

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

## Twelfth Night Production – 'Most Wonderful'

A gigantic well done to the Company, and huge thanks to all those who supported last week's performances of **'Twelfth Night'** at Chesterton. This 100-minute long, 100-person strong production of Shakespeare's classic comedy, with three different lead casts, live music, technical special effects and an original design, was an epic challenge for Chesterton Youth Theatre. Nonetheless, the youngest members of our community in years 7 and 8, with the support of a few older peers, wholly succeeded in pulling it off and they should be infinitely proud of themselves in doing so.

We have received so many emails and comments commending the production as **'professional', 'amazing', 'West End standard'** and **'incredible'** from parents, friends and theatre professionals, with a playwright saying **'I haven't had that much fun in the theatre for years'** and a student watching describing it as a **'frenzied dream!'**.

Audience members also appreciated the 1960s setting as a way of making Shakespeare's language more accessible and visual. Perhaps the most fulfilling and uplifting response, however, came from the cast members themselves, who cheered after every show, almost raising the roof of their dressing room in the drama studio! They showed such camaraderie together, and transformed in confidence as the process unfolded. **'Twelfth Night'** will be an experience that we hope will enrich their lives forever, and it certainly took away the "January blues" for the Creative Team working on it, as well as all those who saw it. Well done again to the Company: **'Prove true, imagination!'**...You truly captured the spirit of the Bard!

## 'A thank you from Jimmy's'

Throughout the festive period and as part of our advent calendar event, students were invited to bring in donations to fill a festive santa sack which would then be donated to the residents at Jimmy's homeless shelter in Cambridge. Students also designed these sacks and there were some fantastic designs.

The sacks were given as gifts at Christmas to the residents, and they were also shared with other homeless shelters in Cambridgeshire - the kindness and generosity shown by students, parents, and staff was truly incredible and we look forward to working with Jimmy's next Christmas!



## Live Lounge and Spring Concert

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February** at 3.45pm will see the next Music Department Live Lounge. Any students are welcome to sign up to perform in this concert: solos and small group performances are welcome. It is a very informal and relaxed concert where students can perform songs and pieces they are working on to a friendly audience. Students who are interested should sign up on the sheet on the music office door.



**Save the date!** On **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**, we have our Spring Music Concert at West Road Concert Hall. All music ensembles and choirs will perform at this concert. It is not too late to get involved in a music ensemble or choir, and the latest timetable can be found on Student Notices and at the end of this blog. All are very welcome! It is a great opportunity to make music with others. The only ensemble which is not currently accepting new members is the steel pan group, which is full for all year groups at present. All other groups will be very pleased to welcome new members in the coming weeks.

Pictured is the samba band with glow in the dark samba at last year's West Road Concert – set to be revisited again this year.

## LAMDA Distinctions!

This year at Chesterton, we have begun hosting private lessons in drama with an associate teacher of the **London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art** examinations. Kate Khaidean, who is teaching a small group of individuals in acting, verse and prose, was delighted to receive the results of Chesterton's first two LAMDA candidates: **both Javi and Sammy got a high distinction!** Huge congratulations to these two students from Year 8, and of course, to their teacher. This bodes so well for future results – we look forward to hearing more talents and efforts rewarded over the course of the year!

## Cross Country Success!

Several Chesterton students qualified for the County Cross Country Championships which took place at Ferry Meadows in Peterborough last Saturday. The scene was set... perfect sunny weather, with no wind and a very muddy course!



There were some excellent performance across the board with many students qualifying for the next round which is the Anglian Championships in Norwich where they will represent Cambridgeshire! A special mention to **AJ, Harriet, Isla, and Maia** who all made it through to the next round (pictured).

