



Thank you for your support of our school this term. We send you all good wishes for the holiday season, however you may be celebrating. School reopens on Wednesday 4 January 2023 for our Spring Term.

We were really sorry to have to postpone the Year 7, 8 and 12 multi-faith celebration due to the school snow day closure. We will now hold the celebration later in the Spring Term. It will be well worth waiting for.



Sixth Form

What a term! Fourteen weeks ago we started our Sixth Form journey, welcoming our first ever Y12 cohort and now Sixth Form is the norm at Chesterton. Students and staff have worked incredibly hard and we have created a great sixth form community, who are showing a real passion for their learning.

Our term culminated in our Sixth Form Christmas social event this week. After a very thoughtful secret Santa we hosted a Taskmaster-style competition: students completed a number of challenges at school, then headed into Cambridge following a themed photo scavenger hunt, followed by a meal together.

The event just highlighted what are great group of students we have.



Excellent student contribution

Josh has really stepped up to the mark in his contribution to Drama, performing in shows and also empowering younger students to shine on stage, helping to direct productions. Heather has had a fantastic term, with a large number of staff recognising her holistic contribution. Not only has her academic performance been of the highest standard but she has contributed to the wider elements of the school, most notably her musical performances in the school band and at our carol service. The standout contribution however was performing the Last Post at our Remembrance Day.

We are wishing everyone a merry Christmas, and a safe, restful and well-deserved holiday. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back on 4 January for another packed term of learning and personal development. This will be the point where Sixth Form becomes real as we start to look at futures and progression beyond Sixth Form.



News From the Houses

Equiano House

It's the last week of term here at Chesterton and festive cheer is filling the classrooms and corridors! A big congratulations to the form groups that took part in the festive doors competition and a special shoutout to Equiano 1 who took the top spot for our house. We hope you enjoyed your festive breakfast to celebrate.

Well done to all of our students who have taken part in musical events over the past couple of weeks. It has been great to see so many of our students getting involved with community events and carol services. A huge congratulations to all of our students and staff involved in the production of *Matilda*. It was an amazing show that showcased the hugely talented company. Well done and thank you for all your hard work and preparation.

On Wednesday 120 of our students along with 16 members of staff set off on the first post-pandemic ski trip to Austria. We hope you all have a fantastic time and get some amazing weather up in the mountains.

We have had a fantastic term in Equiano and want to celebrate some of our students who are always going above and beyond. Well done to our Students of the Term: Jairui, Naima, Eric, Gregory and Isabelle; we really appreciate your hard work and enthusiasm.

The Equiano team would like to wish everyone a peaceful holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Hill House

Well done, Hill House, we made it! And what a great way to end it, with snow on the ground! On Monday Hill students returned to the old familiar experience of working online via Teams, but we hope you managed to still get out in the snow for a quick break of snowman building or snowball fighting!

It has been wonderful walking around the school seeing all of the exciting door displays done during form time, and we definitely think that Hill has done the best! Special mention to the winners of the Hill competition, Hill 5, with their fantastic display that showed true Christmas spirit.

It was great to see all the students having a great time at the Festive Fair on Friday, with a range of stalls and activities, and students having a well-deserved short break from lessons. We at the Hill Office want to wish a very happy holidays to all over the winter break – however you are celebrating, whatever you are celebrating, we hope you have a good time and enjoy a well-earned rest.

That's all from us for 2022, but we can't wait for 2023 – who knows what is in store!

Fawcett House

As Fawcett students race towards the end of this Autumn Term, we reflect on an excellent term with lots of achievements and memories being made. It was great to see tutor groups

work together in creating some excellent festive doors; however, there could only be one winner - Fawcett 3! Congratulations - we hope you enjoyed your festive breakfast.

Congratulations to the following students for winning the Heads of House Awards for excellent contribution this term:

Year 7 - Sebastiaan

Year 8 - Alexandra

Year 9 - Jamie

Year 10 - Anoushka

Year 11 - Hnin

We are currently in 3rd place overall for ABPs as we continue to work hard and earn more points for the mighty purple house! House celebration assemblies were delivered during form time this week when Fawcett 5 retained the coveted Fawcett House Trophy (tri-wizard cup) for achieving 631 ABPs as a form group so far this year. All that's left for us to say is have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and we will see you in the New Year.

