

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**

## Stellar Performances at St Andrew's Church

Well done to the soloists and small ensembles from Years 7-13 who performed at St Andrew's Church on the afternoon of Saturday 25th November. A superb concert was given, with string, woodwind, brass, piano, organ and vocal performances!



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we held our first Senior Citizens' Christmas Entertainment. Students performed extremely well, showcasing items they are preparing for the carol service next week. A great afternoon was had by all.

## If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On!

Tickets for the production of **'Twelfth Night'** are now on sale from this evening on the **following of this link**.

CYT's adaptation of Shakespeare's classic rom com is fun, fantastical and free-spirited! It is set in the "Swinging Sixties", and Shakespeare's iconic verse is interspersed with live music originally by the Beatles and topical jokes linking the events of that time, when Hippie love and popular songs were at the height of their flower-powers!

The 100-strong company from Years 7 and 8 – with a little help from their friends from the senior CYT Company – is full to the brim with energy, spark, talent and passion! Different actors will take on the leading roles in the different performances of our three-show run, with Year 8s starring on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January and Year 7s starring on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm, plus a cast of mayhem (with leads from all years) on the Friday matinee at 4.15pm. Support those making their debuts in the Atrium Theatre at Chesterton, and fight off the post-Christmas blues with this 90 minute comic and poetic delight!

The production is suitable for all ages, as long as they have the concentration span of 90 minutes! It contains some rather cheesy humour and at one point, a food fight!

**It is not suitable for anyone who believes**

**"Shakespeare is boring", or in fact, you might just be our target audience: we promise to prove you wrong!!**



## Exploring Cinematic Representations of the Past

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 15:15–16:00, we have our final Chesterton lecture of 2023. Chesterton lectures are the ideal opportunity for students' academic experience to be enriched by wider members of the Chesterton community. Parents/carers are also welcome to attend.

Chloe Rixon will be presenting a lecture on the school site titled '**Remembering the past through cinema: a problem or potential?**'

The growing popularity of cultural representations of the past in books, films and other media represents both a possibility and a problem: on the one hand, it means more people are engaging with history in an accessible and broader way than what is provided in formal teaching at school or university; on the other hand, it means people are engaging with history in a way that is often changed for dramatic effect and many times inaccurate, resulting in a falsification of historic truth. This talk will engage students with this tension, thinking through the ways cinema is shaping our engagement with and understanding of the past. Drawing from her PhD research, Chloe will discuss examples of cinematic truth displacing historic truth in popular understandings of the past and the ethical and aesthetic questions that arise therein. We will also think about how we can use cinema more critically, to develop its exciting potential whilst also attending the risks associated with popular historical formats. We will do so considering a variety of examples: the Holocaust and WWII in 'Schindler's List', the history of the Royal Family in 'The Crown', and WWI in '1917'.

The lecture will take place in E14.

If this is something you or your child/children are interested in, then please can you email Ms Barker at: [nbarker@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:nbarker@ccc.tela.org.uk) Please can all replies be sent to me by 9am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

## Academic talk on Sappho

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, our Sixth form students were lucky enough to have a talk on the Greek poet Sappho from an academic from the University of Cambridge, Dr Henry Spelman.

Henry was a really engaging and interactive speaker who ran a seminar style discussion for our Sixth Formers studying Classical Civilisation. Our students were excited to learn more about Sappho, including about theories about her (un)reality and discussing poems beyond the A-level specification. Thanks so much to Henry for visiting and delivering such a wonderful talk.

## London Museums Trip

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, Chesterton Sixth Formers and a few CSF Programme Y11 students spent a lovely sunny day in London on a jam-packed trip. We visited the British Museum to see the increasingly controversial Parthenon Marbles, the Bassae frieze and various vases on the A-level specification. We later went to visit the Roman Temple of Mithras and the Roman Amphitheatre, to give students a sense of the classical past within London.



Isabel from Year 11 said that the Bassae frieze was the best part of the day, particularly seeing as the room is often not open to the public!



## PTA Update

### **The PTA have underwritten some exciting experiences for Chesterton students in 2024!**

Today and for the 'season of giving', we are launching a **Chesterton Community College Winter Wishlist Campaign** to further support our fundraising efforts via Enthuse.

We hope that you will consider buying an item, or contributing to the wishlists from teachers below.

We have divided the campaign into three wishlists so that you can see the whole breadth of what we are supporting.

#### **Winter Wishlist No 1: Support the Wow Moments!**

The school would like to offer additional Wow Moments to enrich students' experiences during their time at Chesterton and to complement learning. Wow Moments might be cultural, such as visits from professional theatre companies or musicians, or science opportunities such as a visit from Zoo Labs where younger students can come face to face with visiting reptiles!

Some pupils don't have the means to access such experiences outside of school so the PTA would like to support the school in providing Wow Moments! so that ALL students can experience the magic of theatre; visiting musicians; and digital platforms to support revision and learning because "practice makes perfect".

