

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

Exploring Video Game Archaeology: Chesterton Lecture Series Kickoff

On Monday the 18th September, we started what is planned to be another exciting Chesterton lectures series with a full capacity talk on whether playing video games can make games into digital conquistadors... Dr Josh Fitzgerald from the University of Cambridge gave a fascinating insight into the cultural, ethical and archeological questions raised in video gaming experiences relating to Mesoamerican archaeology. Thank you to everyone who came along!

Our next lecture is planned for Monday the 16th October. Further details to follow.

Showcase Your Talent!

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. Creative writing news

Creative Writing News

Many thanks to Joy McAlpine-Black for a successful first meeting of the new creative writing club (Thursdays 12.50pm in A17). We look forward to seeing what students have been inspired to write. Thanks also for the many entries to the poetry competition: This is me I am. This is open to students in Years 7-13 and there is still time to enter – just send your poem with your name and age to sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk. See [here](#) for more details.



Year 12 Embraces Community

The start of term saw almost all of the new Year 12 cohort head down to Cornwall for two nights where the focus was bonding as a new community and forging new friendships. The group took part in a huge variety of activities, including climbing, caving, giant paddleboarding, as well as a trip to the Eden Project where students received a series of talks ranging from the business to the engineering systems that maintain the whole site.

The trip was a huge success and highly rewarding to see students fully embrace the whole experience and in turn, see our new community start to form so quickly.

The sixth form presence in the school is very much real now since taking on 50 new students in Year 12; in all sixth form spaces, there is lots of positive energy and since the start of term, students have been keen to jump into any opportunity thrown at them. This has not only taken place in lessons but also during House assemblies where this week, the focus was the sixth form. Many of our new students volunteered to participate and talk about their decisions and rationales for picking CSF over other post-16 providers, as well as how the start of term has been for them.

All in all, a very enjoyable and encouraging start to the new academic year!

Year 12 Art students start with a SPLASH!

We were delighted to welcome a new group of year 12 A level art students to the A level studio last week.

They started with a splash painting giant waves inspired by artist Maggi Hambling, they have also been drawing natural forms, printing popcorn and are looking forward to learning the plaster casting sculpture technique this week.



Exploring the World Inside and Outside the Classroom

All students have now had their first Geography lesson of term.

Year 7 are beginning to describe their place in the world. Year 8 are learning why earthquakes and volcanic eruptions happen. Year 9 are comparing the wealth and health of people in different countries.

To match our engaging, challenging lessons in school, Chesterton Geography offers students optional, enriching activities to complete at home. Some are creative, others involve research, but all are enjoyable and interesting. Past students have also found them to be rewarding because House Points are on offer!

Students can access the activities by finding an assignment named 'Geography Enrichment Activities' in the 'Homework' bubble on EduLink. They can be completed independently or with friends and family, so this could be an opportunity for you to discover more about what your child is learning in Geography.

Defibrillator Case Donation

We extend our sincere thanks for the donation of a defibrillator case that was dropped off at reception last week. The donation of this was made anonymously but if you know who donated we'd love to hear from you!

We are very grateful as this will allow a defibrillator to be mounted on the outside of the Pavillion on our school field. This makes it easily accessible during PE lessons but also for other uses of the field at weekends.



All go in the library again

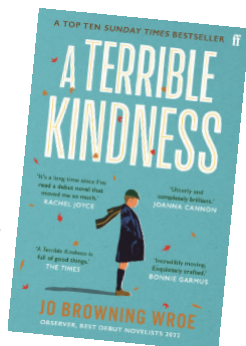
The library has been bursting particularly with enthusiastic Year 7s every break and lunch, with borrowing at record levels. To help our Year 7s get used to our set-up, each Year 7 English class will undertake a library induction lesson to practise finding and reshelving books, learning how to use the author surname for fiction and the Dewey Decimal system for non-fiction. We also want all our students to understand the expectations of behaviour in the library (quiet reading and working, out of respect for those who need a quiet space to concentrate) and how to leave the room tidy for the next group.

