

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

Medical Mavericks

On Wednesday 27th September all Year 9 students took part in medical mavericks activity. A company designed to inform students about over 350 jobs in the NHS as well as linking to our science topic on human health.

Students were able to take blood from a fake arm, record their own ECG, try key hole surgery and see inside their body with an ultrasound machine. Every student had the opportunity to carry out their own medical observations linked to different careers as well as take home a print out of their ECG.

Before the session many students could name "doctor, nurse, physio, dentist, midwife" as careers in the medical field ... however, in the workshop year 9 focussed also on the lesser known careers such as biomedical science, healthcare science, medical engineering, medical physics, physiology, bioinformatics and many of which are accessible with levels 9-4 at GCSE.

Several highlights were trying on different goggles to mimic different medical conditions, hear their own blood pumping through their veins and meeting our host, a real life junior doctor.

The science department hope to invite the Medical Mavericks back again next year.



Vibrant Beginnings and Upcoming Open Evening!

It has been great to see students settling into life at Chesterton Sixth Form so well. In lessons, students are well engaged and there is an obvious sixth form buzz around the school now.

At the beginning of the week, we held our Year 12 Parent meet and greet event which was a very pleasant opportunity for parents to meet the sixth form team, as well as the parents of their child's newly formed friendships in an informal setting with a few canapés and drinks; it was so encouraging to receive such positive feedback and support from them all, and we very much look forward to working with them over the next two years.

On Tuesday 17th October, we look forward to showcasing our amazing provision at our Sixth Form Open Evening. Attendees will be able to see our unique take to A Level teaching and learning as well as meet staff and students to gain an authentic experience of day-to-day life here at Chesterton Sixth Form. Full details and sign up information can be found here: [Chesterton Sixth Form Open Evening sign up](#). We hope to see many of you there!





OVER 150 STUDENTS YEAR 7/8 DRAMA CLUB!

We have now had 3 sessions of Year 7/8 drama club on Fridays at 3.15pm and we are delighted to see a record-breaking number of students in attendance.

Whilst this exceptionally high number of young thespians presents its own challenges(!) in terms of time management and the possible activities, it's truly wonderful to be in a space so full of creative buzz, friendly competition and theatrical spark, and to see the confidence of the cohort immediately blossom. We look forward to seeing some of the attendees improvising in the drama studio on Open Evening.

If you have any questions about the club or about our Hip Hop dance club on Fridays at 8am, please email smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk. For the re-launch of Musical Theatre Club, watch this space! Our sell-out production of 'High School Musical' is being performed over the next week, and after that: we'll very much want to welcome new CYT members to 'reach for the highest star!'.

English Schools National Football Cup

The year 8 boys football team has progressed to the second round of the English Schools National Cup!

The first round against Comberton Village College was a thriller – after leading 3-0, the Chesterton team was pegged back to 4-4. The match ended in penalties – Chesterton scoring all five for the victory. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring our 'away' kit.

Well done to Year 7!

Nearly all our Year 7 students have completed their library induction lessons this week, and should now be able to find and reshelve books in the school library, and understand how the Dewey decimal system works so they can use non-fiction books for research. The library has become noticeably more calm and orderly now students have spent some time considering how to respect the space. The library team are pleased with students' new focus, and by the number of Year 7 students who are making good use of the library, including some dropping in to homework club after school.

Students have completed the first library jigsaw this week, so we are already part way through our second one of the year. It's a lovely team effort, but special mention must go to Khai in Year 7 for his quiet determination.

Safe spaces

At Chesterton Community College, we are proud of our beautiful library that provides a safe space for our diverse students

who want somewhere to read and work. Did you know that our friends at Cambridgeshire Libraries have just received **Libraries of Sanctuary** status? The award celebrates libraries that work hard to demonstrate hospitality, solidarity and welcome to new arrivals in the area.

Anyone living, working, visiting, or studying in Cambridgeshire can **join the library**.

Membership is free and no documents are needed. Further details of how Cambridge library services can support new arrivals can be found on the **Libraries of Sanctuary** page.



Library of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

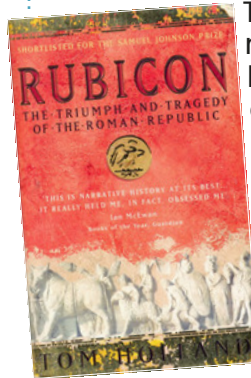
COMPLICITE WORKSHOP

Last Friday, 30 GCSE and A Level drama students participated in a devising workshop with Complicite, the world-famous theatre company best known for its ensemble-based playing style and theatrical inventiveness, currently touring 'Drive Your Plough Over The Bones of the Dead'. Clive Mendus, the actor leading the workshop, said that Chesterton was '...the most skilful group (he) had come across...'. Meanwhile, the model students involved commented that they had felt elated by the challenge of the activities and inspired by the stimulus of a poem about a werewolf, which allowed them to be creative and collaborative in the space.

