

Blog – Fri 21st October 2022

Chesterton Sixth Form

Clare College Visit – Year 12 Aspire

On Tuesday this week, some of our Year 12 students visited Clare College, one of the constituent colleges of the University of Cambridge. Students enjoyed a tour of the college by a current student, a fascinating lecture on architecture and gender by Dr Rihab Khalid and a talk through the process for applying for early-entry courses (Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry). Thanks to Clare College for hosting us.



Open Evening

On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome over 600 visitors to our Chesterton Sixth Form Open Evening. Guests have the opportunity to talk to staff about the wide range of courses and curriculums on offer as well as the wider programmes of study including the enrichment offer, Aspire programme and EPQ course. Current Chesterton Sixth Form students were on hand to talk about their experience of studying at the sixth form. Guests also enjoyed an autumn BBQ, hot drinks and cakes from the coffee truck with music and theatre courtesy of Chesterton students and staff.





Year 12 Parent Event

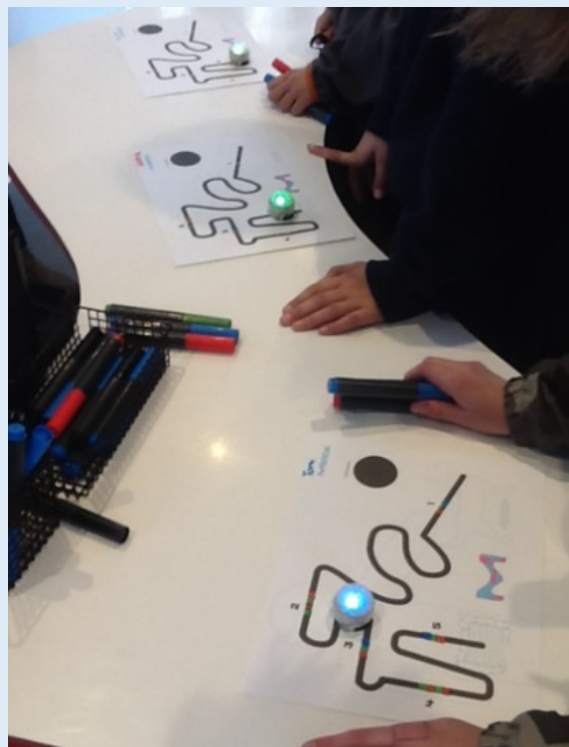
On Wednesday evening parents and carers of the current Chesterton Sixth Form students joined Directors of Sixth Form, Ed Bowles and James Mephram for a welcome event. Over canapés and drinks guests had the opportunity to get to know each other as a cohort of parents, talk to Ed and James informally, and hear a short talk about the provision in the Sixth Form and how parents/carers can support at home. It was also an excellent opportunity for parents/carers to see their young people thriving in the Sixth Form environment.

Curiosity Cube

Last Friday (14th October), two Year 7 Science classes went along to the Curiosity Cube run by the Bioscience company Merck at the Cambridge Science Park. The Curiosity Cube is a shipping container that has been cleverly converted into a laboratory and has been on a global tour that stopped off in Cambridge last week.

With the help of Scientists working at the Science Park the students used microscopes to identify a selection of the many types of bacteria that live on, in and around us. They also saw how their everyday decisions about what they eat and what they do has a dramatic effect on the make-up of their gut microbiome (the community of microbes living within our digestive tract).





European Union Chamber Orchestra – The Orchestral Series 22/23

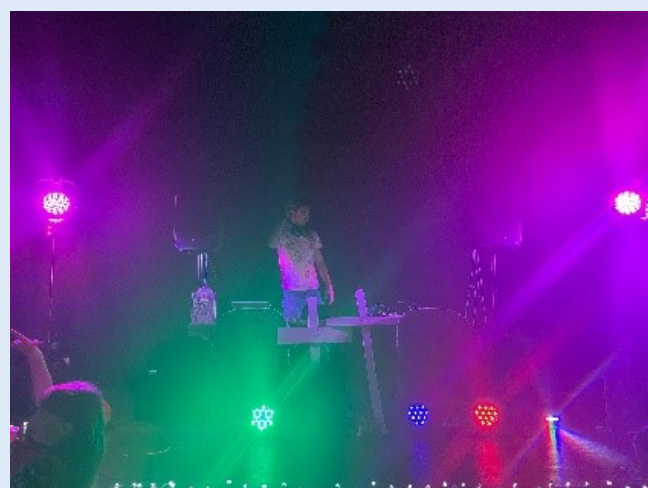
Former Chesterton student, Annemarie Federle, leads the orchestra in Mozart’s beloved Horn Concerto No 4. Annemarie has won awards and plaudits worldwide including the top prize in the brass category at the BBC Young Musician competition.

