

## Blog – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Bank Holiday Monday

Remember that we will have a bank holiday on Monday so we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday.

### Help Wanted

Do you have sewing/textile construction skills? Would you be willing to help with our amazing GCSE Textile students for an hour a week?

We are looking for someone to help support students in lessons with the construction of their work and technical skills. If you might be interested in helping and would like some more information, please email Mrs Kathy Stringer, Teacher of Textiles at

[kstringer@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:kstringer@ccc.tela.org.uk)

### Careers & Post-16 Planning

With the new academic year starting, the Year 11s enter the final year before applying to their post-16 destination. Some will go on to do A-Levels, some will start an Apprenticeship, Traineeship or T-Levels, others will chose to start working with training. To help with these important decisions, most local colleges, schools and other providers will come together on the evening of **5<sup>th</sup> of October at Chesterton** to present their offer, answer questions from students and parents, and hand out prospectuses.

This “Progression evening” is always a very popular and extremely useful event for Year 11 students and parents, which you are greatly encouraged to attend. More information will be sent out via Parentmail soon.

The evening will start at 6pm and finish at 7.30. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Debating at Chesterton

Should outgoing Prime Ministers be appointed to the House of Lords? Following a recent change in Prime Minister, this question spurred fierce, engaging debate among students this week.

Due to demand outstripping capacity last year, the popular debate extra-curricular now has two offerings:

- Chesterton Debate Club. Years 7-9  
Wednesdays after school until 4:15pm, in A16  
Run by Miss McClean and Miss Trevett
- Chesterton Debating Union. Years 10-13  
Wednesdays after school until 4:15pm, in A3  
Run by Mr Moore and Mr Ware
- Later this half-term we will debate questions including:

What is a sport?

Is speech too free on the internet?

Should you choose what you learn?

Come along to try to persuade others of your views.

### **New Career in Teaching**

We welcomed our new cohort of 10 trainee teachers to school on Friday. They are all completing their Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) through the University of Cambridge and we are delighted to be able to support them in this first stage of their new career.

### **New Staff**

We have welcomed a number of new staff for the new academic year and over the next few blogs we will introduce those staff. Today we are introducing: Mr Alexander Bengler, Teacher of Politics, and Mr Cameron Reed, Head of Politics and Deputy Head of Sixth Form

#### Mr Alexander Bengler

I'm Alex Bengler and I'm very happy to have joined Chesterton Community College as a History teacher. After completing my undergraduate degree in History at the University of Cambridge, I spent a year working as a Learning Support Assistant at a school in St Albans. I then returned to Cambridge to complete my Secondary History PGCE, before working as a History teacher and Key Stage 3 History co-ordinator at a school in London for two years.



I have spent the last year away from the classroom while studying full time for a Masters in Education (History) at the UCL Institute of Education. Throughout my teaching career, I have enjoyed engaging with a broader community of History teachers, across the country and internationally (via the internet rather than physical travel), debating and sharing ideas about best practice and the value of History teaching, including presenting at History teaching conferences and writing articles for the Historical Association's professional journal, *Teaching History*.

#### Mr Cameron Reed

My name is Mr Cameron Reed. Chesterton is the fourth school I have taught at, but it will be the first school I have taught at within my home country of Cambridgeshire. Having been

away from Cambridgeshire for over ten years due to University and work, I am glad to be back!

In my two previous schools my role was Head of History, and while I still have a great passion for History as a subject I am greatly looking forward to my two new roles as Head of Politics and Deputy Head of Sixth form; to further develop my passion and interest for Politics and post-16 pastoral care. My main interests outside of teaching are a range of active pursuits such as marathon running, wild swimming and walking in any areas of natural beauty from the Surrey Hills to the North West Highlands of Scotland.



### **Gardening Club**

Over the summer we harvested squash, courgettes, beetroots and carrots and donated them to the local food bank. We have more root vegetables growing and the tomatoes are coming on a treat. We plan to plant more seedlings out over the next few weeks and hope to keep up with the gratefully received donations.

If you are interested in getting involved in growing fresh produce to supply to the local foodbank (fairbite) then please do come along to the Gardening Club on a Tuesday after school or speak to your Science teacher. Special thanks to the PTA who this week agreed to generously fund some soil for our raised beds.

