

Dear parents and carers,

Now that we have completed our first full week back, I have been really impressed the way students have settled in.



Every day I visit classrooms to share the work students are doing. Our focus this year is to encourage creativity in the classroom and especially providing lots of opportunities for discussion.

We have welcomed over 300 new students including our Year 12s. For the first time in the school's history we have students from Years 7-13.

The PTA met this week to discuss the year ahead. This is the best attended meeting for many years and I would encourage you to come along to the next one and support school. As you can see from the following pages, this new academic year has got off to such a good start.

**Rolf Purvis**  
Executive Headteacher

## NYMT success

CYT's forthcoming 'High School Musical' is inclusive in spirit, and of course, its warm-hearted message is about being 'in this together' (that's right, you know the song...). We do want, however, to congratulate members of the CYT ensemble who have represented Chesterton at a national level in the performing arts this summer, having been through a rigorous audition process alongside students who are mostly from independent schools. These students are Charlie C, Holly G, Alex J and Laurie J, who performed with the National Youth Music Theatre in their summer season in London and Leicester; as well as Mabel C, Charlie B and Marnie P who have just become members of National Youth Theatre through being invited to attend actor training held across the country and online. Special recognition must go to Sam C, who played the lead role in NYMT's 'The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair' at The Curve in August. The national reviews that he received were superlative, and critics described him as 'one to watch' and a 'future star of the West End'. **Having seen the show, the Head of Drama can confirm that Sam's and supporting casts' rave reviews were wholly justified!**



## Chesterton Lecture

On Monday 18th September, 15:15-16:00, we have our first Chesterton lecture of this academic year. Chesterton lectures are the ideal opportunity for students' academic experience to be enriched by wider members of the Chesterton community. Parents/carers are also welcome to attend.

Josh Fitzgerald will be presenting a lecture on the school site titled 'Digital Archaeology in Video Games and Playing with Aztec Heritage'

The lecture will take place in E14. Josh will talk about how 'Can playing video games make gamers into digital conquistadors? If so, how might researchers work with game developers to improve the experiences found in games? This talk will introduce CCC students to the history of video gaming experiences relating to Mesoamerican archaeology—from tomb-raiders to empire-builders—that repurpose the objects, historical settings and ethnographic materials made by Indigenous peoples. An expert in Postclassic/Early Modern Mesoamerican Studies and history-based games consultant, Dr Fitzgerald will discuss the significant role scholars play in the recreation of the past in games. We will explore important ethical questions that arise in game production and art design, as well as critique poor examples from games since the 1980s and up to the present. Additionally, we will look to identify approaches that up-and-coming gamers might take in the reproduction of cultural heritage in games and partnerships with scholars and Indigenous source communities.'

**If this is something you or your child/children are interested in, then please can you email Ms Barker at: [nbarker@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:nbarker@ccc.tela.org.uk) Please can all replies be sent to me by 9am on Monday 18th September.**

## Safeguarding Update

All of our students received an e-safety assembly this week to help them continue to be safe and responsible users of technologies, including our route for reporting online safety concerns. Safeguarding is of utmost importance to us. Our students can speak to any member of staff they feel comfortable with, email the safeguarding team directly if they are worried about anything, or **use this reporting tool on the school website**.

As parents and carers, we rely on your support to help promote online safety at home with devices and we expect our students to be responsible users. We recommend **Parent Zone** which is a free service and offers resources to parents and families to help navigate digital life.

If you do wish to speak to a member of staff over a safeguarding concern, our **Designated Safeguarding Lead is Colleen Lehane**. Please find further information on Safeguarding **here**.

## High School Musical

Chesterton Youth Theatre has started the year with a 'Wildcat Cheer'! If you haven't already done so, now is the time to book your tickets for 'High School Musical' to be performed on Thursday and Friday 28th and 29th September at 4.30pm and 7pm on both dates in the Atrium Theatre, Chesterton. There are two different casts of leading roles so you could even come and see it twice to see their different interpretations!

Made iconic by the Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical, "High School Musical" Jr. features over 60 cast members from Year 8 to 12 and proves to be a fantastic night of live theatre. Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra-curricular activities. Sounds familiar?!

**Tickets can be purchased from [here](#) and cost £5 each (+booking fee).**

## Shaking Up Shakespeare

Year 8 students got a real treat on Thursday 14th with a visiting theatre production of 'Julius Caesar.' The fast and fun show was hugely engaging and will really help our students to deepen their appreciation of Shakespeare's plays, which is their topic in English this half term. Actor Anthony Glenn was thrilled with our students' enthusiasm and participation. Well done to Year 8 for being a good audience, and thanks to families of Year 8, whose financial contributions made the event possible. **It is still possible to contribute if you have not yet got round to doing so; please see parentmail for details.**

## AMAZING work from the new Year 7s!

Our lovely new Year 7s have spent part of their summer break doing a deep-dive into the work of a particular author, and have produced some beautiful and astonishing presentations, with loads of recommendations, book reviews, and fun biographical info. The library team are blown away by all their hard work, and will be handing out literally hundreds of house points in recognition of such a brilliant start to the year. Mrs Pinder-Ashenden will be making library displays so students can come to admire and read each other's author presentations, and get some ideas about what books to read next. Many thanks to Year 7s for their fabulous efforts, and thank you so much too to their families for their encouragement and support.

