



## Sixth Form



It has been a swift return to business for the sixth formers who have made an encouraging return to lessons. It's been really pleasing to see such a strong number of applications for sixth form in September. If anyone needs any further information, don't hesitate to get in touch with the sixth form team.

This week, students have got to grips with Unifrog and are beginning to consider the next chapter of their lives after sixth form. Futures and careers is the main focus of our tutorials this term and is an incredibly exciting part of the sixth form experience, and we very much look forward to help them explore the many different routes they have to choose from!

Wednesday afternoon saw our students have a well-earned pause from their studies where some opted for a table tennis competition and others making pizzas from scratch!



## CSF Programme

We are thrilled to announce that the CSF Programme is now live and applications are now open. The CSF Programme is an exciting project aimed at supporting high achieving, aspirational young people in their journey through GCSE and A-level study, university and higher education applications, right through into their careers beyond graduation. Below you will see information on how to register interest and apply.

[The CSF Programme - Chesterton Sixth Form \(tela.org.uk\)](http://tela.org.uk)

## **News From the Houses**

### **Equiano House**

Happy New Year from Equiano! We hope that everyone had a relaxing break filled with lots of treats and is excited to start the New Year. Our first full week back after the holidays has been busy and it is great to see our Equiano students coming back to school with so much enthusiasm. Well done to Samuel, Nell and Gabriele who have started the term brilliantly and are our students of the week.

Well done to all of our Equiano Year 10 GCSE Drama students who put on a performance of *DNA* as part of their mock practical exam; your hard work really paid off and the show was great and has really got people talking. Congratulations must also go to our Health and Social Care students who sat the first external exam of the year on Monday; we hope it went well.

In tutor time this week we have been looking at body positivity and how we can appreciate and celebrate what our bodies do for us every day. We have also launched the next House competition which will be chess so get practising those end plays, everyone.

### **Hill House**

Another busy week grips Chesterton, with the start of some new Chesterton lectures, clubs and a Year 11 parent's evening. This week we've had a lecture from Eyal Poleg about King Henry VIII's Bible and how under further examination, it can give us an insight into the religious and political state of Tudor England. Next week, we'll be having another lecture from Guillaume Hennequin on Neuroscience and the human body's most famous neurons. On Thursday, the school was busy with the Year 11 parent's evening for Maths and English, with the remaining subjects next week. Meanwhile Year 7 were treated to a special performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Thursday morning, which was extremely entertaining and the Year 7 volunteer actors performed excellently!

Finally, *The Blaze* is calling for more writers. If you're interested in writing and editing articles for the school newspaper, you can publish your blogs at [theblaze@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:theblaze@ccc.tela.org.uk)  
That's all for this week, catch you next week!

### **Fawcett House**

As we come to the end of the first full week of the Spring Term, it's a great time to reflect on what has already been happening in Fawcett House. There was an inter-form chess competition last Friday where tutees played matches to determine who was the champion in each Fawcett Form - the next round is next Friday so good luck as you represent your tutor group!

Alfie and Seb were involved in a thrilling football match where they won 4-2 on penalties - good luck in the next round! There was an assembly on fake news and how you can identify whether the news you read is from a reliable source or not. Students in Fawcett have already earned over 200 ABP since returning - keep up the good work!

Looking ahead, there are lots of sport fixtures taking place in the coming weeks - good luck to all students involved! Our extra curricular programme has something for everyone so please do keep your eye on the whole school notices where you may want to join a new club with some friends.

Good luck if you are continuing with your New Year's resolutions - whether that is to read more, be more active or simply to be kind, we are all with you. Mr Firth's New Year challenge is to run 5k a day in January (31 times!) - why don't you go and ask how he is feeling as he is almost halfway through?

### **Robinson House**

Hello Robinson. Happy New Year everyone and well done for making such a tremendous start to 2023.

This week in tutor time we took part in the Chesterton Challenge, discussed body positivity and had valuable discussions in our Buddie Groups to develop a fresh perspective. Our Year 11 students are getting organised and creating their revision schedules for their 2023 GCSE exams.

We have been so impressed with the wonderful turn out at our school clubs from Robinson students already in the full week back. Remember to check the school website: there really is something for everyone.

We currently have 6,496 Above and Beyond Points! A huge well done to everyone who has helped our House achieve this.