### **Chesterton Sixth Form**

This week the Sixth Form have prepared and presented their own Ted Talks on a series of fascinating topics. We were hugely impressed with presentations and look forward to many of the Sixth Form students making their way onto the Chesterton Lecture series in the near future.

Wednesday afternoon we had our first Sixth Form social, consisting of seven giant pizzas and crazy golf. It was fantastic to see the group enjoying some time together away from their studies and to see their competitive side!





## **Chesterton Sixth Form Open Evening: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

You can keep up to date with the Sixth Form through Instagram and Facebook.

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

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

### **Parent/Carer Information Evenings**

Thank you to all the parents/carers who joined us for two information events this week:

- An Introduction to Secondary Education in the UK for International Parents
- How to Help Your Child at Home for Year 7

Electronic versions of the presentations will be available shortly via Parentmail.

### Upcoming Parent events

- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September How to Help Your Year 8 & 9 Child at Home
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September How to Help Your Year 10 & 11 Child at Home

See Parentmails for more information.

### **Chesterton Lectures 2022-2023**

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.

The first lecture this academic year will be starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, more information to follow soon.

## Rewards for Above and Beyond Points (ABPs)

At the start of next week, we will be handing out praise postcards to over 100 students who have managed to already unlock their Level 1 Award. A special mention goes to: Cieran in Year 10 who has received 30 ABPs, which is the highest number of ABPs this academic year so far.

### Inter-house ABP Leader Board

1<sup>st</sup> Place      Robinson:    422 ABPs

2<sup>nd</sup> Place      Equiano:     403 ABPs

3<sup>rd</sup> Place      Fawcett:     399 ABPs

4<sup>th</sup> Place      Cavendish:  376 ABPs

5<sup>th</sup> Place      Hill:          375ABPs

**Total:** 1,975 ABPs – a fantastic achievement

## Reading at Chesterton

Book clubs have relaunched for the year.

- Key Stage 3 'Books and biscuits' is now on every Tuesday in the library. We had a good first meeting catching up with what we had been reading over the summer (with some teachers dropping in to tell us about their reading and steal our biscuits!), and we have chosen our first book of the academic year: "*Face*", a story by Benjamin Zephaniah.
- Thanks to the new Year 10s and staff who have expressed interest in the Key Stage 4/5 and staff book club. There's still plenty of time to join in with our book for the half term, a radio play called "*Under Milk Wood*" by Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas. Dr White's students should ask her about her funny "*Under Milk Wood*" school story! Please join the club on edulink to be added to the Team for online discussion.
- By request, and thanks in part to the interest created by our Year 7 comic writing workshop last term, we are now also running a graphic novel club on Wednesday break times in the library. If you enjoy reading and discussing and perhaps even drawing graphic novels, do drop into the library to spend some time with like-minded people. The demand for Manga sometimes outstrips supply, so if you have any good quality graphic novels, especially Manga, you would be willing to donate to the club, please do leave them at reception for the attention of Mrs Phillips, and they will be gratefully received by our graphic novel lovers.
- Mr Payne is sharing his reading with his 'Book of the term' – beginning with "*Things Fall Apart*" by Chinua Achebe. He is inviting any student to grab a copy of the book from his classroom, A17, and then catch him at a break or lunchtime to chat about the book.
- For their next English topic, Years 7, 8 and 9 will be moving on to a novel study:

'A Monster Calls' for Year 7

'A Christmas Carol' for Year 8

'Run Rebel' for Year 9

All parents of these year groups should have received a Parentmail regarding these texts giving further information.

## Music News

Well done to all those students who have attended a music rehearsal this week. We have had a brilliant start with fantastic attendance. It is not too late to join a group – students should look on Edulink Clubs or the timetable in the Music Block if they would like to come along to something.

Highlights this term will include performances at

- the Royal Albert Hall for Junior Choir
- Ely Cathedral for both Junior Choir and Chesterton Singers
- St John's College Chapel for most of our groups

so it is a great time to get involved!

The first 'Live Lounge' (renamed Teatime Concert) of this term is taking place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 3.45pm and is an opportunity for all Year 7 students to sign up to perform. It will be a very informal concert where students can play or sing a piece they have enjoyed learning, on any instrument, to a supportive audience. Refreshments are provided. Any students who would like to perform should sign up on the sheet on the Music Office door as soon as possible. All students, families and friends will be welcome to join us in the audience – more details to follow.

