

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 restful half term.

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

## Hitting the Mark!

The music department has again been awarded Music Mark status, recognising our school's commitment to music education for all. Thanks to all those who support our concerts and events throughout the year.

Well done to all the students from Years 7-13 who performed at last Thursday's Live Lounge. We had a great range of woodwind, brass, string, piano and vocal performances. A lovely afternoon of music was had by all.

Tickets for the Spring Concerts on 21<sup>st</sup> March at West Road are available from today via the link sent by the music department. These concerts, featuring all our music department ensembles and choirs, are always very popular, so don't delay booking!

Finally, this week we have launched our choirs' annual Gabrieli Roar residential trip. This is open to all students in Years 8 and above at present and is a wonderful opportunity to take part in a residential choral course led by Gabrieli Roar and the eminent conductor Paul McCreesh, followed by singing Verdi Requiem in Ely Cathedral in July. We have participated in this course for several years now and it is an amazing course to be part of. Any interested students should contact Miss Wilson for the sign up form.

## Scholastic Book Fair

On 28<sup>th</sup> February, we will welcome a visiting book fair to the school library. All students will be able to visit the fair to see if they wish to purchase a book. Students can use their World Book Day book tokens to get a discount off a book. In addition, students can enter a competition to win an additional £5 book voucher. To enter the competition, simply make an A4 poster entitled 'How to choose a book'. The poster can be handwritten or made on a computer, and a physical copy must be handed in to the library by February 27<sup>th</sup>. The poster should give advice on how to choose what book to read next. These will be displayed in the library to help our students select their reading material.

More information about the books is at the end of the blog!

## Museum visit for CSF Classics students

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, our Classical Civilisation Sixth Formers went on a visit to the Museum of Classical Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. While it was not the first time our Year 13s had visited, all students were able to appreciate the scale and quality of the statues within the museum.

Much of the Greek Art content from Classical Civilisation A-Level is available to view in the Museum of Classical Archaeology and even some local finds too (including a 2,500 year old Greek relief, found in a farmer's field in Cottenham!). It is free to visit this museum and comes highly recommended by the Classics Department.



## An Experience to Remember Forever!

**The GCSE and A Level Drama Cohort 2024 have completed their Component 2 practical work for their courses in showstopping style!**

On the first weekend in February, they spent 48 hours in Burwell House on a drama retreat, undertaking intensive rehearsals with a range of directors on their dramatic extracts for examination, which were performed last Friday to an audience of 60 in the drama studio (along with the Visiting Examiner). The 20 drama students were joined on the Burwell House weekend by Vadim (musician) and Lotte (photographer) who skilfully collaborated with them on this artistic venture. Oliva and Loic won 'Best Dramatic' and 'Best Comic' Actors for their Burwell House performances, whilst Josh won 'Best Company Member' and 'Crave' won Best Group. However, when it came to the final examined performance on Friday, every single performer truly was a winner. They showed themselves at the very top of their game, and collectively presented a programme of work which spotlighted Chesterton Youth Theatre at its very best.

**We could not be more proud of the company, and Lesley, Will, Kyani, Maria, Michael, Sierra, Mrs von Schreiber and Mr Cooper:**

Ms Marston could not be more grateful to you for your support. 'California Suite' was playful and hilarious; 'Yerma' was poignant and intense; 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was magical and explosive; 'Crave' was searing and beautiful; 'Every Brilliant Thing' was uplifting and fun; 'Death and the Maiden' was harrowing and thrilling: seen together, the performance was a comprehensive and compelling montage that reminded every audience member of the sheer power of theatre. **As one former student wrote afterwards** *"It was such an incredible honour to come and watch....to say every piece was truly amazing would be an understatement."*

Of course, the Examiner will make their own judgement on the work, but it is important to recognise that this event also went beyond the exam requirements to become an experience to remember.

Burwell House meanwhile offered so many opportunities for laughter and togetherness, with games in the evenings, fitness in the mornings, and some scrumptious meals. We even played our own version of 'The Traitors' across the weekend (thankfully, the Faithful survivors won!). The staff at Burwell commended the students for being so polite and responsible in their dorms and the grounds. Perhaps the happiest memory for everyone in this whole project came from the finale of the Showcase performance, when all the company were on stage for 'Do You Hear The People Sing?', a song which many had sung two years ago in our production of 'Les Miserables'. It is fair to say that a few tears were shed here, but they were tears of joy; friendship, celebration and pride at having been through such a close process, and achieved something genuinely extraordinary. Thank you again to all for making teaching the most rewarding profession.