Robinson House

What a joyous week we have had! There is lots to celebrate as we prepare to break for the holiday period.

Congratulations Robinson 3 for winning the Festive Doors competition; the contrast of your intricate white snowflakes against the red background really stole the breakfast!

Huge congratulations to all the students in Robinson House who took part in

Matilda the Musical. It was highly entertaining performance; the work you have put in

shone through and it was wonderful to see so many of you come out of yourself to

embody your character. Thank you for all of your efforts: Aris, Elin, Anya, Anabelle, Eve, Anabelle, Max, Danny, Grace, Aran, Celeste, Finlay, Mabel, Anna, Romilly and Sam.

Following Monday's snow day, on Tuesday Buddie Groups discussed virtue and

employability. We had some very interesting insights from our Year 11s and are already starting to think about how much we will miss them next year.

We are continuing our streak of having the lowest detentions, highest ABPs and we still have the second highest average attendance at 95.48%. Keep up the marvellous work.

Finally, best wishes to our students celebrating their birthday: Lucia, Charlie, Esther, Jared, Anna, Logan, Carrie, Eleanor, Thomas, Suzie, Kacie and Andorra.

Have a restful holiday break.

Cavendish House

A short but merry one from your Cavendish Team this week, folks! A big congratulations to everyone for completing the first term of this year. We have seen some impressive feats in

addition to the run of typically high standard work and Cavendish cheer. Congratulations to all those students and forms who won prizes or accolades in our end-of-term assembly - particular commendation to Oliver (Year 7), Maude (Year 8), Charis (Year 9), Kai (Year 10) and Michela (Year 11), winners of the Head of House discretionary award. We are particularly delighted to have won the highest attendance percentage of any House this term... what can we say, history is made by those who show up, in this case to school. Unfortunately we came last in the ABP rankings, but as one Cavendish student said today, "Who cares about ABPs? They are useless."

Well done to everyone involved in some way in one of the events this week, and a particular shout-out to Ellie (Year 9), Jack (Year 7) and Vinnie (Year 7), who helped run Front of House for *Matilda* (along with Bella, Year 9, of Fawcett House), and also to the famous Harry (Year 11), who played Christmas lounge music in the Atrium.

We hope everyone on the ski trip is enjoying themselves, and we wish everyone a very peaceful break. Cavendish out.

PTA Updates

Drama Mics Fundraiser

Wow! A huge thank you to the AMAZING **Chesterton Youth Theatre** for an **INCREDIBLE** *Matilda* performance! Absolutely outstanding!

Thank you to all parents, carers, and grandparents who have already so generously donated towards the mics which certainly enhanced some of the goosebump moments by our star performers.

Together we have raised **£1195** from donations and a further **£500** (approx) from refreshments sold during the performances and **donations are still coming in.**

It's not too late to help us reach our funding target of *£2000*** by donating here:**

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

A special thank you to **Suzy Marston** and **Lee Cooper** for their energy and dedication - here are some messages for you from parents via the PTA Enthuse Donation page:

'Thank you for the amazing work that you are doing!'

'Well done to all the Drama Department -thank you for so much talent & energy :)'

'Well done for the great efforts so far and thank you for your work for the school. And happy singing/music-making with the mics!'

'Chesterton Youth Theatre are doing fantastic things - onward and upward!'

'Great department! Thank you and good luck with the fundraising target!'

Christmas Fair

Ho! Ho! Ho!
By the time you're reading this students will have enjoyed the Festive Fair and loaded up with presents and seasonal treats.

A huge thank you to all of you who were able to make donations. Your overwhelming generosity will make it possible for us to offer loads of lovely presents and stocking-stuffers for the children to buy as well as have fun at the fair.

Thank you

On behalf of all the parents, carers, and PTA Committee we would like to say an enormous thank you to the formidable teachers and staff at Chesterton for everything that they do every day to support our children's learning, growth, and wellbeing. We hope that you have a peaceful and restful holiday.



Many thanks to all parents and carers who donated their time towards the PTA this term. We're looking forward to some good times in 2023, in the meantime: Seasons Greetings and stay warm!

