

## Blog – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Queen Elizabeth II

We at Chesterton Community College are saddened to learn of the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. Her extraordinary reign has had an immeasurable impact on our nation, with her sense of duty and service inspiring so many across the world. Our thoughts are with King Charles III and the Royal Family at this time.

Our school communities stand with the rest of the nation as we mourn a monarch whose reign held such great historic significance.

### Mark of Respect

This morning the whole school community gathered together in the Bateson Rod playground to show our collective respect for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to join in a reflection on her passing and to share in a moment of silent reflection.

### Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Teather, Teacher of Music, who was married over the summer and is now Mrs Thurlow. We also welcome back from maternity leave: Mrs Baywood, Head of English; Mrs Smith, Lead Practitioner in Maths; and Mrs Andrews, Teacher of History.

### New Staff

We have welcomed a number of new staff for the new academic year, so over the next few blogs we will introduce those staff. Today we are introducing: Mrs Tara Watts, Assistant Headteacher; Mr Daniel Simonsen, Teacher of Science; and Miss Charlotte Howard, Teacher of Geography.

#### Mr Daniel Simonsen

*“Hello, I’m Mr. Simonsen, a new science teacher at Chesterton. My main subject is Biology, and within Biology my strongest interests are with evolution and ecology. This is my first year of teaching after qualifying as a teacher from the University of Cambridge. Before teaching, I did my degree in Biology at Oxford University, then worked in science communication in London, followed by a master’s degree in Human Evolution from the University of Cambridge. I feel incredibly lucky to be starting my teaching career at Chesterton. It is a fantastic school with truly aspirational, motivated, and welcoming students.”*



### Miss Charlotte Howard

*“My name is Charlotte Howard and I am the new Geography teacher at Chesterton Community College. I studied Geography at the University of Liverpool and completed my Post Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Cambridge. I started my training to be a teacher at Chesterton, and after gaining more teaching experience, I am very happy to be back. When I am not teaching in the classroom, I love playing tennis, rock climbing and travelling the world. I look forward to helping my students to realise their potential, and hopefully their love for Geography.”*



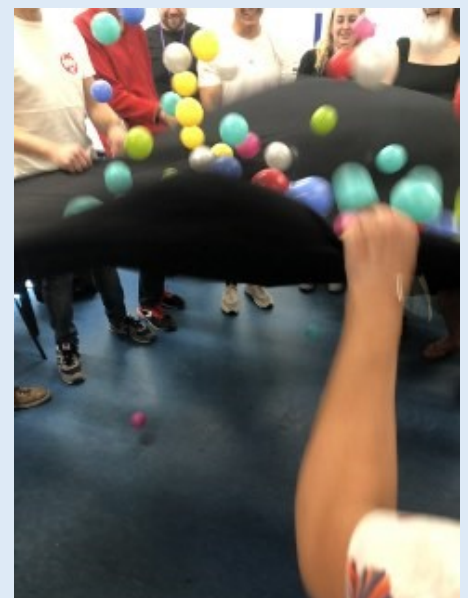
### Mrs Tara Watts

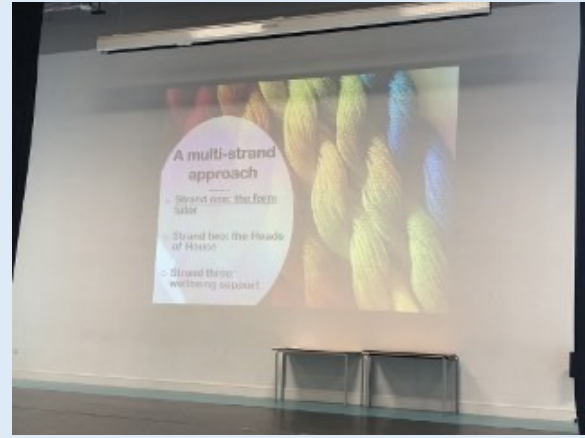
*“I was delighted to join Chesterton Community College this September as Assistant Head with oversight of assessment, data and reporting. Having completed an Economics degree at Durham University in the early 2000s, I completed a Maths PGCE at the University of Cambridge and became a Maths teacher, actually here at Chesterton, where I stayed for 6 years. I then moved to a local independent school for 12 years where I taught Economics, Maths and Computing, before returning here to Chesterton this September and I am absolutely delighted to be back! Over my teaching career I have undertaken a number of responsibility roles from being Head of Maths to Head of Sixth Form to overseeing UCAS applications for Economics and Economics-related subjects at both Oxbridge and non-Oxbridge level. I also have an MEd from the University of Cambridge. I am passionate about instilling a love of learning and I am very excited to be working here at Chesterton. Outside of my work life, I have 2 young children and my hobbies include running and golf.”*

