

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 weekend.

Rolf Purvis
Executive Headteacher

New Student Voice Representatives Elected

Over the last couple of weeks, year 12 and year 10 students have been busy applying to be our new Student Voice representatives for next academic year. Students have been through an application process, and part of this process was allowing students from across all year groups to vote on who they would like to represent their voice. The standard of applications were superb, and all students should be very proud of themselves for going out their comfort zone, it was clear to see that all students who applied, are passionate about making a difference to our school community. We look forward to meeting regularly and making an impact inline with our schools ethos – create community, challenge our limits and celebrate diversity! More exciting opportunities will be developed as part of our new student voice programme in September! **See Who's Who at the end of the blog!**

Our First 'Promo Film' for 'Rent'!

Chesterton Youth Theatre is currently working very hard on its musical theatre production of 'Rent', which we hope will be both brilliant and ground-breaking in its use of immersive and multi-media theatre techniques as well as a live band. Tickets are selling fast even with a month to go before 'curtain up', and meanwhile, we are aiming to be a sold-out show even before the first performance, by launching a publicity campaign, starting with a high energy montage of rehearsal footage that you can see on the [here!](#)

It's been great fun to create trailers (part of professional theatre practice) with a university graduate who has just completed his degree in film, introduced to us by Corkscrew Theatre Company. We hope it inspires you to see the actual show, tickets for which can be booked on this [link!](#)



Success in Classical Greek at Chesterton!

Some committed students of Classical Greek in Years 8 and 9 sat the Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek on Friday last week.

Within the Chesterton Classics department, we are so proud of the resilience, determination and talent shown for Greek amongst our KS3 students!!

Most students in this class have started Greek from scratch this year, learning an entirely new alphabet and a list of over 250 words. This qualification is worth half a GCSE, so it is very impressive that our Year 8s and 9s have entered it. Our particular congratulations go to Edie, Amelia, Shira, Cian, Seb, Luke, Maya, Rebecca, Lydia and Andrew!!

We can't wait until the summer to see how well our students have done...!

Eid al-Adha Party

Chesterton Community College recently celebrated a wonderful Eid party, bringing together students and staff in a joyous atmosphere at the school food hall. Everyone came with a food dish that was shared and enjoyed by all. Some students came dressed up in cultural clothing bringing along colour and vibrancy to the party! We had biryani, samosas, pakoras, some delicious desserts and so much more that everyone really enjoyed.

A few students, including Fahmied Ahmed, Azim Ali, Ibrahim Ali and Naima Ali, shared the importance of the festival for Muslims all around the world and why it holds a very special place in the life of a Muslim. Students also spoke about how they celebrated Eid al-Adha 2024 with their family and friends. The party not only honoured the significance of Eid but also showcased the rich diversity within the Chesterton school community. There was a small Eid goody bag for everyone to take away with them at the end!



Sixth Form Update

The sixth form have been busy prepping over the past few weeks for their social action projects. Half of year 12 are visiting Kenya to continue our projects at Nyathuna Primary School. In addition to teaching, they will bring the traveling telescope, from Nairobi, to 300 children in rural Kenya and plant 12,000 Acacia trees to combat climate change and recent flooding, as well help to offset our carbon expenditure for the trip. The other half of the cohort will complete more local social action projects aimed at supporting both the school and the Cambridge community. Our students have come up with some great ideas from putting together donation boxes for Jimmy's night shelter, supporting Women's Aid through a PlayStation tournament, to hosting a Nerf gun shooting range at our PTA summer fete.



Students received a Swahili and Kenyan culture session from Yussuf Hamad, who works at the University Language Centre.

Students leave for Kenya on the 29th June and our local social actions projects will be completed on 4th and 5th July.

Chesterton Drama Students Win National Award

On Friday 14th June, a dozen of Chesterton's finest and most committed KS3 drama students were invited to attend the Grand Final of the English Speaking Union's 'Performing Shakespeare' Competition, which was held at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse in Shakespeare's Globe, London. Two of the students, Laurie (yr 9) and Leila (Yr 7) performed a duologue from 'Twelfth Night', as 2 of 12 competitors selected from over 2000 entries, representing different regions from across the country.



After their performance, unrelated audience members and VIPs attending the event approached us to say 'That was incredible... You have my vote... You must be so proud.' It was therefore fitting that Chesterton won the Don Miller Audience Choice Award, as announced in the much-anticipated ceremony! This is a truly remarkable achievement, and we are deeply proud not just of the performers (Leila being the only Year 7 student in the Final), but the actors who came to support them, including graduated Year 13 student, Josh. The overall winner – a title which ESU's Judges were said to have "fought over" – performed an emotionally engaging rendition of Hamlet's first soliloquy. He came from Oakham School, Rutland, the fees for which are over £45,000 per year, so it is also pleasing to be able to represent the state sector at such a prestigious level! Chesterton's performance can be seen at approximately 1 hour into the event on the following [link!](#)

Chesterton Triumphs in Athletics Match at Our Field!

The Year 7 and Year 9 athletics teams excelled at the recent competition, which had been postponed for a few weeks. Six schools participated in the meet held at our field, marking the final tournament before the Jubilee Cup next Wednesday. Bottisham, Cottenham, Comberton, Impington, and Sawston traveled to our athletics match held at Chesterton.

Our teams delivered outstanding performances, participating in every event and securing first place overall! Special congratulations to the Year 7 boys and girls who both achieved second place in their respective categories, and to the Year 9 boys and girls who reached first place in each of their categories. Well done!

A big thank you to our sports leaders for their invaluable help in running the tournament. Great job, everyone!