The Head of Drama felt that it was a stunning snapshot into the rigours of professional actor training.

Thank you to the PTA and especially Chloe Thomas for supporting this event.

Books in and books out

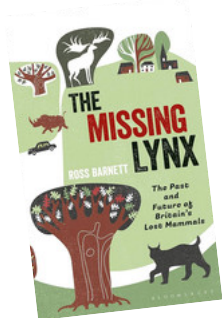


There is a steady stream of new books coming in to the library, either new fiction titles chosen by Mrs Pinder-Ashenden and Mrs Phillips, or non-fiction requested by staff, including lots of new challenging books for our sixth formers to read. For example, Mr Ware is setting up his own mini book club with 'Rubicon' alongside his A-level students, and Mr Desbois is

reading Diana Raey's 'Miseducation' ahead of a special Sociology event. We welcome suggestions and requests from across the school community; requests should be sent to sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk and we order and process as fast as we can!

With a finite amount of shelf space, we do also have to weed books which are no longer being used, for example, books with out-of-date information, and books on topics we no longer study here. We are planning a book exchange event for October, where students can pick up weeded books, and donate any unwanted books from home. We are also pleased that we were recently able to donate some retired books to a neighbouring school – it's great to know books will go on to be used.





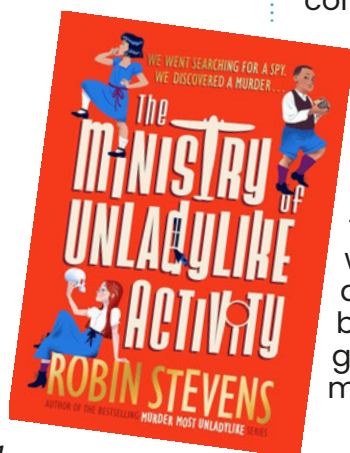
Staff reading recommendation of the week

Mr Simonsen (Science Teacher) recommends **'The missing Lynx'** by Ross Barnett.

Mr Simonsen says, *"This books opens your eyes to the recently extinct large mammals that used to roam the British Isles."*

Student author recommendation

Jasper (Year 7) recommends **Robin Stevens**. She is definitely already one of our most popular authors in the Key stage 3 fiction section in the school library!



"I chose this author because I had recently read some of her books and really liked them. Amongst other books, Robin Stevens wrote the 'A Murder Most Unladylike' series (2014 -2021). She was influenced by Agatha Christie." (recommended by Heidi last week!)

One of Jasper's favourite books is *"The Ministry of Unladylike Activities."* *"The book is set around World War II. The author uses this to make the book more interesting and keep you hooked. The plot was excellently engineered, and the author gave you subtle clues along the way."*

A LEVEL DRAMA STUDENTS SEE FRANTIC ASSEMBLY'S 'METAMORPHOSIS'

Our A Level Drama students were taken to the Leicester Curve last week to see Frantic Assembly's 'Metamorphosis'. The production has been described as a landmark in British theatre, with the company founders being considered some of the most successful and innovative theatre makers of our time.

The visuals in the show were quite breath-taking to witness, as noted by Sam; the adaptation of Kafka's text, however, meant that there was more 'telling than showing' (to borrow a phrase from The Guardian), and the impact of this was one of distance rather than intimacy, all felt. Conclusively, it was a great way to begin the dramatic year ahead, and the group even managed to have a production meeting on the train there!

YEAR 11 LONG IMPROVISATION

The year 11 drama students engaged in an hour long improvisation as characters in therapy in one of their lessons last week. They walked and talked their parts for this extended period in a bid to deepen their characterisations for their devised performances taking place in a couple of weeks' time. It was fascinating to see the different characters interact and to experience the thrill of not quite knowing what will happen next! The session was led by the teacher-in-role and an A Level student roleplaying as the 'administrator', and was inspired by the methods of dramatist Mike Leigh. It's exciting to see this cohort develop as actors with a real sense of flair and risk.



Cambridge District School Sports Fixtures 2023/24

We're really pleased to report that the Cambridge District sports fixtures are taking place throughout the academic year. Fixtures and tournaments will be taking place in rugby, football, netball, cross-country, basketball, badminton, athletics, rounders. This week saw teams from Chesterton play successfully at Cottenham Village College in netball, rugby and badminton.



GCSE Pupils Engaging Deeply with Key Literary Texts

Our GCSE pupils are currently immersed in the world of literature, where they are diligently exploring key literary texts. This is not just about reading and memorizing; it's a journey of consolidation and deepening of their understanding of the plays and novella they encounter. Through thought-provoking discussions, close textual analysis, and critical thinking exercises, our students are gaining a richer appreciation of the intricate themes, characters, and narratives within these works.

This process not only enhances their literary skills but also fosters a lifelong love for literature and a profound connection to the stories that have shaped our culture.

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.