



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

Lord of the Flies!

A group of lost and lonely children are becoming evermore wary of the 'beast'!

Indeed, the company of 'Lord of the Flies' are taking this tense and searing story to the next level with their superb, visceral and fearless acting talents, as well as in theatrical spectacle and design. Tickets for the production are selling fast, so please: don't miss out on seeing just what 12 and 13 year-olds are capable of: both in terms of their gut-wrenchingly good performances and in terms of the combined brutality and humanity of their classic characters from Golding's great novel. The show takes place on 26th and 27th November in the Atrium Theatre at 7pm and tickets can be bought **on the link here.**

Term Date Trial

In the 2024/25 academic year, Eastern Learning Alliance is conducting a trial whereby we are shortening the Autumn term – we have extended the October half term by two days and will be breaking up for Christmas three days earlier. The teaching hours this creates (referred to as "disaggregated" time) are being used to provide a variety of academic support, interventions, and extra-curricular clubs outside of the normal school day, spread across the school year.

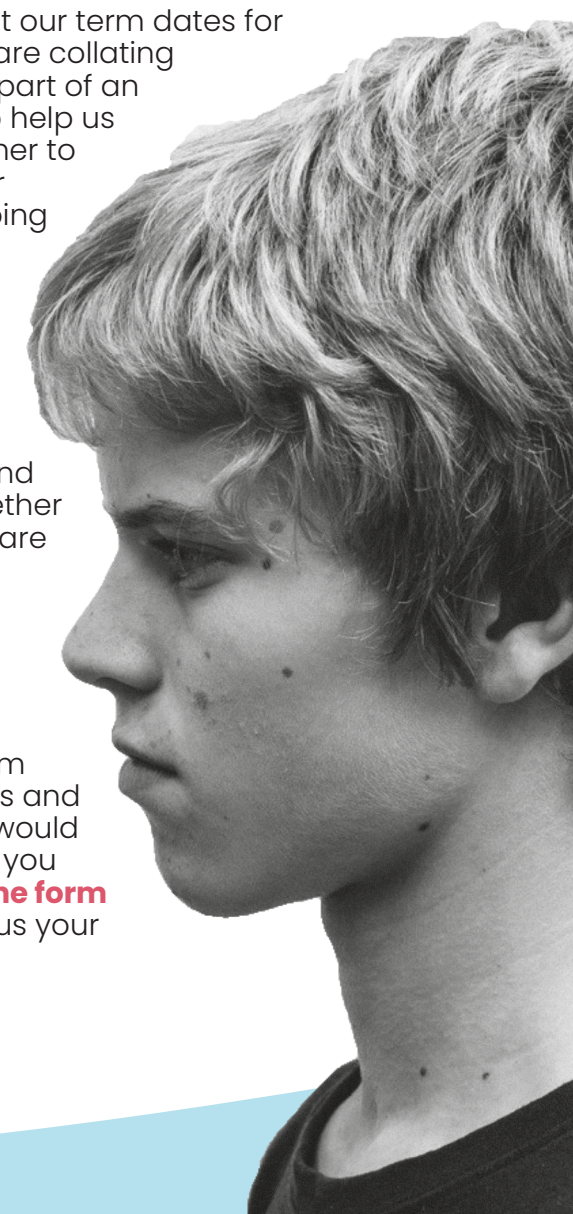
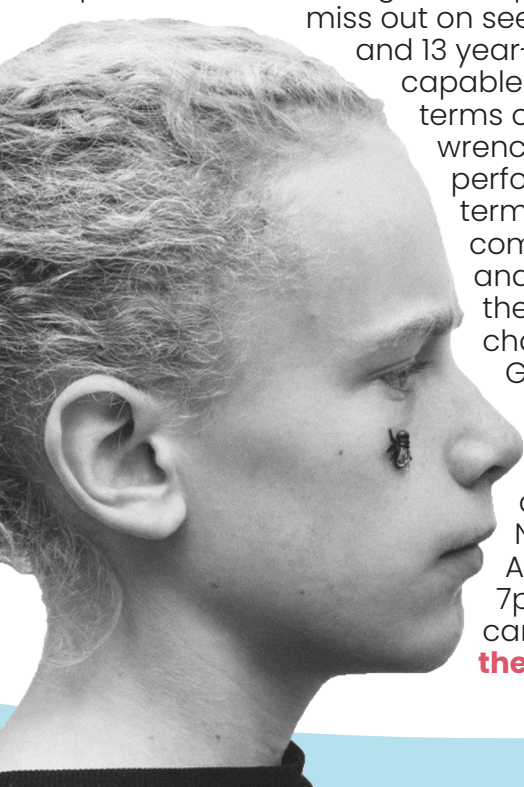
This means we are able to offer an enhanced programme of extra-curricular clubs and academic interventions in each school using contracted teacher time.