<https://www.cambridgelive.org.uk/cornex/events/european-union-chamber-orchestra-orchestral-series-2223>

Tuesday 6th December, Cambridge Corn Exchange, tickets available using the link above. Congratulations to Annemarie.

Year 7 Halloween Disco

Thank you to all the Year 7 students who attended



the disco and created a vibrant, party atmosphere. It was fantastic to see the effort put into costumes. The disco included a school record for the most

students doing the “cha cha slide”!

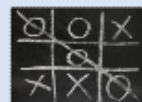
Big thanks to the Year 11 Event Operations students for organising the disco and to the teachers who gave up their time to help supervise the event especially DJ Payne who kept the dance floor busy all evening.

In Lessons This Week

Year 9 geographers took part in the Trade Game. Students quickly learnt the game was very ‘unfair’ as some countries had many more resources than others. This was part of the Divided World Topic, focusing on uneven development.



Year 7 students have been playing Religious Studies noughts and crosses to recall their knowledge about Judaism.



Play against your desk partner.

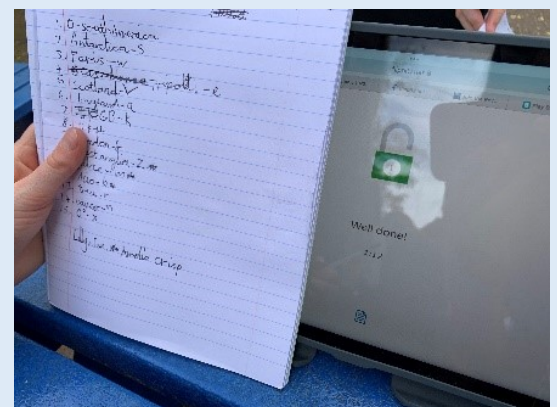
Draw a game board on your mini-whiteboard.

Take turns to try to capture a square by answering the question correctly.

Use your knowledge organiser to check the answers.

Which branch of Jews keep God's laws as closely as possible?	Jews are monotheists. What does this mean?	Who entered into a covenant with God on behalf of the Jews?
What does covenant mean?	What is the name of the religion followed by Jews?	How might someone become Jewish?
What is the sign of the Jewish covenant?	What are the three branches of Judaism that we will study?	Do secular Jews believe in God?

Year 7 students took part in the ‘Grande Finale’ lesson ending the topic of Our Place in the World. This included a treasure hunt outside, finding a combination of letters to unlock the final padlock.



Music

We have had a great half-term in the Music Department both in lessons and in extra-curricular activities. Students have been working tremendously hard. A particular thanks this week should go to Julian, Okko, Andrew, Matthew and Oakes in Year 9 who performed brilliantly at the Sixth Form Open Evening, and to all the members of Chesterton Singers who also worked very hard in their extended rehearsal at Open Evening.

Letters have gone home to parents about the Junior Choir trip to the Royal Albert Hall, the Junior Choir/Chesterton Singers performance at Ely Cathedral, and the highlight of the term, our own school carol service at St John's College Chapel on Thursday 8th December.

After the half-term break a new violin and viola group for Year 7 and 8 students will begin on Fridays at 8.15am in M2, starting on Friday 4th November. This is open to all students in Years 7 and 8 who play the violin or viola and will be led by our upper strings teacher Ms Veryard. The group will be preparing to perform in the carol service. We hope to see lots of our violinists and violists there. There will also be a senior string group for Years 9 and above, which will begin later in November and also perform in the carol service.

On Saturday 26th November the Music Department will be giving an afternoon concert at St Andrew's Church, Chesterton. This concert will feature some of our small ensembles and soloists. Any students who would like to perform should see Miss Wilson for further information.

Finally – there are still spaces for students to sign up to perform in the Live Lounge after school on Tuesday 8th November. Anyone interested should sign up on the sheet on the Music Office door.

