

Dear parents and carers,

This has been a remarkable year in so many different ways. There have been over 100 trips on offer, over 80 clubs attended by 600 students and curriculum offer which is both rich and varied. The arts provision has been truly outstanding with students performing both at school and other many other venues including the Globe Theatre.



Our values underpin the work we do as a community school and this bumper edition of the last blog of the year is a clear illustration of this. None of these things can happen of course without the your wonderful children and support you give as parents.

I would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer break wherever you choose to be.

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

## Summer Wellbeing

Students have nearly completed a full academic year at Chesterton Community College and they all deserve a fantastic summer holidays!

**Here**, are some ideas students might like to try out – in case they find themselves bored, feeling down, or need someone to talk to. Despite school being closed for summer – students can still use our school wellbeing system, by emailing: [worried@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:worried@ccc.tela.org.uk) and one of the safeguarding leads will pick it up. Alternatively, students can visit **our website** for online support.

Remember to take care of yourself this summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you in September.

ENRICHMENT  
SPECIAL!

## Enrichment Week: A Journey of Personal Growth and Discovery

Learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our recent enrichment days were a testament to this, offering students unique opportunities to engage in activities that promote personal development, broaden horizons, and to offer acts of service to the local community.

During enrichment week, students ventured out on lots of different activities. This included:

- Work Shadowing: 210 students had the invaluable experience of work shadowing, providing them with a glimpse into the world of work
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award: 55 students embarked and passed their Bronze DofE expedition, developing their teamwork, resilience, and navigation skills
- International travel: 327 students went beyond the UK by traveling abroad, seeing different cultures, languages, and perspectives
- Cultural Excursions: 349 students visited museums and cathedrals
- Adventure: 268 students were involved in some form of adventure training from Wales to the South of France
- Service and Giving: 137 students spent time exploring out city and improving the environment we live in

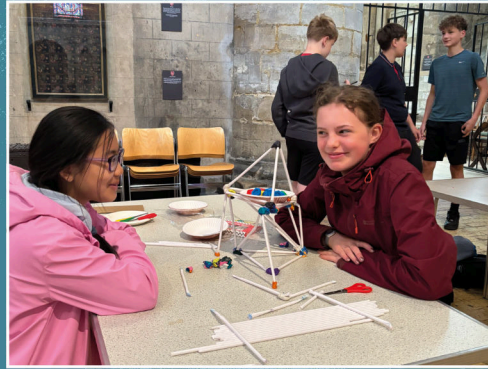
We are incredibly proud of our students' enthusiasm and dedication to making the most of these opportunities. Their willingness to explore and learn beyond the classroom is truly commendable and is something we hope they look back on in the year to come.







**Board Games Competition**



**Year 9 Ely Cathedral Visit**



**Year 8 First Aid**



**Bicycle Maintenance**



**Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh**

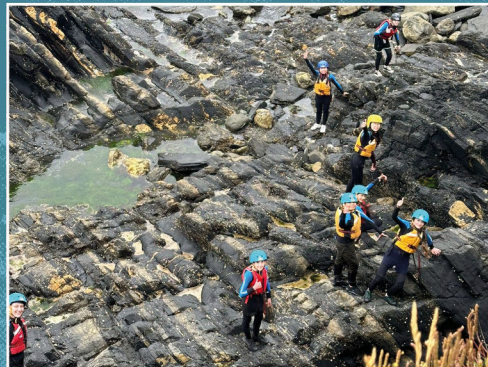
# ENRICHMENT WEEK IN PICTURES



**Year 10 Biodiversity Trips**



**Environmental Art – [Click for more!](#)**



**Year 7 Trip to St Davids**



**Murder Mystery Day**



**Battlefields Trip**



## St Ives by bike Year 9 trip

On Monday, 21 Year 9 students went by bike to St Ives – racking up 26 miles along the scenic guided busway. Off the saddle, the students also spent time taking in nature at Fen Drayton Lakes, learning about local history at the beautiful Norris Museum and exploring the quaint medieval town centre.



## Tree Beating

Y12 biology students were sampling invertebrate biodiversity this week. They designed their own capture-mark-release-recapture study to measure the abundance of *Cornu aspersa* in 'The Dip' nature reserve, and are using samples collected from tree beating in the same area to calculate the Simpson's Diversity Index. ID work is still ongoing, but highlights included a number of impressive bush crickets!



