

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 Easter break.

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

## Spring Concerts!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Spring Concerts at West Road on Thursday. The 227 students involved gave two fantastic concerts to a packed West Road. Both concerts featured all of our music ensembles and choirs, with the first also featuring choirs from our feeder primary schools and the second featuring senior soloists. It was a really joyful day with great enthusiasm and energy from all involved. Very many thanks also go to all the staff and families who supported this event. More photos to follow in a future blog!



We now look forward to our outdoor summer concert on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June in the Wynn Williams Garden at school.

Click [here](#) to watch the samba and jazz bands come together with a lively performance of 'In the Jungle' and 'Seven Nation Army'.

## 'Fever' – CYT at its Best!

Congratulations to the company of year 10/13 for their exceptional performances in 'Fever!', CYT's adaptation of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. On the second and final night of this production, the quality of acting and dramatic staging showcased Chesterton Youth Theatre at its very best, and it would be hard to find a group of 14 or 15 year-olds – even professionals – able to match the visceral, charged, sublime quality of performance. One audience member commented whilst in tears at the end of this tragedy that 'It was the best piece of theatre I have ever seen', whilst a film producer from London who came to watch said 'I am blown away: the intellectual stamina of these young actors is deeply impressive. Even though I know his fate, I was willing the plot to change and for John Proctor to live, such was the power of the central performance.'

At points in the process, the project felt overly epic and ambitious in scale. But having reached the 'zenith of the mountain' – where all our dreams and hopes for the show came into being – everyone involved has left the play with the sense

that the challenge was wholly worth taking. 'This should win awards' was another audience member's remark: we only hope that Miller's message will impact beyond our audiences in a world where, the Company were united in believing, we must always stand up against authoritarianism, and tell the truth.



## Year 12 German Debating Competition

Last week we went to the Perse School to take part in an MFL debate and found there was only one other German team against us! Despite the fact that they were very nice, we had to get into debating mode and present our arguments with conviction! The three debates were fun, if difficult and nerve-wracking at first! It was great to go to another school and meet other students studying German. We found out we had several other subjects in common as well. Debating in German was very hard, but it was a great experience, and although the results were extremely close, we ended up winning!

As a way to enrich our knowledge of German, our Y12 class signed up to a language debating competition at the Perse School. There were three main motions : "We should abolish private schools", "Marriage is no longer important in our society", and "Streaming services will replace normal television". We split the topics between us and after some research, prepared short notes for each motion - 50 words for, and 50 words against. On arrival, we were assigned our positions on the motion, and immediately started debating. For each motion, each side gave a 2-minute introduction, and after a subsequent free debating period of 4 minutes, we gave our closing arguments. After all three rounds, the judges issued their verdict. Although we had debated against only one other school, it was still very tense and challenging, making the fact that we won, even more satisfying. Overall, I really enjoyed this experience and the skills I gained from it. It definitely helped bolster my confidence in speaking in another language in a real-life scenario about complex topics.

## PTA Band Night 2024

The PTA Band Night Social, held on the 14th of March, was a fabulous evening with great music and a lovely opportunity to meet other Chesterton Community College families. The venue was sold out, raising over £1200 pounds for our school, so a big thanks to all who came along. Student band Mirada (Manuela, Aran, Leila, Theo and Tristan, year 9) wowed everyone with their impressive talent and stage presence while the more experienced parent band entertained all with an brilliant variety of solid tunes.



We hope this will become a regular event in the school calendar, providing a platform for more school bands to experience performing with an excellent sound system and more opportunities for parents to embarrass their kids by proving they too can have fun! The PTA would love to hear from more bands out there wishing to get involved next year.



## Maths Department News

The Maths Department at Chesterton Community College and Sixth Form is immensely proud of its students and extends a heartfelt THANK YOU for their dedication throughout this term. A special acknowledgment goes to our Year 11 students, who have been diligently preparing for their upcoming GCSE exams.

These past three months have been bustling with various events organized for our students. In January 2024, we became part of the **Problem-solving Schools project**. This initiative aims to foster a culture of mathematics appreciation among our learners and delve deeper into the achievements of a diverse range of mathematicians. Thanks to the support of the Parents Teachers Association, our library now boasts several math books spanning three different categories: History of Mathematics, recreational, and problem-solving.

Continuing from the Autumn term, our students enthusiastically participated in one of the **UKMT** challenges. This time, they tackled the Intermediate Maths Challenge and its subsequent rounds like the Grey Kangaroo and Cayley Olympiad. We eagerly anticipate the results, with the Junior Maths Challenge scheduled for April.