Theatre Trip

Chesterton's little Cosette, from last term's *Les Mis* production, meeting the first little Cosette and West End Superstar Carrie Hope Fletcher after seeing her stunning performance in *Caucasian Chalk Circle* at the Rose Theatre in London. All the party of 50 students and staff gave the performance a standing ovation and the students behaved impeccably throughout this challenging Brechtian drama adapted by Steve Waters, who will be coming to give a lecture at Chesterton next month.



Gardening Club



Gardening club have been busy getting our hands dirty cutting back old plants and planting out the winter veg. The plants are still thirsty and needs lots of watering. We have also been making some (stinky) nettle soup to fertilise the soil.

Football Achievement

Congratulations to Kai (Year 10) on being selected for the Ipswich Town Football Academy. This is the first step towards securing a professional contract in a very competitive field of talented sportspeople. Selection means that Kai will now spend every Monday with the academy, in addition to a number of other training sessions during the week. We look forward to tracking his progress over the next few years.

Year 7 Spotlight

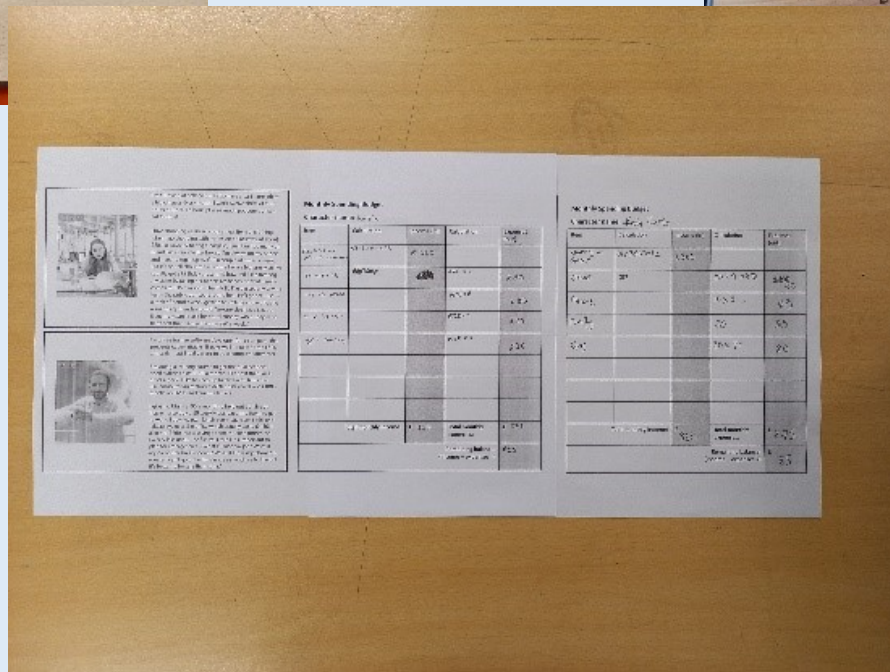
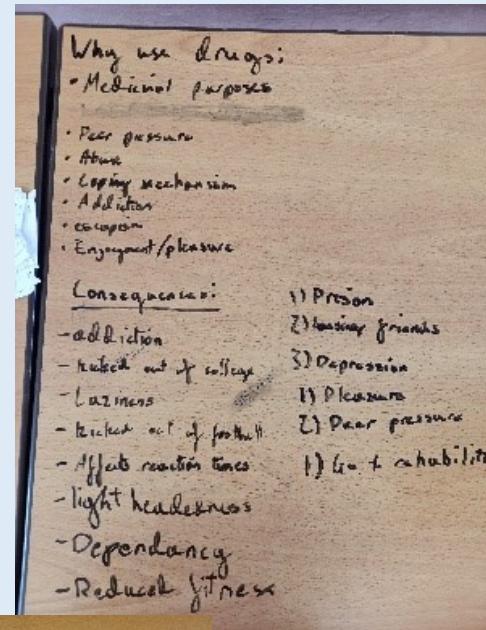
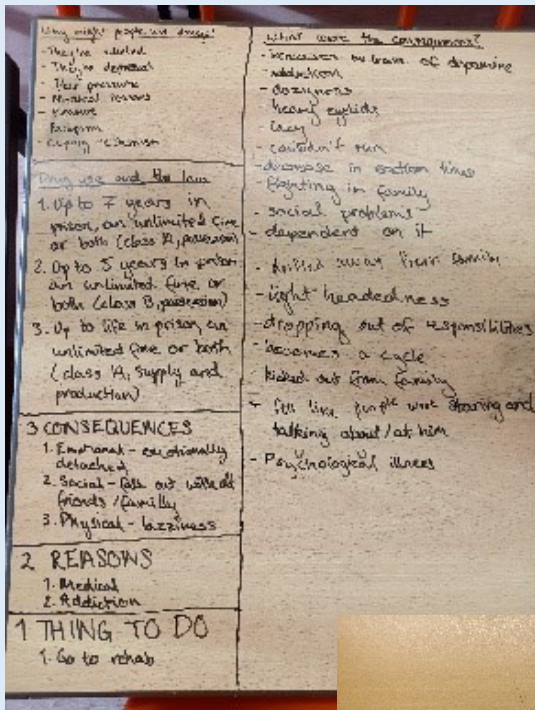
It has been great to see the new Year 7 students attend extra-curricular PE clubs, and represent sports teams at Chesterton. Activities have included football, rugby, table tennis and use of the fitness suite, with all clubs being really well attended. The competitive focus this half term has been on football and rugby. The girls' football team has mirrored the success of the Lionesses, as they remain unbeaten in all fixtures, and comfortably progressed in the County schools football cup, with a 7-1 win. The girls rugby team has its first district tournament immediately after the half-term holiday.