In order to set our term dates for 2025/26, we are collating evidence as part of an evaluation to help us decide whether to take a similar approach going forwards.

This **section of our website**

outlines the context and thinking behind this trial, together with how we are evaluating it.

Part of the evaluation involves collecting feedback from staff, students and parents. We would be grateful if you could **fill in the form here** to give us your views.



Year 12's Living Literature Tree

On Tuesday 12th November, 6 leaders from the sixth form co-led the first ever young persons summit in Cambridge, as part of our membership of Cambridge Citizens.

Chesterton Sixth Form, along with a range of other civic organisations such as Cambridge University; faith groups; ARU; and Parkside school, are founding members of Cambridge Citizens, a broad based organising group made up of civic organisation that sets out to work with decision makers in the city to improve the local area.

Over the past 6 months Cambridge Youth citizens have been carrying out listening exercises in our institutions and finding out what areas of life students have difficulties or issues with. This then led to a young persons summit. At the summit we campaigned on 4 actions, biodiversity in the city (Milton Road Primary); youth spaces (Parkside and NCA); cost of living (Chesterton Sixth Form, Long Road, CRC); and bus transport (Chesterton Sixth Form, Long Road, CRC). Ella Hone co-chaired the overall assembly, with Harry Weeks taking the key role of time keeper. Douaa Benad co-chaired the cost of living campaign and was supported by Pradanya Pundir who read testimony. Emma Acheson co-chaired the transport campaign and was supported by Gen Fish, who led the testimonies.

At the summit we held key decision makers to account and asked them to work with us to look to address the issues raised. We met Alex Rossiter from Cambridge Ahead, on our campaign around access to part time work for young people – Alex has agreed to working with us to provide a platform to find other entities in the city to enable an easier way for young people to access part time work, that is suitable to their needs such as beliefs, available time, and the location of job opportunities. We have also been in contact with Daniel Zeichner MP, who has offered to meet us at another date to hear our testimony and concerns around increasing the discretionary bursary.

We met Mayor Johnson (Combined Authority) about buses and the issues that students face, such as late buses, ghost buses, full buses, and the connectivity to more rural areas of the county. Mayor Johnson agreed to work with us and he will look to convene a meeting with the bus operators to work through the multiple problems with the bus service, surfaced in the listening campaign.

In all it was a great afternoon and just showed how our young people can have influence and agency with key decision makers.



Live Lounge

Well done to all the performers who took part in last Thursday's Live Lounge. We had a great range of Year 7-10 performances from all instrument families and voice – from Vivaldi to Lewis Capaldi! The next Live Lounge will be in February and all will be very welcome to sign up to perform



Mirada

Well done to Year 10 band Mirada who performed a sell-out gig, supported by Vintage Rec, at the Portland Arms at the end of half-term. The gig was really enjoyed by all attending and the band performed a fantastic set of songs, both originals and covers. Please see attached photo.