## Chesterton Bash!

The Chesterton Summer Bash 2024 was an enormous success! Families, teachers and local rock stars all braved the wet weather to join the party held in the bedecked atrium and auditorium. There was fabulous food, bubbly and even authentic French crepes to be had! Attendees could take their best aim at the Nerf Gun stall, buy a box of freshly-popped popcorn or shop for delicious baked goodies. All proceeds raised by the PTA are put back into the school to enhance all students' experience at Chesterton. If you weren't able to attend this year, be sure to book your tickets when Bash '25 rolls around! You don't want to miss a full night of incredible live music provided by student bands and parent bands. Besides grooving and singing along, the community-building and memory-making are not to be missed. Thank you to all involved in putting on such an amazing event. See you next year! – Your PTA



**We have had a very busy few weeks with students completing their social action projects and enrichment week.**

All sixth form students have planned and completed their social action projects, with UK based students completing community litter picks; bake sales; and running stalls at our PTA event. They raised money for the PTA too, which is going to have longer term impact. The other half of the cohort, visited Kenya to complete social action work in our partner primary school, the trip had a profound impact on our students and the Kenyan's, here is a [link](#) to our Kenya blog.



Our enrichment week brought students back together, with the first all about developing key future and enterprise skills and the second day being the paper clip challenge. Students were tasked with heading into town to trade their paper clips up for items. Students returned with an array of items totalling over £150 shelf value. Whilst all of this was going on, 7 students attended an enterprise workshop for two days at the council buildings in Cambroune. This is part of a programme to develop products and take them market. The students came up with great ideas and have learned a lot from the ley note speakers and subsequent tasks. On our final day, we collaborated for a community lunch, with student bringing in a dish that represented them and their culture. We had such a range of food from across the world and it was very tasty.

Finally, we would like to make note of a student that has received a number of awards recently, which is testament to the hard work that they put in day in, day out. Jay Tuffnell has written about their excellent achievements:

In November I entered East London University's humanities essay competition on imperialism and was shortlisted in the top 1% of 2000 entries. I researched outside of my history A-level unit on Russia to find out more about Ukraine's historic relationship with the Russian empire and how it has informed the worldview of Putin and Zelensky, the annexing of Crimea and the current conflict.

In February I entered Oxford University's Rex-Nettleford prize on colonialism and won first place. I studied the British empire's control over Palestine during the mandate period, especially the educational practices implemented. I spent an evening at Oriel's high table and spoke with leading historians - I was sat next to Lyndal Roper, the first woman to hold the Regius Chair in history. She told me about her fascinating research into the reformation and peasant rebellions in Germany.

In June I completed Cambridge University's Pelican Programme in history. For over 6 months, we had met weekly over zoom to discuss ideas and were always sent away with a research task or challenging readings. After consistent excelling contribution, I was selected for a residential at Corpus Christi - a few dozen students were invited out of the hundreds which participated in the programme. I was seated at the high table for my contributions and was the first non-postgrad to ever eat at Corpus' high table.

In July I was a finalist for the Orwell Youth Creative-Political Writing Competition. The celebration at UCL hosted the finalists - 15 out of the 820 submissions received. I read my work in front of my fellow finalists and the judging panel which contained Orwell's son (Richard Blair) and rising UK poets.



## Year 7's Wildlife Adventure

The yr7s in Cambridge headed along the guided busway to RSPB Fen Drayton lakes for their Environmental enrichment day. Huge numbers of different species of plants and animals spotted around the reserve as we built up our identification skills out in the wild. Including a dragonfly which was calmly eating a bee that it had caught.



## Y8-9 German Exchange 2024

Thirteen Year 8 and five Year 9 students enjoyed an action-packed week in Schriesheim, near Heidelberg. Students stayed with German families and made the most of experiencing a different culture as well as improving their German language skills. Highlights included a trip to Heidelberg Castle, meeting the local mayor, and a day-trip to the cathedral city of Speyer where the huge technical museum proved very popular, as did the local ice cream!

## Battlefields Trip 2024

During enrichment week, Year 9 students went to Ieper (Belgium) and surrounding areas to visit the battlefields, memorials, and cemeteries from the First World War.



