

Blog – Fri 23rd September 2022

Chesterton Sixth Form

Mental Health Support

This week, students met Claire and Amy from the NHS Mental Health Support Team who outlined the service they provide for students, and also introduced students to the training and guidance available for students to become Wellbeing Mentors for younger students.

EPQ

At Chesterton Sixth Form students have the opportunity to undertake the EPQ, Extended Project Qualification, a large independent research project which results in a formal qualification. This week Chesterton Sixth Formers attended their introductory session to the EPQ. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the qualification is that students can choose a topic and project title of their choice. In the coming weeks CSF students will be submitting their initial proposals and we look forward to seeing the wide range of projects chosen and sharing excerpts from the research as the year progresses.

Meet James Mephram, Director of Chesterton Sixth Form

James trained at Plymouth Marjon University, completing a BEd (Hons) Secondary Education and Physical Education (with QTS). After successful years teaching PE and contributing to a comprehensive extra-curricular sport programme, James progressed to lead Y7 and Y8 in a pastoral capacity and led on English as an Additional Language provision at whole school level. After completing a Master's qualification in Educational Leadership, James gained a wealth of school leadership experience including Deputy Head of Sixth Form at Thomas Deacon Academy, catering for 350 students.

For several years James has been heavily involved in Peterborough Citizens – bringing together civic organisations to campaign for commonly agreed outcomes. James played a pivotal role in the first cross-city summit for Mental Health in Peterborough and led a crime and safety campaign for the local area.

Outside of education, James has a passion for sport, playing rugby for Shelford RFC and cricket, golf, and tennis recreationally, as well a number of outdoor pursuits such as kayaking. As well as an interest in sport, James has recently taken on a large house renovation project.

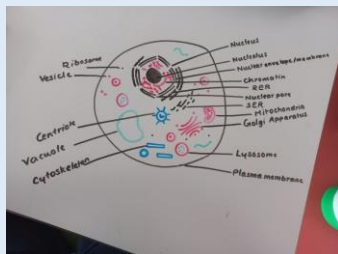
James is thoroughly excited by the prospect of taking the role of Director of Sixth Form at Chesterton Sixth Form, as a once in a lifetime opportunity to be involved in setting up a Sixth Form and building a truly unique offer in the north of Cambridge.

Sixth Form Studies

Some photos from lessons this week



History supervision with Mr Ware



Biologists capturing their learning with a large scale diagram on the table



English Literature supervision with Dr White.

Do come along to the Chesterton Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 18th October to see the Sixth Form in action. Chesterton families from any year group are welcome to attend. More information to follow.

Music

We have had another great week of rehearsals in the music department.

The school orchestra is enjoying new longer rehearsals on a Wednesday. Attendance has been excellent and we are enjoying music from Mussorgsky to West Side Story via video game music and the Polish composer Bacewicz, who wrote music during the Second World War. We will be starting to look at the music from How to Train Your Dragon shortly! It is not too late to join the orchestra; any interested students who play an instrument of the orchestra will be made very welcome on Wednesdays after school.

Members of the Junior Choir and Chesterton Singers have taken home a letter about upcoming performances. Do see Miss Wilson if you have not got one. The Junior Choir are also performing at our school open evening on the 6th October.

Don't forget that Samba Band, Year 7 Beginner Brass and Jazz Band will all be rehearsing on Monday. We look forward to seeing lots of students there.

Open Evening

The college open evening is taking place on Thursday 6th October from 6pm – 8pm for prospective families to come and see the school in action. Thank you to all the students who have volunteered to help on the evening either as a tour guide or demonstrating in a subject area. If students would still like to be involved they can volunteer as a tour guide via their Head of House or to help in a subject area by speaking to their class teachers.

Creative writing news

Miss Trevett's creative writing club for Year 8 and 9 has relaunched. Please join Miss Trevett in A14 on Thursday lunchtimes for chat and creative writing and sharing. Bring your lunch along.

"The Power of Poetry" writing competition is open for students in all year groups– a poem of any length and any style of a topic which is important to you. Please see here for more details <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/power-of-poetry> and send entries to sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk to be entered.

A couple of weeks ago we were delighted to announce that 2022 school leaver Miranda Black had been short listed for a national writing competition, we are even more delighted to announce that Miranda has gone on to win first prize in the "Write on Art" competition. To read her winning entry (inspired by visits to the Fitzwilliam Museum) please see here: <https://www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/learning/2022-winners/black> Miranda says she was inspired to enter based on the encouragement she received with her creative writing here at Chesterton, including being entered into another writing competition and getting her writing published for the first time. We are all so proud of her.

