



Sixth Form

There are so many opportunities for work experience and super-curricular activities available for Sixth Form students that are released each week, that we decided to create a newsletter that is purely dedicated to offering opportunities. This is released every 2 weeks, [here's the link](#). These types of opportunities are essential for students to build their CV and provide them with key experiences that will support them as they progress beyond sixth form.



Students worked hard to meet their first EPQ deadline last week. Their proposals certainly look interesting and will provide students a fantastic opportunity to engage in some academic study outside of their chosen subjects. This will set them in good stead for their future aspirations, having learnt key academic skills and a breadth of knowledge within their chosen subject. Some standout topics are focused around string theory; Tudor fashion; and media perceptions of sports performers.

The Y12 bake sale was a huge success: students sold out and the profits have

been donated to Jimmy's Night Shelter.

All of the social action projects are coming to a culmination and we are really looking forward to hearing about them in more detail, when students present at the multi-faith event on Monday.

Jason performed a violin solo and Leni read the final reading at the Chesterton Carol Service, held at St John's Chapel on Thursday. Leni spoke with confidence and poise and Jason's solo was fantastic - he is a really skilled violinist. It is so nice when the sixth form students



contribute alongside the Community school students and it personifies the community aspect of the sixth form.

News From the Houses

Equiano House

The festivities continue this week as we count down the days left of the school term. The decorative door designs our students came up with last week have been put into action and the Equiano corridor is looking fantastic! Mr Gilliver and Mr Lawrence are judging this week and the winning form group will be announced next week. Good luck everyone!

Our students took part in two carol services this week. One in King's Cathedral Ely for schools in the area which had a huge turnout with amazing singing, and our own Chesterton carol service. Our own service was held at St John's College Chapel and featured brilliant performances from our many talented musicians.

Along with the music events we have had great success in the PE Department where many students have taken part in football tournaments and cross-country running. Well done to Ben, Giang, Aleks, Pippa, Gabriella and Zsofie who have qualified to represent the district schools teams in the next round in January.

A note from us to watch out in the cold weather forecast this weekend. Stay safe and we will see you on Monday for the last week of the school term.

Hill House

The penultimate week of term, and certainly a busy one by Chesterton standards. On Thursday, students had the opportunity to go to the carol service, which was a very festive occasion and a great opportunity to hear Chesterton musicians. On Friday Year 7s had one of the highlights of the whole year, the trip to the panto. It was great to see how excited the Year 7s were, getting into the spirit of it – a great link to their work with Shakespeare's comedy plays over the next few weeks in English.

Meanwhile, we finally had our first in-person parents' evening – after over two years, it was lovely to see parents back in the building and hear the hubbub of activity as Year 9 parents had an update from the teachers.

Finally, we leave you with news about ABPs: congratulations to Kenzie, Sara, Oliwier, Masuma and Ella-Louise, who lead with the most ABPs so far – good luck keeping your crowns!

Fawcett House

This week's blog is brought to you by prefect Imogen. This week on Tuesday the Year 7s had their first PSHE dropdown day, spending the morning talking about topics such as online safety. On Thursday there was the carol service at St John's Chapel. Well done to all students involved.

This week you can purchase tickets to see *Matilda the Musical*, running on the 11th, 12th, and 13th December (more information on Parentmail and weekly notices). Come see our fantastic cast of young performers!

This month we have also introduced many new extracurricular clubs (graphic novel, solidarity and 'preparing for an interview' clubs) so be sure to go to the Chesterton Community College website and check those out under the 'Life at Chesterton' tab.

Robinson House

Winter is truly upon us and what a chilly end to the week! Remember to wrap up well on your way to school, leave extra time and watch out for icy patches on your path; in the words of George R. R. Martin 'winter is coming'.

This week in tutor time we considered our behaviour online and the legacy we want to leave. Year 7 also had an enthralling PSHE dropdown day on Tuesday. We are truly getting into the festive spirit designing festive doors, holding a multi-faith celebration, festive reading and a joyous carol service in St John's College.

We are continuing our streak of having the lowest detentions, highest ABPs and we still have the third-highest average attendance at 95.54%. Keep up the excellent work.

Finally, best wishes to our students celebrating their birthday this week: Ella, Lucia, Ronnie, Yuxian, Polly, Anita, Annabel, Ewa Gorete and Mehmet.