The boys' football team competes in the County schools football cup very soon, and the boys' rugby team has developed an excellent brand of rugby, built on skill and agility with ball in hand, and the teamwork to ruck and realign consistently well – we look forward to seeing this team in action at the district schools tournament in early November. Watch this space.

Year 10 PSHE

This week Year 10 participated in a PSHE dropdown morning. A diverse range of topics were covered including 'What is the truth about cannabis?', 'What is sexual harassment and how

should victims respond?' and 'How do I save and manage money?' Students participated maturely, sensibly and respectfully in group discussions and activities, the results of which can be found in the photographs below. Well done to Year 10 for engaging so positively with the day.



Year 11 Politics

**LET'S TALK ABOUT POLITICS
YEAR 11**

Just in Liz Truss has resigned making her the shortest serving prime minister in History at just 6 weeks.

Should a general election be called?

Should Boris Johnson be allowed to stand again?

Who will put themselves forward?

Why have all 3 female prime ministers been forced to resign by their own party?

**THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:
LIZ TRUSS RESIGNS**



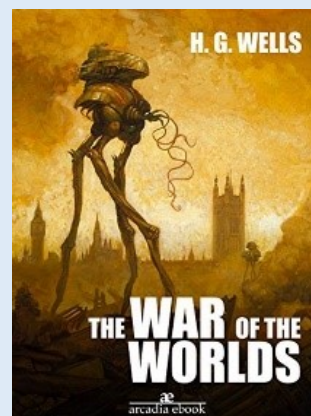
Here are Mr Reed's politics discussion prompts for this week. These prompts are particularly useful for families with Year 11 students preparing for the GCSE this year but are interesting for students and families in all year groups.

Reading updates

Staff book review

This week's reading recommendation is from Mr Simonsen (Biology Teacher) who recommends "*The War of the Worlds*" by H G Wells.

Mr Simonsen says, "*Considering H G Wells was a biologist and teacher, with his first published work being a biology textbook, it's no surprise he is one of my favourite authors. "The War of the Worlds" is such a fantastic piece of true science fiction, meaning that everything that happens in the book is scientifically possible... Wells uses his understanding of science in this way to make you really question your position in nature as a human. For me, these aspects of the book make it a thrilling but thoughtful read.*"



November will be the month of reading

Readathon

November 2022 will be our first whole-school readathon in conjunction with the charity Read for Good, in which students in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 are encouraged to read more/more widely, track their reading, and, if they wish, ask family and friends to sponsor them, to raise money to provide books for children in hospital. More details will go out next

half term via Parentmail, and all students will be introduced to the readathon in lessons in the week commencing 31st October. Students can look forward to different activities to promote reading, such as dedicated lesson slots, displays, and in-school rewards. We shall also have some special visits and events and book sales, such as popular young adult author Chris Priestley coming in to talk to the whole of Key Stage 3 on Tuesday 22nd November; we have plenty of his books in our school library if students want to get reading before we meet him. And watch this space for more info.

