



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 half term.

**Rolf Purvis**  
**Executive Headteacher**

## The Showcase & Burwell House, 2025

A huge congratulations to the Year 11 GCSE drama group for their incredible performances in the final examination Showcase they performed on Wednesday 5th February. The weekend prior, the Cohort spent the weekend in Burwell House on a 'drama retreat', so that they might prepare fully for this important event, as well as enjoy time together in the beautiful surroundings and each other's glorious, fun-loving company! Quinn, a Year 12 supporting the year 11s, wrote a review of their performances on the Sunday morning:

*"Watching the Component Two rehearsal was wonderful for all the reasons that one now expects from Chesterton Youth Theatre: the acting, the directing, the energy, the drive. All of these qualities have been pointed out numerous times, so it feels reductive to dwell on them again. What I noted about this particular show, though, was its sense of flow.*

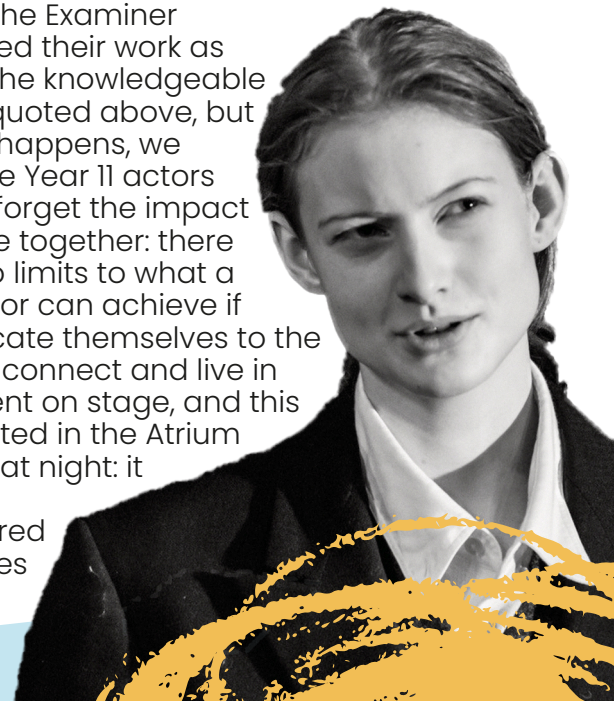
*These are ostensibly eight very different plays - from the visceral dread of "Revolt" to the witty badinage of "The Odd Couple", the audience is made to undergo a cavalcade of emotions and feelings. Yet, there is a thread between them: a flow.*

*Only when these extracts are acted truly excellently does this thread reveal itself. The perfect illustration of this is the transition from "The Odd Couple" to "Angels in America". The use of New York accents in both smooths the changeover from sparkling comedy to contemplative tragedy; the humour in "The Odd Couple" is swiftly contrasted with Prior's heartbreaking sob of "I want to be healthy again!". From laughter, we are suddenly made to cry, and the resulting effect is cathartic...By moving between all these emotions so seamlessly, the audience (and, of course, the cast) is able to work through their feelings and leave the show on the final, hopeful note of "Loveplay": "Here, you, now, this"."*

The work then developed further in the Atrium Theatre, and was watched by an audience of around 100 parents and friends, as well as the examiner. Celeste, a drama student in Year 10, wrote:

*"I truly don't think there is a word to accurately describe how beautiful and moving and awe-inspiring and even hilarious their pieces were...Every single person gave something so indescribably special. Just like you mentioned in class, there is something in their eyes that portrays such emotion and passion. Again, I just can't put it into words. Even though I've never spoken to most of them, I felt a strange yet wonderful connection to them during their performances and I'm so proud of them for it."*

We hope the Examiner appreciated their work as much as the knowledgeable students quoted above, but whatever happens, we hope these Year 11 actors will never forget the impact they made together: there really is no limits to what a young actor can achieve if they dedicate themselves to the craft, only connect and live in the moment on stage, and this was reflected in the Atrium Theatre that night: it will be remembered for decades to come!



## Alumni Project Launched

Please take a look at our new feature on the **website under the About tab**.

The idea is to showcase the wide variety of careers chosen by ex-Chesterton students. We hope our students will find inspiration and encouragement.



If a student would like to find out more - such as by taking up David Williams's generous offer to tour the Vet School - then teachers can contact the alumni for them.

We want to build up a huge bank of these contacts so if you would like to suggest someone, please email [nvonschreiber@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:nvonschreiber@ccc.tela.org.uk)

## Wellbeing Newsletter – Spring Edition

The wellbeing newsletter includes lots of helpful tips and signposts to support you, your children and family as well a reminder on our wellbeing referral system at school. The newsletter has lots of different resources, so please read at your own pace!

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/CL4mNeEBOP5UCEV6?ref=Link>

If you have any wellbeing questions or suggestions for our next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hawkins on [shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:shawkins@ccc.tela.org.uk)

## Poetry Workshop at Pembroke

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> two of our fantastic young poets, Shira Yaacobi-Gross and Harleen Kaur, were welcomed into a tutorial-style workshop hosted by Professor Mark Wormald of Pembroke College, Cambridge (with some very fancy refreshments provided - see the saucer above...).