**Pippa and Lilli** in year 9 have also progressed to the next round. Watch this space!

## “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” performance

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Year 7 had a blast with visiting theatre company “Shaking Up Shakespeare”. With lots of audience participation and silly fun, it was a brilliant and memorable way to experience Shakespeare’s famous play, and to support current English studies on the conventions of Shakespearean comedy. Well done to Year 7 for their enthusiasm and attention, and particularly to those students like Joey, Josh, and Khalid, who volunteered to go up on stage to join in! Thank you to the parents whose financial support makes these bonus events possible.

## Library lessons

All Year 7 students have been visiting the library in their English lessons this week and last week, with a focus on how to choose the right book. We looked at resources available such as recommended reading lists and the Chesterton Challenge, and we used ipads to **explore the page of the school website** dedicated to reading, to see what support and suggestions are available there.

We discussed ways of choosing a book, such as reading the blurb and looking for genre clues. All Year 7 students should have a reading book on the go (books from home and other libraries are also fine, although we’d love it if every student did make use of the curated stock we have here) and our expectation is that students are regularly reading at home for pleasure, supported by their families. Students can use the library before or after school or at break or lunch to return their book and borrow another one.

## New library team

Many thanks to the lovely bunch of students who spent break time on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> undertaking library training. With lots of jobs to get the hang of, such as using the software to issue, return and look up books, we had a whistle-stop tour, and students will then begin their regular duties next week. We really appreciate students’ giving their time in this way to support the school library.

## Geographers Master Water Cycle

The Sixth Form Geographers have made a great start to their new topic on the water cycle. The use of a simulated valley to demonstrate water movement helped to show this tricky concept with great explanations from students.



## Creative writing competitions

Thank you for the entries for the poetry competitions we are promoting. "Through their eyes" poetry competition invites students age 11-18 to write from the perspective of another character, for example, a famous person. "Winter Wonderland" poems should be inspired by or set in winter. Poems can be any style or length, and entries should be sent to [sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:sphillips@ccc.tela.org.uk). Please make sure your name and age is on the entry. See [here](#) for more details.

Here is an example entry for "Through their eyes" from Evie in Year 8, who writes in character as Sherlock Holmes:

*In London town, where mysteries unfold,  
Me, a detective, sharp and bold.  
My names Holmes, with my keen mind,  
Solving crimes of every kind.  
With my trusty friend, dear Watson,  
We unravel puzzles, one by one.  
In my deerstalker hat and pipe in hand,  
I uncover clues across the land.  
My eyes, sharp as a hawk, never miss,  
Observing details others dismiss.  
From 221B Baker Street, my base,  
I cracks cases at a rapid pace.  
A master of deduction, I am renowned,  
My intellect astounds those around.  
From "The Hound of the Baskervilles" to "A Study in Scarlet,"  
My adventures, timeless and never forget.  
So raise a toast to me, great detective,  
Whose brilliance is truly effective.  
My name is Sherlock, a legend in my own right,  
Forever solving mysteries day and night.*

We are also currently promoting **The Orwell Youth Prize**.