### **Staff Professional Development**

The academic year began for staff on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Before students returned on Tuesday staff took part in several days of training and development to help ensure that Chesterton students get the very best quality of education. Staff took part in a wide range of training for the year ahead, in sessions that were often very practical and focused on introducing new ideas to the classroom experience. The playdough lions were part of a session on giving and acting on feedback. This uses some of the ideas from the great clip here about Austin's Butterfly:

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_6PskE3zfQ](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=E_6PskE3zfQ)





## Chesterton Sixth Form

Our new sixth form, Chesterton Sixth Form, officially opened this week with a fantastic cohort of students. We have been impressed with how quickly they have got involved in everything and how much they are enjoying life at Chesterton Sixth Form. With small class sizes and exceptional pastoral support we know they will go on to do great things in the next two years and beyond.

It was great to welcome the Mayor earlier this week to officially open Chesterton Sixth Form and to speak to Year 12. He spoke about pursuing your interests and what you can do for your community.

Our open evening for students who are interested in joining us in 2023 is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.



You can find out more about what the Sixth Form is up to through Instagram and Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076383970884>

<https://instagram.com/chestertonsixthform?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

## Parent/Carer Information Evenings

A number of information evenings for parents and carers will run over the course of the next few weeks:



- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 5.30pm – 6.15pm  
An introduction to secondary education in the UK (for parents/carers of any year group new to the education system in the UK). See Parentmail for more information
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm – 8pm  
How to Help Your Year 7 Child at Home (for all parents/carers of year 7 students). See Parentmail for more information.

Events for parents/carers of students in Years 8–11 to follow shortly.

### **Chesterton Lectures 2022–23**

The Chesterton Lecture Series will be returning this academic year. Chesterton Lectures are the ideal opportunity to enrich our students' academic experience and inspire them to develop what could become life-long interests.

If you have an area of academic expertise outside the curriculum, a personal interest that you are passionate about sharing or a talent you would love to teach others, then we would love to hear from new and previous volunteers!

If you would like to support Chesterton Lectures in the next academic year, please email Mrs Hawkins, [shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk) by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. It would be great to see the Chesterton community coming together to share their wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise with our students.

### **Wellbeing Newsletter**

Our first wellbeing newsletter of the academic year has been published and sent out via Parentmail. It includes lots of helpful tips, signposts and videos to support you, your children and family as well as a reminder on our wellbeing referral form for parents.

The newsletter has lots of different resources, so please read at your own pace:

<https://sway.office.com/yBC2U5rwM3xhOgZH?ref=Link>

If you have any wellbeing questions or suggestions for our next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hawkins on [shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk)

### **Celebrating and Seeing Life in School: Coming soon...**

We are in the process of setting up social media accounts to show the great work that students and teachers do. We look forward to opening up school life through this platform.

### **Bible Study Group**

Bible discussion club meets every Friday lunchtime (first lunch L14, second lunch L12) for a chat around a chapter from the Bible. This is a friendly, thriving club, open to students and staff of all faiths and none.

## Drama News

The Chesterton Youth Theatre (CYT) club timetable has been published and we're very much looking forward to starting up again next week. Clubs will initially run until October half-term. At that point, many of the club sessions will turn into rehearsals for specific productions – details about auditions/production packs will follow over the coming weeks, and include a Christmas production of *'Matilda the Musical (Schools Edition)'* as well as being part of the National Theatre Connections Festival in 2023. For the moment, club sessions are open workshops and there is something for everyone!