Jimmy's Homeless Shelter

On Wednesday, Mr Firth delivered all your generous donations to Jimmy's Homeless Shelter in Cambridge. Again, it has been inspiring to see so much generosity and we are sure it will really help those in need this Christmas. Thank you again for all your kind contributions and we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

French News

As we draw to the end of term, it's time to apply what we've learned this term in a fun way! Year 9 have been studying healthy living this half term and were able to put this into practice with a fitness session, followed by mindfulness, all in French! Year 8 have been using what they've learned about Paris to make a virtual trip, in-flight entertainment included! *Bravo les enfants et bon voyage!*



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 25th 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.)

Festive Doors Competition

Students and staff completed their entries for the 'Festive Door' competition this week then winners were selected by the Heads of Houses.

Congratulations go to:

- Cavendish 9 Mrs. Murray Williams
- Fawcett 3 Ms. Marston
- Equiano 1 Ms. Parker
- Robinson 3 Ms. Slood
- Hill 5 Mr Moore

Students and staff won a Festive Breakfast for their tutor group, when everyone tucked into a breakfast of bacon rolls, pastries and juice, accompanied by the sound of crackers being pulled and carols being sung on Tuesday morning.







The Festive Reading Event

Last Friday evening we had a very special time in the school library, as students and staff shared readings of their choice in a very twinkly and well-decorated setting, and enjoyed some delicious festive refreshments provided by the school kitchen. All the readings and contributions were very special, but a stand-out act was the Community Club, led by Ms Maffei, who presented an extract from Michael Morpurgo's "*War Horse*" along with a very moving reflection on the power of literature.

The library team have received many complimentary messages about the event; here are just a few:

"Thank you for this beautiful evening. We are really proud and happy."

"I really enjoyed the reading event and found *The Bear Snores On* to be particularly enjoyable!"

"What an amazing evening! So well organised and a brilliant ambience. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

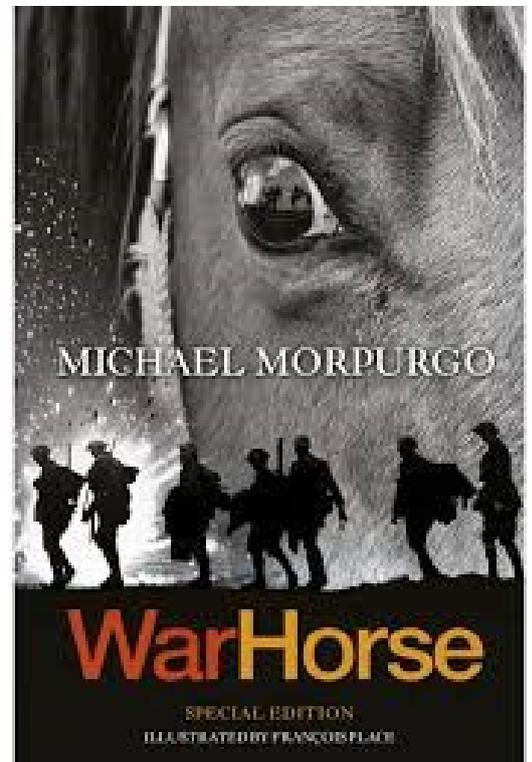
With feedback like this, we think it would be rude not to repeat the reading event later in the year! There were some students who wanted to take part, but were unable to because of other commitments, so watch this space for the next opportunity.

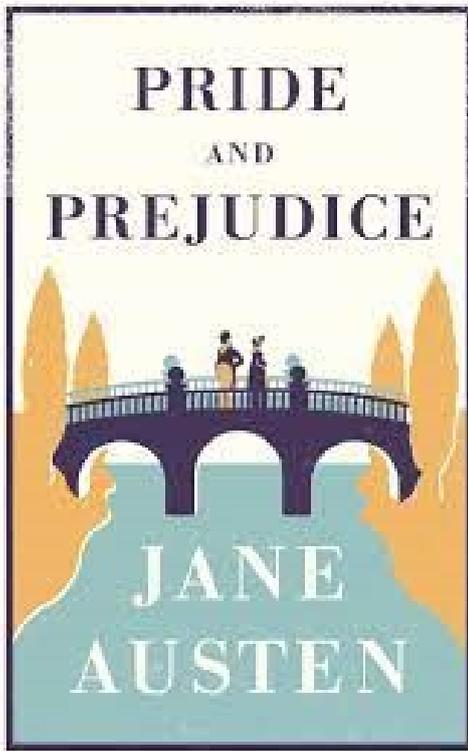
Thanks so much to everyone who supported the event, who shared their beautiful readings so clearly and confidently or who came along to listen, and especially to Mrs Pinder-Ashenden for transforming the library with her seemingly bottomless supply of decorations. Those people who were moved by the story behind the poem "*I heard the bells*" that Mrs Pinder-Ashenden shared with us at the end of the evening might be interested to know that a brand new film is out with the story behind the poem. "*I Heard the Bells*" is currently showing in cinemas:

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

Book Club Updates

The book clubs have had their last meetings of the year, and members have left with new books to read. The [keen beans in the KS3 group](#) "Books and biscuits" have taken [two books for Christmas](#), "*Running on the Roof of the World*" by Jess Butterworth and "*The Last Wild*"





by Piers Torday, both recommended by Oliver and both looking nicely wintry. The KS4/5 and staff group have gone for “*Pride and Prejudice*” the upcoming half term (copies are available in the library, in A11, in the staff room, and it’s also free to read online eg here:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1342/1342-h/1342-h.htm>). Enjoy getting started over the holidays and we look forward to more book-related chat (and more biscuits) in 2023. Students and staff are welcome to jump in and read with us at any point, and parents are encouraged to read along at home too.

Staff Reading Recommendation of the Week

Mrs Cornick (History Teacher) recommends “*Pirates!*” by Celia Rees.

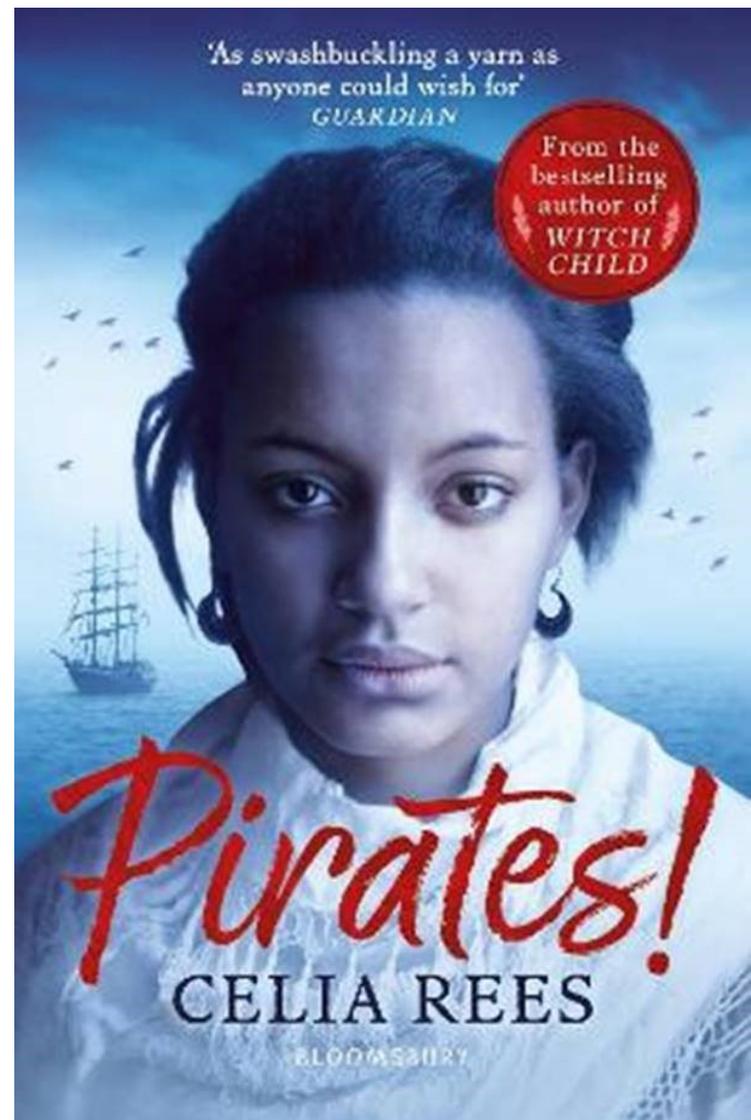
Mrs Cornick

says, “This is one of my favourite books ever! There's romance and adventure... what more could you want?”

