



Sixth Form

We were thrilled to receive a staggering amount of interest from current Year 11 students from the local area and beyond for next year. We now look forward to beginning our guidance meetings next week when applicants will be invited in to meet the Sixth Form team and discuss their options. There will then be a social event where applicants can meet current students as well as other applicants later on in the term.

This week, our own sixth form students have been reflecting on their first set of academic reports and devising action plans and strategies to aid their progress moving forward. Our Aspire students have been exploring MOOCs (massive open online courses) while the Classics students paid a visit to the cast gallery at the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge this Thursday, honing their analytical abilities on casts of original sculptures.





CSF Programme

This week, the Directors of Chesterton Sixth Form paid a visit to Witchford Village College to promote the launch of the CSF Programme and it has been fantastic to see good numbers of interest already. Communication regarding the sessions on academic writing, research and referencing will be sent out soon.

News From the Houses

Equiano House

What another great week for our Equiano students! Shout out to Yasmine, Ruby and Luke who are our Students of the Week. They have been showing great enthusiasm in school and always put in their best effort. Well done, keep up the great work!

In form time this week students have been practising playing chess in preparation for the House Competition. Each form will select a representative who will go head-to-head and one person will go on to compete for Equiano. Look out for our chosen students who will be announced soon.

Students have also been looking at positive online relationships including how to stay safe online and how we can use online platform for socialising. Lots of our students communicate online every day so it was great to hear what they already know and lots of great advice was shared across year groups.

Look out for your year group's PSHE dropdown day this term. All year groups can find out when they have dropdown days for the PSHE curriculum on the school calendar.

Hill House

A chilly week strikes Chesterton . . . a reminder of the cruel cold just when we expected the winter months to be on a gentle close. One interesting event that happened this week was a Chesterton lecture by Professor Guillaume Hennequin on Neuroscience and the human body's most famous neurons. A parent to a Hill student, the student said his dad's lecture was a resounding success.

A reminder that students should be out of the corridors during Break and Lunch to prevent interruptions to lessons which are going on in the classrooms. If students need to access the toilets, they can use the closest entrance. So stay wary, Hill students!

It is great hearing how excited the Year 9 Hill students are about their options for GCSE. Any questions should be raised with form tutors – decisions are due in by 3 February. That's all the Hill news today. Be sure to keep yourself wrapped up warm!

Fawcett House

Well done, Fawcett students for coping with what has been a chilly week! This week we have had discussions in form time for PSHE focused on how to stay safe online and fostering positive relationships with others. Students have been contributing their ideas and have made the most of the information given to them. This carried on in assembly when we addressed cyber bullying.

Students have been refining their chess skills in order to represent Fawcett in our House Chess competition. Year 9s have also been having meetings with their form tutors to discuss their GCSE options.

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with Mr Firth, Miss Malik and Miss Walton.

Robinson House

Hello Robinson, we are truly into January now; students are getting prepared for the year ahead filled with joyous hopes for what 2023 will bring:

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all*

by Emily Dickinson

We are continuing to be fabulous at first place in the Above and Beyond Points League table with a whopping 6,496 points. We also have the lowest detentions – yay!

This week during tutor time we created goals for the term for the Chesterton Challenge, discussed positive relationships during PSHE and took part in the Interhouse Chess competition.

Many happy returns to Ibrahim, Lily, Jomarley, Jaylen, Tristan, Eve, Katherine, James, Sasha, Sian, Mubashara and Christopher. Have a wonderful birthday.

Cavendish House

Check mate! This week Cavendish students enjoyed the second session of Friday chess, this term's House competition. Cavendish 4's own Dylan (Year 10) having been House champion at rock-paper-scissors, the students in L3 are practising hard.

This week saw what is now commonly referred to as another "cold snap" (have you noticed?), which provides additional challenges for staff and students (do we warm the room up by allowing the sun's light to stream through the windows, even though it streams into students' eyes and prevents them from seeing?). When polled, Cavendish students seemed to prefer the cold snap to last summer's heat wave by almost two to one.

And amidst all this, the life of Cambridge's most lively secondary school continued apace. Year 11 continued to enjoy their new weekly revision assemblies, Year 10 students began their careers meetings and Year 9 students considered their GCSE options (yes, you can and should take History *and* Geography).

In one highlight of the week, the Classics A-Level students visited the Cast Gallery at the Museum of Classical Archaeology in Cambridge (and as Classics joins Art, Design and IT as one of the exclusive list of subjects in the Cavendish stable, these Sixth Form students are all Cavendish folk at heart).

