

Chesterton Blog

7th February 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

PTA Band night social

Tickets now on sale - Friday 28th February @ The Portland Arms

The Chesterton Community College PTA invites you to a Band Night at the Portland Arms. Now in its second year, the gig will feature talented school bands 'Zephyrus' and 'Mirada' along with parent covers band 'Partial Recall'.

This will be a chance to socialise as a community, whilst enjoying some live music with all proceeds going to the PTA.

The gig will be at The Portland Arms, a great local live music venue. Book early as we expect this to be a very popular event that will sell out fast. Under-18s are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are £10 Adult and £5 under 18s.

Year 12 Churchill College Taster Day

Last week, our aspiring Year 12 Oxbridge applicants attended a taster day at Churchill College, Cambridge. They received advice on making competitive applications to Cambridge, a tour of the college and a taste of Cambridge teaching delivered by the university's academics. Our students engaged really well with the academic sessions and gained a lot of valuable knowledge and experience from the day.

Year 9 Art Club

Students have been painting and drawing from direct observation. Every pupil had the opportunity to pick fruit or vegetables that they found visually interesting and represented their natural form using coffee, ink and biro. Pupils have been creating paintings inspired by the artist Natasha Clutterbuck. Clutterbuck creates large scale paintings and drawings of vegetables using raw found materials. **More pictures at the end of the blog!**



Year 8 Gamelan Workshop at Cambridge

On Monday 3rd February 40 Year 8 students had the opportunity to take part in a gamelan workshop and world music session at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Music. The gamelan is a traditional Indonesian percussion orchestra; exploring the gamelan complemented our recent studies of Brazilian samba and Trinidadian steel pans very nicely. Well done to all the students who took part for joining in really well.

GCSE and A Level Dark Room Workshops

Professional Photographer Philip Morley has been visiting Chesterton to provide a series of half day and full day Dark Room Workshops for GCSE and A level photography students.

Students have been taking black and white photographs with traditional SLR cameras in preparation for the workshops. During the session students learn about exposure times, creating a contact sheet, using dark room processing chemicals and developing final piece black and white photographs. Full day workshops also introduce the traditional editing techniques of dodge and burn.



Mythology workshop - exploring the aftermath of the Trojan war!

On Wednesday this week, some intrepid KS3 myth enthusiasts set out on the journey home from Troy, alongside the lesser-known hero Teucer. Students had the chance not only to build their own boats, but had to cross the sea (metaphorically, of course!) and - having been turned away from home - settle an empty island.



Students used this as a chance to think about what kind of society they'd like to live in and made rules for their imaginary land; lots of our students advocated for sharing resources more fairly and welcoming people to their island. To Miss Legg's relief, everyone agreed there should be no violence!

Thanks goes to our lovely Sixth form volunteers, Portia, Lucy and Ro, as well as our GCSE helpers, Abigail, Yashoda and Artemis! Thanks also to Mr Penman and Miss Trevett, for their valuable support during the workshop.

If this has piqued your interest, do keep your eyes peeled for the next mythology workshop some point next half term.

Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival!

What a day! We had over 300 Year 2 students taking part in our Multi-Skills Festival, and it was amazing to see so much energy and enthusiasm. Helping to run the event were 38 fantastic Year 9 sports leaders, who did an incredible job delivering the different activities throughout the day.

From fun agility drills to exciting team games, the younger students had a blast—and it was all made possible by our Year 9s, who stepped up with confidence and leadership. Their enthusiasm and support didn't go unnoticed—primary school teachers were seriously impressed with how well they led the activities and encouraged the kids.

A massive well done to everyone involved! It was a brilliant day of sport, teamwork, and leadership—we're already looking forward to the next one!

Swavesey cluster fixture results

Last Wednesday we had an amazing day at the Swavesey cluster fixture, with 50 students from different year groups, taking part across football, netball and basketball matches. The energy, teamwork, and sportsmanship on display were fantastic!

The Year 7 football teams put in strong performances, with both the 5-a-side and 9-a-side teams securing great results. The Year 8 footballers also delivered an impressive win, showing real skill and determination.

In basketball, the U14 boys played a close and competitive match, while the Year 7 mixed-gender team battled hard for a well-earned draw. A special mention to the Year 9 girls, who put in a dominant performance to take the win.

Well done to everyone involved—we're already looking forward to the next fixture!



Year 13

We are thrilled to have supported 92% of our Year 13 cohort with their UCAS submission. All students have already received a wealth of offers from Russell Group universities across a range of subject areas.

We would also like to congratulate all of our students who received offers from Cambridge and Oxford, again spanning across a breadth of subject areas including Engineering, History, Politics and Egyptology.

Having now completed their mock exams, students are reflecting on their performances both with tutors and subject teachers and collaboratively devising action plans for the rest of the term.

Year 12

Our students continue to progress well and involve themselves in the community, both in and out of school. Students have signed up to various volunteering roles which include them supporting in subject areas in school, supporting weekly at Milton Road Primary School and running window painting sessions at Cambridge Manor Care Home. Volunteering and being community minded are an important part of our offer and really aid our student's well-rounded development. It has been so encouraging to see all of our Year 12 students really embrace these opportunities.

Cross-Country Success!

Three Chesterton students qualified for the Anglian School Cross Country event where they will represent Cambridgeshire on Saturday 1st February. The 3 students recently competed at the County Championships at Kings Ely where Hannah (year 7), Lars (year 7), and Hamish (year 9) finished in 10th, 12th, and 13th place respectively. This is a fantastic achievement for all students and we wish them the very best with this next cross-country event. Luckily it's athletics season soon where they can continue their running journey.



Artwork of the Week!

