

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.

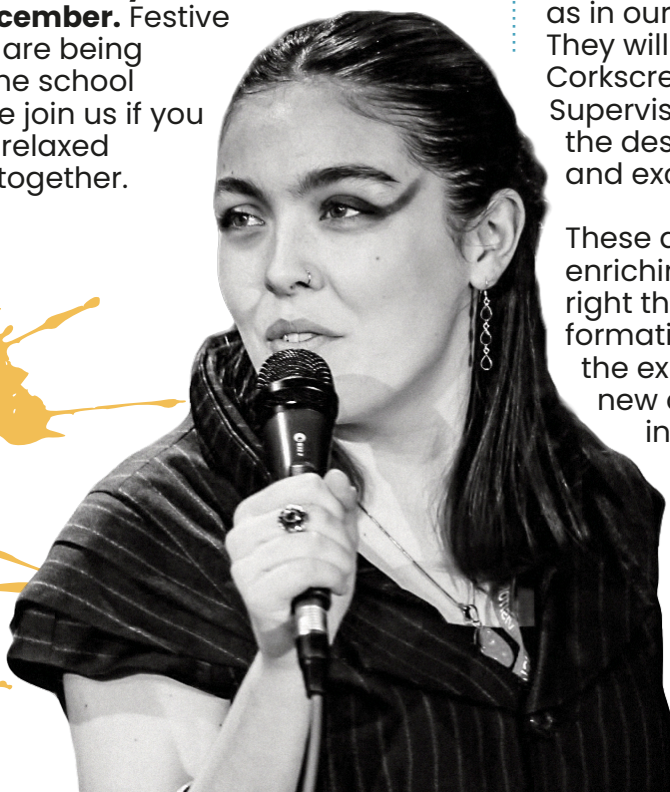
The team at Chesterton are always keen to hear from parents who'd like to get involved with school life: please don't hesitate to get in touch if this is true for you.

All the best for a lovely weekend.

**Rolf Purvis**  
**Executive Headteacher**

## Reading cafes

We warmly invite all members of the school community (staff, students, governors, parents, grandparents, childminders!) to join us at our after school reading cafes, as part of our whole-school reading focus on building reading stamina. These will take place in the school library on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** and **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. Festive refreshments are being provided by the school kitchen. Please join us if you can for some relaxed reading time together.



## Atrium Theatre & Drama Updates

**Chesterton is very excited to be re-launching its Theatre and Drama Department as we move towards 2024!** This includes formalising a long-standing association between Chesterton Youth Theatre and the locally renowned Corkscrew Theatre Company.

We are the only school within the area (as far as we know!) which has a Theatre-Company-in-Residence, and that is something we very much want to celebrate! Corkscrew's **Will Males** is appointed as our new Theatre & Studio Manager and director **Lesley Ford** will provide master-classes for us throughout the year, along with other members of the Corkscrew, who will be working on artistic projects here alongside our exceptionally talented body of student actors. The Atrium Theatre space itself will be receiving an upgrade of facilities over the next few months, including improvement to lighting, communication and backstage facilities.

**Suzy Marston**, our Director of Drama, and drama specialist, **Lee Cooper**, will be bringing the work of the department into the heart of the school through regular teaching and rehearsing in the Atrium Theatre space as well as in our bespoke drama and dance studios. They will be sharing a drama office with Corkscrew and our newly appointed Scenic Supervisor, **Sierra Collier**, who will enhance the design of CYT's outstanding productions and exceptional exam performances.

These developments will allow for more enriching opportunities and experiences right through from years 7 – 13, including the formation of a student technical crew and the expansion of sixth form provision, with a new course in Musical Theatre to be introduced next September, alongside A Level drama.

If you have any questions or queries about the Drama at Chesterton or about the Atrium Theatre, please email [atriumtheatre@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:atriumtheatre@ccc.tela.org.uk)

## Sixth Form Student Leaders

We are thrilled to announce our Sixth Form Student Leaders who will be supporting the whole school in different areas of school life. They cannot wait to get started in their respective areas and work closer with the Chesterton community!