Senior Citizens' Entertainment

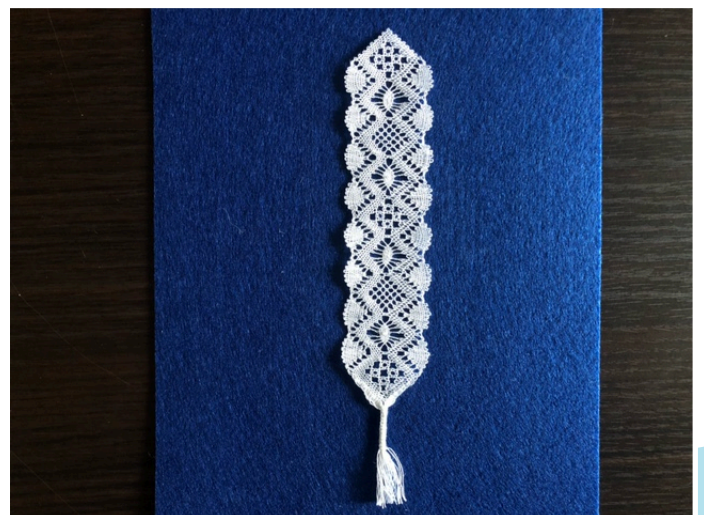
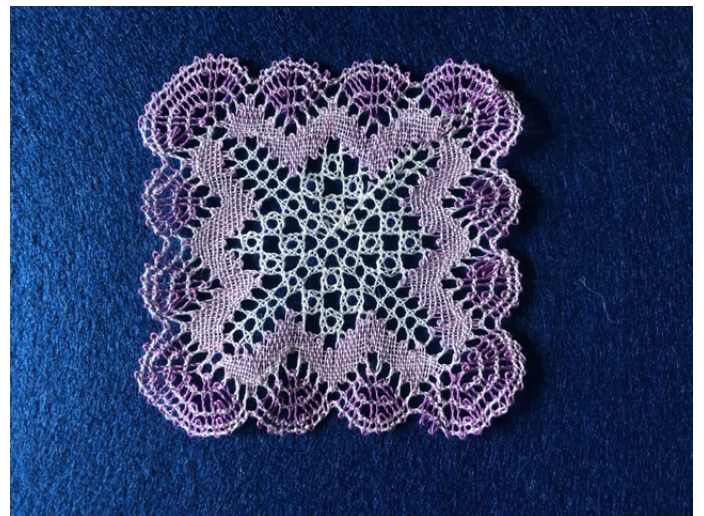
Do you know any local senior citizens? Please do invite them along to our Christmas Entertainment. See the attached image for details. All are welcome! The event will feature our choirs and many of our instrumental groups.

Carol Service

The annual school carol service is taking place at St John's College Chapel on Thursday 12th December. Ticket information has been sent out to all involved. It promises to be a special festive evening with over 200 students taking part.

Lacemaking Qualification Success

Many congratulations to **Annabelle, Flavie and former student Hadas** who have passed their Lace Guild Foundation Torchon Lacemaking qualification. Assessors complimented the lacemakers on their portfolios, particularly praising use of colour and presentation. Well done! Lacemaking Club takes place in W12 on Mondays after school. Contact nataliethelacelady@gmail.com for details.



6th Form Geography Lecture- University of Cambridge

This week, a group of our Year 13 Geography students had the remarkable opportunity to attend a lecture at the University of Cambridge titled 'China, Africa, and the West: Changing Power and Influence'. The session explored the evolving relationships between these global regions, examining the shifting dynamics of economic and political power. With a particular focus on the concept of "place," the lecture delved into how perceptions and meanings of places are shaped by historical, cultural, and geopolitical influences. The experience was both thought-provoking and inspiring, giving our students a glimpse into university-level discussions and broadening their understanding of complex global issues.

What Do You Call a Member of Mt Club at Chesterton? – A "Star" Fish!