## National Lacemaking Day

Students may have noticed a new temporary exhibition in the entrance to the Atrium by the Chesterton Young Lacemakers. The display showcases a selection of brilliant pieces made by members of the club, which runs on Mondays in W12. National Lacemaking Day is supported by The Lace Guild and aims to raise the profile of all types of lacemaking in the UK. If students like what they see and want to try making lace of their own, some spaces are available in the 4:15-5:15 session.

## Creative writing success

Congratulations to Hollie, Evie, Oliver, Emilia, Emily, Tia, Oscar, Michelle, Hema, Eric, and Harleen, whose stories on the theme "Unsolved" have all been chosen as winning entries in a national crime writing competition. What a brilliant way to start the new term! We look forward to getting a copy of the anthology into the library so we can all read and admire their work. We had fun in the library last June for national crime writing month, with lots of crime and mystery books on display and even a visiting police officer to talk to students. We look forward to more themed library events to inspire our students – do pass on ideas to Mrs Pinder-Ashenden and Mrs Phillips.



## Cambridge Literary Festival

Before the summer, students from Chesterton participated in Cambridge Literary Festival, with an organised school trip to an event on refugees, and some students and their families taking advantage of opportunities to see writers like Jaqueline Wilson and John Agard in person. Tickets for the winter festival are now available, with events in October and November, which may be of interest to older students and their families, particularly those with an interest in politics. Details can be found [here](#).

## Slackline and Adventure Club Takes Off

A new extra-curriculum club started this week with students having a go at slacklining in the school's small bit of woodland known as 'The Dip.' Some excellent balance and resilience were shown as students learnt the tricky skills of navigating along the line. A year 7 won the time fastest completion of the course this week. The club is currently full for year 7 & 8 but keep an eye out on Edulink for any spare places that come up.



## Book clubs

'Books and biscuits' (KS3 book club) is now running every Friday breaktime in the library – students in Years 7-9 are welcome to drop in. Information about the Year 10+ book club to follow, and we are currently looking to recruit a student in Year 10+ to lead a weekly breaktime graphic novel club.

Bible club got off to a great start on Monday lunch with our new series on 'big questions', beginning with the origins of life! We are nearly bursting out of the classroom with enthusiastic Year 11s, and it would be great to see more of the younger years joining in too. It is a very friendly club, and everyone of all faiths and none are welcome. Please see weekly notices or Mrs Phillips for more details.



## Music Ensembles Thrive

Music ensembles and choirs have started again this week and we are really impressed with the great attendance and energy shown by students so far! This term's groups include recorder group, jazz band, samba band, Junior Choir, folk fiddle band, guitars and ukuleles, orchestra, band project, steel pans, flute choir, music technology group, cello group and Chesterton Singers. There really is something for everyone and we hope to see lots of students taking part. It's not too late to join in – students are welcome to just come along to a rehearsal. Details can be found on Edulink or on the information sent home via ParentMail.

The Year 7 Live Lounge is taking place on Tuesday 10th October at 3.45pm. Year 7 students are very welcome to sign up to perform a piece they enjoy singing or playing on their instrument, on their own or in a small group. This is a really informal and friendly performance opportunity. Students who would like to perform should sign up on the door of the music office as soon as possible. Families and friends are also invited to attend as the audience.

**Save the date:** our school carol service will take place this year on Thursday 14th December at 7pm, at St John's College Chapel, Cambridge. Both our choirs and many of our music ensembles will be involved in this special event.

Year 10 band Zephyrus continue to go from strength to strength. This week they have been recording their music with a professional sound engineer, following their winning performance at the Boathouse in the summer term

**They are also performing at the Junction on 23rd September at 6.45pm**

## Library opening

Many thanks to students for their patience waiting for the grand opening of the library. The site team have been hard at work, constructing new shelves for our new older reading section now that we are catering for three key stages, and Mrs Pinder-Ashenden spent two weeks of summer on a reorganisation and stocktake of the library. Having a well-organised and well-stocked library is in the benefit of the whole school community, and we're sure everyone will agree it was worth the wait once we are properly up and running. The library will now be open every day before school, every break, lunchtimes, and Monday-Thursday afterschool is homework club, with staff on hand to support students in completing their work.

## Library volunteers

Thank you for the responses to the appeal for assistant librarians (Year 8+) and reading buddies (Year 12+ and parents). We are still happy to hear from more people, and we shall be in contact about references, training, and rotas shortly. Please email [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk)

## Library donations

Beginning next week, the library will once again welcome recent copies (2023) of children's magazines (football magazines, girls' magazines like 'Shout', and Beano are always popular). We are also looking to expand our selection of books to tempt our growing cohort of KS5, so we are looking for recent, modern fiction books for adults (ideally published in the last five years; think Bernardine Evaristo not Dickens – we've got plenty of him!) Thank you for your support – generous donations from the community help us to stretch our library budget.

