

Dear parents and carers,

Please see below this week's Chesterton blog. We hope you enjoy reading the updates from departments and teams across the school.



Thank you so much to all our staff and students for their ongoing hard work.

The team at Chesterton are always keen to hear from parents who'd like to get involved with school life: please don't hesitate to get in touch if this is true for you.

All the best for a lovely weekend.

Rolf Purvis
Executive Headteacher

Captivating Moth Discoveries

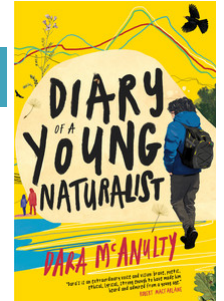
On Wednesday after school the Nature explorers club extended an invitation to us all to come and see what their moth traps had captured in The Dip nature area at Chesterton. Local experts were there to help with the identification and record the findings as part of an ongoing survey.

If you'd like to know more about the Nature Explorers you can contact Amy Ellis who organises the sessions: amy.ellis@nature-explorers.co.uk

Here are a couple of the more showy Chesterton residents (I unfortunately missed the Privet Hawk moth (UK's largest moth) that was also found in the trap)

Staff Reading Recommendation of The Week

Miss Holmes (English teacher) recommends '**Diary of a Young Naturalist**' by Dara McAnulty



Miss Holmes says, "Written by a 15-year-old author, this beautiful memoir captures the unfiltered joys of nature and expresses a teenager's perspective of growing up in the climate emergency."

Food Tech Creations

A few examples of Y9 food technology assessment entries from this week! Philip showcased a delightful creation of sweet bread accompanied by a luscious pistachio creme pat. Meanwhile, Freya impressed everyone with her homemade baguettes. As part of their assignment, students were challenged to develop a recipe they had learned in class. Both Philip and Freya began with a basic bread roll recipe, and they independently conducted research, planned meticulously, and skilfully executed their culinary masterpieces.



● Buff Tip Moth



● Elephant Hawk Moth

Y11 Offer Holder Day

We were thrilled to meet up with our offer holders again and give them a thorough experience of Chesterton Sixth Form. The day included team-based activities and challenges that focused on building relationships and the idea of community. They then had subject sessions followed by a fantastic paella lunch in the sub. Students were then invited to head to Jack's Gelato for an ice cream with their newly formed peers; it was lovely to see so many of them there. It was safe to say that there was a real buzz around the sixth form and that students thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We now wish all students who attended a happy and restful summer and wish them the very best with their GCSE results.



Sixth Form student profile: Tomas

I am studying Chemistry, Biology and Geography. At first, I was nervous about starting A-Levels knowing my subjects would be challenging, however the small classes and one-to-one teaching, as well as the amazing work atmosphere here in the Sixth Form has helped me become confident ahead of my Y12 exams. The guarantee of specialist teachers in every subject has really helped me get the best learning experience I can get.

My favourite subject is biology; I have always had an interest in life sciences, specifically disease and the treatment of disease. Throughout my time at CSF, I have had many opportunities to explore biology in more depth, for example I visited the Babraham Institute, in which I took part in an experiment creating COVID PCR tests and I have also been invited to Warwick for a lab experience day. These types of experiences offer great perspective on what it is like to study and research at university and beyond. I have been completing a lot of super curricular activities including an online course on cancer medicine, where I was able to share findings with other students. In the Summer I will be attending Inter Science summer school, in London, and I recently delivered a speech to my cohort about the use of 3d printing in medicine.





Turing Trips

Over the past five weeks over 220 students and 16 staff have visited five countries, Kenya, USA, Hungary, Portugal and The Netherlands, in each country students have visited a partner school and created a lasting legacy for the next generation of students. In Kenya students helped with teaching, decorating and learning through play whilst in the USA our students learnt about how a Food Bank and a project set up to support disadvantaged boys supports the wellbeing and needs of their young learners. Each school visited has left a lasting impression on our students.