We hope those who attend will enjoy the complementary and contrasting activities, styles and approaches that each club offers. We very much want to see new faces alongside familiar ones, and you should see this as an opportunity to make theatre pals, and build self-belief, as well as develop skills and have fun.

We will also be working on performance material for Chesterton's Year 6 Open Evening. We want to pick up where we left off with CYT's creatively striking drama festival and highly acclaimed production of *'Les Miserables'* which took place last summer term.

Drama clubs are as follows:

- **Monday (15:15 until 16:15 or 17:15 in Drama Studio)**  
GCSE Drama 'Homework' Session  
GCSE students only (starts 19<sup>th</sup> September)
- **Tuesday (15:15 until 16:30 in Dance Studio)**  
Musical Theatre Club - All welcome
- **Wednesday (15:15 until 16:00 in Drama Studio)**  
CYT Invitational – by invitation only
- **Thursday (15:10 until 16:10 in Drama Studio)**  
Year 7 Drama Club
- **Friday (15:10 until 16:00 in Drama Studio)**  
Drama Games and Improv - Years 8-12
- **Friday (16:00 until 16:45 in Drama Studio)**  
Actor Training - Years 8-12

In the pipelines, we have the following production/performance dates which you might like to note in your calendars:

- Friday 13th October **Year 11 GCSE Devised Performances**
- Wednesday 7th December **Year 9 Yoho Performance**
- Sunday 11th until Tuesday 13th December **Matilda Jr Performance**
- Monday 12th December **Multi-Faith Celebrations**
- Thursday 12th until Friday 13th January **Year 10 Performance (*Play To Be*)**

*Confirmed)*

- Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February  
(Exact Date To Be Confirmed) **Year 11 GCSE Component 2 Performances**
- Thursday 9th and Friday 10th March **NT Connections Production** (*Play To Be Confirmed*)

If you have any questions or queries, please do be in touch with [smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk) or [lcooper@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:lcooper@ccc.tela.org.uk) . Otherwise, we look forward to starting the clubs: to singing, dancing, acting and sharing the buzz of what it means to be on stage.

## English News

Former student Miranda Black been shortlisted for the prestigious Paul Mellon ‘Write on Art’ prize, a national writing competition designed to encourage an interest in art history among young people aged 15–18: <https://www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/learning/about-write-on-art>

Miranda is down to the top 30 in the whole country and has been invited to London on 10th September to the prize-giving event. Miranda has produced lots of amazing pieces of creative writing in and out of school, and says she was inspired to look for other writing prizes after other success in creative writing competitions organised at school. We look forward to tracking her future successes.

Year 8 have just started a new scheme of learning on Shakespeare’s history plays. To kick off the year with a bang, we have arranged for ‘Shaking Up Shakespeare’ to return to school for a performance of ‘*Julius Caesar*’ on 20th September in the school auditorium. Many thanks to parents whose financial support enables us to put on events like these.

Parents and students may also be interested to hear that the Royal Shakespeare Company’s ‘*Richard III*’ will be on in local cinemas 28th September – 8<sup>th</sup> October:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/richard-iii/in-cinemas> which perfectly coincides with students’ in-depth study of the play.

The English Department is supporting students who may wish to enter a national poetry competition, to encourage their creative writing, and for a chance to get their poems published and win prizes. The competition “The power of poetry” is open to students age 11–18 and poems can be on any theme and use any style. For more info see <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/power-of-poetry>

Students should please email their entries to [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) by 20<sup>th</sup> October.

A new school year means a relaunch of the school’s book clubs. ‘Books and biscuits’ is a Key Stage 3 book club which now meets every Tuesday breaktime in the library. Any student in Years 7–9 is welcome to pop in for a chat about what we’re reading. We are very open to suggestions about what books to cover.

Key Stages 4/5 and staff book club kicks off the year with reading (or listening to) a short radio play called, “*Under Milk Wood*”. Copies of the book are available in A11, and the recorded radio play and film adaptations are easily found on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TTfwC34uk4> .

