



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.

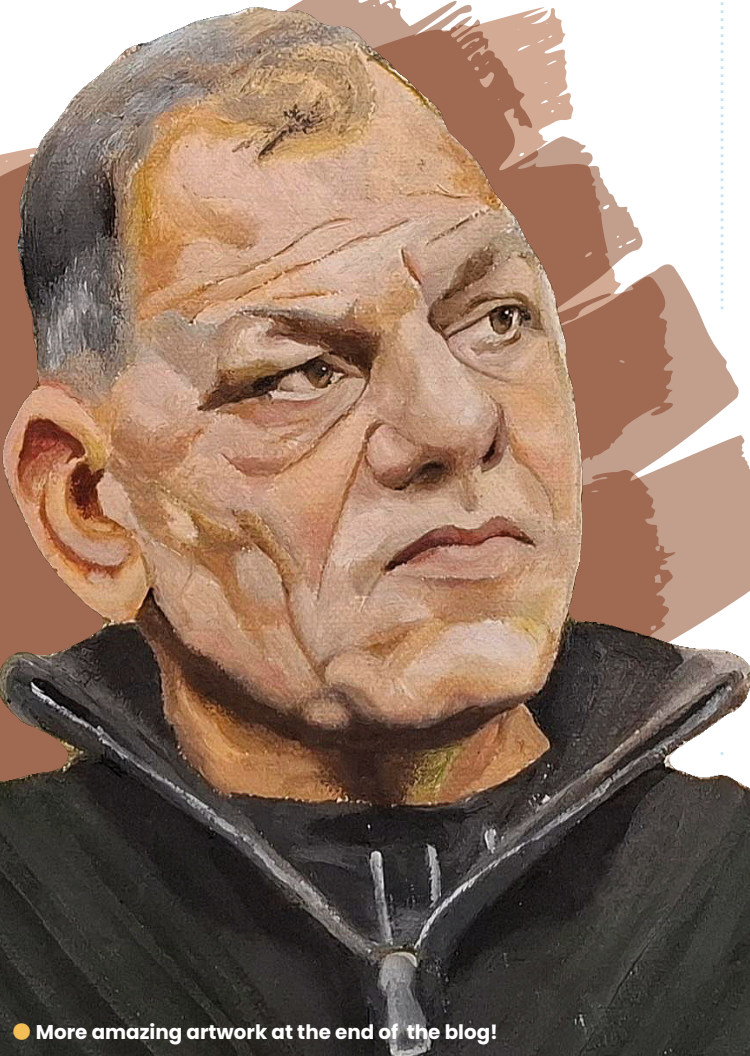


Thank you so much to all our staff and students for their ongoing hard work.

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



Music News

Congratulations to all those who took part in the School Carol Service in the last week of the autumn term. It was a lovely community event, with over 200 students taking part from Chesterton and Mayfield, and some fantastic performances of festive and non-festive music and readings. Well done to all those who also took part in Music on the Playground, sharing festive music with students as they left the school site at the end of the day.

We now look forward to events this term, including:

- The Year 8 gamelan workshop on 3rd February
- The next Live Lounge on 13th February – students who would like to play should sign up on the music office door
- The PTA band night on 28th February
- The Y9-11 trip to see the Aurora Orchestra on 8th March
- The Y7-8 Multifaith Celebration on 19th March
- The sixth form trip to Six The Musical on 25th March
- The highlight of the term, the Spring Concerts at West Road on Thursday 27th March. All music groups will be performing at the Spring Concerts. It is not too late for students to join a music group and interested students should just come along to a rehearsal.

We also have some spaces in school currently for piano lessons as one of our teachers has expanded their hours. If interested, please contact Miss Wilson via the form sent to parents/carers this week.

A Royal Audience

Three of our talented performers – Laurie (Year 10), Sam (Year 11) and Charlie (Year 10) – had the life-changing opportunity on Monday to sing in front of King Charles at Buckingham Palace. The occasion, held in a private living room, was to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Holocaust survival. Our students were part of a group organised by Echo Eternal, comprising the National Youth Music Theatre plus some other school students from the Midlands.

King Charles wore a suit and was accompanied by staff such as his private secretary, as well as some Holocaust survivors, honoured guests of the king. He toured the three performance stations admiring the presentations: NYMT sang We Are the Light; a virtual reality display; and 80 candles (for 80 years). He chatted casually to the students about what they had learned about the Holocaust, and what GCSEs they are studying for.

Our students had already performed for the Prime Minister previously, at a dinner at the Raffles Hotel. We congratulate Laurie, Sam and Charlie for being chosen for this prestigious experience, one they will never forget.

Alumni Project

Chesterton students go on to pursue fascinating careers, across a broad spectrum of fields.

We are launching our Alumni Project with this example from **Jon Hutchinson, Chief Superintendent, Head of Specialist Operations, Joint Protective Services for Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Constabularies.**



"I left Chesterton Community College in 1994.

I am a Police Officer. I hold the rank of Chief Superintendent and am Head of Specialist Operations across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Police Forces.