Book club news

This week the Key Stages 4/5 and staff book club had its first in-person meeting, and we discussed our ideas about *“Under Milk Wood”*. The general feeling was that the book is a bit ‘marmite’ – we weren’t quite sure if we loved it or hated it. With 60 characters to keep track of (some of them dead) and no clear plot line, this was more of a slice-of-life look at a town than a typical fictional story with a clear narrative arc. This was a great book to do some deep thinking about what we like about books, but for the next half term, we thought we’d go with more of a crowd-pleaser: Harper Lee’s *“To Kill a Mockingbird”*. We will next meet in-person in December, but students and staff are very welcome to start reading and posting their comments on the book club Team in the meantime. There are plenty of copies in A11 if anyone should like to join in reading with us. Also, some of the Key Stage 3 book clubbers are partway through reading this book at the moment (another glitch in the matrix?) so it will be a great shared experience to discuss with friends and family – parents and carers are very much encouraged to read along with us.

Peer reading recommendations

The Year group Teams pages all have reading recommendation channels, which are bursting full of chatter about what students are enjoying reading. It has been very encouraging to see students discovering they have a peer who is a fan of the same book as they are, and to hear students say that they have picked up a book based on what another student in their Year wrote about it. Do keep the recommendations coming – it’s great to see students being enthusiastic about reading, and remember that a review earns an ABP. We shall also do our best to order the most popular books into our school library.

Book exchange

Thursday 20th October was a school book exchange, held at break and lunch times in the atrium. It was fantastic to see lots of students dropping by and responding enthusiastically to the piles of books available to take home for free. Students are always very welcome to borrow books from our school library, but there is of course something very special about

having a book of your own to keep or perhaps to pass onto a friend. Thanks to everyone who took part – to the Site Team for shifting heavy boxes of books around, to everyone who donated books from home, and to staff and students who supported the event by picking up books. Our next school book exchange will be at the festive fair in December, and we also hope to establish a rolling book exchange cupboard.

Cambridge Literary Festival

Cambridge Literary Festival runs 17th to 20th November, with all sorts of writers leading presentations and discussions about their books. There are some huge names on the billing, including Jeremy Hunt and Jarvis Cocker, and topics range from baking to racism. These events might be of interest to Key Stages 4/5 students and their parents. Tickets are selling out quickly – for more details see <https://www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com/whats-on/winter-festival-2022/>

Local library events

Other local reading-related events include those run by the Library Presents team. Each season, Cambridgeshire libraries publish a new list of local, low-cost events mostly taking place in libraries (including Arbury Road library) involving storytelling, theatre, art and workshops – really something for everyone. See <https://www.library.live/the-library-presents> for more details. Some events may be suitable for Key Stage 3 students and their families, including younger siblings.

Supporting readers

Many thanks to the team of parent volunteers who have agreed to come into school as reading mentors for some Key Stage 3 students – watch this space next month for more information.

School library updates

The library team have been working hard behind the scenes to get the school library at its best, including weeding out out-of-date stock to make space for the latest books. Do pop in to see what's going on and admire the latest displays. The library welcomes donations of magazines as it is great to have recent issues of popular magazines like Beano and football magazines, and the old issues quickly get well-thumbed. Thank you also to the students who have volunteered to work as library helpers; it is great to see students involved in shelving books and learning how the library system works.

Cavendish House

This week brought this year's first half term to a close in a state of engaged busy-ness that is characteristic of Chesterton's students. Monday saw the return of the Year 7 Hallowe'en Disco. This event is organised by the Year 11 Events Operations class. They did not disappoint! Year 7 were to be seen moshing in the Rex Freeman Hall, egged on by the infamous DJ Payne. Well done to the Events team including Dora (Year 11) representing House Cavendish.

On Tuesday evening, the Sixth Form opened its doors to Year 11 students from schools across Cambridge and it was a great success. Everyone enjoyed their hot dogs as well as the broad and exciting A-Level offer.

On Wednesday, Chesterton's Classics Department took its students to see a play in Classical Greek, courtesy of the Cambridge University Faculty of Classics. "It was really good," one Cavendish source close to Miss Legg told this reporter. "It was fun to see a Greek play performed as it really would have been. The drama was very dramatic, and the comedy was very obviously a satire. I would give it 4.75 stars!" τήνελλα!

