

Remembrance Poppies

It is 101 years since the nation's collective Remembrance traditions were first brought together. The wearing of the poppy, two-minute silence, Armistice Day, the service for the Unknown Warrior, and the march-past at the Cenotaph are traditions that millions participate in every year.

Following on from last year's initiative we are again paying our respects at Chesterton by displaying hand knitted poppies around the site. Both staff and students have been invited this past week to display one of 300 poppies and take a moment to pay their respects.



Pride Club Bake Off

As the *Bake Off* final approaches, Chesterton Pride Club hosted its own baking competition. Students from all year groups showed off their baking skills by sharing homemade cakes, biscuits, and bread. A stellar panel of judges sampled the range of baked goods on offer, eventually deciding two winners.

The best presented bake was a rainbow-coloured herby tear-and-share bread, baked by Amelia in Year 9. Close behind were some cupcakes baked by Iga in Year 8, complete with edible rainbows straddling each cupcake. Both bakes were commended by Mr Payne for their creative presentation. High praise from the Paul Hollywood of the panel.

The best tasting bake was awarded to some pumpkin spiced cupcakes, baked by Imogen in Year 10. "Outstanding" was the verdict of Mr Moore. Runner-up for flavour was a non-alcoholic Guinness cake. It was quickly devoured by students after the judging finished.

An honourable mention goes to the heart-shaped biscuits, baked by a team of Year 7s. Dr

Hutchinson was so taken by their flavour that she has commissioned a fresh batch!

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, especially students who shared their bakes. Pride Club is grateful to Miss Howard, Mr Gilliver, Ms Chibbaro, Miss McClean, Dr Hutchinson, Miss Wilson and Miss Trevett who gave up their time to judge.

Pride Club is Chesterton's LGBTQ+ community. Everyone is welcome. We gather every Monday during first lunch in W13, and every Thursday after school in the Library / A Room.



Interhouse Cross Country

The first major interhouse sports events have been taking place throughout this week, as Year 7, 8 and 9 students have taken part in the annual 3km interhouse cross-country competition. Many were competing for a place in the district schools cross-country competition in December, and some were trying to set a new school record



– Congratulations to our new record holders:

- Year 8 girls – Pippa (12.23)
- Year 8 boys – Jacob (11.30)
- Year 7 boys – Peter(11.36)

House results to be confirmed very soon, but Cavendish House students were looking strong!

PTA Updates

It's been a really busy week for the PTA. Firstly, a huge thank you to Sierra and Katie for organising the 2nd-Hand Uniform sale on Tuesday and to all those who came along and purchased items. The sale raised more than £360 for the PTA and it's always brilliant to see the clothes' wear being extended.

We also had our AGM on Tuesday. The Committee remains the same with Matteo Ruggiano as Chair, Cleo Cunningham as Treasurer, Sheila Ceccarelli and Daniel Foster as co-secretaries.

It was great to be joined by Donna Hubbard-Young, Alison Bigglestone and Kath Hutchinson who presented this term's teachers' requests.

We are absolutely delighted that the school is now able to purchase five sturdy picnic tables with parasols and we are delighted to be able to fund equipment for several departments across the school including a small sofa and games for the SEND department; a bit of seasonal cheer for all the students with an interactive Advent Calendar; some very exciting equipment for the Photography department including three DSLR cameras and lots of supporting kit.

Many, many thanks to all parents and staff who have supported the PTA during the last year and enabled these purchases to be made by the PTA for the school.

In addition to the above funding requests being approved, the PTA also approved a considerable donation to the Drama Department for state-of-the-art microphones which will enable actors to project their voices across the auditorium and outdoor spaces. The PTA felt that this was a wonderful way to support all the young performers and also benefit future audiences who will no doubt enjoy the outstanding performances that the department produces.

The PTA is now working on raising an additional £2000 for the Drama equipment by selling drinks at the upcoming *Matilda* performance and launching an Enthuse campaign. Please do pitch in if this is something you feel able to contribute.

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

As well as all of this, elves are working in earnest now, getting ready for the Christmas Fair. You will no doubt have read the Parentmail earlier in the week from Eve with a request for Christmas donations for the Last Minute Present Stall. Please keep your eye out for more messages about that.

Lastly, in the lead-up to Christmas, we are making a huge push to get as many parents and teachers as possible to sign-up for easyfundraising.