U14 Chesterton Football Team are the 2024 District Champions!

Congratulations to the U14 girls on their victory over St Bedes to crown them district champions! After the first half, the score was 3-0 to Chesterton, with Ella scoring a hatrick to get the team into a comfortable lead. St Bedes came back strong and well organised in the second half, however, and soon got onto the score sheet themselves. Chesterton stuck to the plan and maintained their composure, with the end score being 5-3, with Aleks and Ella being the second half scorers, and Ella being nominated player of the match by the opponents. Well done to everyone who was involved!

The next and final game for this dream team is the U14 County Cup on Monday 1st July. Almost there!



MORE NYT SUCCESS

We are delighted that Mayuri (year 10) has received an updated result from National Youth Theatre this year. Having initially been granted a 'Reserve Offer', Mayuri has received a further letter to confirm a firm offer of her place in this world renowned company, and she will be attending their highly selective course for young actors in Bristol over the summer. Her NYT accolade is very much deserved, and just goes to show that reserve offers in all walks of life are meaningful and promising achievements! **Go Mayuri!**

Folk Fiddle Band Delights Audience at Summer Solstice Swim

The folk fiddle band, under the direction of Ms Veryard, gave a great performance at Jesus Green Lido for the summer solstice swim on Thursday evening. They played a wide range of folk tunes from around the world to an appreciative audience of swimmers and spectators. Thank you to Ms Veryard for all her hard work in arranging this special event and very well done to everyone who played.



Year 12 Geographers Head to the Coast

Last week, our Year 12 A-Level Geography students embarked on a field trip to the Norfolk coast to put their classroom learning into practice. This hands-on day allowed them to study the coastal environment and gather crucial data to answer key geographical questions about sediment movement. Despite the forecast, the rain held off, providing perfect conditions for our students to conduct their research. They observed coastal processes, collected sediment samples, and analysed patterns. This field work not only deepened their understanding of coastal geography but also honed their data collection and analytical skills.



Slackline and Adventure Club

Our Slackline and Adventure Club has been busy with students getting stuck in! Students have shown fantastic improvements in their slackline skills. Many have advanced to crossing the shorter stretches without using the support line.

In addition students have been learning other outdoor skills. Building and cooking on fires has become a favorite activity, with students leading on the fire-making. The dough sticks and s'mores have been a big hit!



Summer Concert

Next Thursday 27th June at 6pm will see our end of year summer concert in the Wynn Williams Garden at school. This features all our ensembles and choirs. It is a sell out this year. Students have been working really hard in preparation, and it promises to be a joyful evening! If you have any queries about the concert please contact Miss Wilson or Mrs Thurlow.

World Music Day

This Friday, 21st June, is World Music Day. In celebration of this, we asked a selection of staff and students to tell us one of their favourite pieces of music and why – and we got a great mixture!

Here is a selection of the responses:

Mr Hicks: 99 Red Balloons

I like a song that tells an interesting story

Year 8 pupil: You belong with Me by Taylor Swift

I sing along with it in a long car journey, while I am doing chores, and it is a Swift Classic

Year 8 pupil: Old Pine by Ben Howard

My parents played it often when me and my sister were little and it's very beautiful.

Year 11 pupil: Navigating – Twenty One Pilots

It only just came out (!), but I absolutely love the drumming: it has very fast hi hats as well as bars with only drums and is generally so much fun to dance to!

Year 11 pupil: Elijah – Mendelssohn

It brings back so many happy memories of our first time going to Gabrieli Roar. Also bits like the first entry of the chorus, Thanks be to God, Behold God the LORD, and Yet Doth the LORD are so exciting, and there are also parts with really beautiful melodies such as the tenor solo "if with all your hearts". Overall, I'd say it's because it's the first major choral work that I had a chance to sing, and that it holds a special place in my heart as it helped me to experience classical choral singing like I never had before.

Year 7 pupil: Handel's Water Music.

It seems fluid and a flexible piece of music that can be played by many different instruments.

Dr Hutchinson: Crown Imperial by William Walton

This was the first 'proper' orchestral piece I played as an 11 year old. I was in the 1st year at Chesterton (what is now known as Y7) and I played bass drum in the concert at West Road. There's a sneaky little off-beat on the bass drum half way through the piece (just after the temp primo) and I loved it as it felt like a solo! The actual bass drum I played has recently been given some TLC (including a new skin) and is now in use again with the school orchestra.

Ms Maffei: Imagine by John Lennon

Beautiful inspiring lyrics and calming, relaxing music.

Artwork of
the Week!



Year 7 Ceramic Masks

Student Voice 2024-2025



Create Community

Celebrate Diversity

Challenge Our Limits

Senior Ambassadors



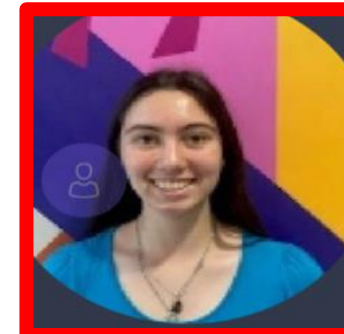
Elizabeth Chang



Mae Young



Jay Tuffnell



Genevieve Fish



Ella Hone

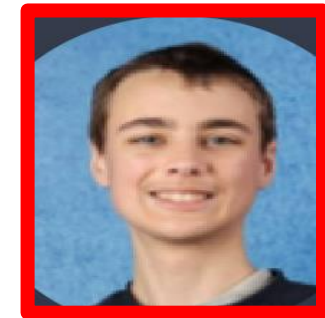
Deputy Ambassadors



Francois Hennequin



Liv Midgley



Robert Cooke