Cavendish House

Autumn turns into winter and Chesterton Community College sails its merry way towards the end of term. This week the school braced itself for a flurry of end-of-term activity. It was a big week for the Music Department, including an A-Level/GCSE/"Interested Year 9" trip to King's College for Carols at Kings, and the excellent CCC Christmas Carol Service at St John's College, one of the highlights of the school calendar. Outrageously, the ever-popular suns of samba don't make an appearance at this event, so this reporter will have to make do with his second-favourite music group, the cello ensemble. Well done to all those students involved in this event, and particularly of course to those in Cavendish. Shout-out to Charis (Year 9) who wrote and delivered the traditional student prayer, and Harry (Year 11) who sang a notable trio by Praetorius.

We are also in the midst of the traditional end-of-term drama and very much looking forward to Chesterton Youth Theatre's production of *Matilda* next week. Cavendish shout-out to Holly (Year 9) and Laurie (Year 8) who played Juliet and Romeo in a festival event at the Globe Theatre in London on Sunday... we think Holly may have played that role before, but what do we know?

It has been a good week in sport, with a large Chesterton cohort competing in a cross-country meet on Tuesday that saw Cavendish students Aleks and Ben (Year 7) and Pippa (Year 8) qualify at the county event in January. Fantastic work! In addition to all that we had a Year 7 PSHE drop-down day (Cavendish shout-out to our friend Miss Bean over in Hill House), Christmas jumper day on Friday, as well as the end of the Advent Doors competition. What more could you want?

A final Cavendish shout-out this week goes to Nafeesah (Year 10), who was chosen by the author Mark Wells as one of the winners of the Gothic fiction "first line" competition. And the winning line: *Every family has a legacy, and this is mine*. Chilling. Nafeesah and two other Year 10 students have won an afternoon with Mark (and Mr Ware) for a tour around the College of Shadows and a hot chocolate on Thursday 12 January. Fantastic work, well done!

Right, that's all. One more week folks, and then it will be time for a holiday! Don't forget to be awesome, now.

House Competition

Over the past two weeks all Tutor Groups have been competing against each other to see who can create the most festive classroom door. Everyone has been very competitive: we have Snowmen, Grinches, Fireplaces, Stockings & Christmas Trees... all brightening up the corridors for Christmas. On Monday Santa will be visiting to see which tutor groups have won, there will be a prize for one winning group from each of the five Houses; we will let you know next week who the winners are, so in the meantime here are just a few of the very many wonderful creations.









A Message From the PTA About Matilda

Refreshments will be served at the *Matilda* performances by the PTA so please do bring plenty of cash and loose change. Thank you!

All money raised will go to the Drama Mics campaign.

We're delighted to have raised £1005 so far. You can help us reach our funding target of £2000 by donating here:

<https://chestertoncc.enthuse.com/cf/mics>

Also, a huge thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the Christmas Fair. It is so exciting seeing all the gifts coming in.

A huge thank you to Eve Toomey and team for all their big work on this.

Music Department News



It has been a very busy week in the Music Department. Last Friday saw 86 singers travel to Ely Cathedral to take part in the Gabrieli Consort and Players' Roar project. We travelled by train from Cambridge North to Ely which was for many students an exciting experience in itself. The

day involved rehearsing in the Cathedral, before giving an evening concert of festive music by Praetorius and his counterparts, conducted by Paul McCreesh, alongside professional consort singers, instrumentalists and a massed youth choir of over 400 other students. Our students performed brilliantly in a very cold cathedral and were a credit to Chesterton. Students in Years 8-12 will now have the exciting opportunity to go on a residential course in July led by Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort.

On Tuesday, 55 students went to King's College Chapel to join the congregation for the schools' service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The students thoroughly enjoyed listening to the college choir and organ scholar and joined in extremely well with the congregational carols too, representing Chesterton in an exemplary fashion. Well done to all involved – an inspiring morning.



Finally, on Thursday, we had our own school carol service in St John's College Chapel. Over 160 students represented the Music Department at this event, which featured the Junior Choir, Chesterton Singers, recorder group, Year 7 and 8 violin and viola group, senior strings, guitars and ukuleles, cello group and wind band, alongside readings and congregational carols. We were also very pleased to be joined by children from Mayfield Primary School Choir. Thank you to all the students for their hard work and commitment in rehearsing for this special evening, which really paid off.

We now look forward to the multi-faith celebration on Monday.