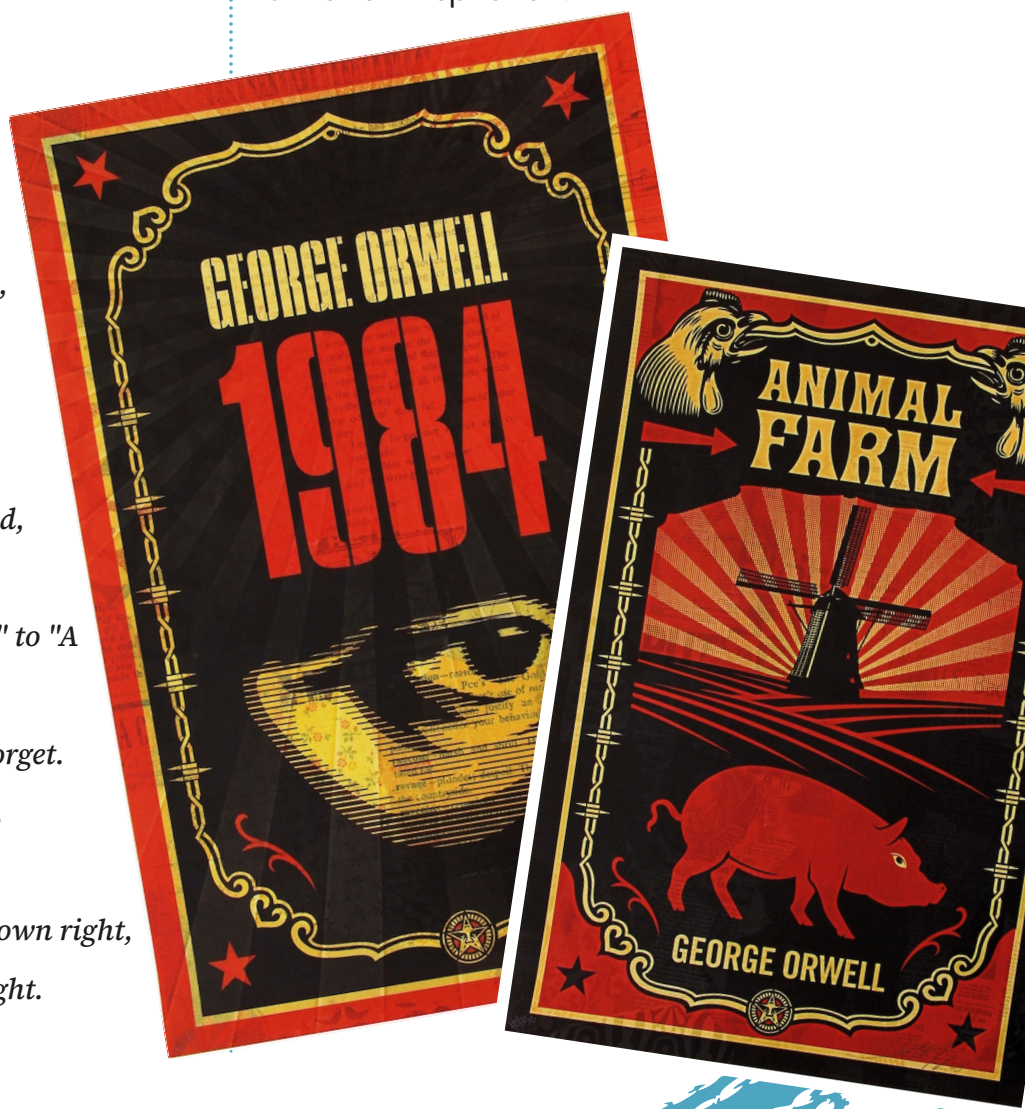
The Orwell Youth Prize uses the writing of George Orwell as a starting point to inspire students to write about their own ideas and experiences.

Every young writer who enters by the feedback deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 is offered personalised feedback.

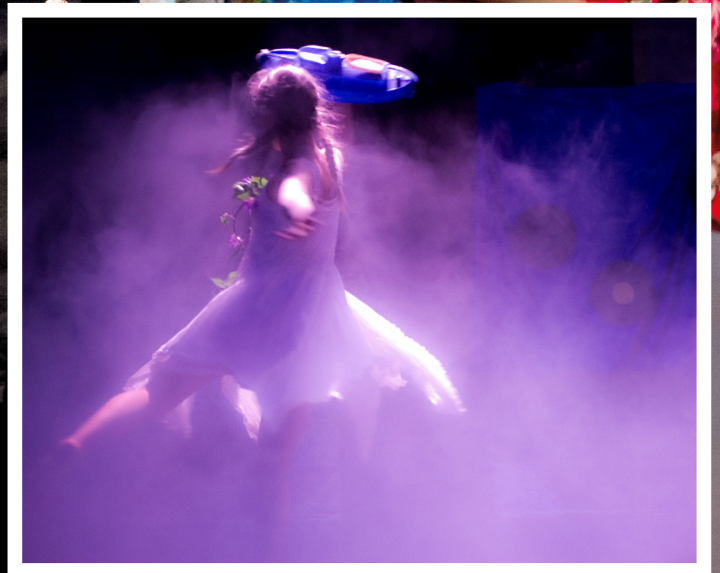
Students write up to 1000 words (Years 7-11) or up to 1500 words (Years 12 and 13) on the theme of 'Home' for a chance to get published and win £50 cash and the complete works of Orwell for yourself and for school.