Cavendish shout-out this week goes to Lucia (Year 9) who was one of several students to take part in a readers' initiative event at Mayfield Primary School - way to go! That's all from us this week - don't forget to be awesome, Cavendish!

District Schools Basketball Tournament Finals

Congratulations to the under-16 boys' basketball team on qualifying again for the district schools' final taking place on Thursday 9th February. The team attempted to play refined basketball in the qualifying game and look forward to the challenge of competing against more experienced players in the final.



County Cross-Country Runners

Congratulations to all the runners who battled with the poor weather conditions at the County schools' cross-country event last weekend.



The Chesterton runners performed extremely well, with the following students qualifying for the regional competition:

Aleks (10th), Pippa (13th), Jiang (15th) and Ben (16th).



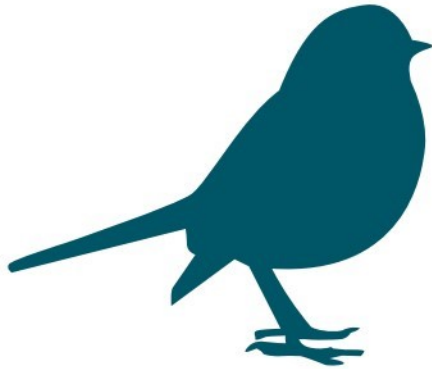
RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 6th January 20th February

Over the next few weeks, Wildlife + Nature Club will be taking part in the Schools' Garden Birdwatch. We will be counting how many birds we see near The Dip over lunch times. As well as the usual pigeons, gulls and crows that love to frequent the school grounds, we hope to see jays, blue tits, robins, wrens, dunnocks and song thrushes, which are often seen in this area.

Excitingly, you can also get involved at home!



Your how-to-guide and tally chart



Big Garden
Birdwatch

27–29 January 2023

Taking part is as easy as 1, 2, 3

- 1** Count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 27 and 29 January 2023.
This chart shows some of the birds you might see. Where we don't show male and female birds, the sexes look similar, but are not always identical. Use the tally boxes to help record and count the birds you spot. You'll find lots of tips on identifying birds as well as their calls at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch
- 2** It's easy to count the birds you see, if you follow these simple rules.
Only include birds that land, not those flying over. Count the highest number of each species you see at any one time, otherwise you could count the same bird twice. For example, if you saw a group of four starlings, and towards the end of the hour you saw two starlings together, please record four as your final count.
- 3** Then tell us what you saw at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch OR complete and send us the print-from-home form.
Whatever you saw – even if nothing at all – please let us know. The more people that submit their findings, the better picture we will have of how garden birds are faring.
If you are unable to submit your results online, please complete and send us the print-from-home form.

Helping you make your Big Garden Birdwatch count

Get involved on our social channels

Throughout the Big Garden Birdwatch long weekend, you can join in the conversation on our social channels. See what other nature lovers are spotting across the UK and you can upload pics and comment about your Birdwatch. Go to [#BigGardenBirdWatch](https://twitter.com/BigGardenBirdWatch)

Get ID tips and expert advice

You'll find lots of advice on identifying birds by sight and sound, as well as expert insights into garden wildlife at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654. Starling by Tom Mason (rspb-images.com). Illustrations by Mike Langman (rspb-images.com) BCBW-23

You can take part in your own Birdwatch at home and be part of the world's largest wildlife survey. Count the birds in a garden, from a balcony, from the path near your house or in your local park.