They worked with students from around town, including some from IVC. We also shared a room with Ted Hughes' fishing rods! Shira worked with a younger pupil to produce a piece of work that was congratulated and applauded, and told that she would be 'needed as an advisor.' Harleen also thrived in the workshop, writing intently, and enjoying the free writing that was opened up, saying that she was able to write on new topics she hadn't unlocked before. Adults were also expected to be writing, but I am confident in saying that nothing I produced quite matched our students' thoughtful and innovative poetry. Well done, Shira and Harleen!





## U/14 Girls Basketball Success!

The U/14 girls basketball team are District Champions after beating St Bede's in an exciting final game on Monday. After beating Parkside in the semi-final we started well against St Bede's racing into a 10 point lead at half time. St Bede's played some excellent basketball and came back into the game where they were winning by 1 point with seconds remaining. Suzie then stole the ball in the attacking half of the court before feeding Aleks to secure a buzzer shot - a lay-up to win the cup in the final second - final score 22-21. Well done to everyone involved!



## U16 District Champions!

The U16 Girls' Basketball Team are the 2025 District Champions after an epic one-point win over St. Bede's in Wednesday's final at Chesterton!

The team showed awesome teamwork and skills in the semifinal against Sancton Wood, earning their spot in the big game. The final was intense, with Chesterton chasing St. Bede's the whole way, always staying close but never quite ahead—until the very end! They never gave up, kept pushing as a team, and pulled off the win by just one point!

Every player brought the energy: Lilijana stepped up with clutch baskets, Ilazki, Maddy, and Lola brought nonstop hustle on defence, Sophie, Clara, and Anita crashed the boards, Paige dished out some amazing assists, and Paloma's speed and finishing were unstoppable.

Such a great team effort, and an amazing atmosphere—these girls absolutely smashed it!



## GCSE PE Students Explore Sports Science at ARU!

A group of 37 students were out of school last Wednesday for an exciting visit to the Sports Science Department at Anglia Ruskin University. They attended engaging lectures and even took part in hands-on lab activities. It was a fantastic and rewarding experience for these GCSE PE students!

## Inspiration from London Galleries

Sixth form Art & Photography Students enjoyed a great day in London to visit the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery. We started with seeing the Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery which showcased a diverse range of contemporary portrait photography. Then students explored the rest of the National Portrait Gallery with its interesting array of art styles and plenty of inspiration to get their own ideas developing.



We had a break for lunch on Trafalgar Square, taking in the sights and sounds of our capital city. Then out of the cold and into The National Gallery for the afternoon. The National Gallery gave students more creative perspectives to consider with its range of art work. Our A Level artists and photographers now have lots of inspiration they are using back in school and at home to develop their ideas for their Personal Investigation project. e for these GCSE PE students!

## English Speaking Union – ‘Discover Your Voice’ Workshop

30 of our year 7 students who have shown a particular aptitude for drama in their time at Chesterton thus far, took part in a workshop entitled ‘Discover Your Voice’ with the English Speaking Union on Tuesday this week. It was a hugely valuable experience in which so much of our current work on oracy was dynamically reinforced by a Shakespeare specialist practitioner. It’s always invigorating to hear key messages like ‘PEEL’ reinforced from a new voice, and the year 7s group seemed to really enjoy the experience, speaking and listening enthusiastically from start to finish! The ESU wrote to say: *“Your students were marvellous to work with: enthusiastic, self-disciplined and keen to develop. They are a credit to Chesterton.”*



We look forward to the regional heat of ESU’s ‘Performing Shakespeare’ competition in a few weeks, in which four of our year 9 students are representing the College.



## MFL Reading Out Loud Competition

Nine Chesterton students participated in the Modern Foreign Languages Reading Out Loud Competition at King's Ely last week. The event brought together schools from across the east of England, with students competing from Years 7 through to 13.



The competition involved students reading extracts from original Francophone, Germanic, or Hispanic literature in front of an audience and a panel of judges. The judges' criteria focused on correct articulation, accurate pronunciation, fluidity and appropriate speed, rhythm, suitable volume, and body language to enliven the reading.

To prepare, our students worked hard, including staying after school to practise their extracts and delivery with members of the MFL department. Their effort truly paid off, with all students giving exceptional readings that highlighted their linguistic abilities. Although making up only a tenth of the total participants, we took home a third of the prizes, including three first places. Performing these pieces in front of an audience required considerable courage, and each and every contribution was a testament to our students' hard work and passion for languages.

## Participants and Results:

- Khandro Hathorn (French, Year 8)
- Sam Gardner (French, Year 8)
- Roza Abos (German, Year 9) – 2<sup>nd</sup> prize
- Amelia Chapman (Spanish, Year 9)
- Ryad Tlemsani (German, Year 9) – 1<sup>st</sup> prize
- Francois Hennequin (Spanish, Year 11) – 1<sup>st</sup> prize
- Amelie Nsue Andrew (Spanish, Year 11) – 3<sup>rd</sup> prize
- Harry Weeks (German, Year 13) – 3<sup>rd</sup> prize
- Quinn Scott (Spanish, Year 12) – 1<sup>st</sup> prize

## Science Club

Year 7 Science club have been busy each Tuesday after school this term tackling a variety of challenges set for them by their teachers. These have included:

- Spaghetti towers
- Making 'Gold' coins
- Mystery bug identification
- Making Slime







**The Showcase & Burwell House  
2025**