We were impressed by students' reflections on the different approaches to remembering the First World War – comparing, for instance, the daily Menin Gate Ceremony to the sombre atmosphere of Langemark – and by their serious engagement with the artefacts and information in the In Flanders Fields Museum. Staff at the museum even commented on their exemplary conduct. As always, the trip was rounded off with a trip to a Belgium chocolate shop and we arrived back in the UK with much heavier bags!





## Lunchtime Concert at St Andrew's Church

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, students from Years 7–10 gave solo and small ensemble performances in a lunchtime recital at St Andrew's Church, Chesterton. The students represented our school brilliantly. Well done to all involved.

## Zephyrus play at Music for Youth

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July saw Year 10 band Zephyrus perform at the National Festival of Music for Youth in the CBSO Centre, Birmingham. The band, including students from Chesterton and Cottenham, were invited to perform following a video audition earlier in the year. Their set was excellent and they received glowing feedback from the music mentors and we look forward to hearing if they will have a space to perform at the Schools Proms in November.

## Mirada Band Delights

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at lunchtime the Y9 band Mirada gave a fantastic performance to Year 8 and 9 students. Thanks to the band for brightening everyone's day with a great set of songs. It was lovely to see so many students outside enjoying the music.

## Gabrieli Roar performance

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, students from our school choirs will be performing in Verdi's Requiem at Ely Cathedral, as part of the Gabrieli Roar Scheme, following a six-day residential course. Further information about this exciting project can be found [here](#) – for and tickets for this special concert can be purchased from the Cathedral website. Good luck to all involved!





## Year 8 and 9 Day Trip to France

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 186 Year 8 and 9 students enjoyed a great day trip to France.

We set off from school in the early hours of the morning, reaching Dover in good time.



Following the ferry crossing to Calais, where the cooked breakfast was enjoyed by many, we arrived in Boulogne-Sur-Mer, where students visited the aquarium (the largest in Europe), the beautiful beach, and had a trip to the boulangerie, where many practised their French. There was then a trip to a large shopping centre, where students stocked up on many French delicacies, baguette being a particular favourite. The return journey saw a beautiful sunset on the ferry and an England football win. Thanks to all the students for an excellent day out.



## Ollie Feast Summer Camp

A small group of Year 10 students have been invited to attend this year's Ollie Feast Summer Camp at The Leys, held over two days in July. These students join forty other Year 10 students in a fun-filled program that aims to take young people out of their comfort zones by presenting new and exciting challenges that develop skills, forge relationships, and broaden horizons and aspirations.



Through shared experiences of physical and mental endeavors, students learn to work together, lead, communicate, and develop life skills that will last beyond their time at the camp. Participants work in teams to undertake a series of challenges and activities, including: Archery, Bushcraft, Obstacle Course, Caving/Climbing, Team Building & Leadership tasks, A finale crystal dome experience...



## Year 7 Enrichment to St.Davids

Last Monday 163 students and 15 members of staff took the long journey to St.Davids in Pembrokeshire for a week long residential, staying at the wonderful Celtic Camping and Bunkhouse site where they were warmly welcomed, over the course of the week all students took part in a variety of activities, Bushcraft, Archery, Raft Building, Learning to Surf, Coasteering, a visit into the city of St. Davids for the Cathedral and an Ice Cream were all on the agenda, the majority of students thought the Surfing and Coasteering were the highlight of their week. On Wednesday students watched the football and followed that by seeing the most magical of sunsets over the water, this was the driest evening we had, unfortunately the weather all week was grey and drizzly but everyone made the best of it. We celebrated five birthdays over the week with each getting a Cake, Hat & Badge, several students spotted Seals swimming in the little cove at the bottom of the Campsite.

Our thanks must go to Adventure Beyond and Celtic Camping for making this a truly unforgettable trip with amazing meals, fabulous guides and instructors whose patience with our students was exceptional and to our staff who went above and beyond to ensure everyone had a great time, stayed safe and dry and encouraged everybody to have a go.

**Please look at the amazing photos showing you just a few of the highlights of our week.**





## Mock Election Debate

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July the Chesterton hosted a Mock election debate. This was planned to give 4 students the chance to represent one of the 4 main parties and for other students who were undecided about who to vote for in the mock election on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.



