

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

Year 11 Students Star in Original Drama!

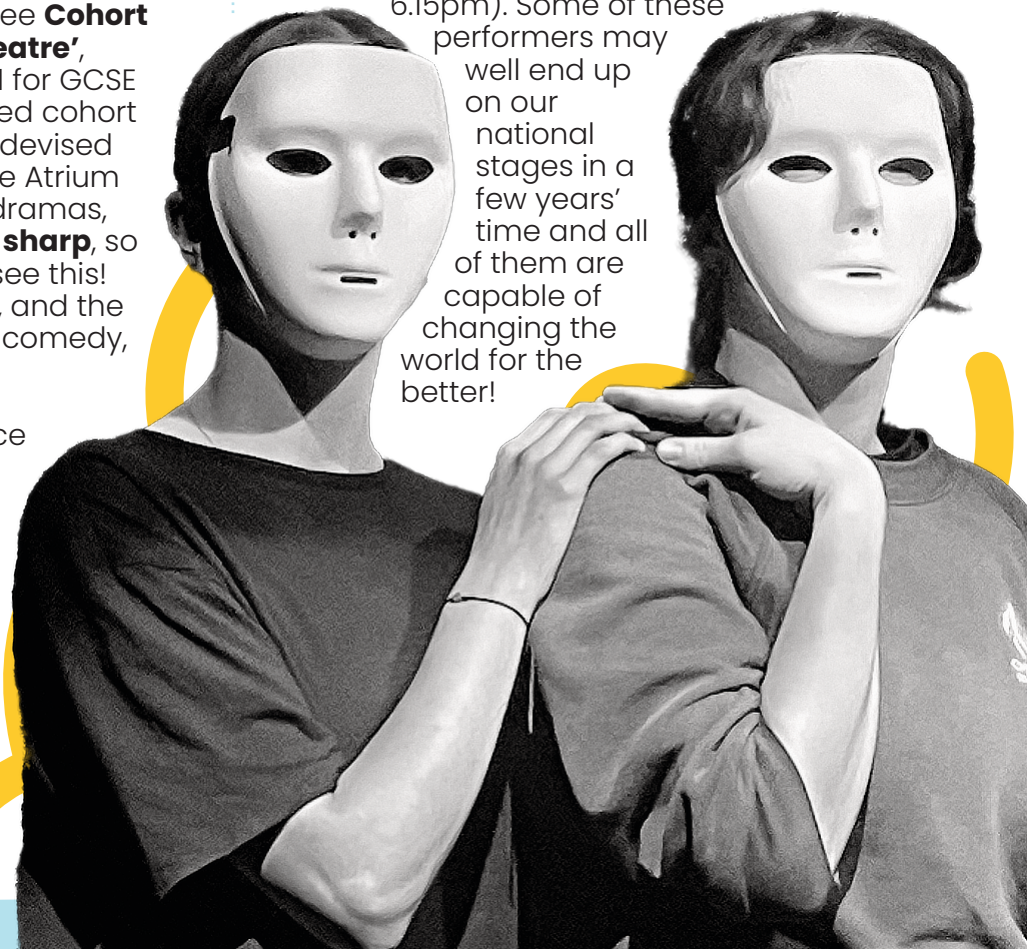
The drama department would love to invite all theatre enthusiasts out there to see **Cohort 2025's showcase of 'Original Theatre'**, otherwise known as Component 1 for GCSE Drama. This extraordinarily talented cohort will be performing their own, self-devised plays on **Friday 18th October** in the Atrium Theatre. There are five separate dramas, and the first will begin at **6.30pm sharp**, so please arrive early if you wish to see this! Age guidance for the event is 12+, and the plays are all different, combining comedy, tragedy and tragicomedy!

What connects every performance is the sense that this event really matters: it's the culmination of a lot of work, not just towards this particular project, but for the year 11 performers themselves, it is the time at that years of training will be put to the test, with them presenting themselves as the best actor they can be!

The 25 performers are also united by stimuli: Gillian Wearing's photograph 'I'm Desperate'; Ted Hughes' poem 'Echo and Narcissus'; and Tracy Chapman's song 'Fast Car'. Within those stimuli are themes of broken dreams and issues of class division, which is of course a hot topic within the UK today.

We very much hope that the pieces of theatre will inspire, touch and even provoke their audiences, and there will be feedback surveys to fill in so that the students might refer to audience comments in their accompanying portfolios. Component 1 (Devising) is worth 40 per cent of GCSE drama, so it's a big deal! If you are considering GCSE drama; if you have an interest in politics or sociology; if you are a friend or family member of those involved, or if you are simply a lover of theatre and debate, please do come along! The final performance should finish around 8.30pm and the event is free. There will be four short pauses across the evening (between pieces) where you might visit the bathroom, drink some water and chat; otherwise, please do be mindful that this is an exam. Thank you in advance if you are able to attend (just show up 'on the door' from 6.15pm). Some of these

performers may well end up on our national stages in a few years' time and all of them are capable of changing the world for the better!