Along with the schools, students enjoyed a range of activities, sightseeing in New York & a Baseball Game, a Trip to the Thermal Baths in Budapest and a ride on a Railway run by Children, in Lisbon a visit to Europe's largest Aquarium & a Sandcastle Competition on the beach (Very Competitive!), in Amsterdam visits to museums and Anne Franks house, in Kenya the safari in the Masai Mara was the highlight, the Big Five were all spotted.

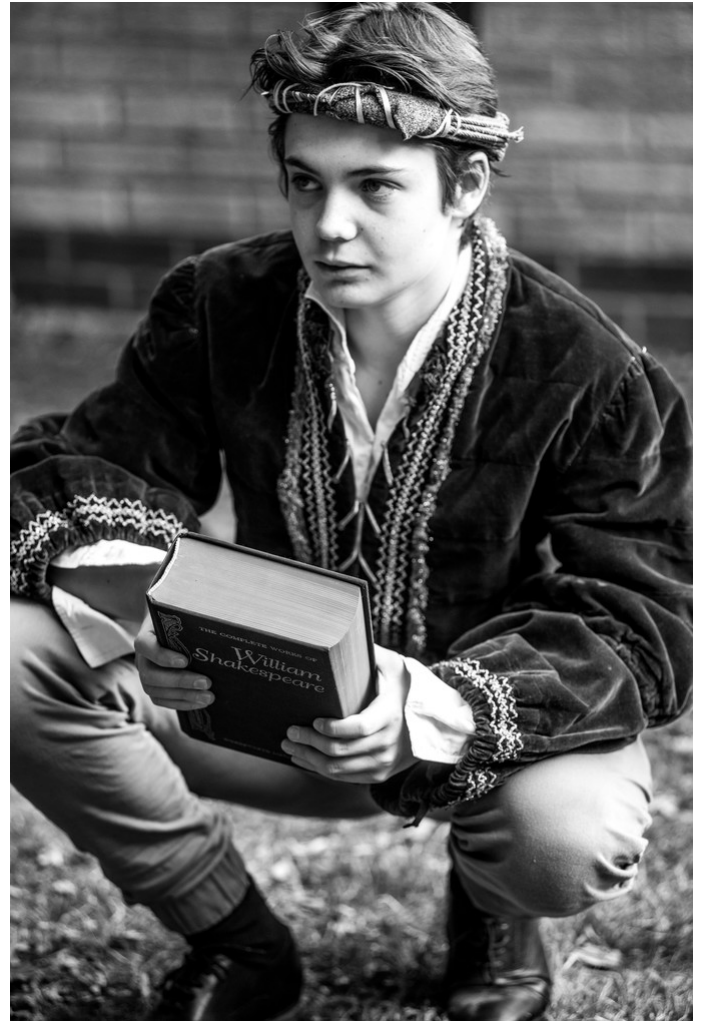
Everyone should be very proud of what they achieved, many students were away from home for the first time, several had never flown before, everyone showed independence, resilience and Teamwork.

FESTIVAL FEVER

The drama department are rehearsing in earnest for Chesterton Youth Theatre's Drama Festival 2023, following the success of last year's event. You can find more information about this on the poster here! The first event is Year 7's House Plays Competition, and we are very excited to see which House will win; each group is working hard and contains such promising creative talent! A handful of tickets are still available, so come along next Friday if you can!

Meanwhile, this year's Festival stretches beyond youth theatre! On Sunday 9th July, a professional audio performance of Peter Shaffer's classic play 'Equus' will take place in our studio. The play, written in 1973, is known as a 'why-done-it?' and examines how a teenager might resort to the horrifically violent act of blinding six horses one night (a real-life case). This challenging role of 17 year-old Alan, once played by Daniel Radcliffe in a major revival, will be - on this occasion - played by Chesterton YT's Bill Stanley. Bill is about to take up a much sought-after place at the Guildford Conservatoire, training to become a professional. He is joined by former students Ben Binks, Esme Sharpington and Imogen Cave, who will play the pivotal role of Jill. Imogen is currently training on the BA acting programme at Rose Bruford College, having just played Cassius in an all-female version of Julius Caesar in the school's Shakespeare season. The older adult cast includes Debbie Radcliffe, leading lady for the English Theatre, Hamburg, and Julian Eardley, a regular star at Winchester Theatre Royal. Cambridge teachers Jo Russ and Neil Jones are playing Dora and Dysart, having had previous careers on television as well as in West-End theatre; local stage and screen actor Stephen Von Schreiber completes the cast.

