

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



## 'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL' WINS OUR HEARTS!

At the end of last week, Chesterton Youth Theatre's production of 'High School Musical' was performed four times with two different main casts to a collective audience of 800 people!

This sell-out production has been described as **'AMAZING'**, **'heart-warming'**, **'outstanding'** and **'wonderful'** by audience members alike, and **'one of the best experiences of my life'** by one cast member, with all the Company whooping for joy after every show. The drama department is extremely proud of the skilful, slick, stupendous quality of performance that the Company brought to the start of term, managing to put it all together within the space of 3 weeks! In spite of the hard work and Sunday rehearsal, it was high school magic, and highly enjoyable as an experience for everyone! Thank you to the cast, creative team, stage managers, lights and sound, front-of-house support, the PTA for their themed refreshments and finally, the spirited audiences who laughed along with this immersive entertainment.

One former student who had visited America in the summer and saw the final show said: *'seriously, it was just like the American high school I visited!'*

**Now, time for a brief breath out, and then: on with the dance, as they say!**



## Rotary Inter-school Peace debate

On Monday, a small group of sixth formers took part in the Rotary Inter-school Peace debate held at The Leys. They were pitted against The Stephen Perse and had to oppose the motion that social media would become the major source of discontent and conflict in society.

The students performed fantastically in all stages of the debate, setting out their argument and effectively rebutting the proposition at any given opportunity. Huge congratulations to Fraser, Emma and Leni who were victorious. It was also great to see all the support from their peers who also attended.



## NHS MHST interview day

As part of our partnership with the NHS Mental Health Support Team, our Y13 students were asked to support the interview process for mental health practitioners. Our students were involved in both direct interviews and observing task-based activities; with their feedback playing a pivotal part of the recruitment process. The students acted very professionally and the feedback about their performance has been very positive.





## Making Schools Greener

On Sunday four students attended the Cambridge Green Schools Conference hosted at Parkside. Students attended workshops and debates with other schools on a wide variety of topics to help make schools greener places. All students represented Chesterton to the highest standard with some key pledges made to bring back to life in school here.

## GCSE and A LEVEL DRAMA STUDENTS PRESENT ORIGINAL THEATRE!

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 6 – 8pm approximately, performers from the 2024 GCSE and A Level Drama Cohorts will present 5 devised pieces of drama to an audience and for examination in the Atrium Theatre, Chesterton. Each piece of GCSE performance is inspired by three non-theatrical art works: 'The Art Teacher' by Rufus Wainwright, 'My Bed' by Tracy Emin and 'Tereus and Philomela' by Ted Hughes. The A Level stimulus is the company Complicite and the play 'After the End' by Dennis Kelly. If you are interested in cutting-edge theatre – akin to the Edinburgh fringe – do come along on the night and see the performances for free (no reservations necessary). Please arrive by 5.55pm so that all can be seated at the start of the performance exam. There will be short breaks between each piece (lasting between 15 and 25 minutes) and you will be asked to fill in a short audience feedback survey. Age guidance for this event is 12+.

**Trigger Warning:** some pieces contain strobe lighting effects, loud noises, strong language, references to sexual activity, violence and dark themes. We wish this extremely talented and inventive cohort the best of luck with their first public exam!

## Musical Highlights

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October some Folk Fiddle Band members performed at the 'Silver Sunday' event at St Luke's Church, an event organised by Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise. The band played for 45 minutes before enjoying an afternoon tea provided by the organisers. The students who took part were a credit to Chesterton in the way they played and participated in this community event. Thank you very much to Ms Veryard who leads the band. Please see attached photos.

Our first Live Lounge of the year is taking place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Year 7 performers will be giving a concert of pieces they enjoy playing or singing, in this relaxed, informal concert. Any Year 7 student is welcome to perform and should sign up on the music office door. For families attending the concert, please do meet at reception at 3.40pm. The concert will start at 3.45pm and last for no more than an hour. Refreshments are provided!

The Junior Choir have made a great start to the year and will be performing in the Creative Project at the Music For Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, London in November. There are still a couple of places left to take part in this exciting performance, and any interested student in Year 7 or 8 should contact Miss Wilson.





