



Equiano House

Welcome back everyone. It is great to see our Equiano students coming back to school after the holiday with so much enthusiasm. A huge congratulations to our students of the term for last term, Alex, Samuel, Iris and Eric. Well done and keep up the terrific work!

There is only one term left of the school year and in the first week back, already our students are putting in their best efforts to claim that top spot on the interhouse league table. Due to the bad weather before the Easter holiday, the inter-house sports competitions had to be cancelled. Look out for information on the rescheduled dates coming up this term.

This week all Chesterton students and staff have been asked to think about our school ethos and what it means to be part of a school community. Everyone has been sharing their views and discussing how we can all 'play our part', contributing to a positive environment for everyone in our community. In the coming weeks all of the ideas will be collated and our new ethos will be formed from everyone's ideas. We hope this will help students and staff have a strong sense of belonging and pride in our school community.

Cavendish House

The shy April sunlight shone gloriously through the wide windows of the Cavendish Office as Mr Scott gazed intently out across the rear courtyard, clutching a cup of tea. He sighed and nodded to himself, before glancing sideways across the spacious office to the formidable personage of Mr Kirkland, who raised his eyebrows and furrowed his famous brow in response.

"A bit quiet this week, wouldn't you say?"

"Oh aye," Mr Kirkland replied. "The first week back after Easter is always quiet. But it will get busy as the term progresses, don't you worry."

"What have we had on this week?"

"Chesterton Youth Theatre's production of *Is My Microphone On?* had a successful run at the Theatre Royal in Northampton...that was part of the NT Connections festival and a number of Cavendish students took part in that. Then there was the National Youth Theatre workshop and trip."

"Oh yes, that sounded good. A Year 12 student said it was interesting as there was an original piece commissioned for the event."

"Mr Ware wouldn't like that... he doesn't believe in modern classical music."

"And of course, he's a great authority on all such things."

The two men shared a wry eye-roll. "And I suppose there was also the Cambridge Literary Festival today."

"Right. Lucia, Rhys, Lauren, Hollie and Rosie from Cavendish took part in that."

"And of course we had the first session of our new innovation, Cavendish Club – open to all Cavendish students who want a quiet and friendly place to hang out and play games during lunch. They are allowed to bring a plus one, of course."

"But otherwise, that's about it. So a light week, in many respects."

They both returned to gazing intently out the window for a moment, before Mr Kirkland suddenly rose to his feet.

"Well, we'd better get on... those PSPs aren't going to deliver themselves."

And with that, he departed the office, but not before reminding his colleague to not forget to be awesome.

Fawcett House

Welcome back, Fawcett students, for our first week of the Summer term. We hope you had a lovely Easter break and have been enjoying the sunshine.

This week we have been thinking about our Chesterton ethos and what makes our school community unique, in the hope that we create a new school ethos together. Students have been working together in form time to think about what values they would like to include. On Friday we were preparing for an inter-house elastic band car racing competition by making our cars. As the countdown to exams is on, we wish Year 11s best of luck with their revision and make sure you speak to your teachers if you need support. You can also always come and see Mr Firth and Miss Malik.

Lastly a happy birthday to Elijah and Luka who celebrated their birthdays recently.

Hill House

And we're back! It's finally Summer term, but if you look outside it doesn't quite feel like it yet. We at the Hill Office hope that you had a wonderful Easter holiday and have a really smooth transition back into Chesterton life.

This week form time was punctuated by the exciting opportunity to change the school ethos – students were asked to reflect on what was important to them, and what they would like the ethos to look like: what behaviours are important that everyone in school should exhibit. We wish our Year 11s the best of luck this half-term with the final stretch of revision before the GCSE exams. We know how hard you have been working, and make sure that you keep a good balance of work and rest to keep going for the final few weeks before the exams – keep your cool during your revision, you got this!

Hill House form tutors have been having mentor meetings with Year 10s to help them prepare themselves for mocks with revision. Remember that if you are feeling concerned about exams and stress, reach out to your form tutor or Ms Moss, Ms Williams and Mr Payne.

