

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 restful half term.

Rolf Purvis
Executive Headteacher

Literature Meets Fashion! Students Create 'Jekyll and Hyde' Quote Wearables

In an exciting and interactive approach to revising key quotes from "Jekyll and Hyde," Year 10 pupils have taken to expressing themselves through wearable art. Students are encouraged to select significant quotes from the novel and design their own unique T-shirts, featuring these quotes as the centerpiece. By physically wearing these quotes, students not only engage with the text on a visual level but also create a sense of personal connection and ownership. This creative revision method allows students to explore the themes and characters of the novel while showcasing their artistic talents. It also encourages peer-to-peer discussions and analysis as classmates admire and discuss each other's thoughtfully designed T-shirts. Through this innovative approach, students are able to internalize the key quotes and concepts from "Jekyll and Hyde" in a fun and memorable way.



Exams Invigilator Vacancies

The exams invigilator team is very robust and experienced. Each year some team members move on and we have some vacancies.

We run mock exams for Years 10–13 and formal exams in May–June for Years 11 and 13.

We welcome enquiries about joining the team. Please email nvonschreiber@ccc.tela.org.uk to arrange a chat.

Winning Linguists!

On Thursday 12th October a small group of students aged from Year 7 to Year 12 travelled to the King's School, Ely to take part in a Modern Foreign Language Reading Aloud Competition. This involved getting up in front of an audience to read poems and extracts from novels in French, German and Spanish.

This took a bit of bravery, and we are delighted to report that no fewer than seven of our students won prizes! Many thanks to the Head of Modern Languages at King's, who very kindly organised transport for us, as well as a delicious buffet. Thank you to Mr Bowles for the organisation at this end and well done to all our students!

Félicitations! ¡Felicitaciones! Wir gratulieren euch!

Pop-up book exchange

On Tuesday 17th October, we held another pop-up book exchange, which students all had the opportunity to visit at break and lunch. A huge thank you to families who supported this; we have some new books which we will add to the school library, and others have gone to new homes with other students.

Unveiling the Secrets of Henry VIII's Bible with Dr. Eyal Poleg

On Monday the 16th October, we had the next instalment of our fantastic Chesterton lectures series on **"Fantastic Forests and where to find them"** kindly led by Daniel Foster. Thank you to everyone who came along! Our next talk is planned for Monday the 6th November, 15:10–4pm. Led by historian Dr Eyal Poleg from Queen Mary's University, London it will examine, **"What happens when you X-Ray Henry VIII's Bible?"** Dr Poleg writes:

"Recently we took Henry VIII's personal copy of the Great Bible to a large Xray machine in Whittlesford. The results blew us away. Using a microscopes and light sources we revealed how Thomas Cromwell photoshopped himself into the Bible. This machine showed hidden and systematic manipulation of the page, helping us lean more about Tudor politics and religion. I will present some of these exciting finds, and ask how these technologies change the way we look at Henry's court and English Reformation.

I am a historian, specialising in books and objects from the Middle Ages and the Reformation. I mostly work with scientists, libraries and museums to develop new ways of learning about the past."

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 Please can all replies be sent to me by 9am on Monday 6th November.



Year 11 English event

On Monday 16th October, we welcomed Dr Rawlinson-Mills of Cambridge University to our school library, to run a workshop for Year 11 students who are considering studying English post-16. Our students were treated to a really inspiring session, considering the question, **"What is poetry?"**. Dr Rawlinson-Mills introduced us to undergraduate-level ideas such as Rosenblatt's reader-response theory, and then applied them to cutting edge poetry such as Antrobus's "Dear hearing world" to encourage students to have an authentic aesthetic response. Students (and staff) were completely captivated, and participated brilliantly in the session. Dr Wickes and Mrs Phillips now both want to go back to university, and one student even responded to the session in poetic form (below). It was really helpful for students considering their post-16 options, with lots of students staying on after school to ask Dr Rawlinson-Mills questions about further study, university options, and careers leading from English. The session was so good that we are now trying to arrange a similar one for Year 10 – details to follow. Many thanks to Dr Rawlinson-Mills for volunteering her time in this way, and to our students for all their enthusiasm.

A poem is...