It's not often that such a stellar company comes together at Chesterton to perform a landmark play with live music and inventive sound design, so if you're a theatre lover, book your tickets now!



'Books and biscuits' try Julian Sedgwick

Our enthusiastic KS3 readers from the weekly 'Books and biscuits' club have some new options for group reads, thanks to relocating some books which had been in storage. The book clubbers are currently acting as advisors by reading some Julian Sedgwick books, the "Mysterium" series, to help us determine whether the books will catch on and if we might even want to adopt Julian Sedgwick as our school focus author next term. With no meeting next Tuesday because of sports day, that gives students a fortnight to read a book and report back - we look forward to hearing what everyone thinks!



Chesterton Lectures

Next Monday we have the last Chesterton lecture of this academic year. We have been fortunate enough to have some fantastic speakers visit us, with students receiving lectures on subjects as varied as neuroscience, special effects in movies, farming and Mexico!

If you would be interested in delivering a lecture to our students next academic year, we would love to hear from you. Please email nbarker@ccc.tela.org.uk.

All parents/carers and students are welcome for our final lecture on Monday the 3rd July with the fascinating title of 'What's really happening to our planet and why should we care?' Please just email Ms Barker by 3rd July to confirm attendance. The lecture will be delivered by Andrew Harmsworth, Head of Physics at The Leys School in Cambridge and part of the Cambridge Climate Lecture Series organising committee. He is formerly a panel member of the Sustainable Development Commission and is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. The lecture will take place in E14. Andrew will talk about how 'Every human on the planet has, and will always have, a 'baseline' which they consider normal: it is what you grow up thinking is 'normal,' and it's very different to your parents' observations of the world. I will explore environmental changes throughout my life, along with technological advancements and political agreements which may one day help us to reign in unsustainable actions and move civilisations onto a truly sustainable track. I will also explain what a carbon budget is and why there is no arguing with Physics: pretty much everything needs to change.'

Library Lady on the Loose!

Mrs Phillips has been having a lovely time visiting local feeder primaries to talk to our upcoming students about reading. Year 6s have been reflecting on and interviewing each other about their reading habits, and have learnt about the importance of creating a rhythm of daily reading for pleasure – the single greatest indicator of future educational success. It has also been an opportunity to launch Chesterton's summer reading project, the author project, which students can complete alongside Cambridgeshire libraries' summer reading challenge, if they wish.

Thank you very much to the primary teachers for accommodating the visits, and thank you to the Year 6 students for their participation and enthusiasm, and for some great new book recommendations for our school library. We really look forward to welcoming the upcoming students to the library as part of their induction day on Monday 3rd July!

Local activities to tempt families

Rowling fans may be pleased to hear that there is a touring **Harry Potter Day** in Cambridge over the summer, including a day at the Meadows Community Centre on 7th August.

Tickets are now also live for the Library Presents summer events, a series of arts activities taking place in Cambridgeshire libraries and other community venues. Details and tickets can be found [here](#).

The programme includes a mix of different shows and creative workshops, including art, music and puppets. All the events are local and very reasonably priced. Mrs Phillips particularly recommends the ceramics workshops (great for all ages) but you have to be quick as tickets go fast!



