

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

## Chesterton Lectures

On Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> November, we had the next instalment of our fantastic Chesterton lectures series on "**What happens when you X-Ray Henry VIII's Bible?**" kindly led by historian Dr Poleg. It was a fascinating insight into how Thomas Cromwell photoshopped himself into Henry VIII's personal copy of the Great Bible amongst other revelations using microscopes, light sources and Xrays. Thank you to everyone who came along! Our next talk is planned for **Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 15:10-4pm**. Led by Cambridge academic Chloe Rixon on how we engage with the past through movies and how movies shape our understanding of the historical events. Further details and information on how to sign up to follow.

## The Long Sit

Thank you for all the support for our whole-school reading focus: **The Long Sit**. A parentmail has gone out with information about how families can encourage their young people to build their reading stamina, and students are working with their families about what sensible targets might be for them. Our A-level students might need to be able to focus for an hour at a time to complete their course reading, whereas for some of our younger students, 20 minutes of focused reading would be an achievement. Students are undertaking some special form times to work on reading stamina, and to build excitement for our visiting authors.

Young adult author **Julian Sedgwick** will visit school to meet KS3 on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, and Everest-summiteer **Matt Dickinson** will meet KS4 and 5 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. More details to follow on parentmail. We'd also like to invite all members of the school community to join us in the library after school for some uninterrupted reading time (and some seasonal treats) on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please email [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) for more details.



## Sociology Symposium

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>, the Sociology Department welcomed a prominent Sociology professor, Diane Reay, to talk about her research in Education and how to make the system fairer, especially for the working class. All the sociology students at Chesterton attended the talk alongside students and teachers from other faculties. Diane Reay talked about the historic and current inequalities that need to be tackled in our society and she brought to life concepts discussed in sociology class everyday.



The event was lead by our Y13 Sociology students, who did a fantastic job at introducing the guest, asking her focused questions and taking questions from the audience. The students present in the audience asked some really interesting questions and the event was a real success. We are eagerly anticipating the next visit! Any suggestions for our next guest?

## Book club news

Several KS4 students have now finished reading **To Kill a Mockingbird** for our KS4/5 and staff book club. **Maja says**, "*It really is as good as Mrs Phillips said - you should read it!*" Another student admitted to crying at the end. What endorsements! KS4/5 and staff book club will next meet in December so there is still plenty of time to pick up a copy from the school library and to read with us. KS3 book club continues to thrive. We meet Friday breaktime in the library and we are currently reading the very popular **Warrior Cats** books.

## THE GLITCH

We are promoting a new creative writing competition which is open to Years 7-13. Students are invited to write a story in 100 words on the theme of '**the glitch**'. More info [here](#). Students should email their submissions with your name and age to [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) for a chance to win great prizes and a chance to get their work published!

Students are welcome to join Creative writing club which meets every Thursday at 12.50 in A14.

## Library reminders

We are very proud of our school library which is a wonderful resource for students to use for reading and quiet school work. As the cold weather draws in, it is very tempting for students just to use the library as a comfy space for a chat, which is not very fair on students who need a protected quiet space. Also, at breaktime and second lunch we are very often full and needing to turn other students away. Therefore, we kindly ask that students who just want to relax with friends do so elsewhere, to leave space for those genuinely wanting to read and study.

## English post-16 events

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, some Chesterton students took part in an online workshop with Cambridge University for Year 11-13 students considering studying English at degree level. In addition, we are looking forward to welcoming back Dr Rawlinson-Mills for a workshop for Year 10s on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Interested students should sign up via the Microsoft Form.



## Staff reading recommendation

Mr Gilliver (Science teacher) recommends **'Speaker for the Dead'** by Orson Scott Card.

**Mr Gilliver says,** "A sequel to Ender's game, this story is set thousands of years in the future where Ender is reviled as the man who committed genocide against the Bugs. He still lives, spending long periods of time travelling between starts which results in very little aging. He is a speaker for the dead, tasked with travelling when requested to determine the life events of a dead person. This is a quite amazing piece of science fiction, I couldn't recommend it more."



## Term Dates

### Disaggregated training day

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Closed to students

### End of autumn term

19<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Last day of term for all students

### Disaggregated training Day

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Disaggregated training Day

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

### Start of Spring term

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
All students in school

### February Half Term

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

### Easter Break

29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Early May Bank Holiday

6<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Closed to students

### May Half Term incl. Late May Bank Holiday

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

### End of Academic Year

19<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
Last day of term for all students

## Student author recommendation

Duarte in Year 7 recommends **Onjali Q Raúf.**

**Duarte writes:** In 2018 Onjali Q Raúf published 'The Boy At the Back of the Class,' A story about a Syrian refugee named Ahmet. In 2019 she won the Blue Peter Book Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Since then she has written:

- 'The Day We Met the Queen'
- 'The Star Outside My Window'
- 'The Night Bus Hero'
- 'The Great Food Bank Heist'
- 'The Lion Above the Door'
- 'Hope on The Horizon.'

In 2022 she received an MBE from Prince William for services to literature and women's rights







## Inspirational Artwork

**Eleanor Hodgson** a year 11 GCSE Fine Art student has been creating a series of artwork inspired by family history and remembrance. This work is building up towards her 10 hour mock exam and it seems like the perfect time of year to share this beautiful work. We cannot wait to see what she produces in the exam and beyond.