Staff and students from Chesterton Youth Theatre took a jolly to the Rose Theatre on Thursday to see a new production of Bertolt Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

On top of all this, we had a Year 10 PSHE Day, three of the canteen's most popular lunches (bolognese on Tuesday, chicken naan wraps on Wednesday and chicken curry on Thursday) and a whole lot of rain.

That's about all from the Cavendish Team. Well done for a great half term, enjoy your break and don't forget to be awesome!

Equiano House

It is the last week before the half-term break and our students have been busy inside and outside of the classroom. We have had students competing for the school in a number of sporting events including rugby and football tournaments. There were great results all round, so well done to all of our students who have spent time training for these competitions.

Well done to Mayuri who was crowned the Equiano House Champion in the Rock Paper Scissors competition last week. Mayuri will go on to represent Equiano in the whole-school completion after the half-term break.

On Monday evening Year 7 took to the dance floor for the Halloween Disco. The dance moves on display were outstanding and all the students had a great time. Well done to the Year 11 students who organised such a successful event.

On Tuesday evening we held the Chesterton Sixth Form Open Evening. There were over 600 visitors to the school where prospective students and their parents could look around the

Sixth Form areas and ask teachers about specific subjects and studying at Chesterton Sixth Form.

On Wednesday Year 10 took part in a PSHE dropdown morning when they were exploring ideas on Physical and Mental Wellbeing, Relationships and Addiction. There were many positive reports throughout the day and the sessions sparked some very interesting conversations among our students.

After a very busy week, we hope everyone has a relaxed half-term break and enjoys the Halloween festivities.

Hill House

Another week comes to a close at Chesterton. Mid-October now, when students wearing coats becomes a common phenomenon. The trees are starting to shed gold, brown and red onto the ground – a true sign that autumn is upon us.

This was the final week of school before the half-term holidays, with many topics getting wrapped up, and we've had some interesting events. It was great to see so many Year 7s at the Year 7 Disco on Monday – the range of costumes was astounding – many thanks to the Events team, especially those in Hill, for organising this event.

Applications for the Turing Scheme are open, so make sure to get yourself involved: deadlines for applications will be on the 4th November.

We've also had a book exchange on Thursday with profitable donations; thanks to all who donated a book.

The Music Department is asking for artwork to use as the cover for their Christmas services: a prize will be given to the artist whose work wins. Anyone who applies (whether their artwork wins or not) will win an ABP, so get involved, you crafty kids! Further details can be found in the weekly notices.

Final word from Hill House: congratulations to everyone in Hill House for our progress in the ABP leaderboards.

Keep up the good work and have a well-deserved rest!

Fawcett House

As the end of the first half term approaches, we couldn't be more proud of our Fawcett students. The students have really made the most of this term so far, getting involved with such a wide variety of clubs and events. This half term has been a busy one with students partaking in PSHE days, careers events and receiving a number of assemblies on topics such as Black History Month. We will continue to see more of this when we come back after the half-term break.

Congratulations to our students across all year groups who have gained a total of 2762 Above and Beyond Points (ABPs). Well done to Fawcett 5 as they achieved the highest amount of ABPs with a total of 413 and for achieving the highest attendance in Fawcett for this half term.

We hope you have a lovely break and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone when they come back and seeing the hard work continue.

Robinson House

It has been a busy week before the half-term break and our House has had a great start to the year. Robinson has pushed ahead and now has the most Above and Beyond Points as a House; let's keep it up for Christmas! A massive well done to Robinson 2 as a form for having the most Above and Beyond Points.

On Monday evening we had the annual Halloween Disco for the Year 7s organised by our Event Operations students. It was a great success and a spooky way to celebrate their first half term here at Chesterton.

The Turing Scheme applications are now open and have been talked about all over school. These fully funded trips give an opportunity to experience the world, learn new skills and meet new people to help us improve our local community. Students have until the 4th November to submit applications, so you have the half-term to think about it.

On Thursday a group of Drama students went to see *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* in The Rose Theatre, London. The German play was written by Bertolt Brecht and translated into English in 1948.

Congratulations to Alessandra from Robinson 2 for winning the cone flipping competition in House assembly on Wednesday.

Robinson, have a great half-term break and get ready for the action-packed Festive half term!