I realised that I was interested in policing while I was doing my A Levels. I felt very strongly about protecting vulnerable people and thought policing would be a good way to achieve this.

I went to university, but most new recruits who join today do so on a Degree Apprenticeship: a three-year programme where you learn on the job. Many new recruits come straight from A Levels.

I started as a PC "on the beat" in Cambridge City Centre. I later became a Detective and was Head of Cambridge CID for many years. I enjoyed (and still enjoy) investigating serious crimes. There are many ex-Chesterton pupils who are currently serving Police Officers.

The best element of policing is the variety. There are so many different areas in which you can gain experience or specialise. It is quite exciting at times and can really get the adrenaline pumping!

We have a diverse workforce and there are roles for people who have different skills. One essential skill you must have is a desire to make your community a better place in which to live, work or visit. Some people stay in policing for five years, while others stay for their whole working lives."

If you or someone you know is an ex-Chesterton student and would be willing to share their story and any career advice, please contact nvonschreiber@ccc.tela.org.uk

Chesterton Youth Theatre and Drama Clubs This Term

2025 has started with a bang in the drama department! It's a very intense and exciting time. Here's a rundown of what's happening above and beyond our lessons:

- Year 11 GCSE drama students are rehearsing for their Examination Showcase to be performed on Wednesday 5th February in the Atrium Theatre 4.30 – 8.30pm, under the direction of Ms Marston and Lesley Ford. If you would be interested in attending this performance examination, please email wmales@ccc.tela.org.uk to reserve a seat. There are points in which audience members can leave the auditorium or arrive later into the evening, but otherwise it will be expected that audience are supportive to all 24 candidates performing. The extracts being performed are suitable for age 12+, are largely comic and come from modern plays ranging between Tom Stoppard's masterpiece 'Arcadia' to Terry Johnson's adaptation of the film 'The Graduate'. The Year 11 actors are a force of nature, determined to give the performances of their lives! Seeing them in action in such celebrated plays will be a treat for all theatre enthusiasts, as well as – we hope – the examiner.
- Year 10 GCSE drama students are rehearsing for the play version of George Orwell's classic novel '1984', to be performed in early March. For now – as is a central theme – we'll keep the rest of the details secret! Suffice to say it's a production that aims to make roller coasters seem rather dull in comparison...
- Musical Theatre Actors from across the year groups have auditioned for 'Mary Poppins Jr' this week, to be performed at the end of the Easter term, directed by Mr Cooper. With over 75 auditionees, and only around 30 places in the cast, it's been a very competitive process. What we've tried to emphasise is that the audition experience is a performance in itself, and that other opportunities will come to those who have not been cast this time. Rehearsals will take the place of Musical Theatre Club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and are for the 'MP' Company only.

- Improvisation Actors in Year 7 – 9 are invited to drama club on Fridays 3.15 – 4.15pm which is being run for the next half-term by Year 10 Drama students. It will be overseen by a member of staff in drama, and everyone in the younger years is welcome to drop-in or attend every week. Improvisation is such a key skill to build for so many walks of life, and the games and exercises shared will be fun and creative. Why not give it a try if you haven't already?
- After February half-term, Ms Marston and associates will be conducting auditions for 'Romeo & Juliet', CYT's major production to be performed in the final week of the summer term. This gives actors from all years (and beyond the College) a chance to really dig their teeth into some of the best text ever written, and to be part of a unique version of Shakespeare's classic. More info will follow about the auditions in due course.
- Additionally, after February half-term, we will be starting a Year 8 Panto Company with workshop then rehearsal sessions on Thursdays 3.15 – 4.30pm. This club is open to all students in year 8, and those who commit to it can look forward to presenting pantomimes to the public (and on Year 6 Induction Day) at the end of June, as well as relishing the process of creating these together as a cohort under the direction of Mr Cooper.
- Tech Club will continue to run on Fridays 3.15 – 4.15pm with Mr Males. The club is highly specialist, and you should email Mr Males if you are not already a member to enquire if there is space to accommodate new members. The club is focused on production preparation in relation to lights, sound, costume, set and staging, and we are grateful to have so much for a school in terms of resources of this nature.

That's it for the time being; we're combining the pursuit of excellence in selective projects with being inclusive to all during the free, club sessions on offer over the course of the term. We hope this will be appreciated by everyone who loves theatre, and wants to be part of it at Chesterton. If you have any questions, please do feel free to be in touch with Suzy Marston, Lee Cooper or Will Males via email or Edulink. 'Only Connect'...

UCAS update

We would like to congratulate our students who applied to Oxford, all of whom have received offers! We now look forward to updating you regarding our Cambridge applicants at the end of the month.

We would also like to congratulate the rest of the Y13 students who are regularly receiving offers for universities from the likes of York, Manchester, Durham, Liverpool and Exeter.

Y13

Y13 students are currently sitting their mock exams which will finish next Friday. After this, students will spend time reflecting on their performances with both their tutors and teachers to ensure they then make the most of the remaining time this term.