An expression of feeling

A whisper of what it means to be human

A shout of hope and freedom

A hot coal that burns the soul

A pat on the back to show that someone cares

A hammer breaking down barriers

A hand reaching across borders

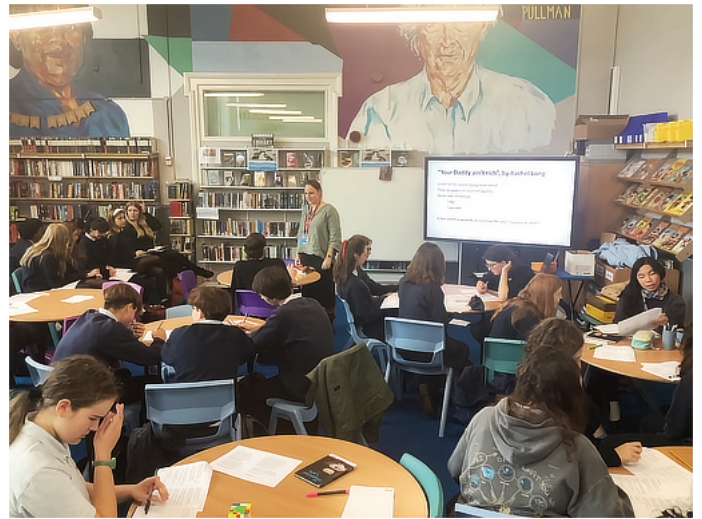
Someone's dream, someone's desire, someone's destiny,

Someone's memories, someone's mystery, someone's nightmare,

A poem teaches you what love is, a poem teaches you what loss is,

A poem is scary and a poem is safe,

A poem is a way to explore the universe.



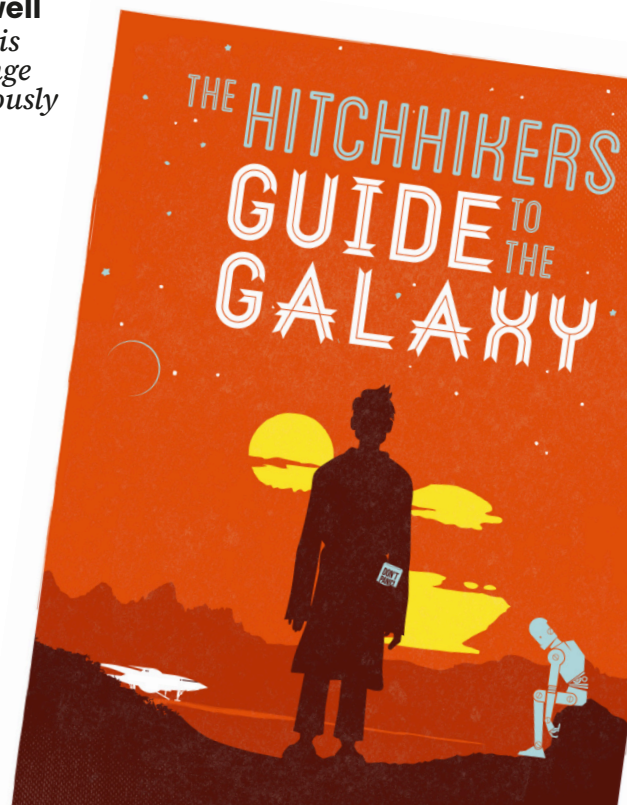
Beano week

The library team have been awarding a lot of house points for our enthusiastic Beano-readers for the puzzles and quizzes they have completed in the library. We will be packing away all our Beansos for now and welcome suggestions for other themed weeks in the future.

Staff reading recommendation of the week

Miss Powell (History Teacher) recommends 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' (first book) by Douglas Adams.

Miss Powell says, "It is both strange and gloriously funny."





Student author recommendation of the week

Mia (Year 7) recommends Carl Hiaasen. **Mia writes**, "When I was asked to look at an author for this project, Hiaasen immediately came to mind. This summer I read 'Hoot' and 'Skink No Surrender'."

'Skink No Surrender' has got to be one of my favourite books. After the first chapter I was already completely sucked in; I could feel the tension of Malley running away from outside the pages. This story was made with tremendous creativity and brought me fun reading it.

The environmental aspect was really inspiring. I always appreciate how Hiaasen puts these messages into his work and the way he expresses it.

The storyline was truly the best part! It sent an important statement about online safety and how dangerous the internet can be. It definitely heightened my awareness as I'm sure it did others too. The chase itself was so thrilling, it was exciting, tense and entertaining

I really love this book and I would recommend it to anyone!"

Thanks so much, Mia, for this enthusiastic review. We will definitely have to get some of his books into the school library.

Inspired Minds: Students Attend Sir David Spiegelhalter's Lecture

Last wednesday, 18 of our maths and physics students attended a lecture on big data and statistics, by Sir David Spiegelhalter, at St John's College. It was very insightful to hear about how Sir David contributed to the data during covid and how statistics can be used to in a court of law to prove or disprove murders.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the lecture and we'd like to say a big thank you to The Cambridge Math School, another ELA school, for organising and inviting us.