Students and staff who wish to join in the online chat should join the club on edulink, to then be added to the book club Team for discussion about our reading. We shall also have a half-termly in-person meeting – details to follow. See Mrs Phillips or Dr White for more information.

It was great to see Chesterton students getting involved with volunteering at local libraries over the summer. The Gadgeteers summer reading challenge is now finished, but there will be more opportunities at our local libraries, including a programme of very reasonably priced workshops, events and shows run by ‘The Library Presents’

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/news-and-events/the-library-presents> in which students and parents might be interested.

Chesterton also has its own reading challenge – the Chesterton Underground Express (details to go out via Parentmail).

## **Music News**

We are looking forward to beginning music extra-curricular activities again from Friday 9th September. Please see the Parentmail sent out for further details and dates of our concerts this year.

At the beginning of the summer holidays, a group of Year 8 and 9 students attended a residential choral course run by the Gabrieli Consort's 'Roar!' project. Students rehearsed Mendelssohn's *Elijah* as part of a large youth choir featuring students from around England. It was a hugely inspiring course, and we are thrilled that we will have the opportunity to take all students attending our school choirs on another choral day run by Gabrieli in Ely Cathedral in December and for them to participate in a residential next summer should they wish.

Quinn, now in Year 10, has kindly written a report of the summer course:

*This trip was essentially an opportunity for around 200 students to sing Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” with a professional orchestra. We rehearsed for just under a week, residing in Oundle school boarding houses, and were given the chance both to socialise and hone our voices in physically demanding but enriching rehearsals. It was a very enjoyable and professional trip.*

*Day One involved us checking into our boarding house and being greeted by amicable and efficient Gabrieli pastoral care staff with whom we became very friendly. We left our bags in the relatively clean room and headed over to the chapel, a lovely but echoey rehearsal space to which we soon became accustomed. The get-to-know-you and subsequent rehearsal were lively and energetic, but the real highlight of the first day was the food in the*

*Refectory: after a hot day of minibus driving and lugging heavy cases about, the meal was to die for! The beds were mildly too hard and there were some rumours of bedbugs but my roommates and I slept very well.*

*Some of the best fun we had was in the sectionals, rehearsals in which we worked purely with our own voice group. I didn't know anyone in the tenors' group at first but soon made some lovely new friends. My tenor coaches were both fun and professional and we all felt we'd really advanced in our singing abilities. The food remained delectable and activities were provided on a daily basis, including a park run, film night and talent show; all of which were excellently managed and a pleasure to be part of.*

*The final day in Ely Cathedral was stressful but ultimately rewarding and we were allowed a day off in Ely to recuperate before the big night. Everything went excellently during the concert and the audience seemed to really enjoy themselves.*

*Overall, I'll have some lovely memories of Oundle: of friends and of singing. It was one of the most well-organised and entertaining school trips I've ever been on and I'd be happy to do more with Gabrieli Consort.*

## **PE News**

### Summer sporting success

We're always pleased to hear about the sporting success of our students, outside of school. Congratulations to the following students and ex-students who achieved great things over the summer:

- Demi-Jade Resztan – In her weight category, our ex-student progressed to the final of the Commonwealth Games Boxing competition.
- Year 11 student Ryan won the 18U boys doubles competition at the Play Your Way to Wimbledon tournament.
- Year 8 student Lola was selected for the Ipswich Town Football Academy.
- Year 10 student Yinghan progressed to the last 16 of the 14U singles competition at the Play Your Way to Wimbledon tournament.
- Year 11 student Sasha will soon represent the U17 England roller hockey team, in the European Cup competition, to be held in Catalonia, Spain. This will be followed by participation in the Eurohockey Cup club competition.

### Donate your old PE kit, trainers and football boots

At times students need to borrow items of PE kit, whenever they don't have their own. Please donate any old PE kit, trainers and football boots, by leaving them at the main school reception.

