

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**

## Poetry Workshop

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, six intrepid poets (and their less intrepid teacher) trekked from Chesterton to King's College School along the Backs, gathering inspiration for their poems on the theme of 'water.' We all undertook an intensive poetry experience with Peter Carpenter through the Elemental Poetry Anthology workshop programme, through Prof. Mark Wormald at Pembroke College Cambridge. Great fun was had by all, and Chesterton students put their best foot forward, engaging well, writing intently, offering thoughtful responses to other poems and volunteering their own beautiful ideas. Peter was very excited by their ideas - one student was even compared to Samuel Beckett! I would say between the six of them they have pretty comprehensively catalogued all the wonderful things water can mean to a community of people and nature. Well done Harleen, Roza, Oscar, Matilda, Ruiwen and Khai!



## Chesterton Musicians Win Big

Well done to the many Chesterton students who took part in the recent Cambridge Community Music Festival. It is brilliant to hear of their successes. In particular, a huge congratulations to the four winning students pictured:

- **Emma (Y8)** won the Hayden Challenge Cup for piano performance
- **Lucca (Y7)** won the Agnes Herron Salver for young flautist
- **Lilijana (Y10)** won the Gavin Richards Cup for most promising pianist
- **Giang (Y9)** won the Cambridge Community Festival Cup for outstanding piano performance

We are always delighted to hear of student successes in their music making. If you have any other successes you would like to share, please do let the music department know.



## Athletics season gains momentum!

The athletics season is in full swing, with more and more students pushing themselves to achieve personal bests. At last Tuesday's Athletics Club, it was clear that dedication and resilience are paying off.

Special mentions go to:

- **Sam P (Year 8)**, who ran an impressive 2:29 in the 800m—just 8 seconds shy of the Year 8 record of 2:21 set in 2000!
- **Hannah P (Year 7)**, who smashed her personal best in the 800m, bringing it down to 3:01.
- **Tom B (Year 7)**, whose outstanding consistency and effort saw him clear 1.40m in the High Jump.

These students are not just putting in the work during lessons—they're going above and beyond after school too. Their commitment is on another level!

And it's not just students getting into the spirit—teachers are preparing for Athletics too! Mr Firth made the first mention of Sports Day during this week's staff meeting. The mental preparation has started... and physical training won't be far behind.

Just a reminder: Cavendish House took the trophy last year.

### Game on, teachers!



## Primary Olympic Festival

Last week we kicked off the first of two primary festivals happening this month. Primary students had a great time taking part in Olympic-style events, enjoying our sports facilities and the brilliant support from our student leaders.

We're already excited for the next one—the Year 1 Tennis Festival coming up next week!



## Exciting week ahead for the PE Department!

Next week is a busy and exciting one in the PE department:

Wednesday: Our Year 8 and Year 10 athletes will compete in the first athletics match of the season at Bottisham. We're looking forward to a great performance and strong team spirit.

Thursday: We'll welcome Year 1 students from our feeder primary schools for the Annual Tennis Festival. The event will be led by our fantastic Year 8 sports leaders, who are ready to inspire the next generation.

Friday: A historic moment for Chesterton as we take part in our first-ever flag football tournament. It's a big step forward in our sporting journey!

## Forest School Update: Creative Projects and Exciting Plans

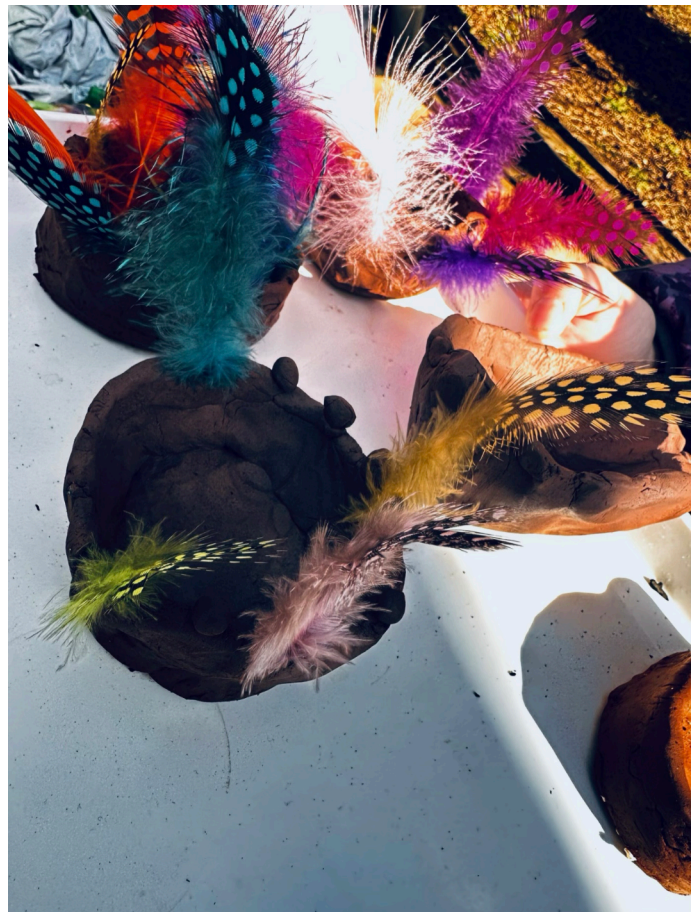
I wanted to share with you some of the fantastic activities we've been working on at Forest School recently with our Year 7s, 9s, and 10s. Over the past couple of weeks, the students have been immersing themselves in a range of hands-on projects that blend creativity, nature, and practical skills.

Our sessions have been a hive of activity! The students have thoroughly enjoyed building and safely managing small campfires, an essential skill that fosters responsibility and safety awareness. They've also been exploring their creative side by making clay pots and transforming them into handmade candles—a wonderful way to combine art with practical crafting.

We've also been nurturing their connection to nature by planting bulbs and growing plants from seeds, learning about how to care for and sustain living things. Another highlight has been making our own charcoal, which the students then used to create some stunning pieces of outdoor art—combining natural resources with creative expression. Additionally, they've been learning about local wildlife by building cozy, natural nests for birds and small animals, helping to develop their understanding of the environment and animal habitats.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we have plenty of exciting activities planned. The students will be getting hands-on with building bug hotels, learning about insects and their vital role in the ecosystem. We'll also be exploring traditional skills such as wood carving and den building, encouraging teamwork and problem-solving, while giving the students a chance to connect with nature in a safe and supportive environment.

Forest School continues to be a fantastic space for the students to learn new skills, gain confidence, and build a deeper appreciation for the natural world. I've attached a few photos to give you a glimpse of the amazing work they've been doing.



## Intergenerational walking group

Over the last 2 terms, our year 11 health and social care students have been part of a scheme with residents at Mansell court care home.

We have enjoyed having chats with the residents, making spring banners and collectively trying to do as many steps as possible. On our last visit, we had drinks and snacks and spoke about our time together. One resident said that they felt younger spending time with our students. Everyone has enjoyed the experience and it has helped our students have a better understanding of what it is like to be an older adult in a care home. This is a picture of us with the banners we all created.