Robinson House

With the sun shining and the start of the Summer term, it's wonderful to see all of our Robinson students returning to school after the Easter break with such energy and enthusiasm. We hope that everyone had a restful holiday and are now ready to dive back into learning and making the most of the opportunities available to them. We would like to wish our Year 11 students the best of luck in the last stretch of their GCSE revision.

We would like to extend huge congratulations to our students of last term, Annabel, Alex, Roxane and Yuxian, for their hard work and dedication. It's always inspiring to see our students striving for excellence in all that they do.

We would also like to acknowledge the exceptional attendance of Robinson 6 last term, who achieved an impressive 97.01%. Well done to all of the students who consistently attended school and demonstrated their commitment to their education.

During tutor time this week, we collaborated to create a new school ethos. The phrase "People need people" was discussed and we reflected on our belief that building positive relationships and a sense of community is essential for our students' success. Over the coming weeks, all of the ideas will be collated and used to develop a strong sense of belonging and pride in our school community.

In addition, we are delighted to announce that as a House, Robinson has accumulated 9,927 Above and Beyond Points. Robinson 2 is currently in first place with an impressive 2,206 points, followed by Robinson 1 with 1,195, and Robinson 6 in third place with 1,193 points. We are proud to be at the top of the Houses' Above and Beyond Point League Table.

As always, if any students are feeling worried or would benefit from some additional support, please don't hesitate to reach out to your form tutor, Mr. Lawrence, Ms. McClean, any member of staff, or contact worried@ccc.tela.org.uk. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Finally, we would like to wish a very happy birthday to Felix and Beth. We hope you both have a wonderful day celebrating you. Have a wonderful weekend, Robinson!

ABP League Table

A huge congratulations to all our incredible students; as a school we have handed out over 42,000 Above and Beyond Points this year. Lots of certificates have been handed out just before and after Easter. We are so proud of all our students.



ABP League Table 2022-2023

Robinson	9,643
Hill	8,440
Equiano	8,455
Fawcett	8,404
Cavendish	7,585

Total: 42,550 ABPs



Physical Education – Summer term update

There were some outstanding sports performances last term – particularly in netball, basketball and football, with all teams progressing well in their respective competitions. The Year 8 netball team prepares for its progression to the County cup competition, and the under-14 and under-12 football teams take part in District and County cup semi-finals very soon.

This term, our athletes are looking forward to repeating their Cambridge District success of last year by winning the annual ‘Jubilee Cup’ competition for Years 7-10.

The new PE clubs have started. Please join us in encouraging your child to attend.



Session	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 7.40am-8.30am		Year 8 & 9 badminton Year 7, 8, 9, 10 table tennis	Year 10 & 11 badminton Year 7, 8, 9, 10 table tennis	Year 7 badminton Year 7, 8, 9, 10 table tennis
Afternoon Start - 3.10pm Finish: 4.45pm	All years Fitkidz	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 athletics club Year 8, 9, 10, 11 badminton	All years Fitkidz Year 7 & 8 basketball Athletics matches	Year 8 rowing initiative Year 7, 8, 9, 10 rounders club Year 7 & 8 tennis Rounders matches

Music News

We have had a very busy week in the Music Department. On Monday, 30 Year 9, 10 and 12 students went to Saffron Hall to watch a concert given by the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. We enjoyed hearing a range of pieces composed and arranged by the NYO musicians, before hearing a 45-minute performance of Stravinsky's Firebird.



On Tuesday, members of the NYO then visited Chesterton to give a creative workshop for the school orchestra. Students enjoyed creating group compositions inspired by the Firebird with the NYO members in just half an hour before performing them to each other. The outcomes were excellent – well done to all the students involved, who represented the school brilliantly. The NYO team were really impressed.



On Friday, a group of Year 8 students are visiting Mayfield with Cambridge Youth Opera to inspire their students in a workshop themed around '*The Little Black Cat*'. We are also looking forward to having our set of steel pans tuned by our tuner Gerard, who normally visits Cambridgeshire annually from Trinidad and Tobago. They are much in need of tuning, as the last time Gerard was able to visit was 2019, prior to the pandemic.

Any new members are welcome to all music groups as we now prepare for our Summer Concert on Thursday 6th July, outdoors at school. You can find the updated timetable on the weekly notices and below. Why not try something new?



Music Department Extra-Curricular Timetable Summer Term 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school 8.10-8.40am	Samba Band All years Beginning 23 rd April Miss Wilson M1	Cello Club All years Beginning 16 th May Miss Wilson 8.20-8.40am M1 WEEK 1 ONLY: Year 7, 10 and 11 Ukuleles and Guitars Mrs Thurlow M2	Steel Pans All years Miss Wilson and Mrs Thurlow M1 Folk Fiddle Band All years Ms Veryard M2	Junior Choir Years 7 and 8 Miss Wilson M1	Folk Fiddle Band All years Ms Veryard M2
Break 10.50-11.10am			Recorder Group All years Miss Wilson M2		
Lunch 12.10-12.30pm or 1-1.20pm		Year 10 Tin Whistle Club Miss Wilson M2		WEEK 2 ONLY: Year 7, 10 and 11 Ukuleles and Guitars Mrs Thurlow M1	Year 8 and 9 Ukuleles and Guitars Mrs Thurlow M1
After school 3.05-4.00pm	Jazz Band All years Mrs Wyndham-Hall M1		Orchestra All years Miss Wilson 3.05-4.35pm* M1 Band Project All years Mrs Thurlow 4.30-5.30pm Meet in music foyer	Music Technology Club Year 8 and above Mrs Thurlow M3	Chesterton Singers Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 Mr Bond M1

*If you are coming to orchestra and need to leave early or arrive after P7 that is fine

Finally, we are about to launch our annual Music Department trip to the BBC Proms. This visit is open to all students who take part in a music extra-curricular group and or study GCSE or A-level Music. Please see Parentmail for more information. Hope to have lots of sign-ups!

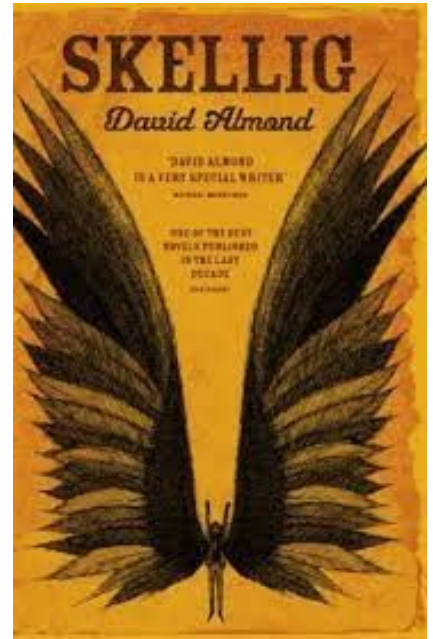
Library Update

A busy week in the library! Our new Carnegie shadowing group are busy reading and exchanging books – there are currently no Carnegie books in the library to borrow, so please do bring them in to keep them circulating.

Our weekly 'Books and biscuits' group met on Tuesday to discuss what we read over Easter, and we're now reading books about mythical creatures - "*Skellig*" and "*Goblins*".

The band of helpers have finally finished processing all the book club books, and these are now moved to a more accessible part of the library to better tempt students. We also have some new library helpers this term and will run some more training.

We have a new dictionary corner thanks to a delivery of bilingual dictionaries from the exams office. Using a dictionary instead of an iPad is a bit of a dying art, and we have all sorts of dictionaries to interest people, including illustrated and themed dictionaries. EAL students who will be using bilingual dictionaries in their exams might find it helpful to practise using one for doing school work.



We have new books in the library including a new anthology of short stories “*Integer*”, some written by our prize-winning Chesterton students – please come to have a look if you want to see the work of Caleb, Xinyang, Privthvi, Shivani and Iana in print.

All the university prospectuses have moved to the sixth form common room, so we have now reorganised with a focused designated area for books and info about selecting A-levels and sixth forms and other post-16 options, alongside GCSE study skills, which should be of particular interest to our Year 10 students.

Our dragons have flown away after our themed Dragon Week before Easter, and we are still looking for suggestions of future themed weeks. Lots of dragon books are out on loan, which is fab, and we have had requests to get in more of the ‘Wings of Fire’ series.