Athletics record breakers

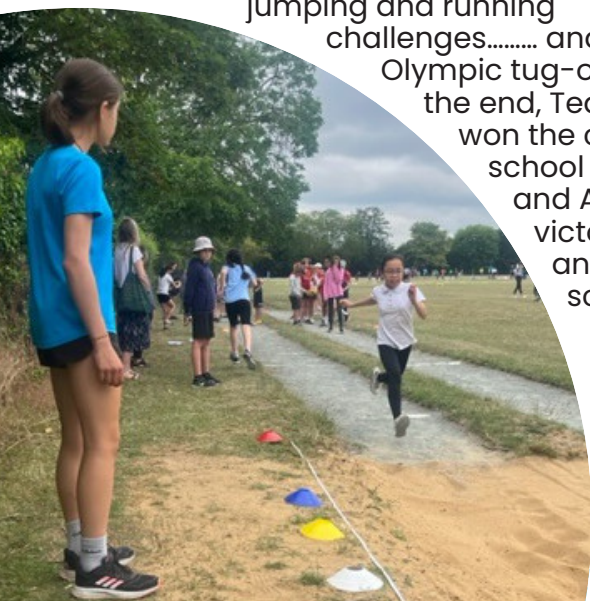
It's always amazing to see our longstanding athletics records broken. Congratulations to the following students, who have temporarily written themselves into the Chesterton record books (or maybe permanently!)

- **Aran** – Year 8 long jump
5.90 metres
- **Lilliana** – Year 8 300m
47.47 seconds
- **Pippa** – Year 8 1500m
5 mins 25 seconds
- **Omondi** – Year 9 hurdles and high jump
12.72 seconds
- **Alex, Alfie, Elijah and Idriis** 4 x 100m relay
49.5 seconds
- **Tegan** – Year 9 hurdles
13.20 seconds
- **Clarisse Van De Aa** – Year 9 long jump
4.59 metres

Year 9 Sports Leaders – Year 6 athletics festival

Some of our year 9 sports leadership academy students were heavily involved in organising the annual year 6 athletics festival this week. It was fantastic to see our future year 7's representing our feeder primary schools, only weeks before they join us in September. Arbury, Mayfield and Milton Road students took part in a number of throwing, jumping and running

challenges..... and an Olympic tug-of-war! In the end, Team Blue won the combined school events, and Arbury were victorious as an individual school.



FIND YOUR SPARK!

The Drama Department were delighted to arrange for the whole of Year 7 and one class from Year 9 to watch a performance of Corkscrew Theatre's **'Find Your Spark'** last Friday afternoon – a new educational play about the 'forgotten genius', Jeremiah Horrocks. The 45 minute two-hander play was uplifting and moving, as the contribution that Horrocks made to astronomical discovery was gradually revealed through telescopic visions and witty, bittersweet dialogue. The play involved two former students, Sophie McMahon (as playwright) and Will Males (as actor) and was directed by associate artist Lesley Ford. Whilst it was a project which beautifully demonstrated how the arts can become a dynamic platform for scientific learning, **Thomas Ware, History Teacher, pointed out how much this 'excellent play' provided yet another cross-curricular link in his subject:**

"I loved the way it moved between the seventeenth and twenty-first century, highlighting what's changed in that time in terms of human behaviour and historical events, and what's remains constant in the human spirit".

Many Year 7 students commented afterwards on how inspired they felt by the concepts and high quality of the drama.

Florence said: *"I find it amazing how you can be gripped by listening to a conversation between two people for a whole lesson, and feel like you really know them by the end."*

Alba said: *"I loved the relationship the actors created between the two contrasting characters, and how the title of 'Find Your Spark' had multiple meanings."*

Josh from Year 12 and Rhys from Year 9 also enjoyed helping to set-up the various pieces of stage furniture and props that made up Corkscrew's simple and yet intriguing stage picture, and feel lucky to have built a relationship with this professional company. All in all, it was an afternoon in which shared experience, vertical learning and cross-curricular education truly came alive at Chesterton.

Exploring Careers and Vocational Routes

This month, the Y8 students took part in either a Careers shadowing day or a Careers enterprise day. Those attending work shadowing had the opportunity to observe and discover the job of a parent or close friend. Hearing and reading the stories from that day is fabulous and highlights the importance of such an opportunity. Those who attended the enterprise day competed in teams to present the best business idea, including identifying a problem and offering a set of comprehensive solutions. According to the students themselves, the top skills they developed across both events were team work, problem solving, communication, listening, and organisational skills.