Local Libraries Over Christmas and a Reading Challenge

Do consider visiting a Cambridgeshire library over the holidays to see what is on offer. They offer welcoming warm spaces to read or use the computers, alongside plenty of social activities and clubs (including some visits from Santa, apparently!) Why not try Bar Hill library on Monday 19th December from 10am for a free event with a children’s poetry reading and a chat with the author? Some libraries run a Lego club or a Manga club, which may be of interest to our students, and KS3 students or younger siblings may be interested in the Winter Mini Reading Challenge. For more info see:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>





Reading Over Christmas

No books left to read and the libraries are closed? No problem! Visit our virtual library or try websites like <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/free-online-read> General support for your encouraging your child's reading can be found <https://ccc.tela.org.uk/student-life/personal-development/reading/>

Book Exchange

Thank you to Lana, Xinyang and Tia for manning the book exchange at the festive fair on Friday, and to everyone who took part by donating and/or taking away books.



The exchanges we have run have been so popular, and we love to see unwanted books find new homes, so in January we are setting up a permanent book exchange space (as well as

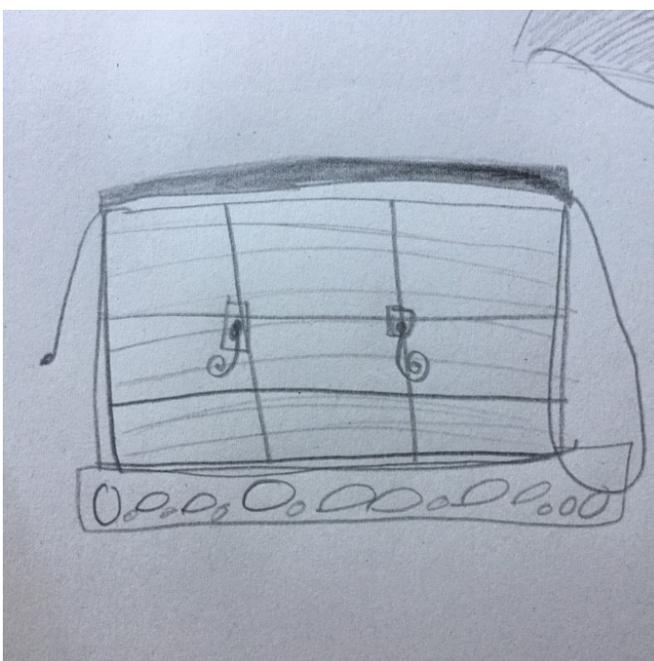
having seasonal book exchange events). Students will now be able to drop off unwanted books from home and to pick up new-to-them books every break or lunchtime.

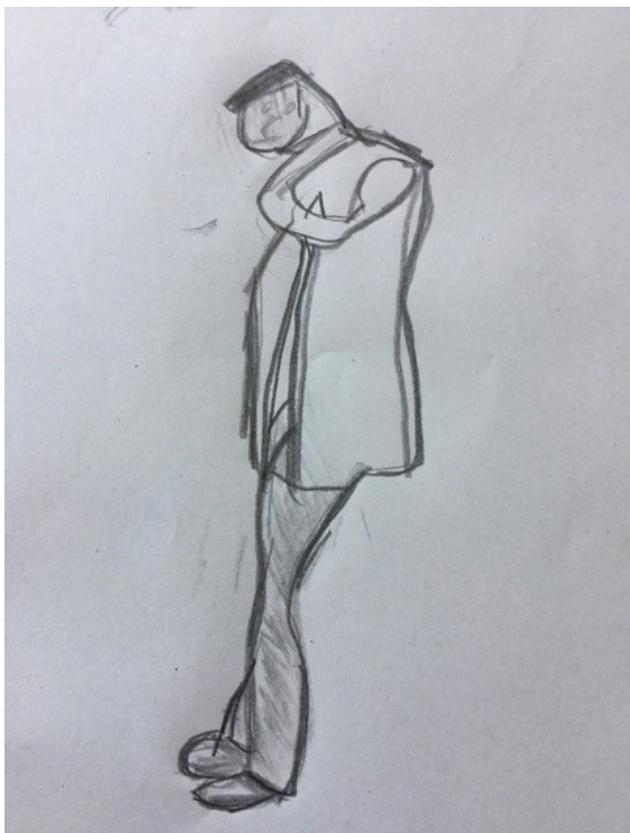
New Year, New You: New choices in the library