The Blaze school newspaper welcomes non-fiction articles and fiction. Please email your work to theblaze@ccc.tela.org.uk if you'd like to be published

Julius Caesar

A huge thank you to 'Shaking Up Shakespeare' for a fantastic and very energetic performance of "Julius Caesar" on Tuesday morning. Year 8 were a VERY enthusiastic audience, with lots of students volunteering to take part in different roles. Students were very struck by the amount of deaths in a history play compared to a comedy, and had lots of questions to ask actor Anthony at the end of the show, with some staying on into break to ask for his autograph! Thanks also to teachers for supporting with logistics, and to parents for their financial contributions which make putting on events like this possible. Please see parentmail for further details if you would still like to contribute.



Social Media Channels

In addition to our weekly blog we have recently started a Facebook and Instagram page to share news about life in school. Please use the links below to connect with us on social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085770317872>

<https://www.instagram.com/chestertoncommunityc/?hl=en>

New Staff

We have welcomed a number of new staff for the new academic year, each week we are introducing some of those staff to Chesterton families. Today we are introducing: Dr Polos, Teacher of Chemistry, Mrs Camille Motion, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages and Gracinda Colaco, Teacher of Maths

Dr Polos

Hello, I'm Dr Polos a new Science teacher at Chesterton. My specialism is Chemistry however as a Biochemist I also thoroughly enjoy teaching Biology. I completed my PhD at Imperial College London before pursuing my passion for outreach and education. I started my teaching career at an independent school before my completing my PGCE at the University of Cambridge. I am an enthusiastic scientist with a passion for outreach and making science fun and accessible for all. I am excited to be working at such a wonderful school where there is such a focus on the enjoyment of learning. I have really enjoyed meeting so many of the fantastic students at this school in the past weeks and look forward getting to know the school community over the next weeks and months.



Mrs Camille Motion

I'm Camille Motion and I am very happy to have joined the Modern Foreign Languages department here at Chesterton. I am currently teaching both French and Spanish. I studied both languages at the University of Glasgow and graduated in 2013. This is my first teaching position in the U.K. After 8 years of teaching English in the North West of Spain, I returned to the U.K last year to complete my PGCE at the University of Cambridge. I am thrilled to be part of such an amazing team at Chesterton Community College and feel very grateful to be starting my new career at such an amazing school.

Outside of work, my main hobbies are food and dancing! I am a very keen amateur chef and usually spend my weekends trying out new recipes. I have a love for middle-eastern dance and music; I have been attending belly dance classes for over 10 years now.



Gracinda Colaco

My name is Gracinda Colaço and I am a new Maths teacher at Chesterton this year. I grew up in Cambridge, studied Maths at Durham University and then did a PGCE at King's College London. I have taught in Madrid, London, Kuala Lumpur and Bedford and am now happy to be back home in Cambridge. Outside of school I have lots of hobbies which include playing piano, singing, dancing, knitting, baking and gardening. I am also a bit of an Eco Warrior and so I am always looking for new ways to reduce my carbon footprint.



Macmillan Cancer Support – Friday 30th September 2022

Along with the other schools with our trust, Chesterton will be coming together as a school and taking part in a Macmillan Cancer support fundraising event. There are multiple ways that students can get involved. Friday 30th September will be a non-uniform day for students with all donations going to the charity, you can donate £1 (or whatever is affordable to you) via Parentmail. There will also be a special quiz, with a range of prizes available and during break-time there will also be an opportunity for students to buy cake and participate in some games as part of the fundraising event. If you / your child would like to make (or buy) some cakes for us to sell, it would be greatly appreciated. Cake donations can be left at reception between 8.30am and 9.30am next Friday, we would be grateful if you could label any cakes with dietary information e.g. containing nuts, gluten, soya etc. We hope to make lots of money for this great cause.



Please see parentmail for more information or contact Sophie Hawkins, Assistant Head, shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk

Chesterton Lecture Series

On Monday 3rd October, 15:10-16:00, Daniel Foster will be presenting a face to face lecture at school. This lecture will be on: 'International Development - A Tale of Two Countries.' The lecture will take place in E14, and during this lecture, Daniel will discuss "The Himalayan Mountain range and how it is sometimes called the 'Roof of the World' as it is the source of important rivers, such as the Ganges & Yangtze. In this lecture, I will look back at my experiences & describe the threats that faced this magnificent part of the world. I will also compare the changes that have occurred across different countries & explore future trends." Please encourage students to book their free place at the lecture by emailing Mrs Hawkins at: shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk by Friday 30th September.

Swimming success

Congratulations to Emily P who picked up a bronze medal in the 12/13 years 50 metre breaststroke at the Speedo national summer meet in August. She has since been selected to represent Swim England Cambridgeshire for the upcoming national team championships in October.

Year 7 county cup football competitions

New year 7s are very welcome to join the college football clubs after school on Tuesday (boys) and Thursday (girls). We wait patiently to discover our opponents in the first round of the county schools cup, and wish the all players good luck.