Chesterton Lecture

On Monday 12th December, 15:10-16:00, Iain Thomas will be presenting a face-to-face lecture on school site. This lecture will be on: *'Turning Great Ideas into Things That Make the World a Better Place.'*

The lecture will take place in E14, and during this lecture, Iain will talk about how *'we live in a world in which we benefit from all sorts of useful, necessary, exciting and life-changing products from smart phones to vaccines, electric cars to safe sustainable food. So many of these things we take for granted had their roots in research carried out in the laboratories*

and workshops of universities, hospitals and other research institutes. Turning the output of research is now ever more critical as the world tackles the many challenges we have now and will encounter in the future. However, turning great ideas into valuable and useful things is a big challenge. In this talk we will explore the first stages of that process and understand why it is so important to do well.'

If this is something your child/children are interested in, then please can you reply to Mrs Hawkins at: shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk. Please can all replies be sent to me by Friday 9th December 2022.

Wellbeing Newsletter

A reminder that the Autumn 2 newsletter has been published this half term, if you or your child need any support The newsletter has lots of different resources, so please read at your own pace:

<https://sway.office.com/A7yoeOwKpd6jhXAY?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

The Blaze Newspaper

The Blaze, Chesterton's student newspaper, is reignited with a brand new redesign, hot off the presses. Students can read *The Blaze* on their ipad by clicking the icon, or find the website online: <https://theblaze.chestertoncc.org/>.

Students can write for *The Blaze* by sending articles to TheBlaze@ccc.tela.org.uk, and can attend the writer's room after school on Thursdays in A17 if they need any help. They will earn ABPs for any articles as well as bonus ABPs for getting reactions on their published work. Students can write about anything: world, local or school news; match reports (CCC or out-of-school matches); reviews of TV, film, sport and plays; or anything else that they'd like to write about.

Year 10 and 11 students are encouraged to join our exciting editing team (see Mr Payne for more information), which will have different sections of responsibility, and the chance to win exciting prizes, with a special awards ceremony at the end of the year.

WET PAINT!

Year 10 Fine Art GCSE students have been working hard in the optional oil painting workshops running for the past three weeks. Here is some of the work in progress. They have been putting the principals of oil painting into practice and challenging themselves to perfect their blending skills.



Kettle's Yard

A Year 8 Cultural Literacy class visited Kettle's Yard this week. Kettle's Yard is a unique art gallery, "a beautiful house filled with beautiful objects", which was donated to the University of Cambridge in 1966. We enjoyed a tour of the house and its permanent collection and participated in drawing activities led by the staff who welcomed us. Many of the group had not previously visited the gallery but plan to visit again now that they have discovered it!

<http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk/handfulofobjects/red-stone-dancer/>

District Schools Cross-Country Event

The annual Cambridge district schools cross-country event took place on Tuesday. A large number of competitors took part in attempt to achieve great things as a school team, and individually in trying to qualify for the county schools event in January. There were some great team performances (to be confirmed when all results have been compiled). We do know already that the following students have been selected to represent the district team:

Year 7 – Giang, Ben and Aleks

Year 8 – Pippa

Year 10 – Gaby

Year 11 – Zsofie

Basketball Success

The under-16 basketball team continued its winning streak this week. After a 60-minute journey across town, the players grew into the game at Perse. A two-point game at half-time developed in to a 56-39 win by full-time. Great leadership from Kwasi, outstanding defence from Zsofie and Lorenzo was on fire!

The under-14 basketball team picked up an impressive win against North Cambridge Academy – the team was scoring more freely this week in their 44-33 game. Excellent shooting from Elijah and Omondi, and very effective defence from Idriis.



Readathon Follow-up: Announcing the Gothic writing competition winners

Following his visit to the school as part of our school readathon, local author Mark Wells kindly offered to run an in-house Gothic writing competition for our students. Mark says: *I've been through all the submissions. Some very good ones. Here are my favourite opening lines. Each was succinct, intriguing and left you wanting to read more.*

- When something opens your windows at 2.00am, you know it's never a good sign. - Theo (Year 10)
- Every family has a legacy, and this is mine. - Nafeesah (Year 10)
- No freedom, no peace, but there was hope. - Sasha (Year 10)

An honourable mention must go to Grace, whose submission I also liked very much:

- For over a century I have lived in secret, hiding in the shadows, alone in the world. Until now. I am a vampire. And this is my story...