It's by far the easiest way to support the PTA at no cost whatsoever. Please follow these simple steps:

We hope as many parents as possible will sign up and start activating donations in three easy steps:

Use this link to sign up for an account (this refer-a-friend link generates an extra £5 for the school once you've raised £5 in donations):

Importantly - download the Browser Extension to your computer/laptop/iPad/iPhone, so that the donation pop-up appears automatically when you shop.

Shop as normal using your laptop and iPad, and when a pop-up box appears saying "Easyfundraising - Free Donation", click to activate the donation.

If you shop online using your mobile, you can still raise funds as you shop; you'll just need to shop by going to the easyfundraising.org.uk web page.

It's easy and completely free, and these donations really mount up, so please sign up to support the school using this link.

Many thanks as always from the PTA Committee

Music News

Well done to all our soloists and bands who performed in Tuesday's Live Lounge teatime concert. There were close to 30 students involved and it was a great afternoon of music. Thanks also to all those who came along to support the performers.

The ticket purchasing link for our school carol service on Thursday 8th December will be

released on Monday 14th November via email. We ask that initially tickets are only bought by families of performers, and that only two are bought per family, as there is limited capacity in the chapel and almost 200 students from Chesterton and Mayfield are performing this year. Following this, we will then release all remaining tickets for general purchase. If you have any questions or additional requirements, please do contact Miss Wilson.

School Readathon November 2022

Thank you to everyone who is enthusiastically taking part in the school's readathon. We know lots of students are trying to read more this month, and that friends and family are being very generous in giving donations already. There has been a real buzz about it in the library and on the reading recommendation pages on Teams, and we are looking forward to welcoming two authors into school later this month. Students in KS3 and 4 have also had opportunities to discuss reading and authors in form times and in their Maths and Geography lessons, and KS5 have had a special readathon assembly. If you want to know more about how the readathon works, please see <https://readforgood.org/> and if you should like to contribute by sponsoring a child to read, this can be done via <https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor>

All monies raised will go to provide books and storytellers for sick children in UK hospitals. As a bonus, our school will also receive new free books for our library, and the most enthusiastic year group will also receive a reward of an extended break and free cookies.

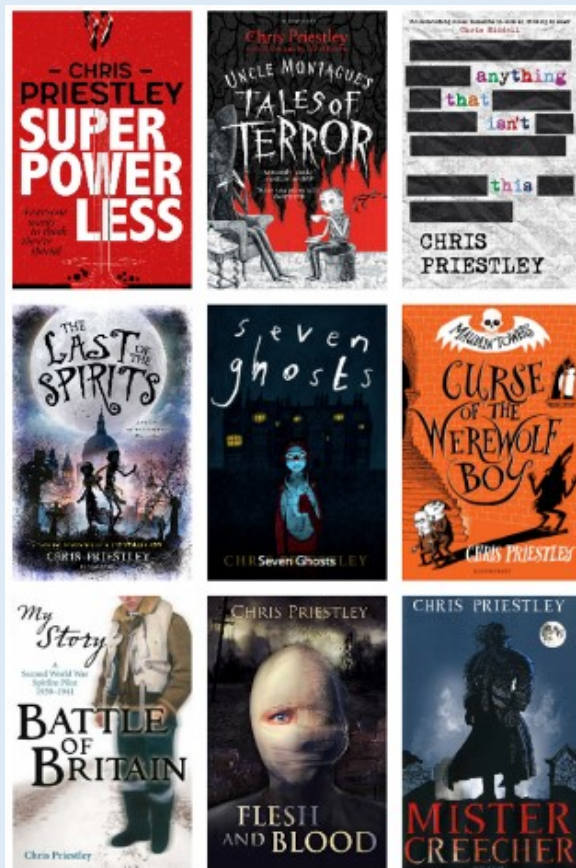
School Book Clubs

Whilst the KS4/5 and staff book club is still working through Harper Lee's *"To Kill a Mockingbird"*, the KS3 "Books and biscuits" group has moved on to *"Danger Is Everywhere"*. This is a great one for people who like funny books like the Tom Gates series. There are still a few copies available in the library if you'd like to join in reading with us; we meet Tuesday breaktimes in the library.

Lots of KS3 students have borrowed Chris Priestley books ahead of his school visit so we look forward to some book club-style discussions on Teams reading recommendation pages –



which book of his is your favourite?



