

Chesterton Blog

13th June 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

Thank you!

The PTFA's Second- Hand Uniform Team would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has donated uniform these past few weeks. As you can see, we will have a lot of stock for our upcoming sale on Friday, 11 July. Recycling uniform is a great way to support re-use, to generate funds for the school and to provide low cost or no cost uniforms to other families.

We are still accepting any unwanted, clean, second-hand uniform left at reception in a bag marked 'PTFA donations.' Many thanks in advance for your support.



Volunteering at the Manor Care Home

This week, Year 12 went to the Manor Care Home to volunteer and support the residents. For most of the time we were there, we decorated stones which will then be placed in the garden to brighten up the atmosphere for residents when they go outside. We look forward to returning soon!

Free Screening Event

This year, Counterpoints Arts and Other Cinemas – two organisations who work across intersections of racial justice, migration, and climate – have collaborated on a film programme taking place June 16th - 22nd for a community-powered week!

Community Club and the EAL Department at Chesterton are holding a Free Screening Event for students and teachers on Tuesday the 17th of June from 3:30 to 5pm in the Atrium for us all to celebrate this week as the true school community we are, by reflecting on what it means to be a refugee when you are a teenager. The very special movie which has been selected by our international Club, Community Club, is **Fremont** by Babak Jalali

- **Audience:** Certification: 12A in UK
- **Themes:** Afghanistan, Survivor's guilt, Comedy

Here is the [link](#) for the trailer.

All students (except the ones who are not 12 years old yet) are invited, and Ms Maffei and the members of Community Club are looking forward to welcoming them.

If your child is going to attend please kindly RSVP rmaffei@ccc.tela.org.uk so that they will be offered complimentary popcorn to enjoy during the movie and/or the post screening. Plus, there is a 30 minutes q&a optional session that will end at 5:30pm

The Dip

Below are some photos taken in the Dip recently by a member of the PTFA, Dan Foster.

Two of the photos are of the new wildflower area that was planted for the 90th anniversary of Chesterton.

The area includes many species of native plants, along with familiar wildlife-friendly garden flowers & two fruit

trees. The third photo is one of the 100+ shrub/trees planted (by yr7) last winter. As yet, there have been fewer than expected losses & many are growing well - like this hazel in the photo.



Speakers Trust "Speak Out" Final

As published in the Blog earlier this term, Year 10 students took part in an excellent public speaking workshop run by Speakers Trust. From this, a handful of students were selected to go forward for the "Speak Out" competition.

Laurie, Ima, Asher, Kenzie, Charlie, Bella, Dhanvika and Shira all impressed with their speeches. These ranged from entertaining riffs on British food and the importance of foolery, to more sober calls to action on problems such as addiction, anxiety, and human rights. It was a difficult task to pick a winner and runner-up to go forward. Asher was selected as runner-up, for his barnstorming performance; and Lili as winner, for her meticulously prepared presentation.

Lili will compete in the regional final on Tuesday 24th June at the Mumford Theatre, 6.30pm-8pm. She will deliver a three-minute speech without notes to a large audience, on dealing with smartphone addiction. Contestants are judged on the positive content, structure and delivery of their speech.

Anyone wishing to support can sign up for a ticket by scanning the QR code on the flyer. The inaugural competition last year was inspiring!

A reminder that, for any student in any year wishing to try their hand at public speaking, Debate Club runs every Wednesday after school, 3:15-4:15 in the Performing Arts block.

Chesterton to perform with Michael Rosen in Cambridge!

Save the date: Sunday 22nd June, 4pm-5.30pm, at Cambridge Corn Exchange

Voices of Hope and Compassion

A free concert – no tickets needed!

On Sunday 22 June from 4pm to 5:30pm, there is a free concert being held at the Corn Exchange led by Michael Rosen. This will be an uplifting and moving event organized by History Works on behalf of Cambridge City – and Chesterton is delighted to be taking a prominent role. Do please save the date, and come along!

Michael Rosen will perform poetry commissioned for the event. Chesterton Junior Choir will be leading the way, joined too by award-winning Year 10 band Mirada. Chesterton Youth Theatre will be performing a dramatic piece by Michael, too, specially adapted for the occasion. Chesterton will remember the impact that Michael's visit made earlier this year. We're both keen to deepen collaboration, and this event is an opportunity to do so, for a very good cause.

As the event is free and not ticketed you can arrive when doors open from 3:30pm to be seated in time for the 4pm start. You can also ask for selfies in the foyer between 2.30pm and 3.30pm – especially if you missed the chance to do so when Michael visited school! There will also be a bookstall running before and after, and Michael will sign books bought on the day, or you can bring one of your own from home.

The cause:

The concert will mark the end of this year's national "Refugee Week" festival and our theme is "Our Home, Our Community" to mirror the national theme which is "Community as a Superpower!" In the past year over 5,000 school children have been working with Michael, alongside the historian, Helen Weinstein, through school workshops and assemblies. The compositions reflect on what happens when individuals, families and communities are driven out of their homes, because of war or climate catastrophe, persecution or threat of genocide. The school children also learn about the continuing difficulties survivors and refugees face as they try to build new homes and recover from the trauma of their experiences.