For our Year 9s, Cambridge Regional College came to Chesterton to provide meaningful information about vocational routes and what the college has to offer. Each student had an opportunity to chat to them, got given a booklet to take home and has engaged into thinking about their future. If you would like to follow up on this, there is a CRC open day open to all 4th of July - [click here](#) to find out more!

Engaging Whiteboard Challenge

A group comprising both KS3 and KS4 Computer Science students participated in an interactive whiteboard challenge to visually represent and articulate their comprehension of computing concepts. The KS3 students focused on exploring systems architecture, delving into the inner workings of the CPU and its interaction with RAM. On the other hand, the KS4 GCSE students revised the three fundamental principles of computational thinking. The timed team challenge produced exceptional results, showcasing high-quality work from the students. It was a truly gratifying experience!

Year 11 Prom

Last Friday marked one of the final major events for year 11 as they assembled for their Prom. Students arrived to the year 9 band playing in the evening sun. The school chefs and catering team put on an amazing dinner for students with staff serving food. Much fun was had on the dance floor afterwards. We wish year 11 all the best for the future.



CHESTERTON YOUTH THEATRE'S DRAMA FESTIVAL '23

FRIDAY 7TH TO TUESDAY 11TH JULY 2023 - THE DRAMA STUDIO

7TH

YEAR 7 HOUSE PLAYS COMPETITION: 'THE SERPENT'S TONGUE' - 4.45PM — 6.30PM

YEAR 7 ACTORS FROM CAVENDISH, EQUIANO, FAWCETT, HILL & ROBINSON – WITH DIRECTORS FROM THE OLDER YEARS - BATTLE IT OUT TO WIN 'BEST OVERALL PRODUCTION' AND 'BEST ACTOR' AWARDS. 60 TICKETS AVAILABLE. £2 EACH.

9TH

'EQUUS' BY PETER SHAFFER — AUDIO PERFORMANCE - 6.30PM — 8.30PM

PROFESSIONAL ACTORS LINKED TO CHESTERTON PERFORM A RADIO VERSION OF THIS LANDMARK DRAMA AND A LEVEL SET TEXT TO A LIVE AUDIENCE, WITH SOUND DESIGN FROM YR 12'S JOSH AND DIRECTION FROM SUZY MARSTON. 40 TICKETS AVAILABLE (AGE GUIDANCE 13+). FREE.

10TH

THE YEAR 8 PANTO-FEST - 5PM — 6.30PM

DIFFERENT GROUPS FROM YEAR 8 PERFORM THEIR ORIGINAL PANTOMIMES IN COMPETITION TO WIN 'THE SPIRIT OF PANTO' AND 'PANTO STAR' PRIZES! 60 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR A FAMILY AUDIENCE. £2 EACH.

'THE IMPROV HOUR' - 7PM — 8PM

A WORKSHOP IN IMPROVISATION FOR ALL WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE AND/OR OBSERVE! 40 PLACES AVAILABLE (YEAR 8+). £1 EACH.

11TH

'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL' HIGHLIGHTS - 4 — 5PM (IN THE ATRIUM THEATRE)

THE CAST OF 50 AND THEIR DIRECTORS SHARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL': WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRIOR TO PRODUCTION AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. NO DESIGN ELEMENTS. 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE. FREE.

CYT: THE REPERTOIRE - 6PM — 8.15PM (INCLUDING INTERVAL)

A SHOWCASE OF SCRIPTED AND DEVISED DRAMATIC EXTRACTS AND MUSICAL THEATRE SONGS PERFORMED BY INVITED SOLOISTS FROM CHESTERTON: 2023'S "GREATEST HITS" AND SOME NEW MATERIAL. 60 TICKETS AVAILABLE. £4 EACH.

TKTS

ALL TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED VIA OUR TICKET SOURCE ACCOUNT. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE A STRICT LIMIT OF 2 TICKETS PER CUSTOMER FOR ALL EVENTS DUE TO LIMITED CAPACITY IN OUR DRAMA STUDIO. ALL TICKETS SUBJECT TO A BOOKING FEE.

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CHESTERTONYT