Theo, Nafeesah and Sasha have won an afternoon with Mark (and Mrs Phillips) for a tour around the College of Shadows and a hot chocolate on Thursday 12 January.



Christmas in the School Library

Thanks to everyone who's been down to the library recently. It's been nicely busy but calm, with students literally queuing up to join in with the festive jigsaw (we've had to introduce a rota system, and have moved on to a second jigsaw), and plenty of students writing cheery messages in the Christmas cards to be distributed to local OAPs and staff. Our reading tree is looking nicely decorated with students' favourite holiday reads, and lots of students have been looking at the books in our festive display. The "Books and biscuits" club (Tuesday breaktimes for KS3) has finally got to the end of our stash of biscuits, so we shall have to stock up over Christmas, as the club is very popular and can get through an awful lot of biscuits! The KS4/5 and staff book club will



have its half-termly meeting next Wednesday to discuss *“To Kill a Mockingbird”*, so we shall definitely have to make sure we find some biscuits for them too.

The library team have been adding to our graphic novel collection (with special thanks to Mrs Phillips’ mum, who has been collecting them for us), which should be a good boost to our collection (in a unit near the fire door) and to the many students who we know enjoy this type of book. We are also looking forward to our library helper reward event next Thursday – Mrs Pinder-Ashenden even has plans for a snowball fight! We encourage all students to make sure they visit the library before the end of term, to make sure they have something great to read on cold days at home over the holidays.



Christmas Holiday Hours at Cambridge Libraries

Cambridgeshire libraries will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve 24 December 2022. Libraries will resume usual opening hours from Tuesday 4 January 2023. Loan periods will automatically be extended to 4 January 2023. You can renew items online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Do remember you can make use of virtual libraries for days when you can't get into a physical library, for example, Good Reads has a great selection of free young adult books



[https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14913.Free Young Adult E Books](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14913.Free+Young+Adult+E+Books) and our school library and Cambridgeshire libraries have a virtual section.

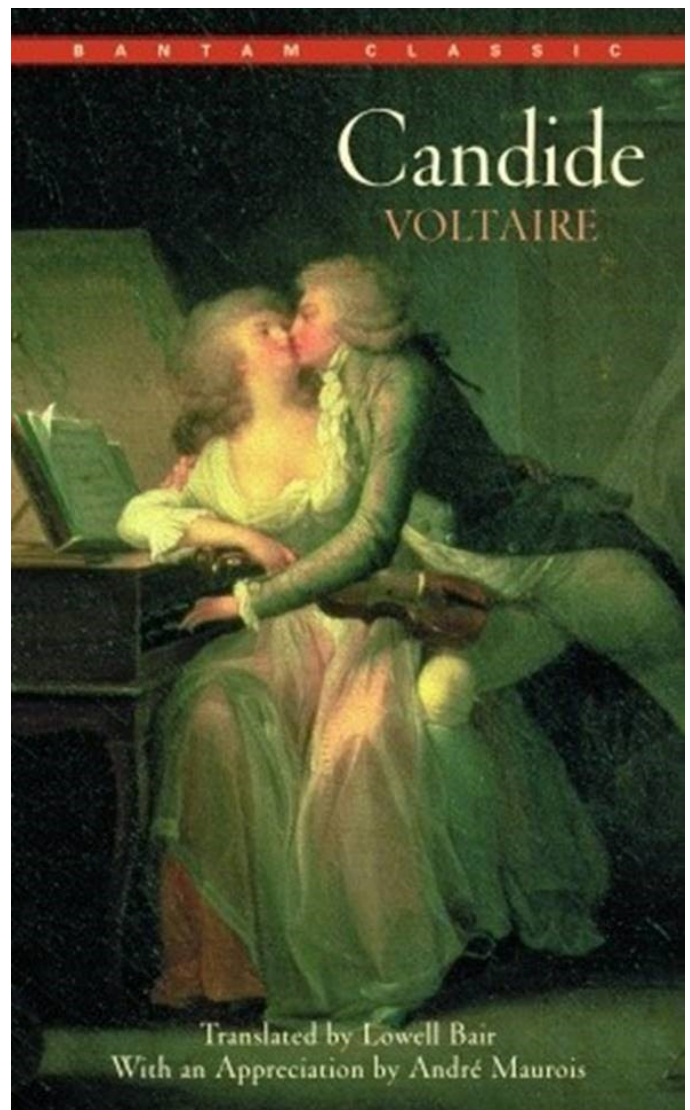
This Week's Staff Reading Recommendation

Ms Neild (Assistant SENCo and EAA Assessor) recommends "*Candide*" by Voltaire.

