



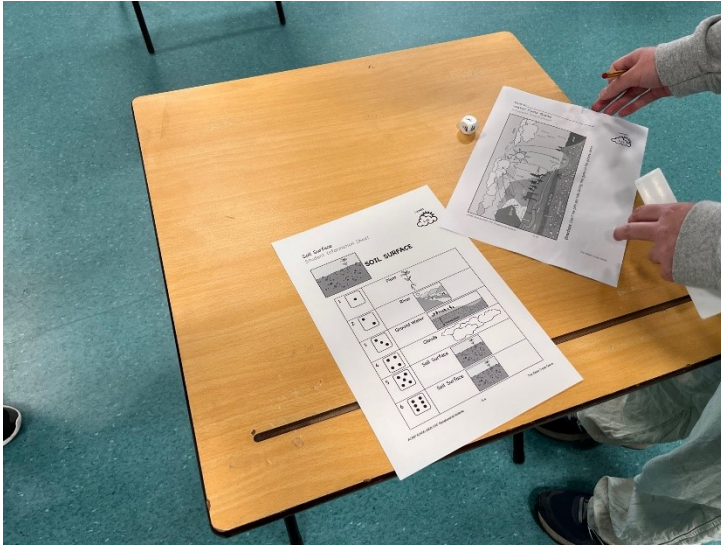
Chesterton Sixth Form (CSF)

After a well-deserved break over half term students were back into the full swing of Sixth Form study and activities this week. In our community tutor sessions students have been planning how they can support students in KS3 and 4 with their studies. Heather, Leni, and Maya are offering tutoring in Maths, English and Science for Year 11 students in the run up to the GCSEs. Rima, Josh and Heather are supporting KS3 students with paired reading each week. The fact that Chesterton Sixth Form exists alongside the Community College provides fantastic opportunities for Sixth Form students to develop key leadership skills while benefitting students within our community.

Just before the half-term, Josh and Jacob, along with two ex-Chesterton students, performed an extract from Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* as a final piece for the Year 11's showcase exam; ending the night with a great performance as the first CSF public performance.

The Sixth Form Leadership Team have been holding face-to-face guidance meetings over the past few weeks. It has been fantastic to meet and speak with our potential candidates for the next academic year. We have really enjoyed hearing about the vast range of future aspirations and interests. We are very much looking forward to meeting candidates again in March, when we host our meet and greet evening.

The CSF Programme application deadline is today (24th Feb). We have received a good number of applications, with students producing a 1000-word academic research project. The applications are of a very high standard and we are very much looking forward to discussing these further when we meet students over the next couple of weeks. We are also looking forward to a visit to Murray Edwards College, where the Programme students will be able to start thinking about progression to university and life beyond school and sixth form.



Year 12 Geographers

The Year Geographers started their new topic this week looking at Earth systems. The water cycle was enacted through a rolling dice game to help develop an understanding of residency times across different water stores.

News From the Houses

Equiano House

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a restful break and are looking forward to getting back into the school routine.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate everyone on a great first half term of the new year. The enthusiasm and commitment in and out of lessons is fantastic. A huge well done has to go to our students of the half term: Eric, Iris, Valo, Olaia for outstanding effort in school; keep up the excellent work.

This week in form time we were discussing employability skills. Students selected different jobs and compared the skills someone would need in each role. They also had to decide which person from several characters would be best suited for a given job. This really got the students debating and they came up with some great ideas.

To follow last term's teatime concert, this week the Music Department hosted a Live Lounge session in the Auditorium for students in a band. This event was a huge success and many of our students gained a lot of confidence with performing in front of a live audience. Well done to all involved.

Hill House

And we're back! We hope you've had a fantastic half-term break, and it has been great to hear what people have been up to – a huge range from long-distance flights, to camping in the countryside, to sitting on the sofa watching Netflix. Regardless of how far you've travelled or how much you've done, it's great to be back into school, and officially halfway through the year.

This half of term has started off with the excellent teatime concert, featuring four excellent bands with Hill representation throughout. It was lovely to hear the talented performances, with a range of styles: electronic synth music, old school classics from The Cure and Blondie, modern pop songs that are so modern we had to google them, and even some original compositions. Congratulations to all involved for such excellent performances and we look forward to future performance at West Road at the end of this term.