#### **Winter Wishlist No 2: Support Small (and Not-So-Small) Things that Really Make a Difference**

Small additions to the classroom can make a huge difference to both students and teachers, enriching the teaching and learning experience, creating opportunities for the kids to enjoy a more well-rounded school experience or to just have a bit of fun in a day of learning.

This list includes small tools to explore nature in the school courtyards looking at plants or spiders, insects and other crawling things. Periodic table posters and solar cans for the science departments. Or blenders, pasta

machines, sewing machines and tools used successfully around the school that might be beneficial to have spread to more classrooms like visualiser, drawing pads, or light boxes.

If you want to help the school with this Wishlist please pick up one of the item that you prefer by following the Donate Button on the link below:

#### **Winter Wishlist No 3: Support the Purchase of a Clavinova Digital Piano**

*"If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing."* — J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

The Music department delivers an energetic and inspiring extra-curricula programme that is delivered in lunchtimes and after school and includes Fiddle Ensemble, Samba Band, Jazz Bands, Steel Pans, a full Orchestra, Choirs and more. The music department also provided the PTA with a great lineup for the very successful Summer Bash supporting our young budding musicians and school bands in delivering a two-hour lineup that got us all up off of our chairs!

The department would like to purchase a new digital piano that benefit all the students across year groups and will improve and enhance musical activities carried out during the year.

#### **Support this wishlist by donating what you can. Or, why not consider buying one of the 88 Clavinova keys for £22.72!**

We have only 88 slots to fund! Hurry if you can.

A huge thank you in advance for supporting Chesterton Community College's Winter Wishlist! Your donations are greatly appreciated.

You can give as little as a one-off donation of £1 or donations of any amount including monthly donations.

A monthly donation of £1, £3.50, £5, £10, or £20, £50 per month will make a significant difference to what can be delivered.

**Many thanks and best wishes from the PTA Committee.**

## Empowering Expression

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, two Year 10 classes took part in a writing workshop, called "**Writing Beyond...**". This is part of a project being run at Chesterton, which aims at encouraging students to write more professionally and authentically, across all their subjects.

Along with the guidance of Mrs Middleton and Mr Jones from Impington International College, students heard specially recorded messages from leading academics, giving a taste of what makes "academic writing" beyond the constraints of the syllabus. Discovering ideas, standpoints, your own thoughts and your own voice, we believe, can start now.



The students discussed and debated a big question: "Would you want to live forever?" Collaboratively, they then drafted and refined written arguments addressing the ethics and implications of immortality. Tough stuff - but very rewarding, and skilfully done.

The project will continue next term, and there will be an essay competition in the summer term. Students can write for a prize on one of a range of topics, and finalists will have their work judged by professional academics. We hope that many will take up the challenge, and write beyond what they thought was possible.



## Teacher on stage!

English teacher **Miss Weedy** is currently appearing at the Corpus Playroom. [See here for details and tickets!](#)

## Getting festive in the library

We're getting ready for Christmas in the school library! Our book Christmas tree is looking wonderfully decorated with student and staff book recommendations, there are plenty of festive-looking book displays, and we've just started a new jigsaw with a wintry robin scene. We're excited to welcome families in to our festive book cafes on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

There are many festive events on at local libraries too. Younger siblings may be interested in the Winter Mini Challenge, run in conjunction with Youth Sport Trust. Children can sign up online at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk).

There are also plenty of festive craft events, such as craft packs at Huntingdon library, decoration-making at Sawston library on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, and card- and calendar-making in St Ives library on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. See [here](#) for more details.

## Preparing for our author visits

Students have had special form time slots to introduce our visiting authors. KS3 look forward to meeting Julian Sedgwick on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, and many students have pre-ordered discounted copies of his latest books to get signed on the day.

Julian will be available at break and first lunch for book signing in the library. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, KS4 and 5 will meet documentary-maker and author Matt Dickinson. The creative writing competitions to win copies of the authors' books are now closed, but students are very welcome to come to the library to borrow school copies. We are reliant on parental contributions to run our author events; if families intended to contribute but have not yet got round to it, we encourage you to do so on parentpay please.



## Football and Basketball Fixtures

As we continue to have many football, basketball, and netball fixtures, this seems like a great time to update you all regarding how the teams are progressing. Recently, our U/14 and U/16 basketball teams played against Swavesey in a Cluster Fixture.