The Cambridge Youth Opera (CYO) are holding an open event on Sunday. Please see the details below; this is a great opportunity to take part in a young people's opera project.

### Details

Date: 18 September

Time: 15:30 - 17:30

Place: The Storey's Field Centre, Eddington, CB3 1AA

Entry is free with a collection during the event to support our work.

Register to attend: <https://support-cyo-little-black-cat.eventbrite.co.uk>

### About the event

An afternoon of music and an opportunity to find out more about what CYO does and how you could be part of it. From November 2021 – February 2022, CYO worked with 20 young people aged 11–19 to create a brand new opera, *The Little Black Cat*. Now we're ready to bring their work to life and we need your help.

- There'll be singing - including never-before heard excerpts from our new opera.
- There'll be the opportunity to meet the CYO team and members past and present and find out what we do.

- There'll be activities for young people who want to take part.
  - And, of course, there will be the opportunity to donate to our fundraising campaign and find out about all the ways in which you could help CYO.
- Find out more about CYO at [www.cambridgeyouthopera.com](http://www.cambridgeyouthopera.com)

### About *The Little Black Cat*

The Little Black Cat is a wonderful, beautiful work: a story of courage, a strange journey and... cats!

We're working with the Norwich Puppet Theatre (NPT) to make our young peoples' vision a reality on stage. CYO will be working with young singers, designers, stage managers and technicians to rehearse and perform the work, with young puppeteers from the NPT providing the cat action. Performances are planned for Spring 2023.

Could you be one of the young people taking part in this amazing project? If so, come along and find out more.

### **Performing Arts News**

Drama and Musical Theatre Clubs have got off to a flying start; Ms Marston, Mr Cooper and Mr Ware are very excited about what might be created and achieved this year with Chesterton Youth Theatre.

To add to the mix, we are hosting a new dance club. We want our actors and musical theatre artists to develop their skills in dance, and also to give opportunity to those dancers at Chesterton who might want to become more involved. Kyle Walker will be joining us as a guest practitioner as of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, running the following club:

#### Hip Hop For Breakfast

A dance club for dancers and actors

Fridays 8–9am

£39 per term (10 sessions)

The Dance Studio

15 places – all year groups

Kyle is a professional dancer who has performed on commercial television and taught locally at Body Work (he is also a former student of Ms Marston's so she can vouch for his brilliance). He is looking for male and female performers across the school. Dancers taking part have been given permission by the College to miss form time on Fridays so that they can finish the class and get changed into their school uniform in time for first lesson. If you

would like to sign up for this, please email [smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk) with the subject title 'Hip Hop Club'. Ms Marston will then reply to you with further information.

We hope with our new in-house Hip Hop Club to build up a crew of dancers who might then perform material at suitable times and altogether do more to build Dance at Chesterton. It will also be great for students' fitness and wellbeing.

However, if your style is more contemporary, there an exciting opportunity here.

Cambridge Youth Dance are holding auditions for their Junior and Senior Youth Dance Companies:

- Senior Company: Tuesday 20 September, 5pm-6.30pm.  
Open to dancers aged 14-19, in school Years 10-13
- Junior Company: Thursday 22 September, 5pm-6.30pm.  
Open to dancers aged 11-13, in school Years 7-9.

All auditions take place in the dance studio at Impington Village College.

Cambridge Youth Dance provides high quality Contemporary and Creative dance provision in Cambridgeshire. Their aim is to empower young people and ignite their imagination and creativity through dance. Cambridge Youth Dance Company Seniors was set up in 2016 for young dancers aged between 14 and 19 years, in school years 10-13. It is a youth-led organisation, with young people having the opportunity to call the shots, make the rules and get creative along the way. The group perform at regional and national youth dance festivals. With the success of their Senior Company, they now want to offer the same opportunity to younger dancers. This September they are launching Cambridge Youth Dance Company Juniors. This company is open to students aged 11-13, in school years 7-9.

To sign up to audition, email [kate@cambridgeyouthdance.co.uk](mailto:kate@cambridgeyouthdance.co.uk)

With *Strictly* about to launch on BBC Television, let's keep dancing!

