too late to join the KS4/5 and staff book club in reading or listening to the radio play, “*Under Milk Wood*” for this half term. Copies are available in A11 and the radio play and film can be found on YouTube. As well as an online forum, we plan to meet on Monday 17th October in A15 to discuss our thoughts on the play. Parents are very much encouraged to read and discuss alongside students.



The KS3 club (Tuesday breaktime in the library) and graphic novel club (Wednesday breaktime in the library) have strangely converged to look at the same book, “*Earnest and Ethel*” by Raymond Briggs. It’s like a glitch in the matrix!

Students can join either day if they fancy looking at this lovely book (Briggs is most famous for illustrating “*The Snowman*”; this book tells the story of Brigg’s parents from their first, chance encounter to their deaths, told in Briggs’s unique strip-cartoon format.)



Book amnesty

The school will be holding its first free book exchange on Thursday 20th October. This will take place at break time and lunch time in the atrium. In order for this to work, we of course need students to bring in their old books, to swap for new ones. Any suitable books in reasonable condition would be very much welcomed.

If students are bringing books in advance, please could these be deposited in the English workroom (opposite A15) for safekeeping. Students can of course bring in books to exchange on the day too.

Upcoming events

After half term we are looking forward to some exciting events to celebrate reading at Chesterton, including a readathon, an author visit, and a festive reading evening. More details to follow.

Inter-house Above and Beyond Points Leader Board

1st Place Equiano: 2,085 ABPs

2nd Place Robinson: 2,002 ABPs

3rd Place Hill: 1,952 ABPs

4th Place Fawcett: 1,869 ABPs

5th Place Cavendish: 1,821 ABPs

Total: 9,729 ABPs

Cavendish House

There has only been one thing on everyone's mind this week - the much anticipated Open Evening. And this year's event was well worth the hype. Cavendish students (and many others) were prominent across the school as tour guides and subject room helpers, generating a fantastic buzzing atmosphere. It is the student participation which makes our Open Evening so special, and makes the school so appealing to visiting families - so well done to everyone who took part.

This week also saw some interesting additions to the school fabric. The new Sixth Form has exposed staff and students to new ways of thinking, including adding whole walls of

whiteboards to our arsenal of "writable surfaces", and this week several of these new whiteboard walls appeared across the school. Do have a go if you have one in one of your classrooms!

The new Chesterton Debate Union also hosted its first "proposition / counter" (or PROP/CON) debate, which saw Cavendish's own Harry (Year 11) and Sixth Former Leni lose valiantly to Miriam (Robinson, Year 11) and Charlie (Equiano, Year 11).

This week's Cavendish shout-out goes to Laurie (Year 8), whose acting career continues to flourish as he has been cast in a UK touring production of

An Inspector Calls at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. Way to go, Laurie!

That's all from us this week. Enjoy the long weekend, and don't forget to be awesome Cavendish!

Hill House

Welcome back to another week at Chesterton. We're fully into October now, and the days are starting to get a little bit colder, so make sure you're careful in wearing a coat to and from school, and during breaks and lunches – remember, hoodies (zips or no zips) are not allowed as school uniform, so make sure you come with a proper coat.

Chesterton has been busy Wednesday and Thursday with two of the most exciting events this year – first on Wednesday there was the Year 11 progression evening, and it was great to welcome staff from colleges and apprenticeships from around Cambridge, to show our Year 11s the wide range that is available. And on Thursday it was fantastic to see the hubbub of excitement during Open Evening – with exciting experiments in science, mystery dinner parties in English and competitions in Geography and many, many more exciting things happening in all departments, it was lovely to be a part of. Special mention must go to the Hill students who volunteered to be tour guides and help department areas – we at the Hill office want to pass on our deepest thanks.

Finally, we would also like to congratulate the following Year 10 students for making a great start to the year and going above and beyond: Harry, Loic, Kenneth, Dante.

Fawcett House

Well done Fawcett students for another week of fantastic effort – keep up the good work! Thank you to all the Fawcett students who volunteered as tour guides or to support subject areas during the college open evening, when you were fantastic ambassadors for Fawcett House and the wider school.

Keep making the most of all the opportunities at school, in and outside of the classroom and as always, if you need any support please see Mr Firth, Miss Malik, Miss Walton or your form tutor. Keep up the good work everyone!

Robinson House

Well done, Robinson, another awesome week! We would like to tell you how proud we are of the start you have made to the new academic year. Keep up the routines you have put in place, and you will reap what you sow! Reach out to your form tutor if you need any advice or help and remember you can also contact worried@ccc.tela.org.uk if you have any concerns.

In the Above and Beyond Points League table, we are sitting comfortably in second place with 2,002 Above and Beyond Points. A huge well done to everyone who has helped our House achieve this.

During tutor time this week, we discussed what charity we will pick for our house, Black Lives Matter and what makes us unique.

Robinson students volunteered to get involved with our School Open Evening on Thursday 6th October. We were delighted to have the opportunity to welcome our community into the school and we enjoyed showing visitors all of the exciting things happening in our departments.

We would like to wish the happiest of happy birthdays to those of our Robinson students celebrating: Ciaren, Janos, Teigan, Monsur, Finlay, Julia, Tim, Sebastian and Cyrus. Have a wonderful, well-deserved weekend all and enjoy the autumn weather.

“Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away; Lengthen night and shorten day; Every leaf speaks bliss to me Fluttering from the autumn tree.”

- Emily Brontë.