We are appealing to Year 11 students and parents to make sure Year 11 return all their library books this half term please. It saves the library team a lot of time if these come back with our needing to chase up individuals for books. Library books can be dropped off in the returns box any day before or after school or at break or lunch, and we don't charge overdue fees.

Finally, the Cambridge Literary Festival is on. Mrs Phillips attended an event with Cressida Cowell on Thursday 20th about encouraging reading and improving libraries, and is leading a Year 9 trip to an event called "Over the Border" on Friday 21st – more info to follow in the next blog.



Chesterton Culture – School Ethos work

This week marked the launch on our journey to a new ethos. Students and staff expressed that they do not know our current ethos and if they did, they had no pride or attachment to it. Therefore, we are using this as the perfect opportunity for a fresh start and to bring some positivity and belonging to our students.

Staff and students have been completing a range of activities during tutor time and staff briefing, to share their ideas on what Chesterton means to them. All students and staff were asked to answer six questions to help us find our core values. We will be sharing responses with students, staff and parents over the coming weeks and we are really excited that these will help us shape what our new ethos / values will be.

Once the ethos / values have been chosen, we will be inviting students to get involved in designing the visual display that will be used throughout the school.

Chesterton Lectures

On Monday 24th April, 15:15-16:00, Mihriban Tuna will be presenting a lecture on the school site titled 'Investing in Innovation: The Cambridge Life Sciences Cluster'.

The lecture will take place in E14. Mihri will talk about how

'Cambridge is home to one of the world's most renowned universities, the University of Cambridge, which has a strong track record of producing ground-breaking research in fields such as science, engineering and technology. The Cambridge ecosystem is home to a vibrant start-up and tech scene, with many entrepreneurs and businesses working on cutting-edge ideas and products. In this talk we will discuss how innovative companies with the potential to become world-leading businesses are funded and supported by investors. Specifically, we will focus on some Cambridge based companies in the life sciences sector and describe their innovative ideas and growth journeys.'

If this is something your child/children are interested in, then please can you email Ms Barker at: nbarker@ccc.tela.org.uk.

Please can all replies be sent to me by 9am on Monday 24th April.

Is My Microphone On?

The NT Connections Company of Chesterton Youth Theatre proudly toured '*Is my Microphone on?*' to the Royal Theatre in Northampton on Sunday 16th April. Having wowed home crowds in their performances last term, they developed the show as advised by their mentor director from the National Theatre, so that the filmic and amplified aspects of it might be more performative. This involved Bill, another former student of Chesterton and NYT member, joining the cast as an onstage camera operator/actor: along with the 36 other

cast members, he brought the show to 'the next level' and those who saw it last Sunday have described it as a 'triumph' and one of CYT's best ever performances.

Ms Marston, Mr Cooper, Sierra, Amy and Alex (the adult creative team) all felt exceptionally proud of the student actors, not just for their mesmeric performance but for their conduct throughout their time at the Royal & Derngate Theatre, where they were consummate professionals and a joy to be around.



Here's what sixth form student Josh had to say to the rest of the team (age 12 – 18):

"Now that you have all had some time to reflect and absorb what we feel about the performance on Sunday, I think this is a good time to really appreciate what happened. The way you handled the day was perfect. It was an early start for all of us, but everyone was so focused, connected by a common goal. The workshop was professional and inspiring! As the instructor said himself, "(We) were the best group (he) had seen" and that is something to be proud of!

What we did was truly special and we all need to celebrate this immense achievement. You all performed with a collective strength and truth that was inspiring to be a part of."

It's also vital to remember that the message of the show is: reduce carbon emissions. This Saturday is World Earth Day – what are you doing to be part of this? Our beautiful Earth needs us! The Company remains in solidarity about sustainability, and meanwhile, we await to see who the National Theatre directors will choose from across the country to represent *'Is My Microphone On?'* in July at their home venue. There is absolutely no doubt about it: we all tried our very best, and when the coach broke down on the way home from a 12-hour day, it couldn't break our spirits! Thank you to everyone who was part of this unforgettable experience. Watch this space...