Finally, we would like to wish the happiest of birthdays to those in our Robinson students celebrating theirs: Ibrahim, Lily, Jomarley, Jaylen, Caroline, Tristan, , Eleanor, Katerine, Tasnuva, Sian, Thomas, Suzie, Mubashara, Kacie and Hoi Ki.

### **Cavendish House**

What will you do with 2023? This new year the Cavendish Team have a challenge for you: What can you do to make this year count? Whether it is taking up a new extra-curricular activity, working hard to improve in a school subject, pursuing a personal interest or anything else, we encourage everyone in the Cavendish community to think about ways to develop themselves and their character this year. Something which may be a help in this regard is the return of the Chesterton Challenge - can you make the next medal this year? We look forward to seeing the many things that Cavendish students can come up with for ways to contribute to the community.

And so, to the business of the new school term. This is a double edition of the Cavendish Blog in many respects as it covers both "Week 1" and "Week 2" of this term, and the school has hit the ground running ready to make the most of 2023. Chesterton Youth Theatre got the year off to a good start with the Year 10 GCSE class production of "*DNA*", a highly inventive and moving piece which involved the audience promenading between three different locations. Well done to all the performers, and particularly of course to those Cavendish students among them.

Nafeesah (Year 10) and two other students visited St John's College for the Gothic fiction workshop with author Mark Wells, which they won following the first-line writing competition last term. Congratulations again to them, and we hope you enjoyed the day. Year 7 also were treated to a production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "There was a lot of energy in the room," one English teacher told this reporter. Well that's about enough to be getting on with for the first edition of 2023. Don't forget to be awesome, Cavendish!

### **Ski Trip 2022**

Just before the Christmas break, 120 students from Years 10 and 11 boarded the coach to Austria for the ski trip. For many, this was their first experience of skiing and seeing the fantastic mountain scenery. We also had some very experienced skiers who were quickly heading down the steeper slopes.











The resort near Innsbruck was a great location with students being able to ski from the hotel. We saw lots of grit and resilience in action as students learnt the basics with plenty of falls along the way.

As part of the trip, students also visited the Christmas Market in Innsbruck as well as a quick visit to the local pizza restaurant. Other highlights included a trip to the top of the mountain to see the views and to take in a hot chocolate as well as the quizzes and games played in the evening. The students were a credit to the school.

### **Fundraising Ceilidh**

We're livening up January with a fundraising Ceilidh to help send three Chesterton students/graduates (now Year 9 and Year 12) who were chosen earlier this year to join 40,000 other young people at the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Korea in August 2023. This was a selective process and they each have to raise £3850, part of which subsidises travel costs for Scouts from less affluent countries.

Join us and the [Cambridge University Ceilidh band](#) for a night of fun, dancing and general mayhem. If you've never been to a ceilidh, don't worry, there's always a 'caller' to keep you in step and they are huge fun. Bring your dancing shoes! Kilts are welcome but definitely optional.

### *What's included?*

Your [£10 ticket](#) gives you live music and sparkling company. Please pre-order our generous-sized cheese platters for £10 each (we suggest one between two people, and there is a vegan option). There's also a bar selling beer, wine, soft drinks and more snacks, all at reasonable prices. There will be occasional games and fast raffles too so please bring some cash if you can (the bar will take card).

### *When and where?*

Chesterton Community College Auditorium

**Friday 20 January**

**7pm – doors open**

**7.30pm dancing starts**

**10pm finish**

### *Who can come?*

Friends and family are very welcome, get a table of 8 together! Children over 10 are welcome to join their adults. Buy tickets via the 12th Cambridge Scouts page [here](#). (Apologies if our elderly servers load the page slowly.)

### **Music Department**

Music ensembles have already begun for this term and we are looking forward to our big Spring Concert at West Road Concert Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

All students are welcome to come along to music groups. In particular:

- We are looking for lots of new members for the samba band on Monday mornings, 8.10-8.40am. We are hoping to do a 'glow in the dark' samba performance at West

Road, with light up drumsticks, and we need lots of players to make this a success. All welcome.