### Theatre Trips

The first Chesterton Youth Theatre London theatre trip has been booked for this year: Brecht's *'The Caucasian Chalk Circle'* in a new version by Steve Waters (who will be coming to lecture later this term). It stars Carrie Hope Fletcher, well-known for her West End leading roles. GCSE students of Drama and Year 8/9 Chesterton Youth Theatre core member have been sent letters about the trip. There are 46 tickets available for students – it's going to be a great night out, so don't forget to book a place!

Closer to home, Lesley Ford - who many students know from their wonderful experiences of Drama at Arbury Primary School – is co-directing Tom Stoppard's classic *'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead'* – a spin-off from Shakespeare's *'Hamlet'*. This will be performed at the ADC Theatre, Cambridge, just across from Jesus Green.

It stars a former student of Chesterton, Will Males, and looks to be a funny, moving, perplexing, astounding performance. The play itself is considered to be one of the greatest ever written in the twentieth century.



We saw Sammy and Danny from Year 10 enact an extract from it in the Drama Festival last summer to great aplomb. Ms Ford would love to see her former students and their families there, and the staff in Chesterton's Drama Department will definitely be going along.

To book tickets please visit the link:

<https://www.adctheatre.com/>

It's at the end of the month, so move fast and be inspired!

### **Equiano House**

What a great start to the new academic year! The Above and Beyond Points have been rolling in and it is great to see how well the students are getting on in lessons. Out of all the tutor groups in Equiano, Equiano 1 are currently leading the way with the most Above and Beyond Points at 80, although Equiano 3 and 7 are very close behind them with 79 and 78 points. Keep up the great effort to see if you can help your tutor group claim the top spot! This week we have been discussing the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II in our form groups, where students were sharing what they already knew about the Queen and exploring the terms "duty" and "legacy" in this context. Tutor groups students have also watched the Queen's recent video appearances alongside James Bond and Paddington Bear to highlight her sense of humour. If the death of the Queen has brought up difficult memories or students are struggling, they can reach out to their Head of House or any teacher in school for support.

### **Cavendish House**

To our new students: Welcome, and to our returning students: Welcome back. We are particularly glad to welcome our Sixth Form students who, although they will not join any of the Houses, 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**

It has been our first full week of school, and it has been wonderful to see all the extra-curricular clubs and societies start. We are all getting very excited for the School Open Evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Guests will be able to take a self-tour or guided-tour with one of our students around the school. Students in Hill House are looking forward to showing off our great school to visitors.

We would like to congratulate the following Year 7 students for making a great start to the year and going above and beyond: Dylan, Cian, Ellie and Ella.

## **Fawcett House**

Well done, Fawcett students, for completing your first full week of this academic year and for all the Above and Beyond points we have earned so far. Extra-curricular clubs started this week and it was great to see so many of you attending these. If you'd like to take up something new, don't be afraid to give it a go!

This week during form time we were mourning the sad passing of the Queen and reflecting on her life. During PSHE we looked at the Queen's achievements and duties she has fulfilled throughout all her years of reign.

Remember that we will have a bank holiday on Monday so we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday. As always, if you need any support at the start of term please see Mr Firth, Miss Malik, Miss Walton or your form tutor.

## **Robinson House**

What an exciting week: Robinson students have truly got back into the swing of things! Students have been sampling a wide range of clubs during and after school: *The Blaze*, Debate Club and Debate Union, Eco Club, 'grow a row' gardening club, Wildlife club, Chesterton Choir, Chesterton Band Project, Ukulele and Guitar group, Music Technology, Film Club, My Community Club, Chesterton Pride Club, Bible Club, Musical Theatre Club, Drama Club, Actor Training, Drama games and improvisation, Homework Club and Book Club! There is no shortage of activities to get involved in and what better time to try something new than at the start of the academic year. We have been delighted to see so many Robinson students taking the opportunities to learn new things, make new friends and have fun.

We are top of the league on the Above and Beyond Points table with 422 points!

There are lots of birthdays to celebrate this week: Farheen, Oliver, Eleanor, Josephine, Maksymilian, Eleanor, Amelie, Marjan and Alexander. Our whole house is wishing you the happiest of birthdays.

Thanks for another amazing week. Enjoy the weekend!