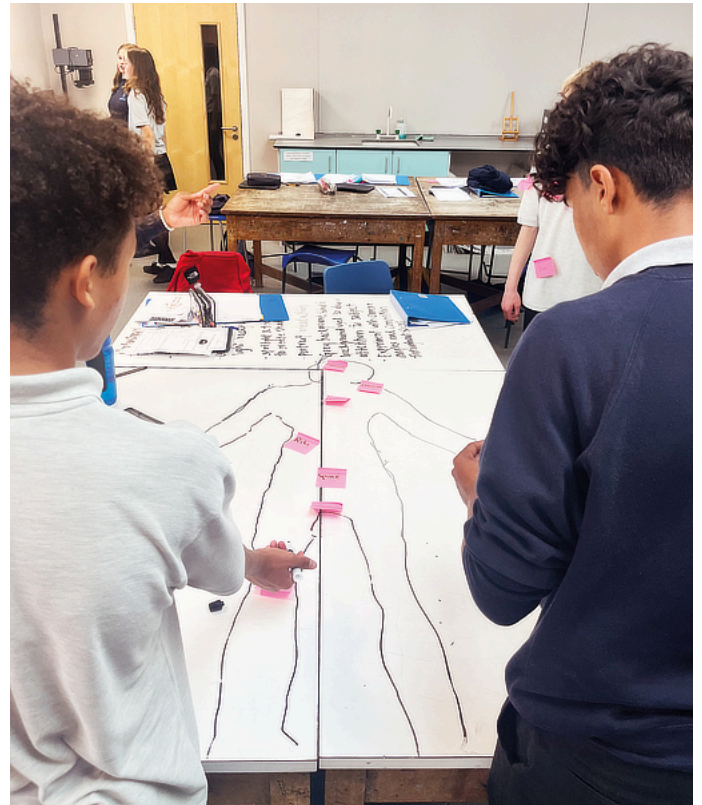
The U/14 team won in OT (pictured), and the U/16 narrowly lost! **Respective players of the match: Leo, and Jason.** Our Netball teams continue to perform well and have had fixtures against Cottenham and Swavesey recently. Last week, both teams were defeated however played some excellent netball - congratulations to the year 7 netball team on their first fixture!

## KS4/5 and staff book club

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, the upper school book club had a jolly time eating biscuits and talking about books that make us see the world differently, including our book of the half-term, **"To Kill a Mockingbird."** We've chosen our next book: George Orwell's "Animal Farm." Please do grab a copy from All if you'd like to read along with us. We next meet in February.

## Active Learning in GCSE PE

As our year 11 GCSE PE cohort enter the final stretch before their mock, and summer examinations, we still find time to learn in active and creative ways to make learning memorable. We have recently had a Dragon's Den competition where groups have been launching their own Fitness Brand or Personal Training company - this links closely with living an active lifestyle, and factors affecting participation in sport. Our year 11 students have also been learning about how we learn skills, and have taken part in a golf putting challenge where each group could only offer a specific type of guidance. Well done to Max, Yusuf, Chris, Jonny for winning both competitions!



In addition, our year 10 GCSE cohort have also been learning in inventive ways! They are learning about planes of movement and axis of rotation, as well as bones and muscles in the human body. We have been labelling peers, lying on desks, using jelly babies, cocktail sticks, drawing on tables and the students have really benefitted from learning practically as their recent feedback scores are impressive. If you are a year 9 student and thinking about choosing GCSE PE, these are just some examples of how we make learning memorable, and fun at KS4!



## Beyond the Classroom

This week Year 12 students have been delivering assemblies to the rest of the school to give an insight into a day in the life of a year 12 student at Chesterton Sixth Form. They spoke about the jump from GCSE, the expectations on them regarding independent study and how they manage / complete it, and finally, the super curricular opportunities they have been involved with this year.



Yesterday in enrichment, students participated in a wealth of different activities, including football, badminton, cooking, volunteering at Milton Road Primary School, to visiting Kettle's Yard. Where possible, we really try to make sure the enrichment programme is tailored to student preferences and interests. Some students also volunteered to help with the Senior Citizens Christmas Entertainment evening; another example of just how supportive and willing our students have been this term when it comes to supporting the community.

## Thrilling Moments and Tough Losses

Our Football season continued last week as our U/13 girls were knocked out of the National Cup by Sandringham School, St Albans. The girls narrowly lost after extra-time 3-2 with an excellent finish from the opposition. **Player of the match: Ella.** Our U/12 boys (pictured) were also narrowly defeated by Cottenham last Friday, 2-1.



This was the year 7's first fixture, and they all represented the school brilliantly and can't wait for the next fixture, after Christmas!

**Player of the match - Daniel.** Look out for next week's blog where we will have news on the U/14 girls National Cup Round 5 Fixture vs Thorpe St. Andrew School.

CHESTERTON YOUTH THEATRE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

TWELFTH

NIGHT

INSPIRED BY SHAKESPEARE  
AND THE BEATLES

7PM THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY  
4.15PM AND 7PM FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY

THE ATRIUM THEATRE CAMBRIDGE

TIX: £6/4 FOR STUDENTS

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

PLAY ON



## Artwork of the Week!



Stunning work from  
Aishah G  
Year 10