- The school steel pan band runs on Wednesday morning, 8.10-8.40. All welcome to this new group – come along and learn to play the pans!
- The folk fiddle band has resumed on Wednesday and Friday mornings, 8.10-8.40, with Ms Veryard. All players of violin, viola, double bass, bass guitar and guitar are welcome to this group who will be learning some Latin American fiddle tunes for the West Road Concert. Parts will be provided for different abilities. Players only need to come to one session each week.
- The school orchestra rehearses on Wednesdays, 3.05-4.30pm (with a biscuit break!). All instrumentalists are welcome; we are playing a wide variety of classical and film music. It is fine to leave at 4pm or to come late after period 7. It would be great to have our biggest ever orchestra at West Road!
- The Junior Choir is going from strength to strength and we would love to have any new members from Year 7 and 8. All welcome on Thursdays 8.10-8.40am.

Any interested students should sign up on Edulink Clubs or just turn up to a rehearsal.

There will be two Live Lounges this term. These are informal teatime concerts where students can share pieces or songs they've been learning in their own times or in music lessons. All instruments and styles are welcomed and encouraged!

- Tuesday 7th February, 3.45pm: soloists and small ensembles welcome to sign up
- Tuesday 21st February, 4.30pm: bands welcome to sign up.

The sign-up sheets will go up on the music office door on Monday. Students should sign up early to guarantee a slot!

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Year 7 students had an absolute treat on Thursday morning with a performance of “*A Midsummer Night's Dream*” by a one-man theatre company, “Shaking Up Shakespeare” in the school auditorium. Year 7 have been studying performance aspects of Shakespeare's comedies in their English lessons, so it was brilliant for them to see a play brought to life, and even to participate in the production! Students were wonderfully enthusiastic participants, and actor Anthony Glenn is always very complimentary of the attitude and behaviour of our students, which is wonderful for staff to hear. The play was fast and furious and funny, with lots of props, exaggeration and multi-roling, and the experience really helped students to understand the appeal of Shakespeare brought to life off the page. Many thanks to Anthony for coming to perform for us again, to Year 7 students for

being such a brilliant audience and of course to parents whose support makes these activities possible.



### **New in the Library**

There's plenty going on in the library in January. We continue to be a nicely busy but quiet haven every break and lunch, with plenty of students coming in for quiet reading, homework and revision, or to add to our latest jigsaw. We also expect homework club to pick up in the library after school, with the reality of GCSE exams looming for Year 11, and we really encourage students to make use of a quiet space with staff on hand so they can make headway on their revision. In order to prioritise protecting this quiet space, other activities have now been reroomed. If students have not been in to visit the library recently, we do encourage them pop in to check

out the new displays – including some January inspiration (study skills, friendship, environment) and growing table of newly added books, including plenty of dyslexia-friendly reads. The library team have been working hard adding new books to the system. Our

volunteer librarians are proudly wearing their librarian badges, and we are so grateful to see them issuing and returning and shelving books – it would be impossible to stay on top of all the tasks without them.

The school book clubs continue:

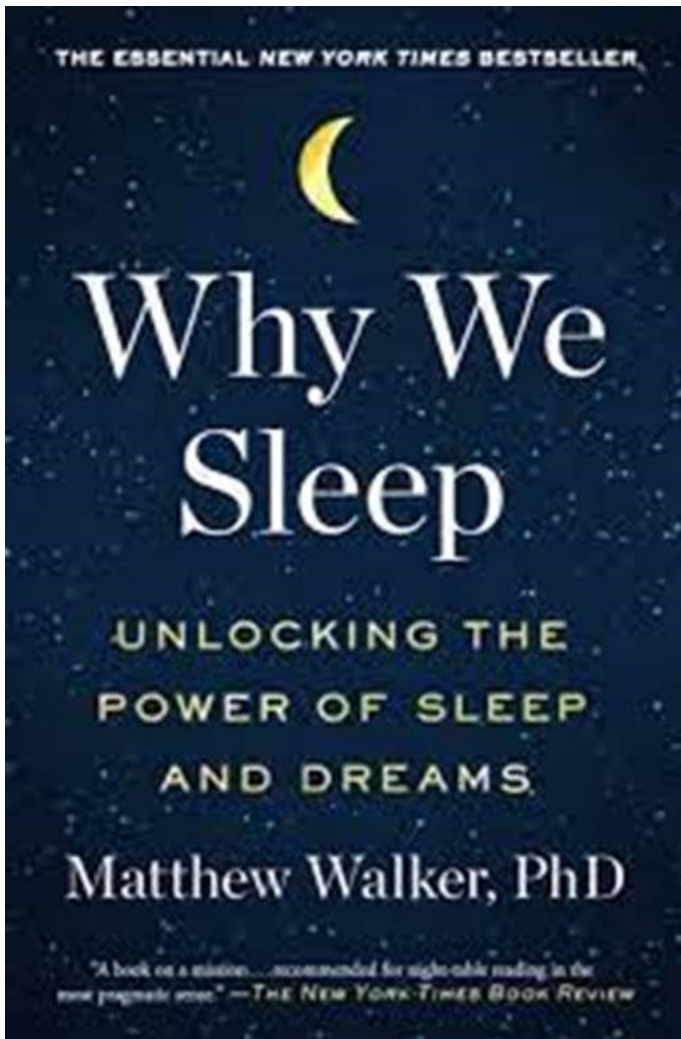
- KS3 – “Books and biscuits” – every Tuesday breaktime in the library (we’ve been talking about our Christmas reading)
- Graphic novel club – share books with like-minded friends – every Wednesday breaktime in the library
- KS4/5 and staff book club – meets half-termly; currently reading “*Pride and Prejudice*” – do take a look at our new Jane Austen display in the library