Chesterton Youth Theatre is very excited that tickets are now on sale for its forthcoming musical production of 'Finding Nemo Jr' which will be performed on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December in the Atrium Theatre. There will be two shows per day with a matinee at 4pm and an evening show at 7pm. There are two different casts of main roles – the "Dory" and "Marlin" cast – so that as many "star" fish as possible can have their time in the spotlight! The majority of performers are relatively new to Chesterton and come from Year 7 and 8, however, the cast still nets performers from Years 9 and 10, some of whom are assisting Mr Cooper in the direction and choreography of the production. The show is based on the beloved 2003 Pixar movie, which it is hard to watch without it warming the cockles of one's heart! That's why we think it's such a great Christmas show, in that the themes of family, friendship and journeys (both physical and spiritual) are so prevalent. With adorable and eccentrically fishy characters; vibrant ensemble visuals; smash-hit songs like "Just Keep Swimming"; and oceanic energy all round, what more could you want from an hour at the theatre, made for all the family to enjoy?! More information can be [found here](#).

Chesterton Student Cast in Professional 'Cinderella'!

We want to take this juncture to congratulate Emilia (Yr 7) for winning a place in the Young Ensemble for the Cambridge Arts Theatre's 'Cinderella' which has just gone into rehearsal. This professional production promises to be as lavish, laugh-inducing and lovable as the Arts Theatre pantomimes always are, and with Emilia joining the company, we think it will be even better! Emilia had to go through a rigorous audition process, competing alongside 160 other young performers from the region, to be chosen as part of the 10-strong 'Team Cinders' (there are two teams, the other being 'Team Buttons'). She is also performing with a couple of younger children from our feeder primary schools, so we hope they will also be Chesterton Youth Theatre members one day! Juggling the role of Dory in 'Finding Nemo' with a professional pantomime schedule which spans 35 performances might make for some fairly choppy waters, but we wish Emilia all the best with her adventures on stage, and if you are able to go and see the pantomime in addition to 'Finding Nemo', [here are booking details](#).

Big Thanks to the PTA for the Archery Gear!

Thanks to the PTA for the kind donation of archery equipment. The Year 7 students are enjoying it for one of their after school clubs every Tuesday!



Building Lifesaving Skills: Year 9 Swimming Progression

In Year 9, we build on our students' previous swimming lessons by introducing lifesaving skills. This vital training equips them with essential techniques and boosts their confidence in the water. It's great to see how much they grow and develop through this program!



Literature Meets Dance (and a Bit of Madness)!