Just a reminder to keep earning those ABPs. We must congratulate Hill 5 for officially crossing the 1000 ABP line – will they keep earning to get up to 2000 by the end of the year?

Fawcett House

It has been wonderful welcoming back Fawcett students from half-term. Well done to all Year 8 and 9 students involved in the Live Lounge performances on Tuesday; you did us all proud!

This week in PSHE we looked at Employability Skills. Tutees had to research different jobs and understand the skills and qualifications required. They then had to decide which applicant was best for a job at a hotel.

Happy Birthday to Esme, Rachel, Aurora and Vilma who celebrated their birthdays recently. Finally, our random question of the week: Australia is wider than the moon... or is it? If Australia (almost 4000 km coast to coast East/West) was peeled off the curved surface of the Earth and placed alongside the moon it would appear slightly larger than the diameter of the disc of the moon we see (around 3400 km). However, if it were curled around the surface of the moon it would appear smaller as half of the Moon's circumference is around 5500 km.

Robinson House

Hello Robinson, here's our weekly round-up.

Firstly, a huge shout-out to our Robinson rock star Manuela for her performance this week during the Bands Live Lounge in the Auditorium.

During tutor time this week we learned about the Backwards Brain Bicycle, explored employability, enjoyed a fun quiz during assembly and took part in the Interhouse design competition.

We have a staggering total of 7,970 ABPs and the lowest detentions which puts us at the top of the Above and Beyond Points League table. How close are you to your Level 2 certificate?

The very best wishes to Alex, Anna, Daniele, Robin, Zander and Alessandra who are celebrating their birthdays between this blog and the next. Be sure to wish them happy birthday when you see them.

Next week we have World Book Day. Who will you be on Friday 3rd March 2023?

Have a lovely weekend.

Cavendish House

It is the first week back after half-term, and for many of our Year 11 students this means the exam revision season begins in earnest. Since January, Year 11 has been enjoying their diet of extra revision assemblies and other exam revision sessions.

Congratulations to all those students who took part in the Bands Live Lounge on Tuesday, and especially Laurie, Lilijana and Simon from House Cavendish. Thanks also to Mrs Thurlow and Miss Wilson for a great event.

And that's all from us. If you have any news or someone in the House you would like us to give a shout-out to, do drop us a line. Have a great weekend and don't forget to be awesome.

Year 7 Football County Cup Semi-finalists

The Year 7 boys' football team has progressed to the semi-final stage of the County Cup after an impressive 4-2 win at Longsands Academy, St Neots. A great team performance, with two goals scored by Hayden.

Under-14 Girls' Basketball Final

The under-14 girls' basketball team played their part in a very competitive district basketball final, which saw Chesterton trail by only two baskets at the end of the game. All players



contributed to a great performance, and we look forward to what the team can achieve in the future.



National Schools Cross-Country Qualification

Congratulations to Year 8 student Pippa, on qualifying for the national schools cross-country competition. This amazing achievement is particularly impressive when it's considered that Year 8 and Year 9 students compete against each other in this age group. We wish her luck!



Under-16 Girls District Basketball Champions

The under-16 girls basketball players were convincing winners of the district schools competition this year.

The quality of basketball in the final was extremely good, and the girls played tactically well as a team. Within the team, there were outstanding performances from Zsofia, Lucia, Jo and Sian.



Under-16 Boys' District Tournament Runners-Up

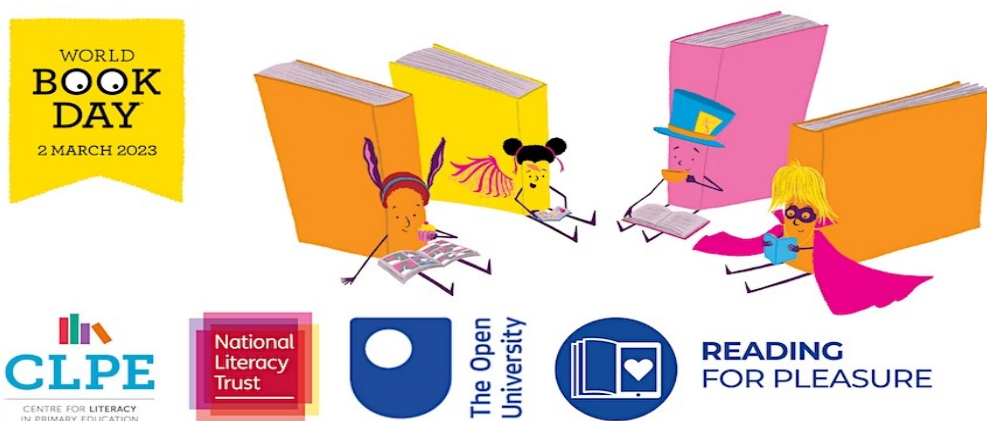
After an outstanding win in the semi-final of the district schools tournament, our under-16 boys were unlucky not to replicate the result in the final. Both teams defended admirably