## What's on at local libraries

Well done to our student volunteers who have been helping to run the summer reading schemes at local libraries – it's great to see Chesterton students volunteering in the local community. Your local library is a brilliant place to visit, not just for borrowing books, but a wealth of other clubs and activities, such as Lego, Manga, and reading clubs. Chesterton students and families might be interested in some productions which are taking place in Cambridgeshire libraries, such as a reduced version of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', perfect for age 8+ to enhance appreciation of Shakespeare. It is showing at Papworth library on October 1st, with tickets costing just £4-8. See [here](#) for details.

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## Creative writing opportunities – a new club

We are delighted that a local writer has kindly agreed to come into school to run creative writing sessions, every Thursday second lunch, beginning Thursday 21st September. Joy McAlpine-Black is the parent of a former student and is passionate about encouraging and inspiring young people to express themselves through writing. All students on second lunch are welcome to attend – room TBC. See Mrs Phillips for more details.

## Extra-curricular sports clubs have started!

Please join us in encouraging your child to attend the extra-curricular sports clubs at Chesterton. They started this week, and it has been great to see large numbers of students already attending.

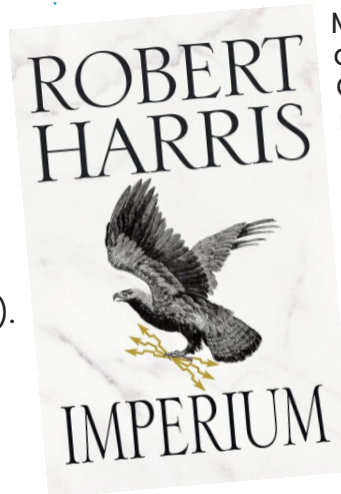
Sports include trampolining, football, rugby, basketball, badminton, fitness suite and fencing. New sports will be launched as we go through the school year (timetable below).

## A broad PE curriculum

In addition to all the competitive and non-competitive opportunities after school, we're really pleased to confirm that the PE curriculum includes all of the following sports:

Swimming, lifesaving, rugby, trampolining, Zumba, table tennis, cycling, climbing, fitness suite, football, athletics, rounders, tennis, badminton, netball, basketball, handball, rowing, ultimate frisbee and dodgeball.

## Staff reading recommendation of the week



Mr Ware (Humanities Teacher and Assistant Head of Cavendish House) recommends 'Imperium' by Robert Harris.

**Mr Ware says,** "A hugely popular novel about the life of Cicero, an important politician and speech maker in the Roman Republic. This year I am introducing Ancient History A-Level, and I like to encourage historical fiction as a great way to get stuck into a new period of history. From a personal

*note, this was the first "non-young-adult" novel which I read (in Y10) and was the start of a lifetime habit of reading historical fiction."*

## @Pechesterton

You can keep up to date with all the news and events from the Physical Education department by following us on **@pechesterton**.

Find out about the broad range of activities, leadership opportunities, extra-curricular clubs, sporting success and broken records. There are some great photos too!

## Extra curricular timetable

<b>Monday</b>	Year 7-11 'Fitkidz' (fitness suite)	3.30pm-4.15pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 7 girls rugby Year 7 boys football Year 8 boys rugby Year 9 boys rugby Year 10 basketball Year 11 basketball Year 7, 8, 9 and GCSE PE trampolining Year 7 & 8 fencing	3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 7-11 'Fitkidz' (fitness suite) Rugby, football and basketball fixtures Year 9, 10, 11 badminton	3.30pm-4.15pm 3.15pm-6.15pm 3.15pm-4.45pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 7 boys rugby Year 7 girls football Year 8 girls rugby Year 9 girls rugby Year 8 & 9 boys basketball Year 8 & 9 girls basketball	3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm 3.15pm-4.45pm
<b>Friday</b>	GCSE PE Period 7	3.30pm-4.30pm



CHESTERTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# OPEN EVENING

You are warmly invited to join staff and students at Chesterton's year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 5th October 2023.

For more information, please visit <https://ccc.tela.org.uk/>



THURSDAY

**05.10.2023**

Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Road, CB4 3NY

**6-8PM**



Chesterton Community College is one of the top 11-18 state schools in the country. We believe wholeheartedly in the purpose of education being to offer exceptional academic opportunities balanced with a fantastic wider offer of experiences. This is reflected in the extensive extra-curricular and twilight subject offer that sits alongside our excellent core curriculum which spans seven years, from the start of secondary school through to the end of sixth form study.

We achieve consistently outstanding results for our students, which regularly place us in the top 1% of UK state school for academic performance. Results in 2023 were our best ever, with progress indicators showing that on average students at Chesterton outperform their peers nationally average by more than a full GCSE grade in all the subjects they take.

The strength of our shared values ensure that students from a diverse range of backgrounds work as part of a harmonious community, with a focus on supporting and challenging one another to achieve their full potential, both academically and in terms of their life outside of the classroom.

23<sup>rd</sup> September @ 6:45pm  
Zephyrus Live  
at the Junction

[www.junction.co.uk/events/the-fiver-september/](http://www.junction.co.uk/events/the-fiver-september/)

Use code ZEPHYRUS for a £2.50 discount!

Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult

