

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

## Parent Governor Elections

I am happy to announce that, in the recent election for parent governors, **Alastair Beresford** and **Sum Kung** were elected for a four-year term.

I am truly grateful to the seven parents who put their names forward for election. Chesterton flourishes when its parents are engaged in the life of the school. Thank you so much.

There will be another vacancy this time next year!

**Simon Peyton Jones**  
Chair of Governors

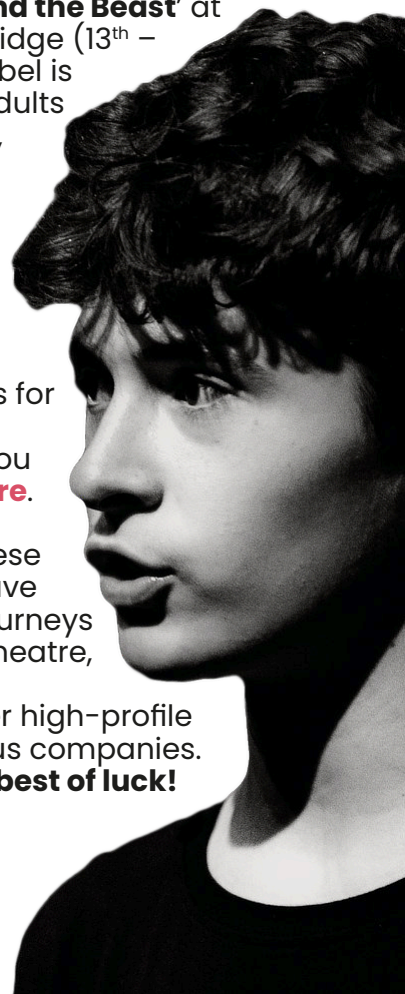


## Year 10 Stars in the Making!

You may recall reading in early September's blog about **Sam C** and other Chesterton students' success in performing in **'The Boy Who Sailed The Ocean In An Armchair'**, a new musical produced by National Youth Music Theatre. Sam was given rave reviews for his portrayal of Beckett, the child protagonist of the story, and has now been nominated for the award of **'Best Leading Performer in a New Production of a Musical'** with Broadway World! Sam's name sits alongside current professional West-End stars in the shortlist: an astonishing achievement for one so young! Whilst nominations were privately curated, the award is given through public votes, so if you would like to help Sam along the road to stardom, please vote for him **here**. You can also vote for former student, **Bill Stanley**, who is up for **'Best Supporting Performer'** in the same musical!

Closer to home, **Mabel C** will be starring in Cambridge Theatre Company's Christmas production of **'Beauty and the Beast'** at the ADC Theatre, Cambridge (13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023). Mabel is leading a cast of both adults and other young people, and her portrayal of the titular role Beauty promises to be both sweet-natured as well as strong and spirited, as we think a modern heroine should be! If you would like to book tickets for what will surely be a delightful family show, you can do so by clicking **here**.

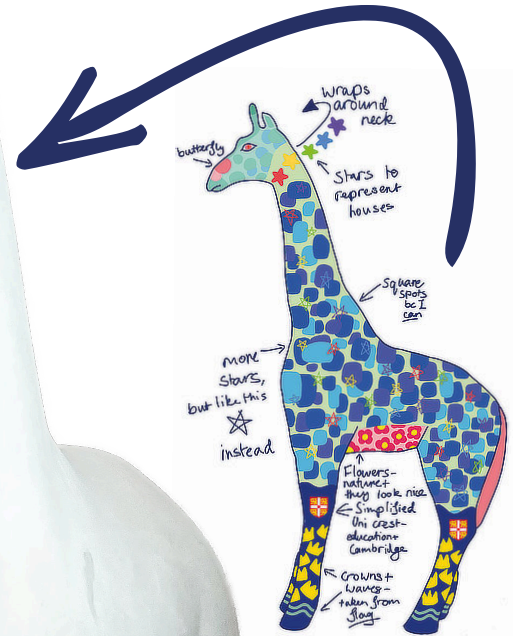
We are so proud that these individual performers have begun their theatrical journeys with Chesterton Youth Theatre, and are also taking their immense talents to other high-profile platforms and prestigious companies. **We wish them both the best of luck!**



## Mini-G

Our school giraffe has finally started to show it's spots! A huge congratulations to **Emily of Cavendish House** who had a beautiful inspiring design, we have chosen Emily's design to help us create our final Mini-G. Emily has been helping us this week to add spots, colour and extra detail to our designs.

Our Mini-G will be on display in Cambridge during Spring and Summer for everyone to see, it will be part of a trail (Standing Tall) across the city where you will be able to see our sixth form and trust giraffe as well as other schools, charities, clubs and organisations that have been involved. It will be a lovely way to see Cambridge as well as some beautiful giraffes!



## Donate and Spread Cheer!

The **Annual Chesterton Christmas Fair** is coming up fast! There will be many fun, creative and tasty stalls to choose from, but the 'Last Minute Presents' table is hugely popular as kids can pick up nice things for someone special at an extremely low cost. To keep the prices low and make it affordable for all children, we rely on parental donations for the present stall. Please contribute items for the sale! Donations should be a gift in great condition (unopened and unused), ideally still with labels on, and one that you also wouldn't mind receiving yourself. Popular choices include candles, scarves, games, chocolates, bath sets, etc.

Just leave your items in reception marked 'Christmas Fair'. Pricing this year will be mostly between 20p and £2 per item. The PTA volunteers wrap any present for free so that the children can bring them home ready to surprise a loved one. Only two more weeks to bring in your very important and much appreciated donations! **Thank you!**

## English department film screenings

This half term's film screenings got off to a strong start with over 50 Year 8 students watching *A Christmas Carol* in the auditorium. This week we also screened *An Inspector Calls* for Year 11, with 37 students attending. Next up is *A Monster Calls* for Year 7 on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November.



## Musical Moments Await!

The music block is busy as ever with many rehearsals and excitement for upcoming concerts.

■ On **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** students from Years 7–11 and the sixth form are giving a soloists' concert at St Andrew's Church, Chesterton. The concert will begin at 4.30pm and last for around an hour; admission is free. All are welcome – please do come and support the students!

■ On **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** from 2–3.20pm we have a new event, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Entertainment. Any local senior citizens are very welcome to attend this event – details of how to obtain tickets, which are free, are in the image below.

■ On **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** we have our annual carol service at St John's College Chapel. Tickets are currently sold out and we look forward to welcoming a capacity congregation to this highlight of the term.

■ Finally, on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** we hope to have some music on the playground after school to wish everyone a happy holiday. The steel pan groups and Year 9 and 10 bands will be playing on Monday, and the brass and saxophone group on Tuesday. We hope students will stay to listen to these groups perform from 3.05–3.30pm.

## Jackets and stickers!

Our volunteer library volunteers have been very excited and busy processing books after a delivery of library stationery arrived. Plastic jackets preserve the life of books, meaning they last longer and can be enjoyed by more people without getting dog-eared. Working out the sizes of jacket required and getting jackets onto books is a bit of an art form! Our colour-coded sticker system ensures that students can easily identify and locate the books they want. With lots of books to sort, we really appreciate all the time that people volunteer to help in this way.

**We look forward to thanking our library team with an end of term thank you event.**

## U/14 Basketball Season kick off!

Our U/14 boys basketball team started their season last week. They travelled to Cottenham where they played some great basketball from the very start. With Rowan as PG, and Lucas as our PF we scored some excellent lay-ups and defended admirably. We were 23-22 up at half time!

Unfortunately, the game started to get away from us and we ended up losing 51-39 on the night.

The students really enjoyed their first task of competitive basketball and are very excited for their next fixture vs. Swavesey next week!

**Player of the match: Rowan.**



## U/13 Girls National Cup Success!

Our U/13 girls football team progressed onto round 4 of the National Cup after a fantastic victory vs. Goldington Academy, Bedford. After difficulties getting there due to road closures, the girls came out of the blocks well securing some early possession and chances.

The game was very even until Ella rifled a shot into the bottom corner, 1-0 at half time. After a few changes, we then started strongly in the 2nd, scoring a quick goal to give us a cushion. Aleks then scored to settle the tie with a fantastic effort from the edge of the box.

The game finished 3-0 with Imogen making some excellent saves to claim a clean sheet. Onto the next round we go in St Albans!

**Player of the match: Suzie.**



## Creative Responses to A Monster Calls

Year 7 students have been unleashing their creativity by producing artwork to accompany their study of A Monster Calls. The charcoal artwork is inspired by the work of illustrator Jim Kay as well as the themes of the novel.

## Physical Geography in Action

The A-level physical geographers have been experimenting in the last two weeks to better understand Earth process as part of their hazards unit. The use of changing weight on a party popper created a discussion on how accurately can we predict volcanic eruptions based on the data we can get from them. The students also examined the role of different type of bedrock during earthquake activity.



## The Long Sit

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of November, Years 7-11 enjoyed some extended reading time, enjoying Roald Dahl's "**Lamb to the Slaughter.**" Short stories can be a useful tool in building reading stamina for some of our students, as it feels satisfying to get to the end of something. For more short stories by Roald Dahl, students can look [here](#). Do keep up the reading at home.

Lamb to the Slaughter

Roald Dahl

"The great magician"  
Spectator

Parents can support by helping their children by making sure they have appropriate things to read, working out a quiet space and time, and setting targets.

## Children In Need 2023

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising for Children In Need, last week students purchased various fundraising goodies during breaktimes including lots of 'Pudsey Ears' and wore an amazing array of 'Spotty' clothing on Friday. In total we raised **£699.00** this will go towards supporting the many projects that Children In Need support both locally and nationally.

## More Giraffes in the Making!

Year 12 Art students have been working on Chesterton 6th Form's Giraffe for the 2024 Standing Tall Trail.

Look out for these Giraffes flocking around Cambridge next year. Students spent a day painting, collaging and decorating, developing their technical and team working skills.

We have been asked by the organisers not to share images of the finished piece, saving the surprise for the trails opening.

**Watch this space for more information when the trail is published!**



## Artistic Excursion

A level Art year 12 trip into Cambridge. Year 12 Art students visited the Museum of Classical Archaeology and enjoyed spending time exploring the collection and drawing from the casts.



They also visited the 'Real Families' exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum. Both of these experiences allowed students to develop ideas relating to their Viewpoints theme and sparked inspiration for personalised artwork.

## Year 12 in the Library

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, all of Year 12 spent an extended form time in the library, learning about what the library had to offer them, and what they in turn could do to support the library. Year 12 were introduced to the categorising systems we use, including the Dewey Decimal system, in order that they might find the books they want, both for reading for pleasure, and for wider curriculum reading. Mrs Pinder-Ashenden has been working around the clock to add many new KS5 titles, most of which have been requested by A-level teachers to support further study in their subject areas. We really hope that year 12 will see the library as a resource for them, and that we will see more of them visiting to make use of the study space and to borrow books for research and for fun. Making good use of the library is a really helpful habit to develop ahead of university studies. Mrs Phillips is also delighted to have some more volunteers for things like paired reading; there are always plenty of volunteering and leadership opportunities in the library, such as being an assistant librarian, and helping at various events.

## 'Dear England' Wins Our Hearts

Last Thursday, the drama department took GCSE and A Level Drama students to see 'Dear England' at the Prince Edward Theatre in London's West End. It's been 75 years since this theatre has hosted a drama (as opposed to a musical) and so in going to see its transfer from the Royal National Theatre, we were – in a sense – part of making history! It is not surprising that the play itself has been both a major artistic and commercial success because it was superbly staged, with a real sense that the renowned actor Joseph Fiennes, the director Rupert Goold and the designer Es Devlin were working as a team, together and united. This was the message of the show, and also a reflection of the way Chesterton students conducted themselves in their time in London prior to the performance, and during the production itself. It was a real treat to take such a theatre-loving group of young people to 'Dear England', who transformed into a group that loved football too! The words of A Level student, Josh, sum up this great night out:

*"Dear England is a striking play about the despair and hope felt by England footballing legend Gareth Southgate over his career, from his failure as a player in 1996 to his current tenure as manager since 2016. In my visit to the Prince Edward theatre on the 16th of November, the theme of enlightened patriotism spoke to the young audience members I was around. Whilst young people, through the periods of COVID-19 especially, have become more critical of Britain, it was heart-warming to feel the patriotic, yet nuanced, spirit growing throughout the experience."*

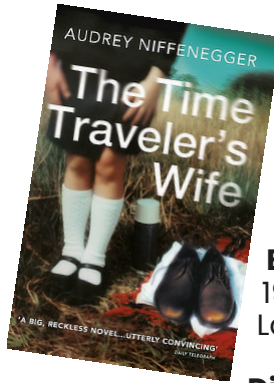


**All the cohort gave the production four if not five stars and a standing ovation! Thank you for everyone who made the effort to be part of our trip.**

## Staff reading recommendation

Mrs Lay (English Teacher) recommends **'The Time Traveller's Wife'** by Audrey Niffenegger.

**Mrs Lay says,** "This is the most beautiful love story with a fascinating narrative structure. There is also some lovely poetry by Rainer Maria Rilke to start each chapter. Warning: get the hankies ready."



## 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

## Authors and creative writing competitions



We are looking forward to meeting our visiting authors for this term: **Julian Sedgwick for KS3 on 13<sup>th</sup> December and Matt Dickinson for KS4 and 5 on 15<sup>th</sup> December.** Just a reminder that we are running in-house creative writing competitions for students to have the opportunity to win signed copies of the authors' books. Students in

Years 7-9 can write a story set in or inspired by Japan, and students in Years 10-13 should write a tale entitled "**A story of endurance**". Entries should be emailed to [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk) and winners will be announced by the authors on the day!

## Local libraries news

**Meet local authors at Cambridge Central Library** on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**, 11am-1pm come and meet invited local authors in the library atrium. A chance to chat and learn about the writers' inspiration, process and self-publishing journey - and buy books! All are welcome at this free drop-in event, which features a variety of book genres for adults.

Cambridgeshire Libraries are running a **survey** to discover how they can best serve the community. Please have your say here: [Cambridgeshire Libraries feedback form 2023](#). The deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>







A selection of images from the Year 11 mock art exam



# SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

**Wednesday 6th December**

Arrivals from 1.45pm

Music from 2-3.20pm

Chesterton Community College,  
Gilbert Road

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*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.