Staff book recommendation of the week



Mrs Maffei (English as Additional Language Coordinator) recommends *“The Bone Sparrow”* by Zana Fraillon. Mrs Maffei says, “I love this book because it is an important story about a very young refugee which has been wonderfully written by Zana Fraillon.”

Mrs Phillips chips in: “The KS3 book club read and absolutely loved this last term – it did make some of us cry though!”

Library News

Everyone who has visited the school library recently has commented on how different it's looking. We have some new displays including a Remembrance Day theme, and it's been great to see students trying history, poetry, and fiction based around the World Wars. The library team have been working hard on a big weed of old stock, and repairing of damaged books. A big thank you also to our team of new library helpers who are helping keep on top of organising and reshelving – it's a big job!

Thanks to parents for the recent magazine donations, and please do keep them coming – students often ask for new *Beanos*, *Phoenixes*, *Top Gears*, and football and animal magazines, and sourcing them from donations protects the library budget for other requests.

Thanks to students and staff for the new book requests arriving via Teams – now we've made a bit of space, we should be able to start processing some new books. We also have big plans for December, including starting the jigsaw club again with a giant Christmas jigsaw.

Lacemaking Qualification Success

Congratulations to Lara in Year 10 who has passed her Lace Guild Foundation Torchon Lacemaking qualification. The Assessors complimented Lara on her portfolio, particularly praising her accuracy and presentation. Well done Lara!

Year 7 Panto Trip

On Friday 9th December, all students in Year 7 have the opportunity to watch a performance of *Dick Wittington and His Cat* at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. It promises to be a great event and, according to reviews, the 'purr-fect festive treat!' Letters have been sent out by Parentmail; please complete the permission form and make payment by Wednesday 23 November to ensure your child can go. If you would like more information, contact Miss Moss (hmos@ccc.tela.org.uk).

Chesterton Lecture

On Monday 14 November, 15:10-16:00, Marton Abos will be presenting a face-to-face lecture on school site. This lecture will be on: *'How to create a great product?'* The lecture will take place in E14, and during this lecture, Marton will discuss with the students *'how to create a great, user-friendly product, whilst helping the students to understand what the breakpoints are and what needs to be done to have the best user satisfaction. Further into the lecture, there will be a discussion about the future of technology, and how the next generation imagines it.'*

If this is something your child/children are interested in, then please can you reply to Mrs Hawkins at: shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk.

Anxiety Support Workshop for Parents to Help Support their Children at Chesterton Community College

On Thursday 1 December 18:00-19:00, Chesterton Community College will be hosting an anxiety support workshop for parents to help support their children. The workshop will be led by Gunilla de Robeck, who is an Emotional Health Practitioner.

In this workshop Gunilla will introduce us to powerful, effective stress reduction techniques allowing students to:

- Come out of the panic flight or fight response
- Reduce stress
- Reduce anxiety
- Feel calmer straightaway
- Have clearer thinking
- Increased confidence to sit an exam

Some reasons why this proven technique is successful:

- it is simple to learn
- it is immediately available anywhere and anytime
- you feel a difference straight away
- you can't go wrong in using it
- you can use it in many other difficult life situations
- it can be used in combination with other tools

Gunilla has experience working with children and teenagers, along with their parents for a vast number of years. During the workshop Gunilla will talk about the technique, the benefits and provide you with an opportunity to experience the technique for yourself. There will also be a chance for you to ask Gunilla questions.

If this is something you are interested in attending, please can you sign up by clicking on the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/gabU4wf986>

Deadline for sign up is: Monday 14 November.

Mr Reed's Politics Talking Point for this week

LET'S TALK ABOUT POLITICS YEAR 11

This week's lets talk about politics is on the resignation of Gavin Williamson from cabinet over bullying allegations.

Should he be expelled from the conservative party now?

Should the party leadership wait until the investigation has concluded?

Should he be suspended from the commons by the Speaker?

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

GAVIN WILLIAMSON REIGNS OF BULLYING ACCUSATIONS

Gavin Williamson: More MPs
planned to complain before
resignation

38 hours ago



Proud to Promote Cambridge Concert Orchestra's Charity Concert

On 10 December at 4pm, Cambridge Concert Orchestra, in aid of Cambridge City Foodbank, will be performing at The Atrium Theatre at Chesterton Community College. The concert will celebrate 100 years of the BBC, and will include themes from *The Apprentice*, *Dr Who* and *Desert Island Discs* (as well as a few festive pieces). Adult tickets are £10 and children go free. They are on sale now at <http://cambridgeconcertorchestra.org/>

Cavendish House

There are moments in the life of a school that are at once comforting and familiar while also being challenging and new, and always a joy to behold or be a part of. This week Chesterton Community College saw a packed week including several such moments, and Cavendish House of course played its yellow part.