**This Week’s Reading Recommendation**

Ms Lintern (Head of Psychology, Science Teacher) recommends, “*Why We Sleep*” by Matthew Walker.

Ms Lintern says, “As it says on the tin, it helps us understand the importance of why we need to sleep from a biological, psychological and everyday point of view. It covers important concepts like the effect of exercise, caffeine and alcohol on sleep; why we shouldn’t hit “snooze”; why we REALLY shouldn’t sleep with our phones on the bedside table; what happens when we dream. A fascinating book!”



### **Reading Buddies**

Thank you to Year 9 students who have volunteered to spend time reading with younger students at a local primary school, beginning this coming week. We know they will do our school proud and that it will be a valuable experience for the primary children involved.

### **Local Libraries**

We continue to develop our links with local libraries, including some planned upcoming visits to Milton Road Library. We also encourage students to make use of our local libraries in their own time, including the newly refurbished Arbury Library. Cambridge libraries

provide a warm, friendly place to relax, read, work or study, with free WiFi and free use of library computers, and you can even bring snacks and drinks along (which is more than we allow in our school library!) Why not meet up with friends to enjoy one of the many social events on offer: talks, book groups, craft sessions and more, which are normally free of charge.

There are a number of local upcoming events which we would particularly recommend to members of our school community. These include regular things like Manga club and Lego club, and more seasonal ones like events to mark Chinese New Year. See <https://www.library.live/> for info about various upcoming events.

The stock in Cambridge libraries obviously exceeds what we can fit in our own library, and trained librarians are well placed to support reading choices. You can also see recommended reads by season here to get some inspiration:

[https://cambridgeshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/WPAC/RECREAD?HOMEPRMS=UD\\_RECREADSPARAMS&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://cambridgeshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/WPAC/RECREAD?HOMEPRMS=UD_RECREADSPARAMS&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)



### **Author Reward Visit**

Last term we ran a Gothic creative writing competition, and three worthy winners (Nafeesah, Theo and Sasha, all in Year 10) got their reward this Thursday, with a trip to St John's College to meet an author (and also a friendly bonus poet), with an inspiring tour around the Gothic buildings plus time to talk about writing. A huge thank you to author Mark Wells for kindly suggesting and organising all of this for our students.

