

Chesterton Blog

24th January 2025



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

Endless Stories at the University Library

This week a group of Y7 students had the opportunity to visit a fascinating exhibition of manuscripts at Cambridge University Library. Collected by a Dutch scholar in the 17th century, the works encompass twelve languages from Arabic to Javanese. The group were impressed with the age of some of the manuscripts on display (the oldest is a commentary on the Koran from 1231) and the wide range of subject matter which covers everything from religion and medicine to grammar and poetry. Pupils' favourites included a book made from palm leaves, and a manuscript annotated with doodles of a cat!

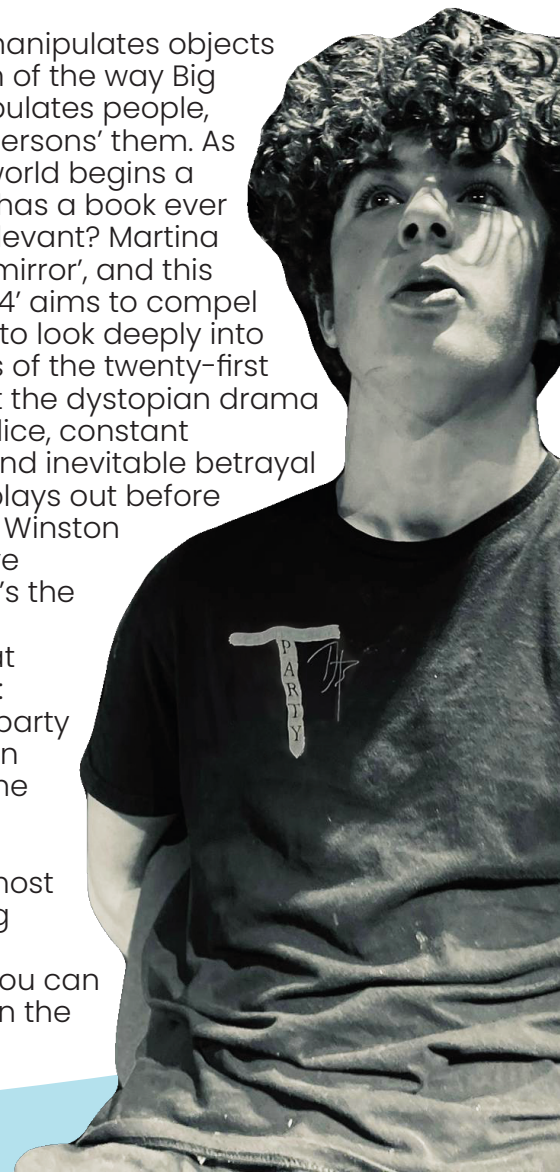


Sanity is not statistical

CYT'S GCSE Drama Cohort 2026 is excited to present a new production of '1984', inspired by George Orwell's novel of the same title, to be performed at **7pm on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th March 2025 in The Atrium Theatre, Cambridge.**

This exhilarating adaptation of Orwell's classic novel draws heavily on the 2013 dramatization by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan, adding its own twists and truths. Here, Chesterton's GCSE Company take the notion of self-fragmentation a notch further, by depicting the everyman Winston as his past, present and future self, with his secret lover Julia embodied as both the woman she presents herself to be in the Ministry, and as the rebellious spirit she contains within.

The staging manipulates objects as a reflection of the way Big Brother manipulates people, and then 'unpersons' them. As the Western world begins a new chapter, has a book ever been more relevant? Martina tells us: 'it's a mirror', and this version of '1984' aims to compel its audiences to look deeply into the reflections of the twenty-first century, whilst the dystopian drama of thought police, constant surveillance and inevitable betrayal dynamically plays out before our eyes. Can Winston and Julia's love survive? What's the future for our children? What matters more: loyalty to the party or to one's own integrity? Come and find the answers from some of the most exciting young actors in Cambridge! You can book tickets on the link [here](#).



Big Schools' Birdwatch 2025

This week, Nature Club carried out its yearly birdwatch around the school grounds. At CCC, we're extremely lucky to be surrounded by a wide range of trees, hedges and shrubbery, making it the perfect place to head outside with binoculars and a camera and see what's around.

During our watch, we saw a wide variety of birds. Our list below counts the highest number of each individual bird seen at one time. How many of these bird species do you recognise?

- 2 Pied wagtails
- 1 Grey wagtail
- 3 Robins
- 17 Woodpigeons
- 13 Jackdaws
- 6 Magpies
- 5 Carrion crows
- 4 Goldfinch
- 1 Black headed gull
- 4 Herring gulls
- 1 Lesser black backed gull
- 1 Great tit
- 1 Goldcrest

Our sightings will be added to the data of the thousands of other schools that take part; this will help the RSPB to map the data for this year and compare trends to historical data, identifying which birds are thriving and those that might be struggling and need the charity's help.

Did you know that you can also take part and contribute to the world's largest garden wildlife survey? The Big Garden Birdwatch takes place THIS weekend from 24-26th January. **Visit the RSPB website to find out more!**

Personal Creative Journeys

Year 13 art and photography students presented their unit 1 personal investigation work to year 12 art and photography students. This was a fantastic opportunity for year 13 to share and show off their creative journeys and for year 12 to gain inspiration for their personal creative development.



Wood Pigeon



Pied Wagtail

● Photos taken by Khai Naicker in Year 8



Fifteenth Lamda Students: Top Grades

Congratulations to fifteen Chesterton students who have recently taken LAMDA exams.



Five (Rose , Florence, Sammy, Javi, Miles and Danny) who took their LAMDA Grade 5 in December received their results last week and we're delighted (though not surprised) to report that they ALL got Distinctions! They will be moving on to grade 6. Further to this we had nine students (Harriet, Marie, Bethan, Beatrice, Claudia, Gabriella, Siddharth, Roza and Mia) who completed their exams in grades 4 and 3 Acting and Speaking in Public. Six students achieved a distinction and and three merits which is excellent news.

U16 Boys Basketball: Highlights from the last two games

The U/16 basketball team have had a couple of fixtures since the start of the Spring Term. Both fixtures vs. IVC and Cottenham Village College were an excellent experience for our senior basketball players. The matches were close, however both ended in defeat with the latter being a very tight scoreline. Attendance at clubs has been fantastic this year for our basketballers and we hope to maintain this throughout the year. We host some District Basketball Finals competitions soon so watch this space!

Strong Performances from Year 7 & 8 Netball Teams!



The Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams played away games at Cottenham, facing strong opposition. Both Chesterton teams performed brilliantly, securing comfortable wins and showcasing the hard work they've been putting into training on Tuesdays (Year 8) and Thursdays (Year 7) after school. Looking forward to the next fixtures!





A Royal Audience

Three of our talented performers – Laurie (Year 10), Sam (Year 11) and Charlie (Year 10) – had the life-changing opportunity last week to sing in front of King Charles at Buckingham Palace.

1984

"Sanity is not statistical"



*7:00pm, 3rd-4th March 2025,
The Atrium Theatre, Cambridge*