- **Charlee and Rima** - Student Voice
- **Erin** - Community
- **Mae** - Communication
- **Becca and Genevieve** - Wellbeing
- **Jilan, Harry, Genevieve** - French, German, Spanish
- **Jay** - English
- **Emma** - Classics
- **Freddie** - Maths / STEM

## Citizens UK

Over the past year we have been working with other civic institutions in Cambridge and Citizens UK to form a citizens group. Last Thursday, we held our pre-founding assembly at Long Road Sixth Form. Over 130 people were in attendance and the atmosphere in the room was very positive. As a citizens group we committed to establishing a powerful and diverse alliance to make change in the city, through broad based community organising. The alliance will provide students with the opportunity to lead actions and make an impact up their communities.

## From Classroom to Courtroom

Year 13 Criminologists visited the Cambridge Magistrates' Court to observe the court in session. This was a great opportunity for them to see the law and policy that they have learned being put into practice. They observed the critical importance of well-presented evidence, how a trial can collapse when evidence and unused material have not been disclosed properly, the setting of both conditional and unconditional bail, the reduction in penalty that can be credited for an early guilty plea, and the care with which the magistrates set penalties that took personal circumstances into account to ensure they would best achieve their aims. Thank you to ex-student Abbie Jowett for facilitating our trip, to Court Usher Julie Knaggs for welcoming us and for sharing her experiences, and to the CPS solicitor and defence solicitors for explaining key elements of their roles to us.

We hope to visit the Crown Court later this term. If anyone works in the criminal justice system and would be willing to host visits or come and speak to our students, we'd love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in hearing about the role of laypeople (magistrates and jurors) in the justice system and the way in which witnesses are supported throughout the trial process. We would also like to enter a mock trial competition and would be grateful to hear from any solicitors or barristers who could help us prepare for examination-in-chief and cross-examination.





## Young Voices Shine

Members of the Junior Choir enjoyed performing at the Music for Youth Proms at the **Royal Albert Hall** in London on Tuesday. The students sang as part of the Creative Project, a very large ensemble together with other young people from across the UK. The students were a credit to Chesterton. **Well done to all who took part.**



## Remembrance

Last week, our school came together for Remembrance, dedicating our House Assemblies to the Act of Remembrance. Students participated in the planting poppies in the rear courtyard each day.

The entire school community then convened on the playground, creating a somber yet powerful atmosphere for a two-minute silence. This moment allowed everyone to reflect on the profound impact of past and current conflicts.

**Heather, a talented Year 13 musician, played the Last Post, adding a poignant musical tribute. Sammy, a Year 11 drama student, contributed by reading the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon from the First World War.**

## Singing Assembly

This week we had year 7 & 8 come together for our first singing assemblies of the year. It was a very positive event, and it was great to see students working together as part of our community at the start of the day.



## Culinary Verse

Year 9 are studying a YA fiction novel written in verse: **Run, Rebel by Manjeet Mann**. Students made a cup of Chai inspired by Punjabi Chai from the poem Chai 1.



## Book donations

Many thanks to members of the school community who donate second hand books to the library. We really welcome donations, but with a finite amount of shelf space we do have to sort through which books should be a priority, with our current focus on building up our stock of books geared to KS5. We also really welcome magazines. Our KS3 boys are particularly asking if there are any recent issues of **"Top Gear"** or **"Match!"** or **"Kick!"**, so these would be particularly gratefully received. Books we can't make use of in the library will be used for our next book exchange, which will be on the last day of term as part of the festive fair.



## Exploring the Poetic Realm

On Monday, 50 Year 10 students had the chance to attend a workshop run by **Dr Lizzi Rawlinson-Mills of Robinson College, University of Cambridge**. The students had a chance to explore English post-16, apply literary theories to new poems and to answer a big question: "what is poetry?". Many thanks to Dr Rawlinson-Mills; it was a fascinating and engaging session.

## Strengthening links with Cambridge University English faculty

The English faculty and students are benefitting from the exciting outreach work at Cambridge University English faculty. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, some Year 11 students attended a virtual workshop led by Professor Raphael Lyne on **"Fast and slow thinking in Shakespeare."**

Professor Lyne also explained what the English undergraduate course at Cambridge University involves and the application process to get there. We are happy to be supporting students in making aspirational post-16 choices.

## Thank you to our assistant librarian team

**Mrs Pinder-Ashenden and Mrs Phillips would like to say a big thank you to our wonderful team of library assistants.** We have recently run training updates and set up a new rota, with students each responsible for an area of the library to keep orderly. With so many students using our library every day, keeping things in order is no mean feat. We thank our library team with an event at the end of each term, so we are currently planning our Christmas event (last year we had an indoor snow ball fight, so we need to think of something even more fun this year!)