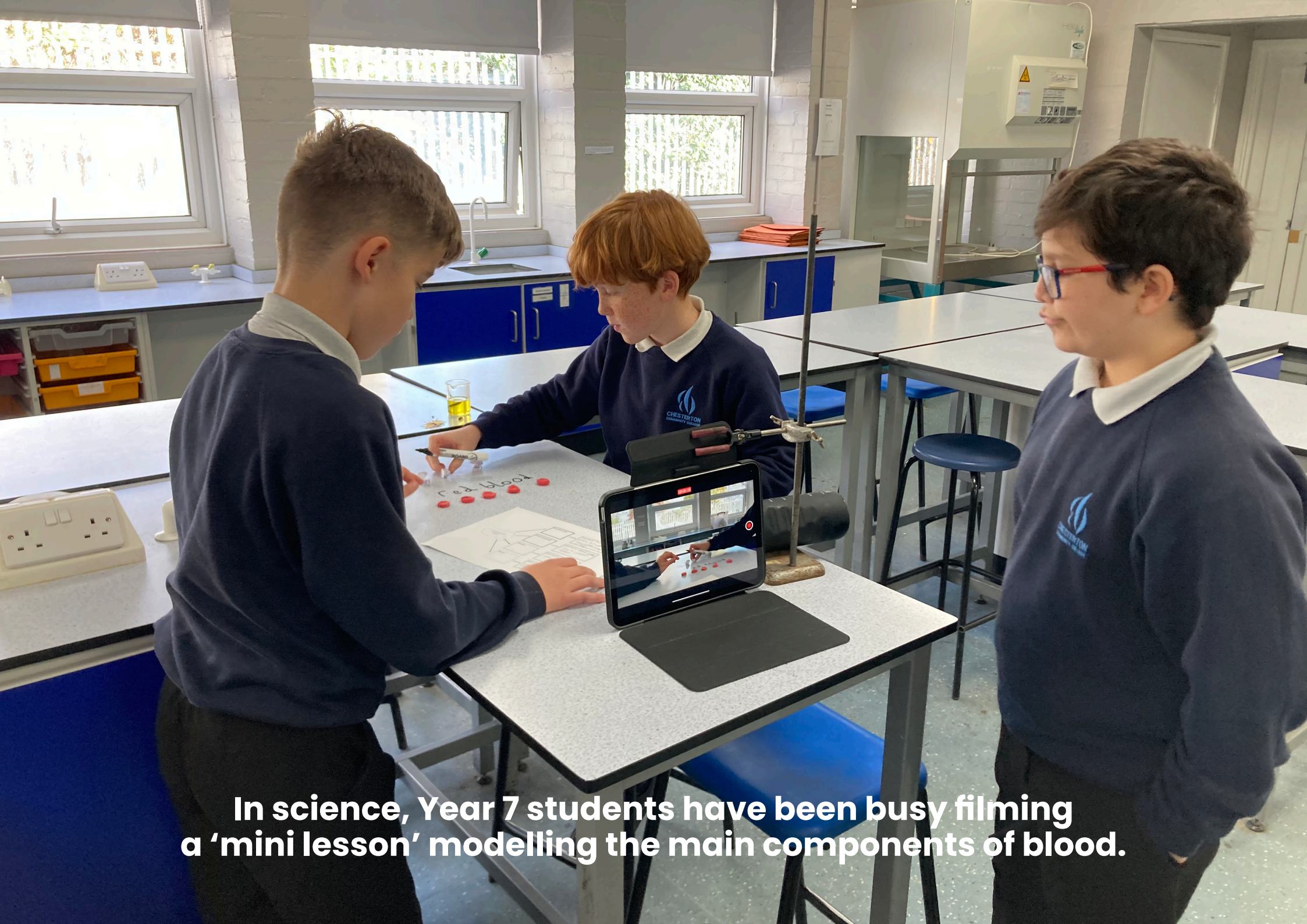
This morning, Year 12 had the unexpected joy of exploring *A Doll's House* by Ibsen through an interpretive Tarantella dance session! Armed with a few trusty musical instruments (think maracas and a tambourine that have certainly seen better days), we delved deep into the motifs of hysteria, madness, and confinement at the end of Act 2.

While I must admit the enthusiasm levels initially hovered somewhere below sea level, the students soon found the experience... memorable (even if they'd prefer to forget their impromptu dance debut). It turns out that blending literature with dance lessons might just be the secret sauce for unlocking deeper thematic understanding—or at least for creating some truly unforgettable classroom moments!

