

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

The Book Tree

The book recommendation Christmas tree is back in the library! All members of the school community are welcome to pop into the library to add a reading recommendation bauble to the tree, and to read other people's recommendations. Peer recommendations are a really powerful tool for encouraging students in their reading. Parents are welcome to join in too at our festive after school reading cafes.

Volunteering opportunity

We are so grateful to our team of parent and sixth form volunteers who meet with a KS3 student once a week to encourage them in their reading. We have more KS3 students we should like to include in the programme, and at least one of our lovely volunteers is unable to continue next term, so we would very much welcome anyone in the wider school community who feels they could give time in this way. The slot would be 8.30-8.50am, 8.50-9.10am, or 3.10-3.30pm meeting once a week in the school library. Training and support provided. Please contact sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk for more info.

Jimmy's Appeal & Festive House Competition

Once again this December we will be supporting **Jimmy's Night Shelter** this will be in conjunction with a Festive House Competition. This week in tutor time students will start designing a 'Santa Sack', the winning designs will be recreated on large Linen Sacks to be filled with donations and then delivered to Jimmy's later in December. The competition between Houses will be 'Which tutor group has the most number of items in their Santa Sack', prizes will be awarded to the winning form in each House. Donations should be bought into school between now and December 11th and taken to students form rooms ready to go in their sack.

The gift list of items from Jimmy's is below:

Toiletry gift sets, New socks/underwear, Chocolate/Confectionary, Food & Drink Festive nibbles e.g, mince pies, yule logs, Cereal, Pot noodles, Tinned foods, Condiments, Vegan food, Gluten free food, Coffee / Hot chocolate, Soft drinks, Toiletries, Tooth paste & Toothbrushes, Shower gel, Shampoo & Conditioner, Shaving cream & razors, Deodorant, Brushes and combs, Cleaning products ie laundry detergent, cloths, sprays, wipes, Toilet Roll, Sleeping bags, Blankets, Travel mugs, New towels.

Thank you for once again supporting our appeal, any donation no matter how small will be gratefully received.



Rotary Youth Speaks Debate

It was fantastic to see Emma, Mae and Erin take part in the Rotary Youth Speak Debate held at Queens' College. Students were judged on carrying out an entire debate as a team, which for Chesterton looked at the motion of modern languages being compulsory at secondary school. The students were outstanding, speaking with diligence and conviction that resulted in a truly captivating performance.



Several members of the Rotary Club and other participants and their respective teachers all commented on how impressive the three Chesterton students were. It should be noted that the three students undertook all preparation themselves without any additional support and they should be hugely proud of their efforts.

Staff reading recommendation

Ms Marston (Head of Drama and Director of Chesterton Youth Theatre) recommends **'Hamnet'** by Maggie O'Farrell.

Ms Marston says, "Reading this novel took me back in time and allowed me to imagine Shakespeare's family life in vivid and engrossing detail; more than that, it gently and yet devastatingly drew me into the relationships at its core - those of parent and child, romantic lovers and ultimately, actor and audience - leaving me in a state of profound grief and hope."

Good luck!

We would like to congratulate and wish the very best of luck to all of our students who will be interviewing for Oxbridge over the coming weeks; we are incredibly proud of you!

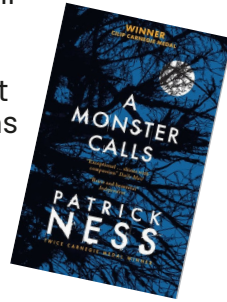
Artistic Mastery Unveiled

Year 10 and 12 art students have had the opportunity to sign up for a three week after school workshop as an introduction to oil painting. They have learnt about the equipment and materials needed for oil painting and the important 'fat over lean' technique. They have been putting this into practice painting folded fabrics which is a great challenge in working towards smooth blending. They have now completed two sessions and will be refining their pieces next time.



Getting stuck into books

In their English lessons and in their set reading, Year 7 students are getting to the end of "**A Monster Calls**", a hard-hitting novel about a boy struggling to come to terms with his mother's illness. Year 8 students are also reaching the conclusion of "**A Christmas Carol**", Charles Dickens' classic tale of a mean character who undergoes a character transformation. And Year 9 are nearing the finish of "**Run Rebel**", a modern verse novel about a clash of cultures and values. Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been introduced to extracts from different famous novels in their studies for the English language unit on fiction, with students being encouraged to read widely to deepen their appreciation of the methods writers use in their narratives and descriptions. Year 11 are being encouraged to reread their four set Literature texts, including their poetry anthologies, and sixth form students have weekly guided reading to complete alongside their texts such as "**A Doll's House**" for Year 12 Literature and linguistic theory books for Language.



We love to encourage students in their focused reading and reflection, and students are always welcome to come to sit in a comfy chair in the library for quiet reading. In addition, most students have been given a full library induction lesson and encouraged to borrow a library book, and with our upcoming author visits we are encouraging students to read samples of or borrow books by our authors Julian Sedgwick and Matt Dickinson. Students are also welcome to pick up a free book at the pop-up book exchange as part of the festive fair on the final day of term.

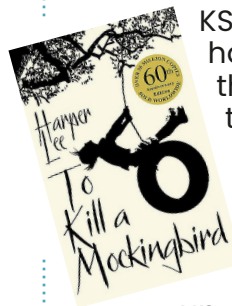
Getting festive in libraries

Cambridgeshire libraries are running a number of events for the festive season, including, for example, Christmas crafts, mince pies and crime, seasonal stories, and talks on Cromwell and Christmas. Details can be found [here](#). We look forward to getting festive in our own school library, and have a large display of seasonal books to tempt students.

The Long Sit: please join us at our reading cafes

Families are very welcome to join us in the school library after school on Friday 8th December and Friday 15th December. There will be opportunity to browse and borrow books, and to enjoy some festive treats provided by the school kitchen whilst enjoying some reading time. Please do pop in if you are able. We love to see families reading and talking about books together. Students are always welcome to borrow multiple copies of the same title to create a family reading club!

Book club updates



KS3 book club "Books and biscuits" have been reading and discussing the "Warrior Cats" series, and are trying some of our new book club titles. KS4/5 book club next meets Tue 6th December to discuss "**To Kill a Mockingbird**" and to choose our next text or author for the next half term. All students in Year 10 up, and all staff, are very welcome.

Bible discussion club

The school Bible club meets every Monday lunch time, and we have been working through a topic of 'thorny issues' like 'Is the Bible reliable?' and 'Do all religions have the same goal?' We have one further hot topic before our end of year Christmas party which will involve a fun quiz and some festive treats.

All staff and students are very welcome to drop in to these enthusiastic communities and see what it's all about. We meet in L14 first lunch then L13 second lunch.



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday 6th December

Arrivals from 1.45pm

Music from 2-3.20pm

Chesterton Community College,
Gilbert Road

Local senior citizens are warmly welcomed to an afternoon of music provided by the Chesterton Community College Music Department. There will be the opportunity to join in with some carol singing, to listen to musical items and enjoy some seasonal refreshments.

Booking is essential.

Please book via this QR code
or via the college reception on
01223 712150.