### Our candidates were:

- **Shira Yaacobi-Gross**  
Liberal Democrat
- **Francois Hennequin**  
Labour
- **Robert Cooke**  
Reform UK
- **Jiarui Liang**  
Green
- **Marco Davenport**  
Conservative

All our candidates did a superb job delivering their opening statements and answering questions from the audience. The students who came to watch also asked fantastic probing questions which helped create a warm stimulating environment for everyone involved. We took voting preferences before and after so our candidates delivered their pitches initially most of the audience chose Labour, however by the end the majority were willing to vote for the Liberal Democrats.

## Ardeche trip

49 Year 9 students have spent a wonderful week in the spectacular setting of the Ardèche gorge, one of the most beautiful parts of France.



Activities included a two day descent of the rapids of the Ardèche river, with an overnight wild camp under the stars, a day up in the trees with Accrobranche, as well as visiting a prehistoric cave, the Pont du Gard and the picturesque city of Uzès. Students were a credit to the school and their families, and impressed everyone with their positive attitude, the supportive environment they created, and their adventurous spirit.





## Year 7 Remembers

Year 7 students trekked across Cambridge to the American War Cemetery.

Once there, they learned the stories of some of the soldiers who are buried there. They paid tribute to one in a ceremony involving rubbing sand from the beaches of Normandy to emboss the headstone of an unknown soldier.



## Basketball England's Annual Aspire All-Star National Tournament

Lilijana (Yr 9) and Aleks (Yr 8) had an unforgettable weekend at Basketball England's Annual Aspire All-Star National Tournament in Manchester. They were part of two winning squads: Super South girls U15 & U13. Aleks's outstanding performance also earned her the U13 MVP award!



## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

As part of enrichment week 55 year 10 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition.



With practical training at the start of the week the groups embarked on a walking expedition on Thursday morning which saw them camping on the Thursday night before the final leg of the expedition on the Friday. All groups did incredibly well with lots of grit and determination showed. Well done to everyone for their efforts and passing.





## Chesterton Mock Election

On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (election day) Chesterton community College had its own mock general election.

This election was planned and organised by the Chesterton electoral commission comprising of Mr Reed, Mr Moore, Mr Bengier, and Mr Ware.

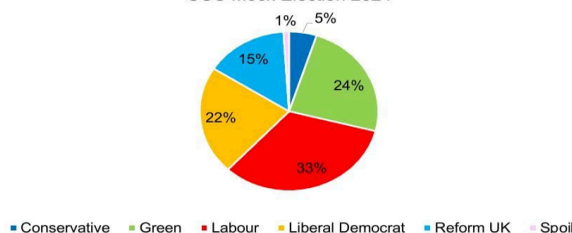


We all felt that the general election provided a unique opportunity to help promote our student's engagement in both national politics and democracy. Also, on a practical level we realised that in 2029 students in years 8 – 13 will be eligible to vote and we and the school's senior leadership team believed it was crucial that students were taught how to both decide who to vote for and the actual process of voting in person.

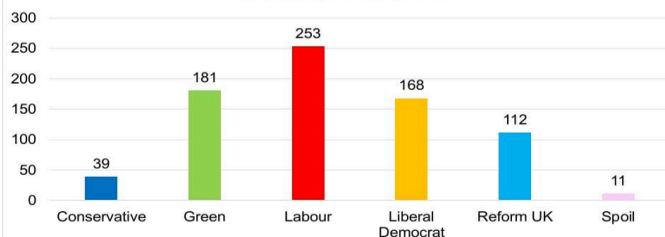
In the weeks building up to the election during tutor time students took part in sessions which showed them how our electoral process works, the key manifesto promises of our 5 main political parties and how to fact check manifesto promises and pledges.



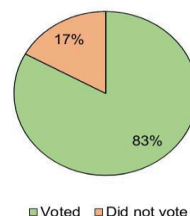
CCC Mock Election 2024



CCC Mock Election 2024



Turnout



On voting day with the help of our amazing student leadership team we were able to turn the atrium into our polling centre where students had to in line with current requirements produce photo ID and then cast their vote. The engagement and behaviour of students was exemplary. The results of our election as you can see did not completely match the national picture but perhaps has provided us with a small glimpse of what the political map may look like in 5 years' time!