Y12

This week, Y12 students have participated in an academic writing course run by the Royal Literary Fund. The day supported students getting to grips with approaching academic writing, reflecting on different types of essay writing and critical thinking. Students engaged well with the sessions which should serve them particularly well as they progress through their Extended Projects.

ELA term dates 2025/26

AUTUMN TERM

Professional days Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September 2025 (no students in school)

Start of autumn term 1: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

October half term: Thursday 23rd October – Friday 31st October 2025

Start of autumn term 2: Monday 3rd November 2025

Last day of term: Friday 12th December 2025

Christmas holidays: Monday 15th December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026

SPRING TERM

Start of spring term 1: Monday 5th January 2026

February half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

Start of spring term 2: Monday 23rd February 2026

Last day of spring term: Friday 27th March 2026

Easter holidays: Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026

SUMMER TERM

Start of summer term 1: Monday 13th April 2026

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

May half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026

Start of summer term 2: Monday 1st June 2026

End of academic year: Friday 17th July 2026

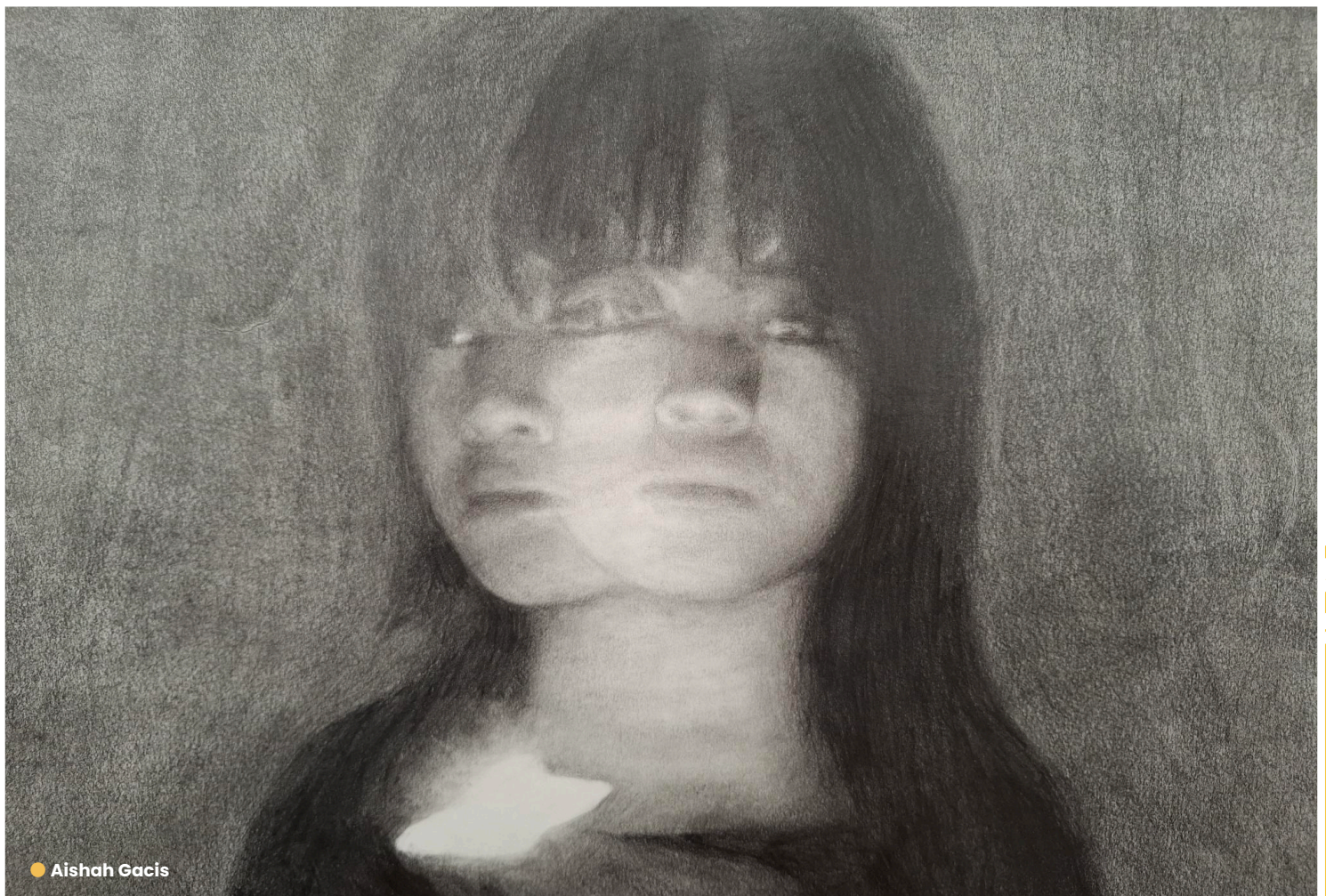
Artwork of the Week!



● Holly Giles



● Sid le Vann



● Aishah Gacis