The school library team say a big thank you to all the library helpers, staff who do duty in the library, and parents who have donated magazines and books. You make the place the amazing resource that it is. We thanked our library helpers with a little party complete with indoor snowball fight on Thursday breaktime. We look forward to welcoming people back in January, to new books and new initiatives, including new paired reading schemes, reading challenges and visits to Milton Road Library.

Kettle's Yard

Another visit to Kettle's Yard took place this week, this time with a Year 9 Cultural Literacy class. Pupils participated in drawing activities including lightning sketches, back-to-back drawing (where you have to draw what your partner is describing, without seeing it yourself) and drawing from memory. The group braved the icy pavements to walk to the gallery and back and enjoyed discovering one of Cambridge's hidden gems. We may visit again in 2023 to explore the current exhibition 'Paint Like the Swallow Sings Calypso', featuring contemporary Caribbean artists.





Ski Trip 2022

On a very cold Wednesday afternoon, 120 students from Years 10 and 11, 16 staff, 6 drivers, 3 coaches and plenty of snacks set off on the 24-hour journey to Axamer Lizum in Austria for the Biannual Ski Trip, where there is more than enough snow to satisfy even the best of skiers. After a long, tiring journey they have all arrived safely, checked into their hotel and everyone has been fitted with skis and boots and all are very excited for their first day on the slopes today. More will be shared in the first blog of the new term.





Matilda the Musical

The Drama Department would like to say a huge congratulations to the Company of *Matilda*: your achievements over the past few weeks of rehearsal and in the last few days of performances of *Matilda* – judging from the feedback we’ve read and heard – have been triumphant!

Throughout the process, there has been an atmosphere of concentration and graciousness, resilience and determination. It has also been so touching to see the way you have cared for each other, Year 11s looking out for Year 7s. Best of all, everyone has kept laughing, even through the snow and illness that we’ve had to contend with, and that has made the show a fun experience, whether watching it, performing in it or working backstage.

We are truly thrilled: the quality of the work on Tuesday and Wednesday evening in particular was stunning, and that work is yours: you owned it.

Carry on like this, and when you “grow up” as Minchin puts it, you will soar!

DNA

Next up for Chesterton Youth Theatre, we proudly present:

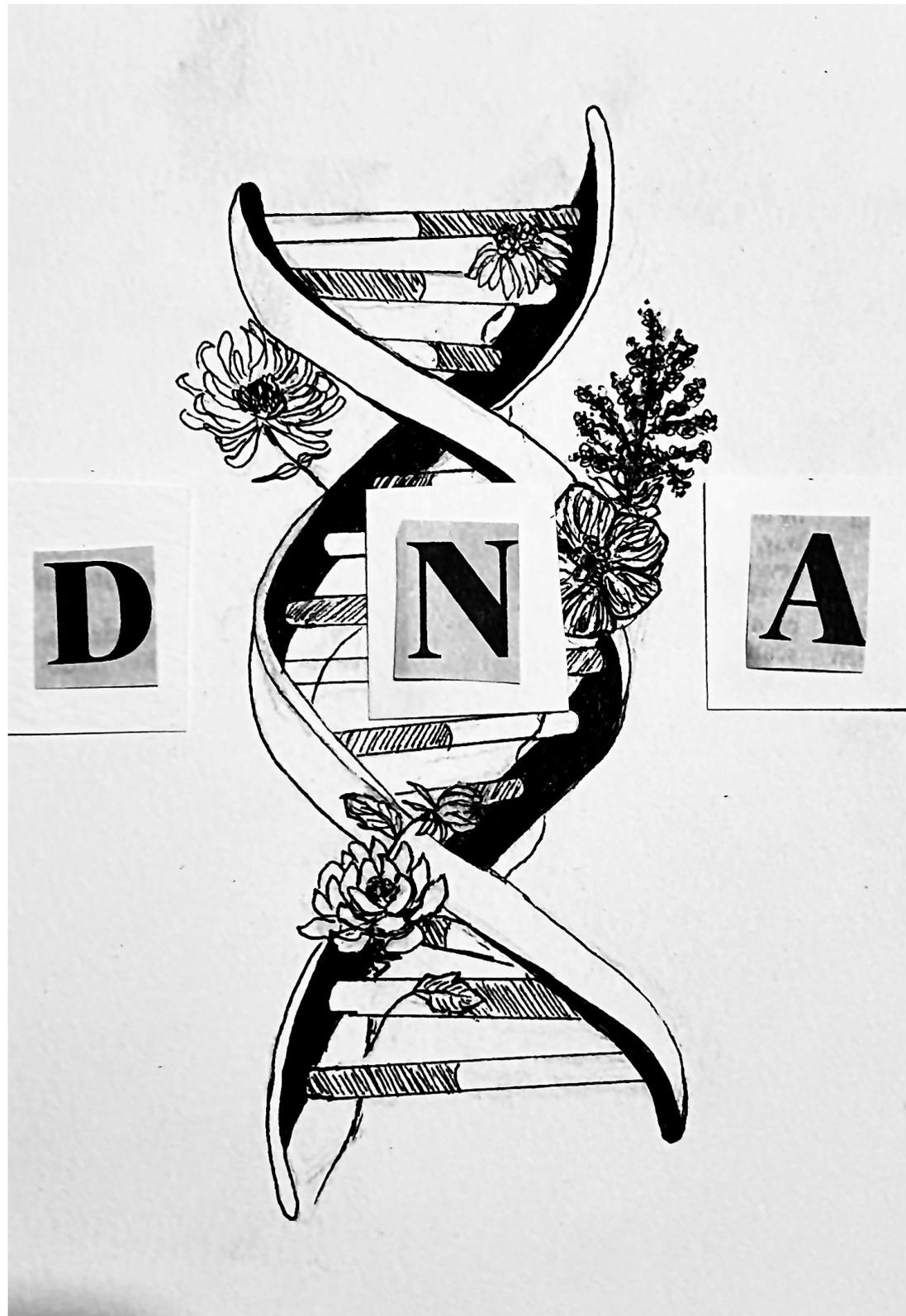
'DNA'

Monday 9th January 2023

@ 5pm and 8pm

The Atrium Theatre,
Cambridge

Click this link to make a reservation:



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchrpliGAMvdUI4nlxdFWT1YPbXYRsYO-sIA2iElz528pwSHQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

This modern classic by Dennis Kelly asks the question, 'What's more important, one person or everyone?': a gang of teenagers are faced with a choice between life and death, brought about as a result of their own reckless and bullying behaviour towards one outcast peer.

The production is being performed by the Drama GCSE Company of 2024, as a promenade adaptation of the original play. Age guidance is 12+, and the production does contain some strong language as well as themes which some viewers may find distressing. '*DNA*' is categorised as both a dark comedy and a psychological thriller; this adaptation draws out its unsettling impact to the extent that audience members literally and figuratively sit inside its moral labyrinth.

We recommend wearing a warm coat and comfortable shoes when you come to experience it; why wouldn't you want to come, when the acting quality promises to be top-notch, and the Company aims to tell a tale of the unexpected with impeccable style and illuminating spark? Submit your booking form and see you there!

Bible Discussion Club

Mrs Phillips would like to say a huge thank you to Ali (Eden Baptist youth worker) and Scott (Christchurch youth worker) for volunteering to come in every Friday lunchtime to lead our Bible discussion club. The group meets both Friday lunches in L14 then L12, and welcomes people of all faiths and none, for a game, a discussion around a Bible passage and a snack. This term, our second lunch group has been almost bursting out of the room, with lots of our regulars bringing along friends, who we think have been pleasantly surprised to find out what a fun group it is – fun enough for people to want to keep coming back every week. We love hearing everyone's ideas, opinions, and experiences, and generally have a lovely time eating and chatting together – it is the absolute highlight of the school week for some of us. We finished the term with a Christmas-y session looking at the account of Jesus' birth and a quiz and some festive treats. Students and staff are very welcome to come to join in any time.