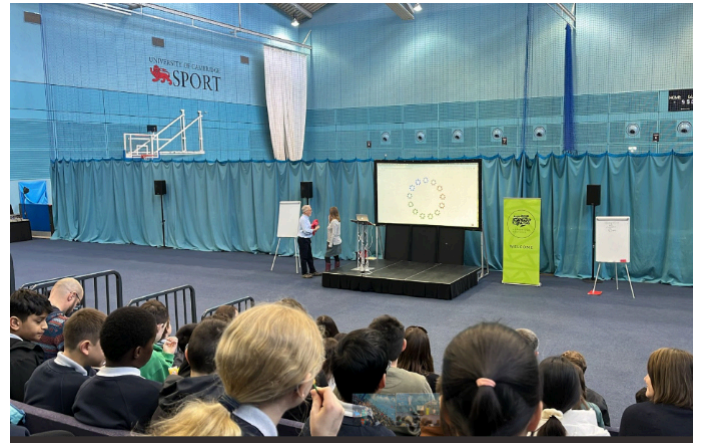
Additionally, eight of our Year 10 students engaged in the **Maths Feast** in January. With two dedicated teams, they dedicated their Fridays after school to practice past questions, culminating in a problem-solving event in Linton. Here are the reflections from our students on their experience:

*"We really enjoyed our trip to Linton Village College for the Maths Feast. There were four rounds of various challenges, including a quiz show-themed round, a universe probability round, and an exciting origami round! The origami round was our favorite, where we had to form 16 3D shapes and merge them into two larger shapes. This unexpected challenge added to the enjoyment. At the end, there was a celebration of everyone's achievements, and we were honored to win a certificate for teamwork. We truly appreciate the opportunity to enhance our math skills and had a fantastic time!"*

**Nilakshi and Genevieve**

A special thank you goes to Rima from Year 13, who joined us and assisted in marking.

Recently, twenty of our Year 7 students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the **Thinking Mathematically** – Cambridge Festival 2024 KS3 Schools' Day. We extend our gratitude to Year 7 for their enthusiasm and to Mrs. VonSchreiber for documenting our visit.



This week, on Thursday, twenty of our Year 10 students will be attending the Eureka Day organized by the Cambridge Maths School in the Centre of Mathematical Sciences. Stay tuned for updates on the event.

**We wish you all a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you soon!**





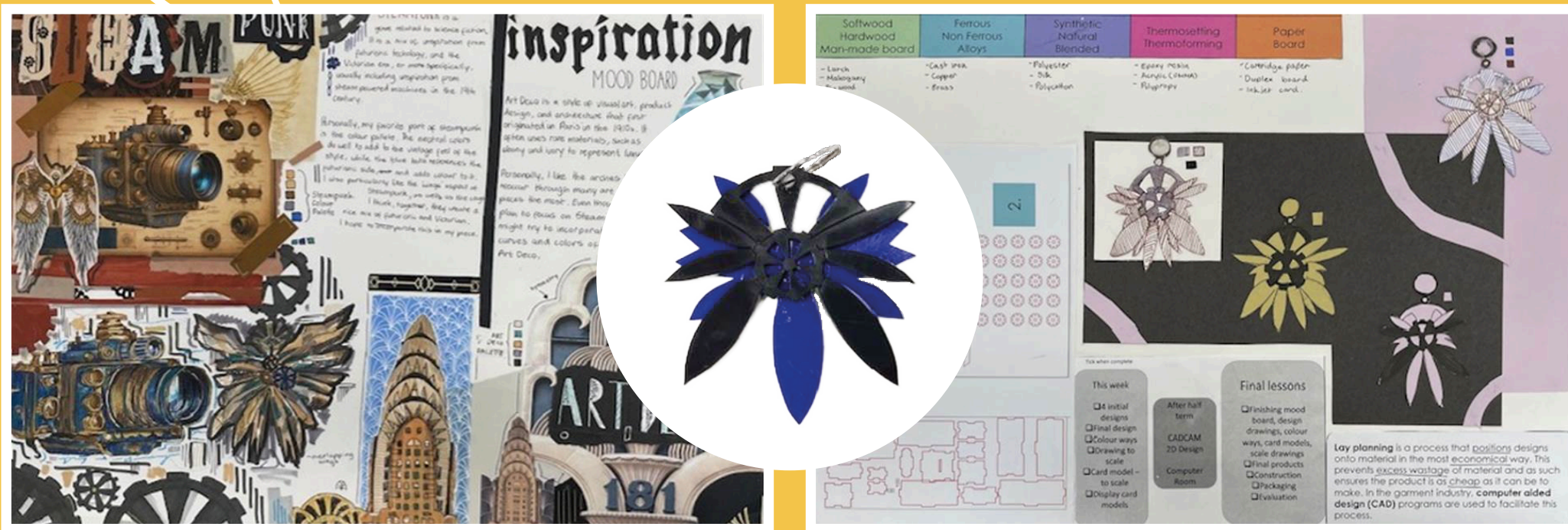
## Year 11 Drama – a Walk in the Park!

For their final lesson of the Easter term, Year 11 drama students took a walk to Histon Road Recreation Ground as a way of engaging with the ideas for theatrical design that this local area might inspire in considering the play 'DNA'. As we walked, we stopped to share visions for how everyday sightings such as abandoned tyres and thorny bushes might be recreated on stage to evoke the street, field

and wood locations of the play. It was a treat to be able to enjoy the spring sunshine and birdsong, a natural reflection of what might become the stage lighting and diegetic sound for the drama. The students described the experience as 'thought-provoking', 'fun' and as a lesson which 'reignited by love for Dennis Kelly's drama'. They expressed some highly insightful points in the outing, so let's hope they can now get them down on paper in the written exam!



# Artwork of the Week!



**Michelle Croll**  
Design Technology: CadCam Project