Ms Neild says, "It's a historical primary source while being funny, short and easy to read. I like satire and the contrast between the timeless themes and historical details is great. It's not a book you would forget in a hurry."

Festive Reading Event

Friday 9th is our festive reading evening 4-5pm in the library. We have a lovely programme planned, with a real mix of different ages of students and some staff signing up to read a variety of poems, story extracts, and even a children's picture book. Many thanks to all volunteering their time to support what is sure to be a lovely and wholesome evening, not least to the library



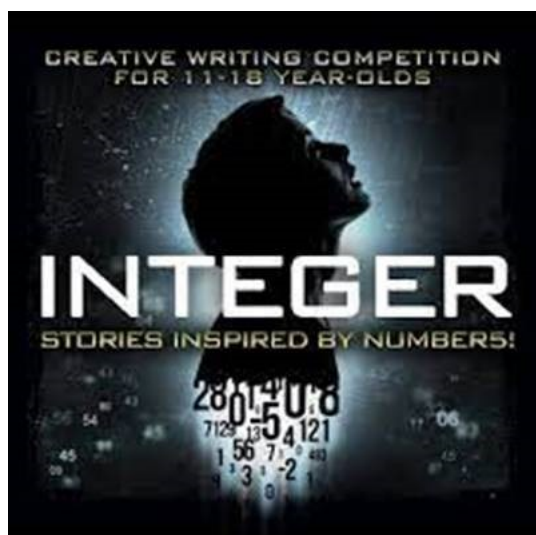
team, and to Richard in the kitchen for providing the mulled juice, mince pies and chocolate logs.



Creative Writing Competition Deadline

Thank you to those who have sent in entries for the 100-word writing competition, Integer. Just a reminder that any further entries should be sent to sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk by the end of term. More details and inspiration can be found here:

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/integer>

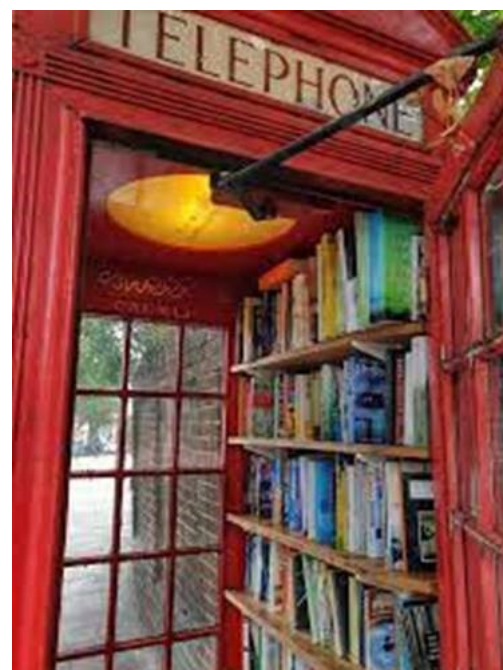


Upcoming Book Exchange – Friday 16th December

Just a reminder that we have another pop-up book exchange event on Friday 16th December as part of the festive fair. Do dig out any old, unwanted books at home (children, young adult, adult, non-fiction – it's all welcome) to donate to the book exchange on the day (or they can be dropped off at the English workroom opposite A15 in advance if that is easier).

Students will then be welcome to pick up free books at the fair. Free book exchanges are becoming increasingly popular in the community.

This map shows some of the book exchanges in Cambridge (students may already have spotted ones for example on Harding Way, by St Luke's Church, at North Cambridge station, and TWO on Roseford Road!):



https://www.google.com/maps/@52.2107838,0.125605,11z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m3!11m2!2swwquZh1ERkS1tZz2P_SnZQ!3e3

Poetry Competition Winners

Congratulations to Roza (Year 7) and Zeph (Year 10) for being chosen out of thousands of entries as winners of a national writing competition, “The power of poetry”. The organisers have written to say they are very impressed by the standard of entries of our school, so a big well done to all who took part. There are prizes for Roza and Zeph, plus a copy of the poetry anthology in which their poems are printed will be made available in the school library.