How to take part in Big Garden Birdwatch

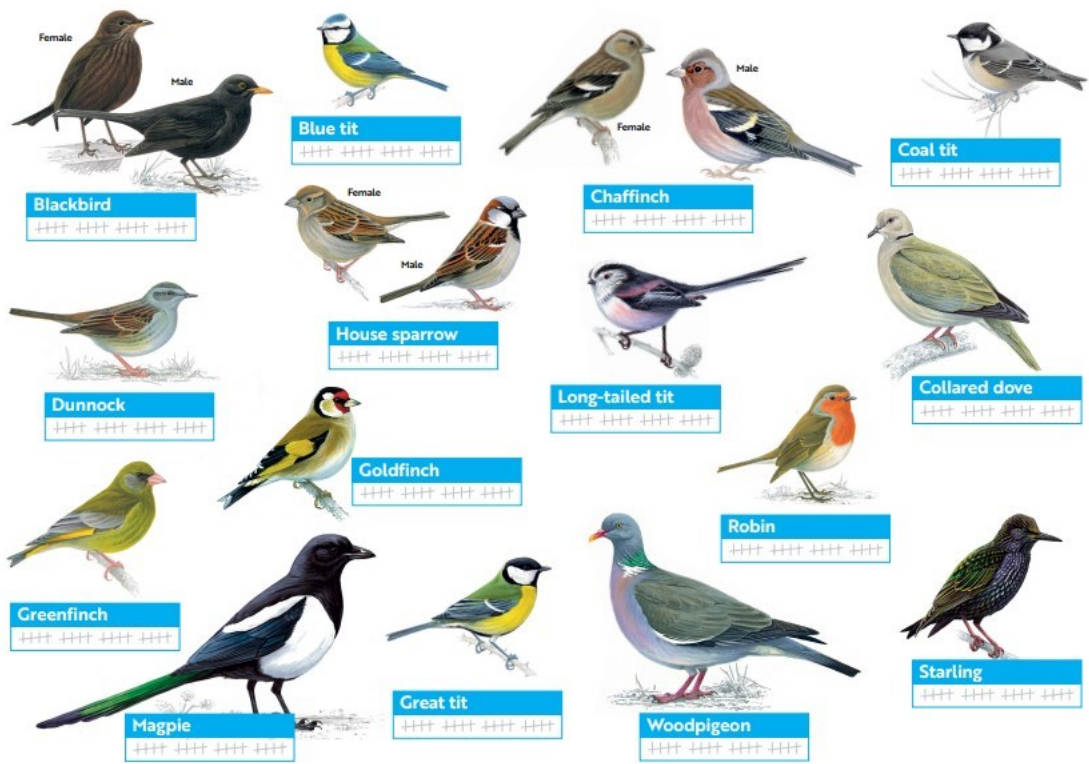
Taking part is as easy as 1,2,3.

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour
2. Count how many of each species of bird lands in your area
3. Go online onto the RSPB website to log what you've seen

For more details, and for help with how to recognise specific bird species, visit the RSPB website.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Happy counting!



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 £3,850, 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 cards).

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

We are really pleased to have been nominated to be a Music Mark school by Cambridgeshire Music. This recognises the value that our school places on music. Thank you to all those who support the music-making that goes on at Chesterton.

There are two upcoming Live Lounge teatime concerts for students to get involved with, performing as soloists or in groups:

- Live Lounge 1 - soloists and small groups - Tuesday 7th February, 3.45pm
- Live Lounge 2 - bands - Thursday 21st February, 4.30pm

Students should sign up on the Music Office door if they would like to perform. All students are very welcome to perform and all styles of music are encouraged. It is an ideal opportunity to practise singing and playing pieces that have been learnt at home or in music lessons, to a friendly and supportive audience. Families will also be able to attend the concerts.

Congratulations to former student Annemarie Federle who has been appointed joint principal horn of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. This is a phenomenal achievement.

Wellbeing Newsletter

The Spring 1 Wellbeing newsletter is now available. It includes lots of helpful tips, signposts and videos to support you, your children and family as well as a reminder about our in-house wellbeing referral system. The newsletter has lots of different resources, so please read it at your own pace.

<https://sway.office.com/gqNHAPo2j9VAvG6s?ref=Link>

If you have any wellbeing questions or suggestions for our next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hawkins.

Inter-house ABP Leader board

1st Place	Robinson:	6,236 ABPs
2nd Place	Equiano:	5,658 ABPs
3rd Place	Hill:	5,624 ABPs
4 th Place	Fawcett:	5,562 ABPs
5 th Place	Cavendish:	5,056 ABPs

Chesterton Lecture

On Monday 23rd January, 15:10-16:00, Jonathan Clarke will be presenting a lecture on school site. This lecture will be on: 'Dementia – Searching for a Cure'.

The lecture will take place in E14, where Jonathan will give a lecture about how

'the human brain is a complex thing. Thanks to modern advances in medicine, people live longer. Dementia caused by brain disease will become the new major health problem of the future. The race is on to find a cure. In this lecture we will explore ways to discover new medicines, how we can test them and what you can do to help. Come along to pick up your free stress orange!'

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 20th January.

Creative Writing Updates

Mrs Phillips really enjoys receiving students' creative writing, which is often sent her way to be entered into competitions (the current one we are promoting is on poetry – see <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/power-of-poetry>)



Sometimes she gets given bonus creative writing, often too good not to share. Here is an example from a Year 10 student (who wishes to remain anonymous):

Solipsism

If it were indeed I

Who created the quiet scattering of sunlight

Over your cheeks as the dawn breaks.