The library is looking updated and well-organised thanks to new shelving and a big reorganisation, with fiction now grouped into three categories of 'first steps' (formerly KS3), 'bridging the gap' (slightly more challenging reads), and 'older readers' (books with more adult themes aimed at KS4 and 5), now our school is catering for three key stages. A huge thank you to Mrs Pinder-Ashenden who has been working tirelessly on this job, with many hours spent on checking, cataloguing and shifting books. A well-organised and smoothly-functioning library is a real boon to the whole school community, so we are all thankful to her for this important and often unseen work. The Year 7 author projects are also eye-catching additions, with students tempted to try new authors recommended by their peers, and we have new signage, with some input from the art department. Our new team of library volunteers are keen to get going, and in the meantime, some of last year's volunteers have been kindly working on checking all non-fiction are in numerical order. 'Books and biscuits' is now up and running again, with some lovely new staff and student faces, and two books on the go. KS3 students are welcome to drop in any Friday breaktime.

The library team are planning a 'Beano' week in October, followed by a 'dark reads' theme ready for the clock change. We welcome suggestion of other themed weeks students would like to see.

Staff reading recommendation of the week

Mrs Phillips recommends "**A Terrible Kindness**" by Jo Browning Roe. **Mrs Phillips says:** "This is an astonishing, unusual book, set in Cambridge, about an embalmer who volunteers to help at the Aberfan disaster, and how it affects his life and relationships. A really beautiful story about male friendship, and a bestseller."



The author is speaking at an event about the book at the Leys School on 9th October. More info and tickets can be found [here](#).

Supporting reading and encouraging reluctant readers

We want everyone in our school community to access and enjoy books, and we recognise that some students need a bit more support and encouragement than others. Students who are struggling to keep up with curriculum reading demands, for example, Year 11 students who need to read 'An Inspector Calls' for their Literature GCSE, will find the books, space and support to read in the library; Mrs Phillips at lunch or the homework club team after school will be happy to set up reading circles to help get students through.

Our school website has support and suggestions for families to promote reading, including recommended reading lists for each school Year, and ideas for engaging reluctant readers.

In school, we run a paired reading scheme, whereby parent and sixth form volunteers meet to read with a KS3 student. We are currently organising rotas and training, with a view to launching next week! If any other members of our local community (parents, grandparents, etc) feel they could give 20 minutes a week to read with a student (normally 8.50-9.10am one morning a week) we should love to hear from you. Please email sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk

Student author recommendation of the week

Heidi (Year 7) recommends **Agatha Christie**.

Heidi says: "I think that anyone who likes detective/crime/murder novels would really enjoy Agatha Christie. I much prefer Agatha Christie's murder novels to any other author's murder novels that I have read because I found that the others were sometimes predictable whereas I found that Agatha Christie's were more sophisticated. I chose Agatha Christie because I went to the Cambridge Literary Festival to see Robin Stevens (Author of The Murder Most Unladylike books) and she said that she been inspired by Agatha Christie. I also saw an exhibition about Agatha Christie in the Museum of Cambridge. 'And Then There Were None' is a clever book because it links to a rhyme. I liked it because the suspects were in one confined space which built up the tension."

Thank you, Heidi! We love hearing what authors our students are enjoying – do come into the library to see some of their recommendations on display.

Those who enjoy murder mysteries may be interested in a 'Murder in the library' event. The performances are on at local libraries beginning in October, with a show in Histon on 1st December. Details can be found [here](#).

Tickets £2+, age recommended 12+



Shakespeare shows in Cambridge

The ADC theatre presents an American company's 'Romeo and Juliet' on 3-7th October. See [here](#) for more details. The English department is organising a trip for Year 10 students (please see parentmail for details) but students in other Years may wish to take advantage of the opportunity to watch Shakespeare's most famous play on stage with their families. Recommended age 12+

In addition, the Corpus Playroom will present 'The Complete Work of William Shakespeare (abridged)' on 28th November – 2nd December. This is great silly fun, especially for those who enjoy Shakespeare. We'd love to know how many of the plays are students recognise! **Tickets** are a very reasonable £7.50+, recommended age 12+

Term Dates

Open Evening

5th October 2023
School closed from 12pm

October Half Term

23rd October 2023 to 27th October 2023

Disaggregated training day

24th November 2023
Closed to students

End of autumn term

19th December 2023
Last day of term for all students

Disaggregated training Day

20th December 2023

Disaggregated training Day

3rd January 2024

Start of Spring term

4th January 2024
All students in school

February Half Term

19th February 2024 to 23th February 2024

Easter Break

29th March 2024 to 12th April 2024

Early May Bank Holiday

6th May 2024
Closed to students

May Half Term incl. Late May Bank Holiday

27th May 2024 to 31st May 2024

End of Academic Year

19th July 2024
Last day of term for all students



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.