



### **Sixth Form (CSF)**

This week saw the first Year 11 Applicant meet and greet evening hosted at Chesterton. It was a fantastic evening where like-minded applicants all considering CSF as an option for next year got together and had the opportunity to speak to our staff and students and gain a greater insight into sixth form life here. Attendees received talks from Mr Bowles and Mr Mepham on the CSF offer, as well as further talks on the importance of taking on super-curricular opportunities by Ms Barker, apprenticeship and university routes by AIM Group and Churchill College. We were thrilled by the reception and look forward to seeing the students again next term for their Offer Holder Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

We wish all our students and staff a well-earned rest and thank them for all their hard work with everything KS5 and A Level.

### **Cavendish House**

We start, of course, with the promised report from the York Trip – in short, a great weekend was had by all. This was an opportunity for students and staff to enjoy an exciting city and get to know one another better. Highlights included selfies, a scavenger hunt looking for things that would make Mr Payne laugh, seeing the world-famous Viking poo at the Jorvik Viking Centre, good conversation over dinner at the York Assembly Rooms, and of course Mr Moore's ghost tour. Thanks to Cavendish students Shabrina, Rozenn, Etienne, Edie, Quentin, Ishmam, Nafeesah, Fiona, Emilija, Sammy and Alex for taking part so well in this event – bring on next year.

In the last week of term the school was busy, as if trying to fit everything in before the Easter holidays. Staff enjoyed a Year 8 parents' evening, Year 11 creative arts students made an excellent start on their exams, and the library hosted a wonderful dragon-themed week. This week also saw a well-attended first annual Chesterton Community Easter Celebration.

Cavendish students played a leading part in Year 7 and Year 8 netball tournaments – well done to Pippa and Meli in Year 8 and Aleks, Sophia, Imogen and Beth in Year 7.

Coming up after Easter, we have the whole range of summer activities to look forward to including the Battlefields Trip, Sports Day, Enrichment and the rest, along with students

taking part in the National Theatre Connections festival in Northampton and the National Youth Orchestra. So lots to anticipate there.

But otherwise, that's all from us. In PSHE this week staff and students were asked to write praise postcards to someone else in the school who has helped or inspired them – so we extend a spiritual praise postcard to all our Cavendish students. Well done, keep it up, and don't forget to be awesome.

### **Equiano House**

Well done to all of our Equiano students, it is the last week of the term and we have some excellent achievements to celebrate. As a school our students have earned a total of 41,162 Above and Beyond Points this term with Equiano bringing in 8144 of those. This week Equiano Years 8 and 9 competed against the other Houses in the Interhouse Sports Competition to earn even more points for our house. Make sure to check in after the Easter holidays to find out who won!

This week we have been celebrating National Science Week in all science lessons across the school. There have been rockets launched, huge combustion reactions and even microscopic organisms found living in moss harvested from around school. Make sure to ask your science teacher for where you can find out more about Science Week activities.

A special shout-out to our students of the week: Matilde, Isabella, Tunde and Elizabeth, well done for all your hard work!

We hope you all enjoy the springtime weather and have a restful Easter break, see you next term!

### **Fawcett House**

Fawcett students have been very much enjoying their last week of term. Students have taken part in Sport Interhouse competitions (weather permitting) as well as attending lots of exciting events for Science Week and Dragon Convention Week. In form time we have been learning about how to set goals and to kindly appreciate those around us who we are thankful for. On Friday we also wore purple for Epilepsy Awareness. We celebrated Easter early with our celebration afternoon on Tuesday filled with lots of music, readings and chocolate eggs.

A happy birthday to Yotam, Flo, Bella, Kalina, Han-Chong, William, Daniel and Elijah who celebrate their birthdays this week or during the holidays. We wish everybody a Happy Easter, Ramadan Mubarak, שמח פסח גן and a happy holiday and look forward to welcoming you back soon.

## **Hill House**

Congratulations, we've finally reached the end of term! It has been an eventful term and the final week clearly represented that. Years 8 and 9 had an exciting inter-house sports event, and well done to those who represented Hill House so well on the sports field.

In form time this week we have been reflecting on our progress and goals this year, and it has been great to see buddy groups sharing these and thinking further about how to develop and progress in the coming months.

There was a lovely atmosphere at the Easter Celebration on Tuesday, and it was great seeing Hill students either performing music or reading sections of the Easter story – we look forward to the Iftar happening after the Easter break which promises to be similarly enjoyable.

We at the Hill House would like to wish our very best to all for your Easter break – whether it's eating lots of Easter eggs, walking in the spring fields or revising in the sun if you're in Year 11, we hope it brings you peace and rest. See you next term!

## **Robinson House**

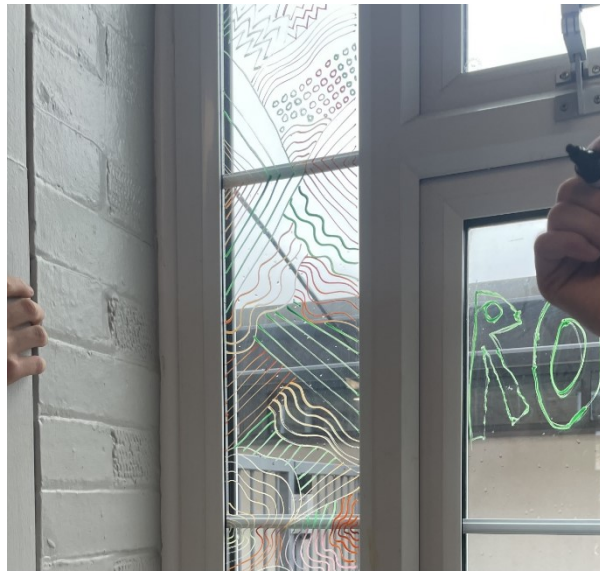
Well folks, here's your weekly roundup. Firstly, a very happy birthday to Raisa, Anya, Abigail-Faith and Vlad! May your birthdays be filled with joy, laughter and celebration. We hope that your year ahead is full of wonderful experiences, growth and happiness.

The report from the Year 10 York trip was that everyone had a marvelous weekend and thoroughly enjoyed the Ghost Tour, Assembly Rooms, Jorvik Viking Centre and the York Minster.



This week during tutor time we set goals for next term and worked on our Design Competition – check out the windows of B5 next time you are walking past to learn more about Robinson 6.

*A photo from the York trip (left to right: Alex, Vadim and Ms McClean)*



*Windows of B5 decorated with Chalk markers for the tutor time design competition.*

We would also like to extend a huge congratulations for each and every House point you have added while earning Above and Beyond Points this week. Together you have earned a total of 9,643 ABPs; you are at the top of the ABP League table. Your hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence are truly inspiring. Keep up the amazing work!

As we head into Easter break, we are reminded of the beauty of new beginnings and the promise of spring. We encourage you to approach the upcoming break with gratitude, mindfulness and a sense of renewal. We hope that you all have a wonderful Easter break filled with rest, rejuvenation and quality time with loved ones. We look forward to returning to school with renewed energy and a sense of purpose.

## **Sports News**

### **Netball success**

The Year 8 netball teams enjoyed a successful day at the Cambridge district schools tournament this week. Eventually finishing in third position, the Chesterton team qualified for the county event, taking place early in the next academic year – the training starts now!



### **Years 5&6 primary school football tournament**

It was enjoyable to welcome students from our feeder primaries last week, for a mini-tournament on the college astro. It also gave an opportunity for budding referees from Year 9 to experience being on the pitch with a whistle in their hand, taking responsibility for



their decisions. Well done in particular to Milton Road Primary and Mayfield Primary for their performance and sporting behaviour.

### **New extra-curricular sports clubs**

We look forward to seeing great numbers of students attending our summer sports clubs. The full timetable will be advertised via Parentmail to all parents, but be ready for badminton, athletics, tennis, rounders, rowing, table tennis, basketball and use of the fitness suite.

### **All things rugby**

Great to see three recent Year 8 converts to girls' rugby. Clara, Meli and Aurora took part in the St Neots Festival of Rugby - also attended by England Six Nations rugby players Connie Powell, Poppy Cleall and Rachel Burford. Looking forward to strengthening our links with CRUFC!



### **Easter Celebration**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our inaugural Easter Celebration event. We travelled around the auditorium on a shared journey to hear the Easter Story being told by students and teachers. The story was accompanied by musical items, including an arrangement of 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' arranged especially for the event and performed by Year 10 students.



## Music News

After the holidays all music groups will resume, as well as some new additions. Students should look on the Music Extra-Curricular Team for more information.

Next term we have plenty of performances to look forward to in the community, as well as our outdoor summer concert on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at school. We are also hoping to hold our annual visit to the BBC Proms on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Stay tuned for more details.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April selected Year 9, 10 and 12 students will be attending a concert given by the National Youth Orchestra at Saffron Hall, before the National Youth Orchestra visits Chesterton to work with school orchestra members on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. This promises to be an exciting start to the term.

Finally – there are still places left on the Cambridgeshire Holiday Orchestra’s Easter course. Many Chesterton students have enjoyed this music course in the past. For more information please see <https://holidayorchestra.co.uk>.

## Years 9 and 10 German Exchange

*Herzlich Willkommen in Cambridge!*

At last, after a three-year gap because of Covid, Chesterton’s German Exchange with the Kurpfalz Gymnasium from Schriesheim near Heidelberg is running again.

This week we have been welcoming 12 students and 2 teachers to Chesterton. They have been staying with their partners’ families and have spent the week exploring Cambridge, London and the Norfolk coast as well as spending a day with us in school.

There is no better way to learn a language than to live with a host family and it’s a great way of setting down strong links with our European neighbours in these changed times.

In July our students will be visiting Schriesheim for the second leg of the exchange, living with their partners’ families and getting stuck into German culture.

Our thanks go to our host families who have made our guests so welcome and to all staff across the Trust who helped with the extra admin. It's been great to have got the exchange up and running again. We very much hope that the friendships made this week will continue.



### **York Trip**

On Friday and Saturday last week 60 Year 10s and 4 Year 12s travelled to York for a short but eventful visit. The students visited exciting locations such as the Railway Museum, where students hunted for a codeword using the names of trains; the Jorvik Viking Centre, travelling back in time to the sights (and smells) of Viking York; and the beautiful York Minster, spending a moment of calm and quiet in a wonderful building and atmosphere. Along the way there was a visit to a ruined abbey, a tour along the walls, dinner in the beautiful York Assembly Rooms, and lots of free time for students to explore the city to their heart's desire. Highlights included: finding Mr Payne's doppelganger; Mr Moore, Mr Payne and Mr Ware becoming TikTok famous with a street interviewer; and a gory ghost tour led by Mr Ware and Mr Payne. See below for some photos, as well as comments from some of our students:

- *"It was an incredible trip, I would do it again if I could travel back in time."*
- *"One of the best school trips you can go on, prioritising what students actually enjoy."*
- *"Overall an absolutely amazing trip. It's very chilled and laid back so it's great to hang out with friends away from home."*



- *“Truly insane city with a lot of history and culture behind it.”*
- *“Even if you don’t take History or don’t like trains or Vikings, the trip is actually really fun - you get the one-off opportunity to have a selfie with Mr Ware.”*

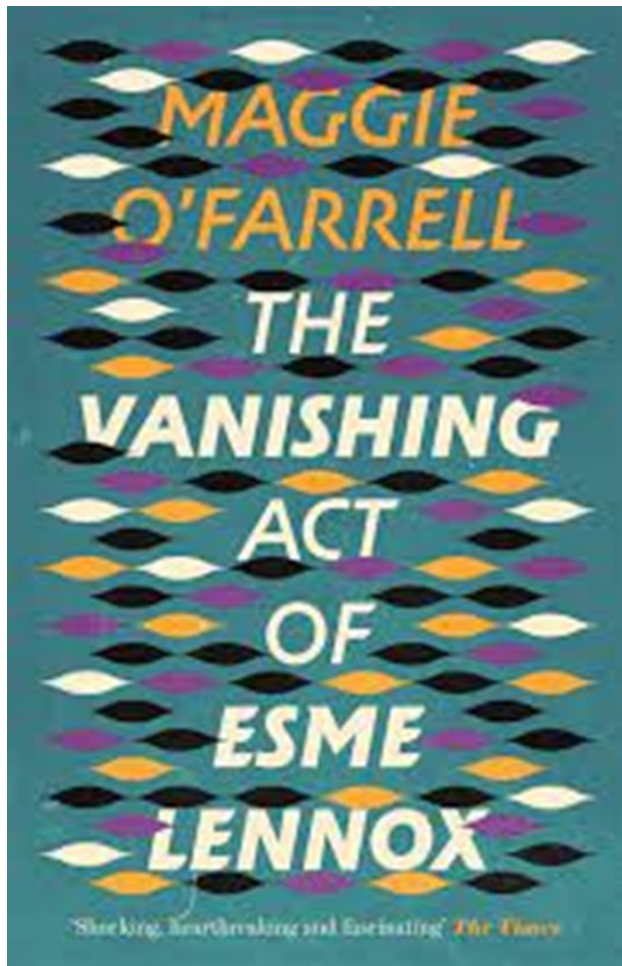


**This Week’s Staff Book Recommendation**

Miss Tate (MFL teacher) recommends *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* by Maggie O’Farrell.

Miss Tate says,

*“Why has Iris never heard of her great-aunt Esme? Such a gripping story, this is a real page-turner. I couldn’t get this book out of my mind after reading it. Recommended for KS4 only.”*



### **Dragons in the Library (and future library themed weeks?)**

Lots of students took up the opportunity to try some dragon activities in the library this week. Some students showed off their excellent knowledge of dragons in literature with our dragon book quizzes, and there was a happy gang busy with dragon crafts, including scratch art magnets, key chains, ceramic dragons and mindful colouring. It was also great to see students selecting books from the dragon-themed displays.

After the success of this week, the library team are keen to try some more special themed weeks – do let Mrs Pinder-Ashenden or Mrs Phillips know if you have any suggestions or ideas.



## PTA Updates

It was great to meet parents at the Year 8 Parents' Evening this week at our 'Meet and Greet' stall. We hope many of you will get involved with the PTA at some point in your Chesterton journey.

A huge thank you to the 2nd Hand-Uniform team for the excellent care in making so many uniforms available for re-use and to parents who have donated pre-used uniforms and PE kits.

## Dates for Your Diaries

The PTA will be at the **Year 7 Parent Evening** on **27th April** from **4 pm** and look forward to meeting new parents to the school at both our **Second-Hand Uniform** stall and **Meet and Greet** stall, where coffee and teas will be served.

We look forward to meeting as many of you who can make it at our next **PTA Meeting** on **Tuesday 25th April** at **6pm** in the **School Library**. We will be joined by Mr DeSouza, a Science teacher at school who will tell us how the department is using the new 'visualisers' purchased for the school by the PTA. We'll also hear teachers' latest funding requests and more about the school's proposal for the next funding appeal.

Come along and have your say. **Everyone is welcome!**

Thank you to all those who came to our first **Bash '23** Planning meeting. It was fantastic to be joined by students keen to play as well as many parents offering to help. Please do get in touch with us if you'd like to get involved at [pta@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:pta@ccc.tela.org.uk). Save the date **Friday 30th June** for the school social event of the year!

Happy Spring Break to you all! Best wishes, **PTA Committee**

### **Chesterton Science Week**

Students had a chance to take part in a variety of Science activities during their lessons this week and also explore the Science themed display provided for us in the library. This year's theme was *Connections*. So alongside the Air Rockets (most of them returned to terra firma...), the methane mambas and the whoosh bottle explosions, students had a go at fun activities which helped illustrate the inter-connectivity between the living and non-living elements of ecosystems using large balls of string to model the interactions. Other groups discovered how their meal selections were linked to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and water usage, hunted for elusive microscopic tardigrades living in moss, or had a play with some Physics toys.



Tardigrade spotting



Ecosystem modelling



Whoosh bottle

### **Carnegie Shadowing**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, a big gang of us met in the library at breaktime for our Carnegie book group launch. We enjoyed looking at covers and blurbs, and deciding which books to try first. So far, "*Medusa*" is the most popular option. Participants have been issued booklets with info about all the shortlisted books and space to record their impressions, plus login details to access Carnegie online activities (posting and reading reviews, submitting artwork inspired by Carnegie books, etc.) We look forward to hearing how everyone gets on.





## Library Helpers Thank You Party

The library team enjoyed an end of term party complete with book-themed egg treasure hunt, to say thank you to our team of volunteers, who give up one lunchtime each week to help with jobs in the library. We think they all do an egg-cellent job, but each term we recognise two helpers who particularly go above and beyond, and so this term extra eggs went to Leanne and Emily.

We have had some people step back and some new volunteers to train up after Easter – see Mrs Pinder-Ashenden or Mrs Phillips if you are interested in finding out more.