### Extra-curricular sports clubs have started

The extra-curricular sports clubs start on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Please join us in



encouraging your child to take part fully. Activities include football, rugby, basketball, trampolining, badminton and use of the fitness suite (full timetable has already been shared via Parentmail)

### Twitter - @pechesterton

You can catch up on photos and all the news relating to the PE Department, by following us on @pechesterton

### **Equiano House**

A huge welcome to our new Year 7 Equiano students and a huge welcome back to all our returning Equiano students! The Equiano Team - that's Mr Gilliver and Mr Lawrence as Heads of House and Miss McEwen as Assistant Head of House as well as all of our amazing form tutors - hope everyone had a relaxing summer and that everyone is looking forward to the new school year.

The summer has flown by and we are already through the first week back of the Autumn term. On Tuesday our new Year 7 students came into school bright and early to meet their form tutors and get their iPads set up. At break time they were joined by the rest of the school and everyone joined in with ice-breaker games in their tutor groups. The rest of the week has been full of students meeting their friends and teachers again and getting to know their new timetables.

There are lots of exciting events coming up this half term so keep an eye on the weekly notices released for all of the up-to-date information. Have a great start to the new year!

### **Cavendish House**

To our new students, welcome, and to our returning students, welcome back. We are particularly glad to welcome our Chesterton Sixth Form students who will form a valuable part of the Chesterton community. Team Cavendish looks forward to another exciting year at Chesterton.

We also join the nation in mourning the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, whose devotion to duty and service of others was an inspiration to many. Our prayers and sincere regards are with the King and the Royal Family.

### **Hill House**

Firstly, we at Hill House would like to say welcome back! We hope you have had a restful summer and are feeling ready to be back at school. We are all excited to see you back and look forward to a positive year ahead. A very special welcome to our new Year 7s, who are starting their journey here. If you are having any issues please do not hesitate to ask any member of staff for help or get in contact with Mrs Williams, Miss Moss or Mr Payne – we will be happy to help make your transition as smooth as possible.

Year 11s: Hit the ground running, cherish the time with your friends, get involved in our huge range of school activities and, of course, dedicate your time to hard work! We hope that everyone in Hill will have a great year.

Congratulations to Isobel in Year 10, Kuba, Vivienne, Scarlet and Lauren in Year 8, for already securing Above and Beyond Points to begin the term.

### **Fawcett House**

A big welcome back to all of our Fawcett students to the start of the next academic year. We hope you had a good and restful summer. A special welcome to all of our new Year 7s joining us – Alice, Amila, Elijah, Ben, Maya, Anna, Lola, Samuel, Han-Chong, Caleb, Daniel, Florence, Zsofia, Amelia, Javi, Lexi, Freddie, Pablo, Bea, Lilly, Edie, Daniel, Emma, Aaron, Olivia Rose, Leo, Ryad, Nela, Alfie, Noah, Mia, Alba, Jack, Rory, Naim, Esme, Grace, Maryam, Louie, Sebastiaan and Alper. We hope you have enjoyed your first week as much as we have enjoyed meeting you.

This week in form time we have been looking at what PSHE means before we start our exciting sessions next week. Please look out for all of the amazing extracurricular clubs we have on offer and see what you might like to get involved in this year.

Well done to everyone for all your hard work this week settling back into the school routine. Mr Firth, Miss Malik and Miss Walton are here if you need any support.

### **Robinson House**

Robinson House, you have made a wonderful start to the academic year! We were delighted to see you arrive to school refreshed and ready for the year ahead. The Above and Beyond Points have already started flooding in.

We are very pleased to welcome our new Year 7s to the House – what a marvellous addition they make! With their help, we are already in first place in the House Points competition.

In form time this week, we have got to know our buddy groups, the oldest, the longest hair and the biggest Marvel fan. We have also discussed how important wellbeing is for our mental and physical health. Remember to speak to your form tutor or contact [worried@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:worried@ccc.tela.org.uk) if you need support or have any concerns.

As always, we want to wish a very happy birthday to Robinson students who celebrate their birthday this week: Charles, Josephine and Eleanor.

Continue to keep up the good work and we are in for an awesome year. Have a great weekend!