## PTA Update

Next term Chesterton Community College PTA is funding **'WOW!' Moments!** Every student in Year 7 will come face-to-face with a python during a visit from 'Zoolabs' (arranged by the Science department) and every Year 10 student will watch a professional, live, staged performance of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde in school (arranged by the English Department).

If you are a parent or carer taking on a Personal Challenge this spring or Running the Cambridge Half-Marathon and would like to help fundraise for the PTA to support the school in providing 'WOW!' Moments for students it couldn't be easier to set up your own fundraising page on our Chesterton Community College PTA Enthuse.

### Just follow these easy steps:

- Set up your own Enthuse Profile by following [this link!](#)
- Get fundraising! Share your very own Enthuse Profile with your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbours.

Be sure to let us know that you are fundraising for us and we'll be sure to get the school behind you!

### Is running not your thing?

We've made it as easy as possible for parents, carers, and the community to be able to make one-off or recurring monthly donations to CCC PTA via our **Enthuse** page.

If you are able and have not yet donated, please donate here. As little as £1\* a month can make a huge impact.

Many thanks to all those parents who already make regular payments.

If you would like to find out more about the PTA and hear teachers' latest funding requests, please come to our next meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> of February at 6 PM in the Meeting Room.

Many thanks for reading and for all and your continued support.

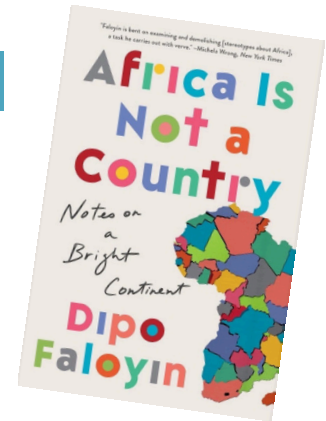
## Pop-up book exchange

Thank you to everyone who supported our book exchange by donating books from home or taking away books to read. We will hold another one before the Easter break.

## Staff reading recommendation

Mr Break (Geography teacher) recommends **Africa is not a country** by Dipo Faloyin.

**Mr Break says,** *"Breaking stereotypes about Africa. Exploring it's diversity through various lenses."*



## Good Citizens

We are extremely proud of a group of our Year 10 students who acted bravely in an emergency outside school on Wednesday.

Valo Hughes and four friends were walking on Gilbert Road after school when a cyclist had a serious accident near them. Her wheel mounted the pavement throwing her to the ground. When a member of staff arrived on the scene a few moments later, she found the lady lying on her back, arm at an unnatural angle, screaming in pain, with Valo efficiently and calmly in talks with the 999 call handler. Other passersby joined them at the scene to offer support, luckily including a colleague of the patient. Our students bravely stayed on offering their assistance, providing answers to hasten the arrival of emergency services.

Our thanks go out to these students for their quick thinking, kindness and courage.

**Artwork of  
the Week!**



***Collaborative portrait  
Inspired by 'Phil' by  
photorealist artist  
Chuck Close.***

**9r 9-8 have worked together to create this impressive larger scale piece.**

Each section has been drawn by a member of the class. Students were able to develop their tonal drawing skills whilst securing understanding of the scaling up grid technique, next they will each be learning acrylic paint techniques and painting their self portrait.