On Friday, students and staff observed Remembrance Day with our annual moment of silence, all the more moving this year after we marked Her Late Majesty's death in a similar way. Students were also given knitted poppies in assembly and encouraged to add them to the green spaces in the rear courtyard, creating a beautiful poppy field which grew across the week.

In a very different tone, we had a range of more light-hearted events including another music Live Lounge on Tuesday and the first annual Pride Club Gayke Off. "It should be termly," one SLT source told this reporter.

The theme of this week's PSHE was kindness, and Cavendish students reflected on the Golden Rule, what it means to be kind and caring, and learned about the problems faced by young carers. The school also began a reading drive, with students encouraged to think about their favourite authors in preparation for a visit by the author Chris Priestly in a few weeks. Who is your favourite author, or is there a book that has been important to you? Answers on a postcard slid under the door of the Cavendish Office, please! (Colleen McCulloch for fiction, Stephen Runciman for non-fiction...)
That's all from us this week. Don't forget to be awesome!

Equiano House

Well done Equiano, we are currently 3rd in the ABP league! We have got 3,307 points so far, let's try and aim for 2nd place next week! We were only 23 behind Hill in 2nd place.

In sporting news this week Years 7, 8 and 9 ran a 3km race; well done to everyone. Next week we will get the results so good luck to Equiano House.

This week some students attended a lecture by Steve Waters on the writing crisis: playwriting today. He talked about how difficult writing is for the world we live in, with the climate emergency, social change and political turbulence. It was a very interesting talk and left students with a lot to think about.

On Friday we had a two-minute silence for Armistice Day, to remember the end of the First World War and everyone who helped us have the freedom we have today.

Don't forget next week we are supporting children in need! Students can bring in money to buy Children in Need merchandise including the famous Pudsey ears, but make sure to get them quick as they were very popular last year! You can also help out by bringing in baked goods to sell. These should be dropped off to B8 on the Friday morning for a bake sale. Be sure to bring in change for some yummy treats!

Hill House

This new week of November greeted us with a lot of rain and cold! But despite the cold weather, life at school continues apace with a wide range of activities.

The entire school had a two-minute moment of silence on Friday 11th of November to remember those who died in our wars. It was quite a solemn event, yet it reminded us to be grateful for the peace and comfort of our lives today. To remember the Armistice Day, the school students planted poppies in the rear courtyard, bringing some colour into the environment, and a sombre reminder of the sacrifice made by others.

Remember that there is a huge range of extra-curricular activities on offer, and Hill students can check the weekly notices for a list of the wide range of options available. The Philosophy Club has resumed for this term - if you're interested in discussing topics such as morality, reality and different world views, come and tune in! It's every Monday 3:15-4:00 in A2 with Ms. Barker.

Fawcett House

This week's blog is once again brought to you by our awesome prefect Imogen! She would like to say congratulations to the Year 11s who had their GCSE mocks.

This week we have observed a two-minute silence for Armistice Day on Friday the 11th for the ending of WW1.

In the interhouse points runnings this week we are still 4th on the ABP leaderboard. In other news, we can still move up the standings, so keep going Fawcett students!

This November there is a sponsored read going on across the school. We encourage students to set themselves reading goals and to ask people they know to sponsor them for hitting these goals. Any money raised will go to 'Read for Good' charity which helps get books to children in hospitals.

If you need support with anything at all, please speak to Mr Firth, Miss Malik, Miss Walton or your form tutor.

Robinson House

Well done all, another awesome week! We are especially thinking of our Year 11s who are completing their mocks this week.

During tutor time this week we discussed kindness and considered the ways we could be kinder to each other and thought of actions we could do together in our buddy groups.

Students are getting excited about our Turing trips and are eagerly looking forward to details being finalised.

Robinson remain in the lead and with the most Above and Beyond Points as a house, so let's keep it up for Christmas!

Finally, we would like to wish the happiest of happy birthdays to those of our Robinson students celebrating: Ayaan, Theodore, Gabriel, Daniel and Max.