

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**

## Christmas Fair

The Annual Chesterton Christmas Fair is coming up fast! There will be many fun, creative and tasty stalls to choose from, but the 'Last Minute Presents' table is hugely popular as kids can pick up nice things for someone special at an extremely low cost. To keep the prices low and make it affordable for all children, we rely on parental donations for the present stall. Please contribute items for the sale! Donations should be a gift in great condition (unopened and unused), ideally still with labels on, and one that you also wouldn't mind receiving yourself. Popular choices include candles, scarves, games, chocolates, bath sets, etc. Just leave your items in reception marked 'Christmas Fair'. Pricing this year will be mostly between 20p and £3 per item. The PTA volunteers wrap any present for free so that the children can bring them home ready to surprise a loved one. We will continue to accept your very important and much appreciated donations until Thursday 12 December!



## Lord of the Flies Hailed as a 'Tour De Force'

Congratulations to all those involved in last week's production of 'Lord of the Flies' which ran to packed houses for 2 nights. Audience members have praised it as a 'phenomenal', 'incredible', 'truly amazing' show, with theatre professionals describing it as a 'masterpiece' and 'tour de force'. All the elements of theatre – acting, directing, lighting, sound, set and costume design – came together to tell the story in a way which felt immersive and gripping regardless of where you were sitting.

The Year 9 company (with a handful of year 7s as 'Litluns') proved themselves to be far in advance of their years, reflecting the quality of pre-professional performers, and they all fully deserve the acclaim they have received. Not only did they conduct themselves brilliantly on stage, but they were also a delight to work with off-stage and showed determination, passion and generosity throughout the process of putting this ambitious piece together. Patrick Morris, artistic director of Menagerie Theatre Company and professional actor, came to see the show to select 4 students to represent Chesterton in the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition in 2025.

Olivia, May, Miles and Hari were picked by Patrick to take on the regional heat in early March, and they were specially commended for their outstanding portrayals of character, as well as clarity in terms of performance skill. Nonetheless, what wowed Patrick the most was the ensemble commitment from all. He was genuinely blown away by the energy and focus of every scene, as were many others. Whilst the story of 'Lord of the Flies' is about the 'darkness of man's hearts', the experience of staging it could not have been more bright, warm and inspirational. Those who 'loved' being part of it and spectating the final product, will remember it forever.

## Thank you

Thank you to the PTA for funding 4 new studio lights for the photography department. Seen here in use by Year 10 for their Grace Adams inspired 'Geography' shoot.



## Tall Tales

Resident Theatre company Corkscrew Theatre are bringing another production to the ADC Theatre in Cambridge! This time, a festive(ish) Shakespeare play, 'The Winter's Tale', from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> December!

"Exit pursued by a bear. Corkscrew Theatre bring Shakespeare's classic tale of jealousy and redemption to the ADC this Christmas: featuring this rather difficult stage direction...

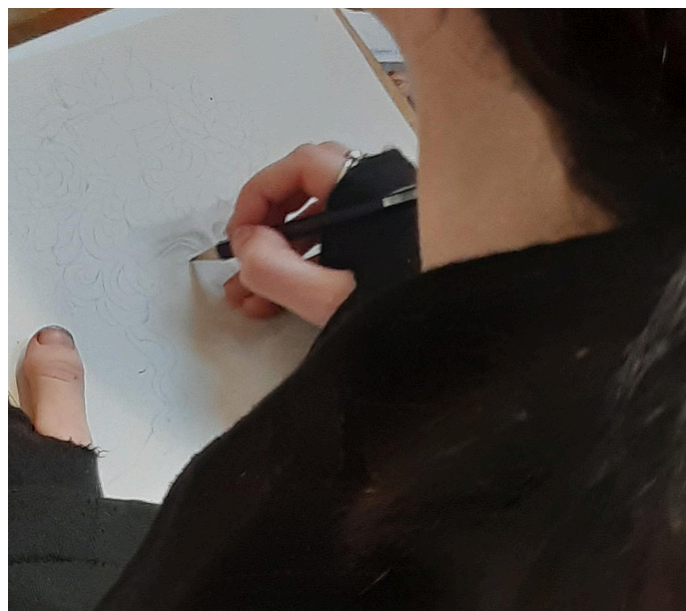
The beast inside the room is of course Leontes, King of Sicilia, who pursues his wife Hermione to an early grave (it seems), suspecting her of an affair with his best friend. A heady mix of dark and light, tragedy and comedy, and finally redemption (with a sprinkling of snow). The team that brought you Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, A Few Good Men, Horrox and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf return with this winter warmer!"

This production is suitable for ages 12 and over.

Tickets available [here](#).

## Casts and Concepts

Year 12 had an inspiring art trip last week. They visited the museum of classical archaeology to draw from the collection of casts and the Glen Ligon exhibition at the Fitzwilliam museum. Both of which we hope will inspire students on their personal investigations next term.





## Year 8 Netball Teams in Action Against Swavesey!

Last Wednesday, two Year 8 netball teams did an awesome job representing our school in matches against Swavesey Village College at Chesterton. It was great to see so many Year 8 students taking part. One team had a fantastic win, and the other just missed out in a really close game.