Chesterton Sixth Form Success at Peace Debate

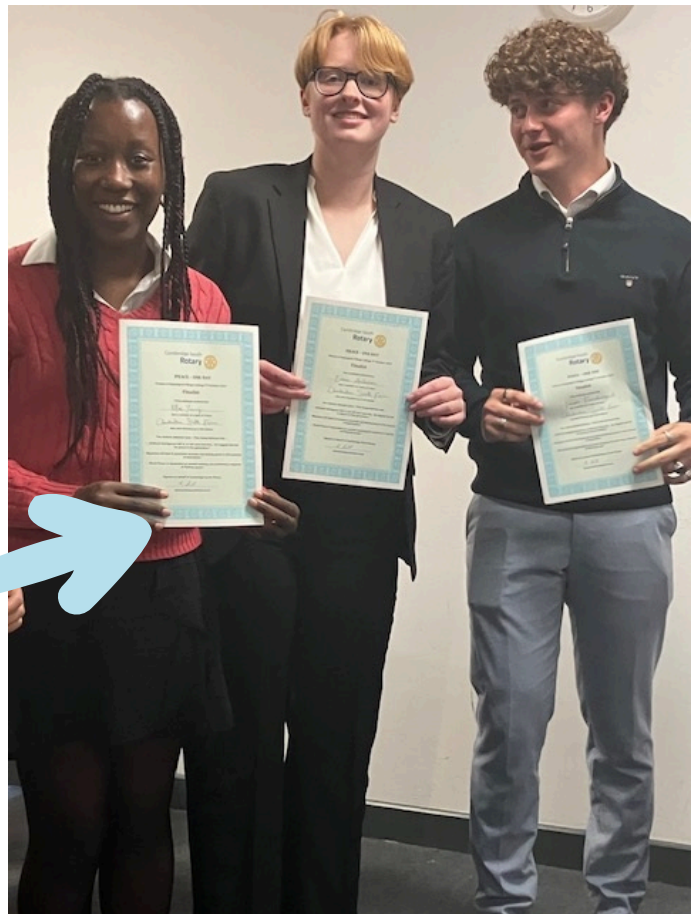
On Monday evening, a brave and skilful team of Year 13 debaters impressed at the annual Rotary Peace Debate. Mae, Emma and Fraser came runners-up overall. They were narrowly beaten on the night by The Leys, but out-competed teams Kings Ely, Bishop Laney School, Impington International College and Netherhall.

It is testament to their skill and determination, and to their making the most of Sixth Form enrichment in debating, that the team achieved so highly on only the second year of Chesterton entering this longstanding competition.

The students showed excellent teamwork in research, drafting, and execution. Their given motion to propose was, "World peace is dependent on women seeking and achieving a majority of political power." This is an extremely challenging motion to unpack and defend – but the team did so with aplomb.

The standard was high all round, not only in the speeches and clashes from the podium, but in the interventions from the floor. Year 12 supporters (and collaborators) Sandy and Millie impressed with the points they made.

We hope that their example and expertise will help inspire current Year 12s and other years at Chesterton to get involved with debating and public speaking. It's a nerve-wracking experience at first – but the smiles here show the deserved sense of achievement that comes when the debate is over. Congratulations!



Physical Education at Open Evening

The PE department had great fun at Open Evening last week where we were able to showcase many sports that students study at Chesterton. With the help of over 50 sports leaders and performers, we were able to put on a basketball fixture, trampolining performance, perform some Dance, and get the year 6 students involved by offering some give it a go sport. Mr Hema also led a Haka performance which involved twelve students from years 7 & 9. It was great to see many year 6 students enjoy seeing what we do in PE and we look forward to seeing many of them next year!

Post-16

Year 11 and their parents were invited to attend the Post-16 Progression Evening last Thursday. It was a privilege to see so many students and their parents actively engaging in their future, asking questions, reflecting on the appropriate next step for them. It is not an easy process but the dedication of the providers and the discussions that took place would have helped a great deal. Missed it? See below links you might find useful:

- [Key Post-16 presentation](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Overview of offers from providers](#)
- [List of up-coming open events](#)

Wednesday Sports Highlights at Chesterton

Wednesday saw Chesterton teams go up against Cottenham Village College in cluster fixtures. The Year 7s had a tight game at home but just missed out, losing 8-6. Over in Cottenham, the Year 11 badminton players came away with a solid win. Back at Chesterton, the girls' rugby team had a training session, working on new things after last week's game against Impington. Football County Cup fixtures are coming up soon – stay tuned for more updates!