## THE GLITCH

There is still time for students to enter the national creative writing competition, The Glitch. Students age 11-18 are invited to submit a story in only 100 words. **Here is an example entry by Piotr in Year 12:**

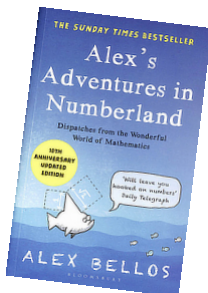
*They waited in the space between space, in the time between time. Trapped between the ticks of a clock, waiting for their world to be restored to them. A forlorn hope; for a shudder had ran through reality, a new history was imposed upon the universe, one that had no place for them. This history reflected the whims of its creators and so the stars began to go out, the star-builders and their works gone. Now, not even the names of these civilisations remain. Genocide by inaction. Did the creators know of the lives their history cost? Did they care?*

Please send entries with the student's name and age to [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) and please see [here](#) for more details.

## Staff reading recommendation

Miss Holmes (Maths Teacher) recommends '**Alex's Adventure's in Numberland**' by Alex Bellos.

**Miss Holmes says,** "This book introduces many interesting and engaging mathematical ideas that are great for anyone with an interest in Mathematics."



## Local library events

Cambridgeshire libraries present a series of arts and theatre events each season, at very reasonable prices. Chesterton families might be interested in a radio-show style performance of "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" which is being performed at Whittlesey library on 9th December. With tickets from just £4, it is a very accessible way to enjoy live theatre. See [here](#) for more details. Also, watch this space for an upcoming in-house live performance of "**Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**" which is being organised by the English faculty, with kind support from the PTA.

## 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



# WEEKLY PE NEWSLETTER

13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

This newsletter will keep you updated with all upcoming clubs, fixtures, events and sporting success at Chesterton Community College



@PeChesterton

## Recent fixture Results

### U/14 Girls Football

Chesterton 6-0 Ely College

Goals: Aleks x2, Paloma x2, Olivia x2.

### U/13 Boys Football

Swavesey 5-2 Chesterton

Goals: Leo, Ben.

### U16 Boys Basketball

NCA 90-49 Chesterton

### Upcoming Fixtures

Cluster Fixtures vs Cottenham:

U/14 Basketball

U/16 Basketball

Year 8 & Year 9 Netball

U/13 Girls National Cup Fixture

## What's been happening in PE?

Students have moved on to their next unit of weekly sports.

Rashford > Basketball

Root > Swimming

Housby > Netball

Hemp > Trampolining.

There is a new extra-curricular timetable which is being shared in lessons. If you have any questions about clubs, then please just ask your PE teacher.

Students in KS3 have recently taken part in the annual inter-house cross country event during their weekly PE lessons. After some fantastic performances and school records being broken, I can confirm the following results:

5<sup>th</sup> – Fawcett

4<sup>th</sup> – Equiano

3<sup>rd</sup> – Hill

2<sup>nd</sup> – Cavendish

**1<sup>st</sup> – Robinson**

**Year 4 dance festival:** On Thursday last week, Chesterton Community College welcomed 180 year 4 students from our feeder primary schools to take part in an 'Around the World' dance festival. The year 9 sports leaders had worked hard in the run up to the event to plan and choreograph a dance to teach the year 4 students; featuring different dance styles such as bollywood, salsa and street dance. Their enthusiasm on the day was brilliant, with multiple primary teachers commenting on what fantastic leaders they were. Well done to all that were involved!



**Year 9 netball success:** Our year 9 netball team qualified for the county tournament following success at the district tournament in May. The county tournament took place this Saturday at the Perse School. With the majority of the schools qualifying being private schools, the competition was tough. However, the girls excelled themselves and played some fantastic netball. Overall, they finished 7<sup>th</sup> and should be really proud of this achievement.



## KS3 Sporting Champions

Kacey, Yvet, Florence, Amy, Freya, Bailey, Romeo, Dhruva, John, Kenzie, Eric, Marco, Daniel, Mohammad, Samuel, Caleb, Amelia, Ciceli, Sophia, Jeanne, Isla, Pippa.

Well done to all for receiving a nomination from your teacher. The draw has been made and Eric won the PE prize – well done!



The Hill house team  
gearing up for Children in Need!