I who created the melody of your voice

As it cracks into a laugh to put orchestras to shame.

I who created the cautious way your hand

Brushes mine

The gentle fleeting of your fingertips

Dancing upon my palm.

If it were I

Who created the serenity of sadness

As it formed a glistening tear

Trailing down your face.

The way your eyes glittered

With impending sobs

As though a sea glitters

Before a storm.

If it were I

Who imagined all this

In my eyes

I should be no less than a god.

Year 10 student

Creative Writing Club

The club is back up and running, meeting first lunch every Thursday in A14. See Miss Trevett for more details or just turn up (and feel free to bring your lunch) – all students in Years 8 and 9 are very welcome.

Creative Writing Reward Visit



Last term we ran an in-house Gothic writing opening line competition, and three worthy winners (Nafeesah, Theo and Sasha, all in Year 10) got their reward last Thursday, with a trip to St John's College to meet local author Mark Wells (and also a friendly bonus poet) for an inspiring tour around the Gothic buildings which inspired his writing. Mark could not have been more helpful and accommodating and the librarian had put out exhibits and manuscripts in the old

library especially for us, including a song book written on calf skin, showing us how to identify the hairy side and the flesh side of each page.

Mrs Pinder-Ashenden described the experience as "seventh heaven" (she is rather fond of old books) whereas the highlight for the students was a climb to the top of the bell tower for panoramic views over the city. (Mrs Phillips meanwhile thought she might die and hobbled around the next day – so many steep steps!)

A huge thank you to author Mark Wells for kindly suggesting and organising all of this for our students, and a big well done to the three students involved for their exemplary

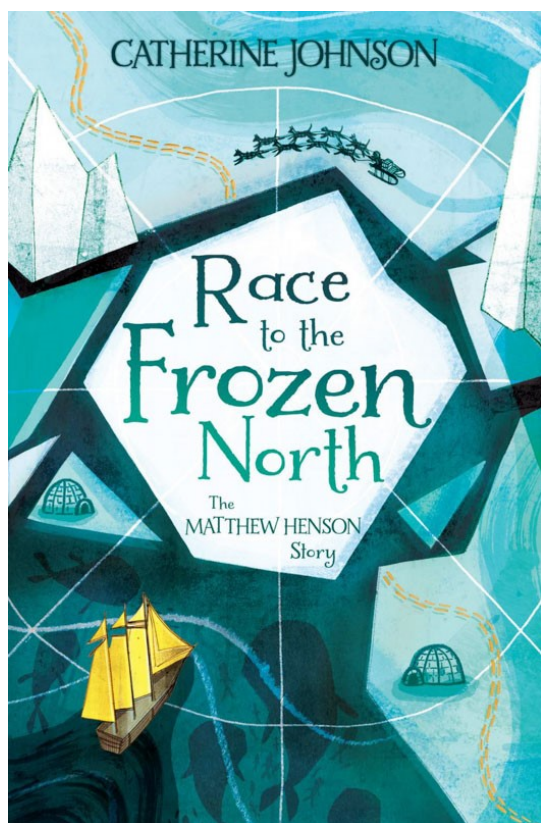
behaviour. Author Mark Wells was so impressed, he offered that the students could come back with their families at half-term.

Hard at Work in the Library

The library team have been working hard on various jobs in the library, including rewriting the classification number on the spines of non-fiction books where the writing has faded (the library helpers particularly enjoy his job, as it involves looking up the correct code in the Dewey Decimal classification book) so that books can be properly organised and students can easily locate them on shelves. We've also started the big job of tackling the book club section, which is in need of some TLC. This involves the fiddly job of adding plastic jackets, the author's initial on the spine, the Chesterton stamp, the date



stamp ticket, checking the bar code and then organising the books into alphabetical order. The work is both addictive and time-consuming and we really appreciate the helpers who have gone above and beyond in returning to the library outside of their duty slots to add



just a couple more book jackets. We have lots of books in the book club section for students to borrow, titles where we have multiple copies of the same book, which are perfect to read and discuss as a group. We tend to use these for our Key Stage 3 book club, but they are available for anyone to borrow, so students are encouraged to ask a friend or two if they fancy getting out the same book and then talking about their thoughts on the book together. Or students could take out multiple copies to give to parents/family at home, so that you can enjoy some parallel reading and then talk about it over dinner. We have several sets of 'dyslexia-friendly' quick reads, including some sets which are brand new to the library, and we hope that these might tempt some people who perhaps find reading more tricky to still be involved with reading

along with someone. Our dyslexia-friendly book section is ever expanding as we prioritise our less confident readers, and the books are clearly marked with yellow tape on the spine, plus a pack of different coloured overlays available for students to use while reading. The library is being updated with new books being added and displays being refreshed weekly. Students should consider having a browse of the new Holocaust book display, created to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day which students will be thinking about in form time next week.