and made it difficult to score – Kwasi was particularly competent in this area. In offence, the Chesterton team played a fast-paced game, with Louis scoring a number of our points. In the end, our opponents managed just three more baskets – it was a great game for the spectators!

Thank you – NP Architects

Many thanks to local company NP Architects on providing the kit for our girls' basketball teams. Sponsorship was actually provided just before the Covid-19 lockdowns and it is now great to see the kit in successful action at the district tournament finals. Thank you.



Preparing for World Book Day

Next week, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3rd March (a day later than the rest of the world). We are running a range of activities to promote reading across our school community.

Firstly, we are inviting students to dress up as a character from a book. We encourage you not to go to unnecessary effort or expense for this; it is possible to be creative with ideas from existing wardrobes. There are plenty of simple ideas online, e.g.

<https://www.netmums.com/world-book-day/top-world-book-day-costume-ideas/6-diary-of-a-wimpy-kid-costume>

We are asking that students have a reading book with them on the day. This can be any book they enjoy reading, borrowed from our school library or brought in from home. There will be opportunities throughout the day for students to 'drop everything and read', so it will be important that they have something they wish to read with them.

We will be issuing digital book tokens which students can redeem at participating book shops. See <https://www.worldbookday.com/about-us/frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=Children%20can%20swap%20their%20%C2%A3,children%20from%20booksellers%20and%20publishers> for more info and to find your nearest participating book shop.

There will be various activities running throughout the day, including form time activities, a book cover design competition, treasure hunt, and activities in the library at break and lunch times (with some edible rewards).

After school, we are running a 'reading café' event in the library until 4pm, where students, staff and parents are encouraged to stay on to read and chat about reading, and to enjoy some light refreshments.



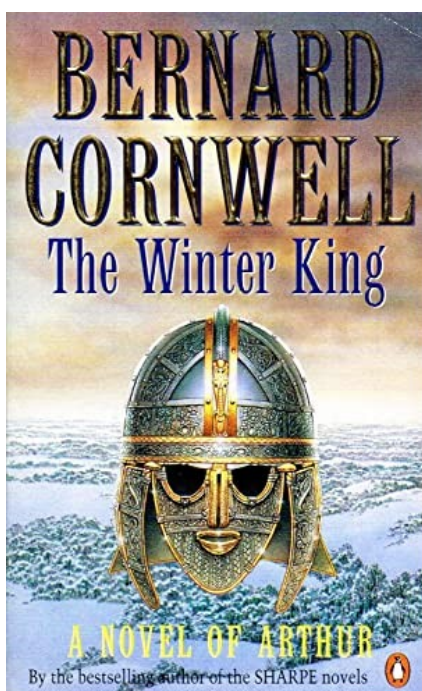
Please see Parentmail and weekly notices for more details about what to look forward to on the day.

Many local libraries and book shops will be running their own World Book Day events, so it is a great time to drop in.

Book Club News

The KS3 book club is off to a strong start to the new half term. After some of our students were inspired by a display of new *Horrible Histories* in Arbury Court Library, we have decided that we will focus

on some of our *Horrible Histories* stock this week – it is nice to focus on some non-fiction for a change.



Staff Reading Recommendation

Mr Ware (Humanities teacher and Assistant Head of Cavendish) recommends "*The Winter King*" by Bernard Cornwell.

Mr Ware says,

"Fantasy meets history: the story of Arthur and Merlin re-imagined as a mysterious and gripping historical novel. The best book from one of my favourite authors."

All Go in the Library

We are very grateful to all the members of the school community who give their time to make the library a thriving environment.

This week we have welcomed some parent and sixth form volunteers to begin a paired reading scheme with some of our less confident readers in KS3.