## Paired readers

It's brilliant to see our pairs of reading buddies working together in the library at form times and before school. A huge thank you to Mrs Brotman, Mrs McMahon, Mrs Daniels, and Dr Castello for giving their time to support our Year 7s in feeling more confident in their reading. Also to our wonderful team of sixth form volunteers. We should still welcome further volunteers from the community who are willing to give 20 minutes a week or more to being a reading mentor to a KS3 student. Please email [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) for more information.

## Year 8 football success

The year 8 boys and girls football teams have both progressed to the second round of the national schools cup. The boys won a close game against Comberton, which ended 5-4 after penalties, and the girls won convincingly at Hinchbrook school (5-0).

## Black History Month

October is Black History Month. In the library we are celebrating with some new fiction titles featuring Black protagonists and/or written by Black authors. We know it is important that we have titles on display that represent our diverse community. In addition, we are getting in more non-fiction on the topic, thanks to suggestions from Head of History Miss Powell.

## Girls rugby – first games

It was great to see a number of girls experiencing competitive rugby for the first time this week, as another local school visited Chesterton. It was a successful evening, and a good opportunity for us to reiterate our gratitude to the WPA Foundation, for donating six tackle bags, a large number of rugby balls and gum shields.





## Mad about Shakespeare

Members of our school community might be interested in these Shakespeare-related events:

A new production of 'Romeo and Juliet' is being performed at the ADC theatre until Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are available [here](#) - student tickets are £11.50.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October, **there is a free National Theatre at home livestream** of 'Othello' available to watch 'Othello' is often studied for Literature at A-level and degree, and the cast list is amazing. We'd love to hear what students make of the show. Cost is free.

'Macbeth' is showing at **Cambridge Arts Theatre** Wed 8 - Sat 11 November 2023 - tickets start at £20.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 'The Complete works of William Shakespeare (abridged)' is being performed at the Corpus Playroom. This is an uproarious show which covers all Shakespeare plays in 97 minutes. Tickets are available [here](#) - student tickets are £7.50.

## Beano week in the library

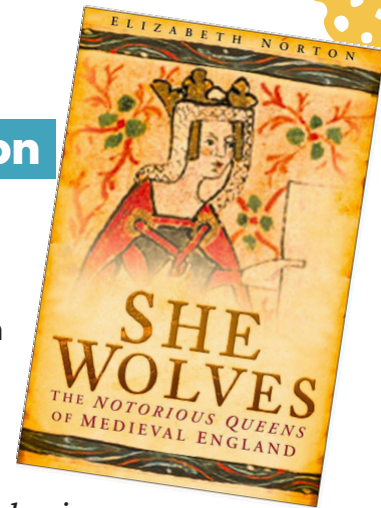
All reading is good reading! Even just switching on the subtitles whilst watching TV has proven benefits in improving reading fluency. At Chesterton, we want to promote and encourage all sorts of reading: fiction and non-fiction, physical books and ereaders, audiobooks and reading aloud. Next week we are getting nostalgic and celebrating the Beano, a pioneering children's anthology comic which has been running since 1938. There will be Beano comics galore thanks to a kind donation, and quizzes and colouring. If you want to get in the mood in advance, you can access Beano comic strip samples for free [here](#).



## Staff reading recommendation of the week

Mrs Stringer (Design teacher) recommends 'She Wolves' by Elizabeth Norton.

*Mrs Stringer says, "It explores the role and raises the profile of incredible medieval women played in shaping England."*



## Student author recommendation of the week

Anja in Year 7 recommends David Walliams, a very popular author amongst our KS3 students.

*"David Walliams is a famous book author and has written over 20 books. Some of his most famous books include; Mr Stink, Billionaire Boy, Gangsta Granny and Grandpa's Great Escape."*

*Before David Walliams became a famous book author in 2008 he had a television career. He started his television career in 1999 and became successful. After 9 years he switched to becoming an author and also got successful in this. He is still writing books to this day."*

**Anja particular enjoys Mega Monster.** *"It's very easy to read. It's also very funny and it includes pictures."*

## Progression Evening

We welcomed Y11s and their parents/carers to our Progression Evening on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Most Post-16 providers were there to present their offer, while students could ask them questions about the education experience they offer and make the most informed decision about their next step. This was also a great opportunity for the careers teams to answer questions about the Post-16 process.

For a glimpse at FAQs, [click on the sway](#). The next step for Y11s is the Post-16 day on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October where they will work towards their personal statement and their applications.