Year 9 Footballers secure U/15 England Schoolgirl Trials

Two year 9 footballers, Aleks L-M & Imogen F have secured U/15 England School Trials after impressing both at club, and school over the past two years. They have both played integral roles in a school team that has made 2 consecutive finals in both the County Cup and District Cup competitions. Their EJA team also won a National competition recently (pictured), with Aleks then going on to sign for Aston Villa. Their trial is in Middlesex on Sunday 13th October and we wish them all the very best on the day.



Lord of the Flies

“Which is better – talkin’ or hunting?”

Chesterton Youth Theatre’s dramatization of Golding’s classic novel ‘Lord of the Flies’ showcases some of the bravest and best young actors in Cambridge, involving a company of 30 performers from Year 9, with a handful of older and younger friends in supporting roles! Golding’s story depicts the lives of children stranded on a desert island, after their evacuation plane is bombed in warfare and no adults survive the crash. It is an allegory which reaches into the deepest parts of our souls, and asks us to consider bold moral questions about endurance, selfishness and sacrifice.

Golding wrote what he originally called ‘Strangers From Within’ in the early 1950s, whilst working as an English teacher in a boys’ school: on stage, we see his classroom transformed into the wreckage of the bombed plane on the beach, whilst the auditorium becomes the mountain, forest and rocks of the mysterious island. Ralph and Jack compete to be Leader of the pack, whilst Piggy and Simon are bullied for being ‘different’. When Percival, a ‘littlun’ within the group, believes he has spied a ‘beastie’, monsters of all kinds take over the boys’ minds, to the point that endurance is a battle between “shelter” and “rules” versus hunting pigs and murdering one another: with terrifying truthfulness, children become adults.

CYT’s staging promises to be immersive and compelling, with main parts multi-rolled to show how these faceted characters change over time. Don’t miss this cathartic experience of theatre, in which kids hold up a mirror to grown-ups, and Golding exposes “the darkness of man’s hearts”, whilst leaving a crack through which light might still shine.



Age guidance: 11+ (contains some strong language and themes which some may find disturbing)

Ticket prices: £10 adults/ £5 concessions

Show running time: Approximately 2 hours including interval

When: Tues 26/10/24 7pm & Weds 27/10 7pm

Where: The Atrium Theatre, Cambridge

Tickets: [Click here to buy](#)

What I (Don't) Know About Autism

What I (Don't) Know About Autism takes the audience on a highly theatrical journey. Performed by a cast of neurodivergent actors, it is a sometimes comic, sometimes dark look at the world of autism. The play mixes narrative, and direct address to explore this contentious and often misunderstood subject matter.

Inspired by the writer's own experiences with autism, the play celebrates autistic identity whilst offering deeper insight and understanding to non-autistic audiences.

All performances will have a relaxed approach to noises that audience members might need to make during the show. Audience members should feel free to move around the gangways in the theatre or leave as they need - we just ask they are as respectful as possible to the actors performing and the other audience members. Ear defenders will be available on request.

About The Sixth Sense Collective

The Sixth Sense Collective is a group of mostly neurodivergent young people, teachers and parents who are passionate about creating an inclusive world for people on the autistic spectrum and passionate about great theatre.

We aim to authentically address the autistic experience by telling the stories so eloquently written by Jody O'Neil. Our cast, feel this play truly represents the Autistic experience and are eager to share her message with the world.

What I Don't Know About Autism - by Jody O'Neill, directed by Kate Khairdean

Age guidance: This show is only suitable for secondary ages and above, and contains sensitive discussion of mistreatment and discrimination. There will also be loud noises and music which will be flagged in advance by the performers.

Ticket prices: £16 adults/ £8 concessions

When: 1st and 2nd November at 7:00PM

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Where: The Atrium Theatre, Cambridge

Tickets: [Click here to buy](#)



**Lord of the Flies
Cast**

THE
SIXTH
SENSE
COLLECTIVE

What I (Don't) Know About Autism

This powerful play might surprise
you and challenge you

7pm, 1st and 2nd
November 2024
Atrium Theatre, Cambridge





**Chesterton
Sixth Form**
Empowering minds

Open Evening

22nd October 18:00 – 20:00

The Directors of Sixth Form will be delivering a short presentation at 18:20, then again at 19:10.

Join us at our open evening on the **22nd October**, where we will be showcasing why our fantastic provision makes us so unique.



Book now!

- Meet students to discuss the Chesterton Sixth Form experience
- Talk to staff about the diverse and broad range of A level subjects offered at Chesterton Sixth Form
- Tour of the Sixth Form, visiting our great facilities and environment
- Hear from the Directors of Sixth Form about our provision and mantra 'empowering minds'
- Experience our unique approach to A level teaching and learning

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