BBC 100: Share your story

On Tuesday 27th September, students in year 7-9 will be participating in a 50 minute lecture from BBC storytellers Carla Fowler & Flora McCorquodale. Carla is a Video Journalist working with Yorkshire TV and will talk about her background and building confidence as she explored career routes, whilst Flora is a Production Management Apprentice with the BBC. She will talk about her experiences with dyslexia and how radio became her escape. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to be involved in, as only 100 school across the UK have been selected to participate in this project.



Inter-house ABP Leader board

1st Place- Equiano: 1,113 ABPs

2nd Place- Robinson: 1,047 ABPs

3rd Place - Hill: 1,044 ABPs

4th Place- Fawcett: 969 ABPs

5th Place- Cavendish: 969 ABPs

Total: 5,093ABPs

Parent/Carer Information evenings

Thank you to all the parents/carers who joined us for this week's information event:

How to Help Your Child at Home for Year 8 & 9 parents/carers

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

Upcoming Parent events

Thursday 29th September How to Help your Year 10 & 11 Child at Home

See Parentmail for more information.

Equiano House

We return to school this week for a shorter four day week due to the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II taking place on Monday. We are sure a lot of our students, parents and staff watched the funeral and hope that in this time of sadness we can take comfort and support from our wider school community. If you feel like you need any support please speak to your head of house.

This week the English department organised for the whole of Year 8 to watch a Shakespeare play in the school auditorium. Year 8 were enthralled with the performance and it seems like our already thriving drama department may have a few new recruits following this event.

Well done to all our Equiano students who have been working hard in and out of the classroom to earn Above and Beyond Points! Equiano House are currently sitting top of the leader board with an impressive 1113 point! An extra shout out to Nell, Alexander and Joseph as our students of the week! Well done for all your effort and enthusiasm in lessons and keep up the great work.

Cavendish House

Hello again, Cavendish House!. Well done on completing the first few weeks of the new school year. This week our Year 7 students began to really know their way around Chesterton, our Year 11 students seemed to really embrace their new status as top of the school, and everyone in the middle got right back into the swing of things. The past two weeks saw the full-blooded return of Chesterton's famous club scene, with Cavendish students (and others!) enjoying a whole range of clubs from Badminton to Debate. And if you look closely about the campus you may also see our new Year 12 students, who have embraced both their studies and the wider Sixth Form offer with enthusiasm - this reporter hears that they enjoyed a heated mini-golf tournament last Wednesday. Cavendish shout-out this week goes to James (Year 11) for his great work volunteering as a Summer Reading Challenge Assistant at Arbury and Milton Road Library. Way to go! OK, that's all from us this week, Cavendish. Don't forget to be awesome!

Hill House

We're now fully into the swing of things at Chesterton, with lots of clubs and activities happening. Most of the clubs from last year have restarted, and there are even some new exciting club opportunities happening, so make sure you check the daily notices on Teams to look at the huge wealth of possibilities available to you – whether its debating hot topics, acting fun skits or getting involved in a music band or orchestra. We would also like to congratulate the following Year 8 students for making a great start to the year and going above and beyond: Lauren, MacKenzie, Bethany and Ines.

Fawcett House

Well done Fawcett students for another fantastic week. It has been great to see so many of you begin to get involved with all the extra-curricular clubs from drama to gardening. Keep aiming for those Above and Beyond points and before we know it we'll be climbing the ABP leader board! This week in assembly we celebrated International Peace Day and during form time we learnt about what our human rights are and the meaning of a democracy. As always, if you need any support please see Mr Firth, Miss Malik, Miss Walton or your form tutor. Keep up the good work everyone!

Robinson House

Well done, Robinson, another great week. Our Year 7 students have settled in and are becoming active participants in their buddy groups. Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting performance of Julius Caesar on Tuesday with students from the audience volunteering to take to the stage to get involved in the play themselves. We heard fantastic reports of their performances! During tutor time this week our buddy groups discussed human rights and why they are so important to protect all of us.

We have been so impressed with the wonderful turn out at our school clubs from Robinson students. Remember to check the school website: there really is something for everyone.

Robinson students have volunteered to get involved with our upcoming School Open Evening on Thursday 6th of

October. We are delighted to have the opportunity to welcome our community into the school and we are really looking forward to showing visitors around our school.

Robinson are comfortably sitting in second place on the Above and Beyond Points League table with 1047 points! Some students have already met their target level 1 and received Head of House Postcard in Recognition of this from Mrs Chibbaro.

We would like to wish the happiest of happy birthdays to those in our Robinson students celebrating their birthday: Oliver, Ciaren, Ella, Janos, Fahreen, Eleanor, Amelie, Marjen and Genevieve.

You are making an excellent start to the year, continue to keep up the good work! Enjoy the weekend.