We have also welcomed and trained a new bunch of assistant librarians, who give up their time at lunch to help in the library with jobs like issues, returns and reshelving.

Mrs Phillips is particularly excited by a delivery of library stationery (like date stamps and plastic jackets) so there is plenty of work for the library team to get cracking with!

We are also busy prepping activities for World Book Day, which will include guess the book cover, reading bingo, teachers' book recommendation treasure hunt, and blind dates with books. We look forward to seeing you in there.



Music Department

Well done to all the Year 8 and 9 bands who performed at the Live Lounge on Tuesday evening. It was great to see such a variety of performances, including electronic sets, original songs and some classic items.

Music rehearsals are at full speed for the West Road Concert, the highlight of the Music Department year, on Thursday 23rd March. Tickets are now available for families of those performing only and the ticket link is on the permission letter. Any remaining tickets will go on general release on Monday 6th March.

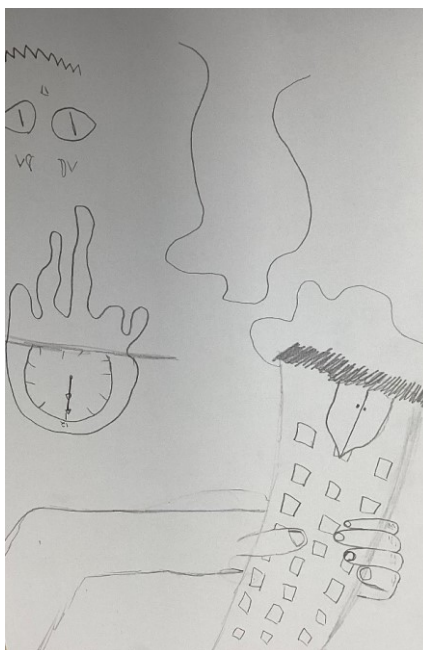
The deadline for expressing interest in the choirs' summer residential trip for Years 8 and above is Wednesday 8th March. Any queries, please do contact Miss Wilson.

English Lessons

Year 7 students began their new Spring 2 topic this week: Poetry.

Students in 7s and 7n began by considering what makes a poem a poem, before exploring their first poem of the unit through its imagery.

Instead of reading the poem on the page in front of them, students listened to the poem being read aloud and produced a creative response based on the images created in their mind. They only found out afterwards what the poem was actually about! Here are some images created by Ewa, Maya and Noah.



Connections Festival 2023

Two weeks to go until the Royal National Theatre’s Connections Festival 2023 comes to Chesterton’s Atrium Theatre on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th March at 7.30pm with the UK premiere of ‘*Is My Microphone On?*’ by celebrated Canadian playwright, Jordan Tannahill. It will then transfer to the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton on Sunday 16th April, as part of this famous nation-wide festival that culminates at the Royal National Theatre itself in July.

Tickets for this unmatched, unflinching and ultimately uplifting ensemble drama can be purchased on the following link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chestertonyt>

The play tackles the ever-pressing issue of the climate crisis, bravely and truly pointing to the parallels that exist between our relationships with the environment, with each other and ourselves.

The 35-strong cast from Chesterton Youth Theatre includes several members of National Youth Theatre & National Youth Music Theatre aged between 12 - 19 years of age.

Miss it, and miss what really matters in the world today. Be there, and make a difference to their futures, as well as your own. Any profits from the performance will go to the charity Greenpeace.

Trigger warning: the play contains strong language including slurs, as well as references which some audience members may find distressing. Our intentions are to never shy away from problems in the world, but by coming together in theatre: start to solve them.



Drama Successes

Alex, Holly, Sam, Charlie and Laurie have all been cast in the National Youth Music Theatre's 2023 season! This is – as CEO Jeremy Walker puts it – 'a truly remarkable achievement'.

Sam will be playing the lead role as Beckett in *'The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair'* which will be performed at the Leicester Curve Theatre for a week in August.

Laurie and Charlie are also cast in this show as Gus and Spud. Alex meanwhile will perform in a Showcase entitled *'When I Grow Up!'* at the Rose Theatre, Kingston; and Holly will be part of the small cast workshopping a new musical in the summer. The boys will all start rehearsing at Easter in Sevenoaks School with professional and prestigious theatre makers.