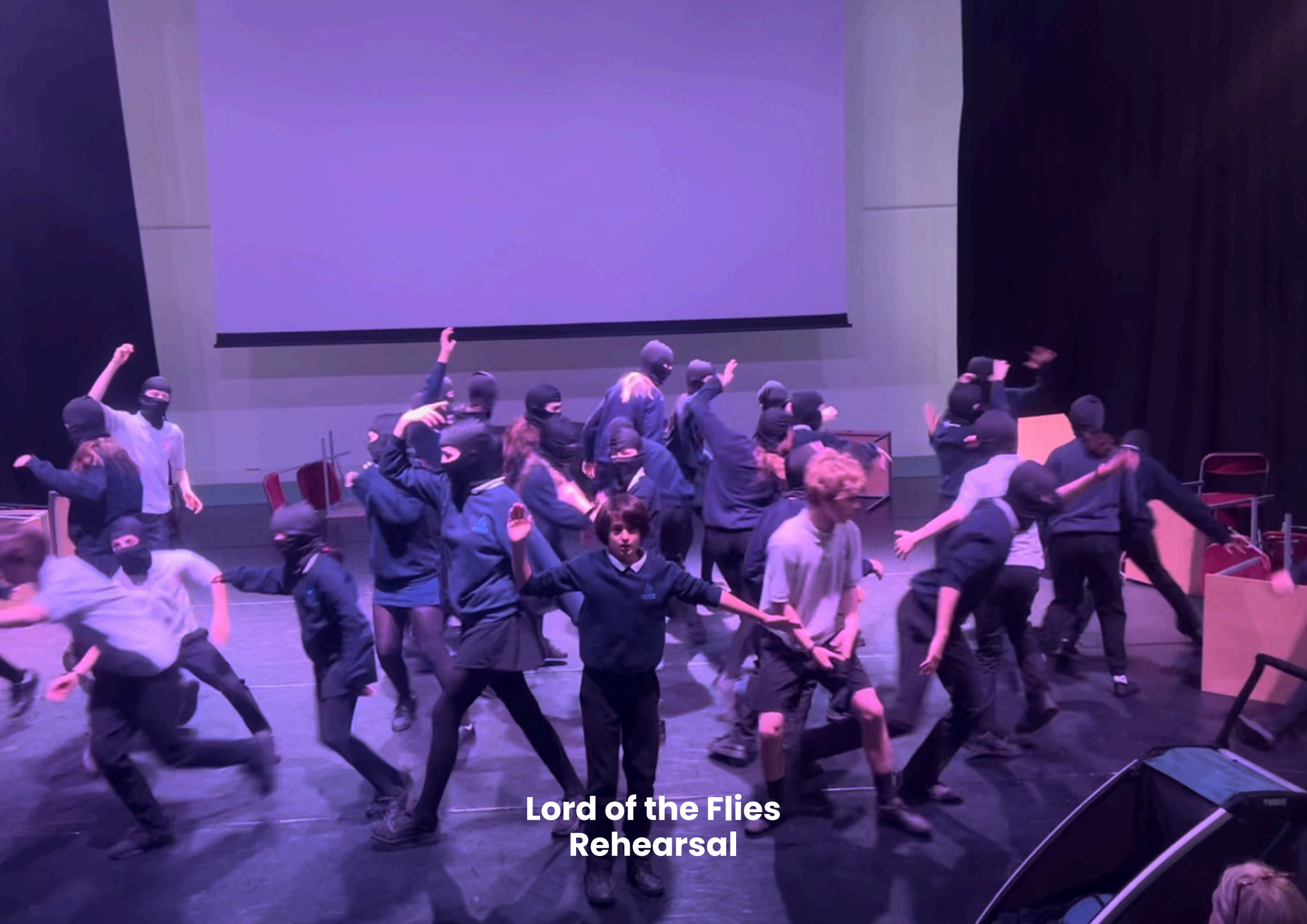
Rest assured, Year 12 has now moved from “less-than-thrilled” to “vaguely amused but begrudgingly appreciative.” I'll count that as a win.

Enjoy watching the clip of their performance—I promise it's worth it!





In science, Year 7 students have been busy filming a 'mini lesson' modelling the main components of blood.



**Lord of the Flies
Rehearsal**



**Some details from year 11
art mock exam final pieces**



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday 4th December
Arrivals from 1.30pm
Music from 1.45-3.20pm

Chesterton Community College,
Gilbert Road

Local senior citizens are warmly welcomed to an afternoon of music provided by the Chesterton Community College Music Department. There will be the opportunity to listen to musical items and enjoy some seasonal refreshments.

Booking is essential.
Please book via this QR code
or via the college reception on
01223 712150.