## Year 12 Rocks!

Last week, Year 12 Geography students headed into the centre of Cambridge to explore the question, "Does Cambridge rock?" The morning out offered a fascinating look at the city's geology as seen through the building materials.

The visit began with a tour of Cambridge's iconic buildings, where students examined the stones used in construction, with some nice fossils spotted. A hot chocolate break gave everyone a chance to watch a video on the background to the next spot.

The final stop took students to the cobblestones outside Trinity College's Great Gate, where they explored how the different rocks had been formed and moved through physical processes.





## Festival of Dance around the World!

On Thursday, 180 year 4 students from Milton Road, Arbury Primary and Mayfield were treated to a festival of dance from around the world. Led by excellent year 9 sports leaders, the primary students learnt dance motifs in different dance styles, which they then combined together to perform a group dance. A huge well done to our sports leaders; they were organised, enthusiastic and made the event a big success!

## Year 10 Explores Carbon Footprints in Mixed Media

We have been exploring the artist Jo Bradney and her work Carbon Footprint. Yr 10 pupils have been working on a large scale up at easels creating expressive fluid paintings inspired by the works of Bradney. Students have been using an exciting mixture of different media including charcoal, acrylic paint, ink and chalk, to create their multi mixed media paintings.





## Rotary Club Youth Speaks debate competition

Last week, three Year 13 students participated in the Rotary Club Youth Speaks debate competition held at Queens' College. Competition included a host of local private schools and sixth form colleges. Their debate was based around political censorship, and they all spoke with true conviction and flair. The judges and the audience were all very impressed with the detail, confidence and professionalism they all displayed. They were true assets to Chesterton and should be proud of their efforts, despite narrowly missing out on the overall victory. Well done, Emma, Mae and Fraser!

## Chesterton Sixth Form FC!

As November drew to a close, it marked the first (of hopefully many) competitive football fixture of the year for Chesterton Sixth Form where a mixture of students from both Year 12 and Year 13 played against St Andrew's College. It was a great atmosphere, and a game played with great spirit from all involved and was great to see so many students wanting to be involved. The final score was 5-7, and we very much look forward to the away fixture in the new year!



## Early Entry Programme

We are thrilled that 83% of our early entry candidates have been invited for interview; we wish them all the very best of luck with these which will be taking place over the next few weeks.

This week some of our Year 12 have had their first introductory session of all things early entry, led by our Early Entry Leads Mr Benger and Mr Zhang. Students gained a thorough insight into life as an Oxbridge student over other institutions, the specifics of the application process of the various early entry routes, and importantly, how they will be supported with building their profiles and then their applications if they were to be part of the programme. Several students have also signed up for a Year 12 Cambridge taster day at Churchill College taking place in January.





## Assembly Pianists

We have started a new initiative this half-term where students hear a piano performance at the start of their house assembly as they arrive in the auditorium. So far we have had a two brilliant weeks of performances from Austin (Year 8) and Lili (Year 10). We look forward to continuing this in the New Year and any interested students should see Miss Wilson to be added to the rota.

## Gabrieli Roar

97 singers from Years 7-11 (and 12 at CMS) performed at Ely Cathedral on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November as part of the Gabrieli Roar 'A Grand Georgian Christmas' tour.

The students performed alongside other school and youth choirs as well as professional singers and instrumentalists from the Gabrieli Consort.

They took part in the rehearsals and concert with great enthusiasm and professionalism, working hard to learn some challenging repertoire. It was wonderful to perform in the Cathedral.

You can find more information about the project by following Gabrieli on Facebook or Instagram.

The students were an absolute credit to Chesterton. Well done to all involved.

## St Andrew's Concert

28 students from Year 8-11 gave a great concert at St Andrew's Chesterton on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The concert featured woodwind, brass, string, voice and piano solos, and Chesterton Singers. Well done to all who performed and thank you to all who attended to support the students.

## Senior Citizens' Entertainment

On the afternoon of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December we hosted our annual Senior Citizens' Entertainment. Around 50 senior citizens from the local community, including some residents of our local care homes, came along to the auditorium to hear some festive and non-festive items performed by our brass and saxophone group, choirs, ukulele and guitar group, string groups, jazz band, small jazz group, Y10 band Mirada, and wind band. It was a lovely afternoon and those attending and performing seemed to really enjoy themselves! Thank you to Tesco who kindly donated the refreshments for this event.

We are always keen to bring the music department out into the local community, so if any families or friends of the school would be interested in music department groups coming to perform for a community event or group then please do contact Miss Wilson.

## Next week in the music department

Next week will see a variety of musical events. On Monday and Tuesday after school some of our student groups will be performing music on the playground as students leave to go home.

On Thursday our school carol service is taking place at St John's College Chapel. With over 200 students involved it promises to be a special event.

## Finding Nemo

There are still a few tickets left for **'Finding Nemo'** next week. It's going to be a delightful, heart-warming production introducing some superstars on to Chesterton's Atrium Theatre stage from our new Year 7 cohort. Tickets can be booked on the **following link**.

Don't be a fish out of water, get caught in the riptide or miss the boat!!! Net those treasures in now!!!





**Gabrieli Roar**



# Guitars and Ukuleles

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen – trad.  
Let it Snow – Styne/Cahn



Senior Citizens' Entertainment