Making the Most of the Library Space

Just a reminder that the library is open and staffed every day before and after school, as a quiet space for students who wish to complete homework or do revision. After school, there is a team of staff on hand to support students who might want some help completing work. Students could perhaps try

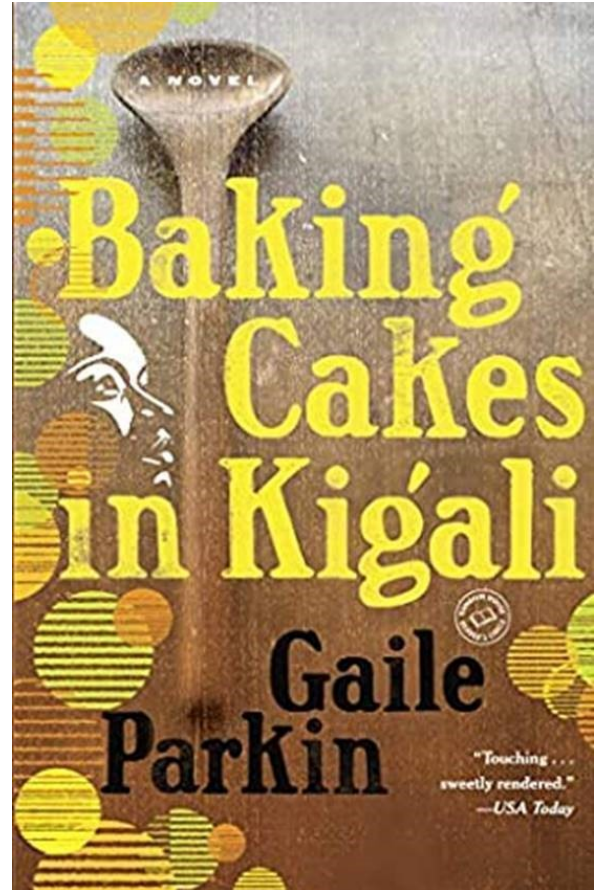


Homework Club for a couple of sessions to see if this working pattern suits them, so then they can go home to just relax, knowing homework is out of the way and not hanging over them to be completed later. Students can of course also use the library at break and lunch times for reading and homework, and the jigsaw puzzle seems to be a big draw (especially for Mr Watts, who can never leave until he has placed at least one piece).

This Week's Book Recommendation

Ms Colaço (Maths teacher) recommends *Baking Cakes in Kigali* by Gaile Parkin.

Ms Colaço says, "A story of the day-to-day life of a Tanzanian cake baker in post-genocide Rwanda. She is a wonderful character and the book touches upon numerous social and cultural issues."



Peer Reading Recommendations on Teams

Thanks to all the students who are sharing their reading choices on the Year group Teams pages. Our top Year 7 reviewers are Ryad, Katherine, Xinyang, Jiarui and Pietropaolo who have all left loads of enthusiastic reviews to inspire their peers. Students and parents can also get support with reading choices via the specially designated area of our website:

<https://ccc.tela.org.uk/student-life/personal-development/reading/>

Upcoming Reading-related Events

Watch this space for info about upcoming reading events, for example, to mark World Book Day and World Poetry Day. We have also applied to take part in Carnegie Shadowing and the World Book Night book giveaway later this term.

Tree-planting Opportunity



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TREE PLANTING



Help Milton Country Park protect our environment!

Would you like to help Milton Country Park? We are looking for amazing individuals who want to make a long-lasting positive impact in their local community.

This year at Milton Country Park we are creating new wildlife hedgerows by planting 1,500 native tree and shrub saplings – and we need your help to achieve



Trees are an essential part of our environment that help to support British wildlife, clean the air we breathe, capture carbon, and protect against local flooding.

Our volunteering is very flexible, and can fit in your daily life. There's no regular commitment - you can do it as a one-off or as a regular weekly session. What's more, all training and equipment will be provided – you do not need to have any prior experience to get stuck in! Tree planting will run from February to April. If you are interested in getting involved, please

contact our Senior Ranger (Geoff Gilfillan):

Email – Geoff@Cambridgesportlakes.org.uk

Phone - 07920838218

LIFECYCLE