## Book Club

The KS4/5 and staff book club is currently reading "Animal Farm" – students are encouraged to join in with us to get some Orwellian inspiration!



Twelfth Night



**Artwork of  
the Week!**



**Keethana A**  
Year 11



**Alfie W**  
Year 11

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Mr A Firth  
Chesterton Community College  
Gilbert Road  
Cambridge  
CB4 3NY

16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*Dear Mr Firth*

On behalf of Jimmy's and our residents I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Chesterton Community College for supporting Jimmy's with the fantastic 40 festive sacks donated to Jimmy's for Christmas. We very much appreciate all your kindness and support.

With your vital support, we were able to provide stockings to over 100 people. as well as stock up on much needed supplies we need throughout the year. Depending on their upbringing, some of the residents have never experienced a Christmas where they are given gifts or where they have been included. Being surrounded by Jimmy's support at Christmas is one way of helping people feel acknowledged, that they are human and worth something.

In England, rough sleeping was up by 26% last year. At a time when the cost-of-living crisis is impacting people more than ever, and suggestions that this is likely to lead to more people becoming homeless, charities such as Jimmy's are some of the most critical organisations working with those in need.

To get updates on how we have been increasing our provision over the winter season, please do check out our website [www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk](http://www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk), or follow us on socials @jimmyscambridge.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Best wishes from us all at Jimmy's,

Yours sincerely,

*Sara Dunn*

Sara Dunn  
Communications Officer



# Music Department Extra-Curricular Timetable – Spring 2024



	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Before school 8.10-8.40am</b>	<b>Year 7 Steel Pans</b> Mrs Thurlow M1	<b>Samba Band</b> All years Miss Wilson M1	<b>Junior Choir</b> Years 7 and 8 Miss Wilson M1	<b>Year 8-13 Steel Pans</b> Miss Wilson M1	<b>Cello Group</b> All years Miss Wilson M1
			<b>Folk Fiddle Band/Senior Strings</b> Year 9 and above Ms Veryard M2		<b>Folk Fiddle Band</b> All years Ms Veryard M2
<b>Break 10.50- 11.10am</b>	<b>Recorder Group</b> All years Miss Wilson M2			<b>Flute Ensemble</b> All years Miss Wilson and Mrs Thurlow M2	
<b>Lunch 12.10- 12.30pm or 1-1.20pm</b>		<b>Year 7, 10 and 11 Ukuleles and Guitars</b> Mrs Thurlow M1	<b>Year 8 and 9 Ukuleles and Guitars</b> Mrs Thurlow M1		
<b>After school 3.05-4.00pm</b>	<b>Jazz Band</b> All years Mrs Wyndham-Hall and Dr Hutchinson M1		<b>Orchestra</b> All years Miss Wilson 3.05-4.35pm* M1	<b>Music Technology Club</b> Years 8-13 Mrs Thurlow M3	<b>Chesterton Singers</b> Years 9-13 Mr Bond M1
			<b>Band Project</b> All years Mrs Thurlow 4.30-5.30pm Meet in music foyer		<b>Chestertones**</b> Years 9-13 Mrs Thurlow 4-4.30pm M1

\*If you are coming to orchestra and need to leave early or arrive after P7 that is fine.

\*\*If you would like to be a member of Chestertones (acapella vocal group) you must be a member of Chesterton Singers. Please speak to Mrs Thurlow if you would like to join.