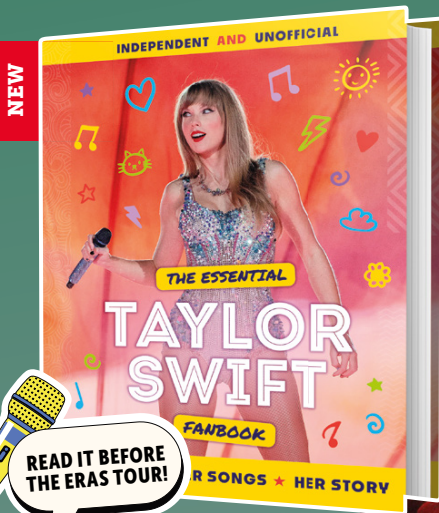
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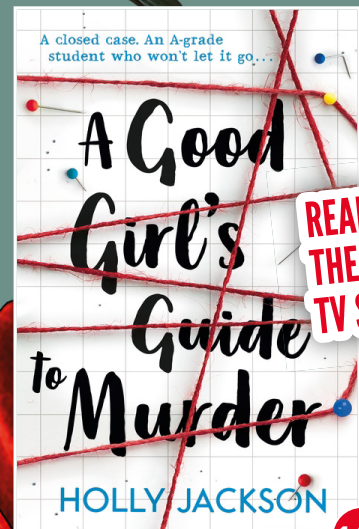
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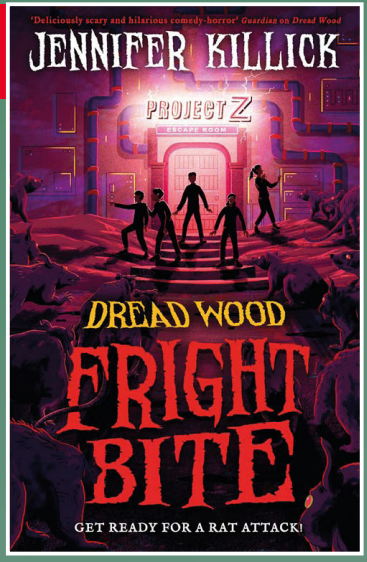
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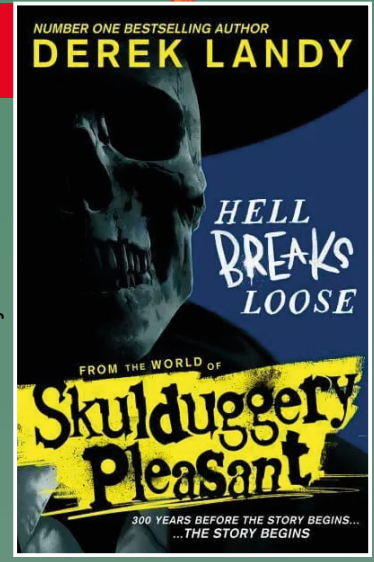
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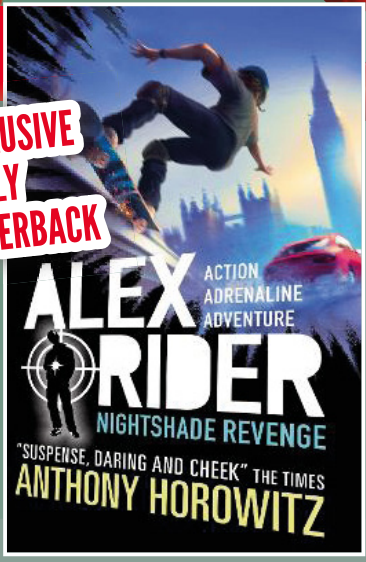


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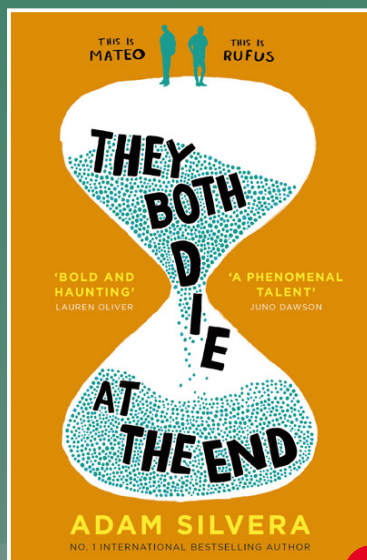
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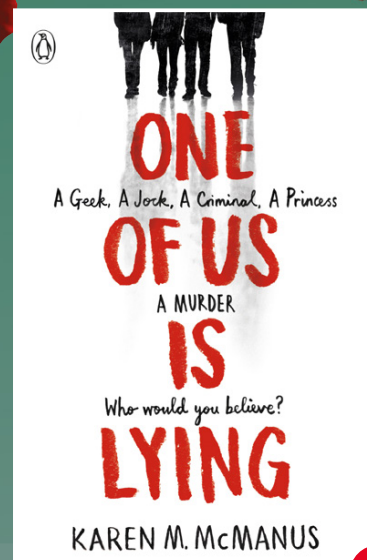
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- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers) to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List – please ask your school for details.

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Monday 26th February  
5 pm - 6 pm



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