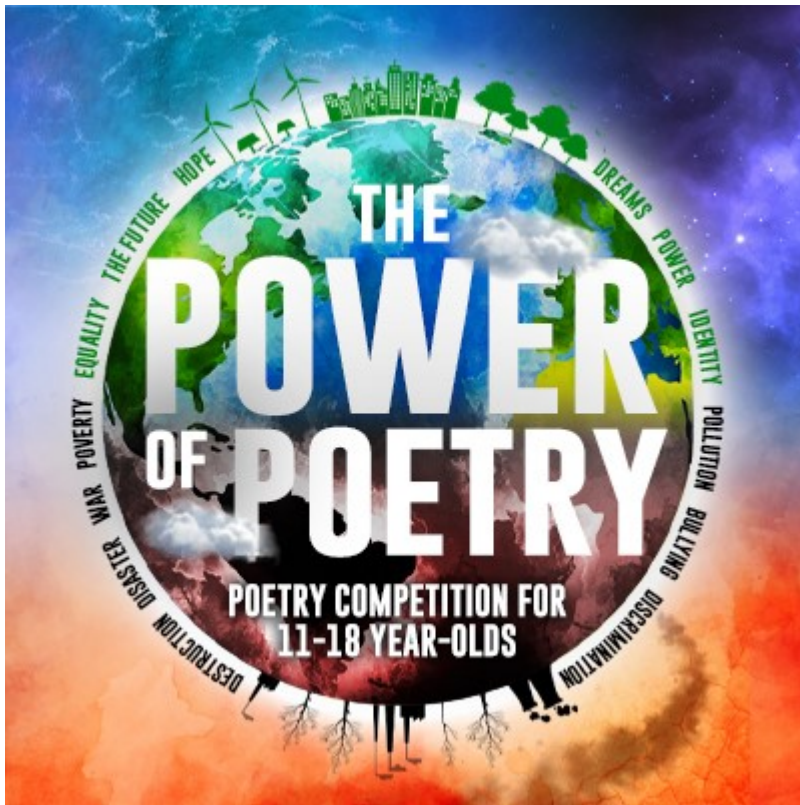




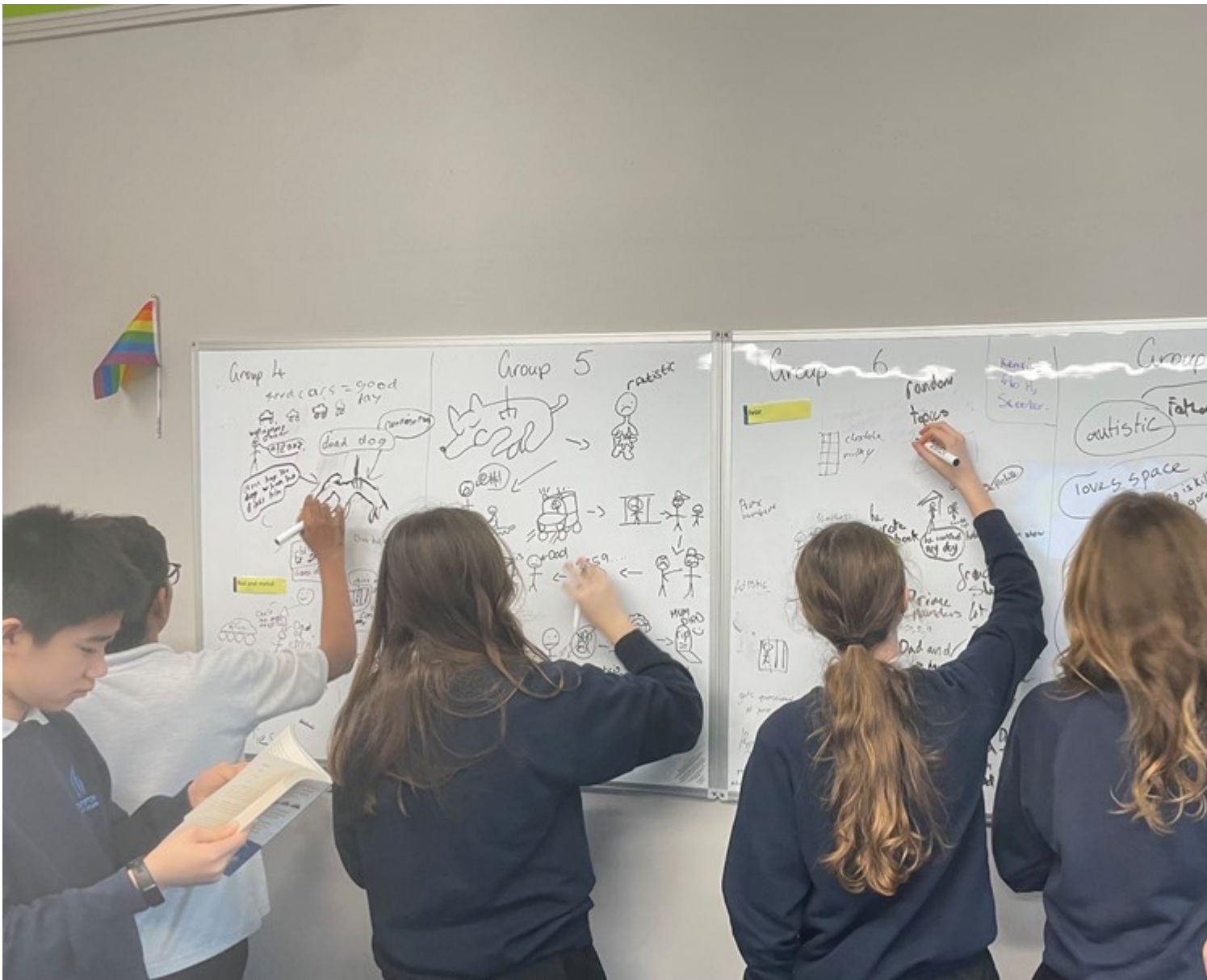
### **Creative Writing Competitions**

As a school we have been able to promote a number of in-house and national creative writing competitions with much success. Mrs Phillips would like to say thank you to everyone who sent her entries for the numbers-themed writing competition before Christmas. We look forward to seeing if we have any winners, who can win various prizes plus get their work published.

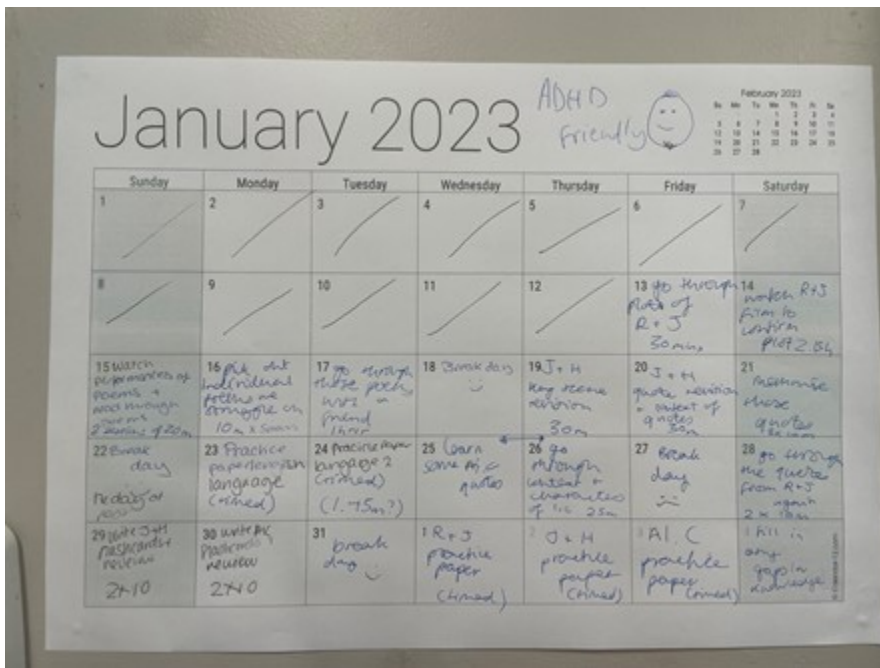
We have a growing pile of books in the school library with our students' contributions! The latest competition we are promoting is a poetry competition, open to all students age 11-18. Please see <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/power-of-poetry#:~:text=The%20school%20that%20submits%20the,in%20the%20Spring%20Term%202023>. For more details. Closing date is 10<sup>th</sup> February so please send your entries to [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) by this date.



English Department



Year 8 students completing a Brain Blurt competition to recall their knowledge of *The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Nighttime*.



Year 11 student started 2023 off planning their January revision

### County Cup Success – a thriller!

Congratulations to the Year 7 boys football team on progressing to the next round of the county cup. This week we hosted a strong team from Kings' School, Peterborough - it was an outstanding game for the players and spectators. Chesterton took the lead, only to be pegged back to 1-1. Chesterton took the lead again and looked comfortable until an equaliser was scored. We dominated the last 10 minutes, hitting the bar, missing a penalty and having shots cleared off the line. The game progressed to penalties... which Chesterton won 4-2. There was some excellent football played for long periods, and well done to Peter

and Lucas for their goals in normal time. Penalties were scored by Ben, Peter, Lucas and Alfie.

### **Year 9 Basketball**

The Year 9 boys' basketball team played the qualifying round of the district basketball cup this week. It was a one-point game at half time, and the result was still in the balance at the start of the fourth quarter. Despite great effort and some excellent offensive play, the game was finally lost 31-40. There was obvious progress and the team look forward to playing Swavesey in the next game. Notable performances from Lino and Omondi.