Voices of Hope and Compassion

REFUGEE WEEK 2025
COMMUNITY AS A SUPERPOWER

A free concert in support of refugees



Sunday 22 June, 4pm to 5.30pm, Cambridge Corn Exchange

All welcome,
free and
unticketed
event!



Voluntary donations welcomed at the event to support Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum's Refugee Hardship Fund and Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group.

Hosted by Michael Rosen performing on stage alongside choirs, poets, musicians, and drama and dance groups from Cambridge schools.



Refugee
Week



The Atrium Theatre's Romeo & Juliet

'PASSION LENDS THEM POWER'

The Atrium Theatre's 'Romeo & Juliet' promises to be a spectacle and soundscape of beauty and passion. Whilst Shakespeare's 'love story to end all love stories' initially seems to be a comedy, the swerve into sudden death is sharp, and the fall into tragedy: deep and indelible. This searing production combines a 'classic' style with a contemporary setting and showcases a stellar cast of professionally seasoned actors alongside a young ensemble including a dozen members of National Youth Theatre. Don't miss your opportunity to be captivated by the Capulets' and Montagues' feud, and moreover, feel uplifted by the courage that resides at the core of two teenagers' fight to love each other.

The force of Fate in Romeo and Juliet's short-lived and yet unforgettable romance is personified by a pageantry of female performers, who weave together events through mesmerising melody and movement, whilst voicing the soliloquies of the 'star-crossed lovers' with crystalline clarity. Staged in traverse, with the walls of Verona constructed on multiple levels and through immersive perspectives, the large company includes dynamic stage combat, and a live band bringing musical layers to Shakespeare's text, including jazz standards, rock ballads and classical piano. The adaptor and director, Suzanne Marston, played Juliet twenty years ago in a year-long world tour with TNT Theatre Britain, directed by Paul Stebbings MBE; this chance to share her interpretation of Shakespeare's most popular play with Chesterton's exceptionally talented theatre collective is, she says, in more ways than one "a dream come true"!

Please note that there are two versions of this production - the Full Show and the Short Show. The Full Show is a slightly abridged version of Shakespeare's play, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes (including interval) and is framed by a Chorus of entertaining, modern-day 'Love Geeks' who set up the story; this will be performed on 15th - 17th July at 7.30pm. The Short Show is 1 hour with no interval: a thrilling compression of Shakespeare's play performed each day at 4.30pm.



The titular roles are cast as follows:

- **On Tuesday 15th July Short Show:** Romeo - Hari Banerjee & Juliet - Mia Tihova; Mercutio played by Danny Wooding
- **On Tuesday 15th July Full Show:** Romeo - Callum Brownlie & Juliet - Tamar Sharoni; Mercutio played by Babak Fletcher
- **On Wednesday 16th Short Show:** Romeo - Hari Banerjee & Juliet - Mia Tihova; Mercutio played by Danny Wooding
- **On Wednesday 16th Full Show:** Romeo - Sam Carter & Juliet - Holly Giles; Mercutio played by Charles Beer
- **On Thursday 17th Short Show:** Romeo - Callum Brownlie & Juliet - Tamar Sharoni; Mercutio played by Babak Fletcher
- **On Thursday 17th Full Show:** Romeo - Sam Carter & Juliet - Holly Giles; Mercutio played by Charles Beer

All other parts are consistently played by the Full Show Company which stars an adult cast alongside the young ensemble, alternating with the Short Show Cast which consists purely of actors aged 11 - 15.

We highly recommend seeing both the Short and Full show: there is no age guidance as such, though the production explores themes of suicide and sexual desire and includes loud bangs and flashing lights. Each performance will bring a different dimension to what you already know, and still might discover about this drama dating back to 1595. Join us at the Atrium Theatre to connect with what 'R & J' expresses about our world today.

'TAKE HIM AND CUT HIM OUT IN LITTLE STARS...'

Tickets - www.ticketsource.co.uk/chestertonyt

Corkscrew Theatre Presents – God of Carnage

In Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage*, two seemingly civilized couples meet to resolve a dispute after their children are involved in a playground altercation.

What begins as a polite, controlled conversation quickly devolves into chaos as the adults' true selves emerge. Reza's sharp wit and biting dialogue expose the fragility of social norms and the volatility of human nature. As the evening progresses, the veneer of civility peels away, revealing a primal struggle for dominance, exposing personal insecurities, and dismantling carefully constructed facades.

God of Carnage is a darkly comic and provocative exploration of the tensions that exist beneath the surface of everyday life. With a keen eye for the absurdities of human behaviour, Reza deftly uncovers the conflict that simmers just below the surface, turning a simple meeting into an explosive examination of our capacity for cruelty, vulnerability, and the breakdown of social order.

PERFORMANCES:

- Cambridge Junction | 27–28 June 2025, 20:00
- Ickleton Village Hall, Saffron Walden | 26 June, 19:30
- Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon | 20 June, 19:30

TICKETS – corkscrewtheatre.co.uk/productions/god-of-carnage/



Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge Speak Out Challenge Final 2025



Get your tickets here



Mumford Theatre
Anglia Ruskin University
East Road, Cambridge
Cambridgeshire, CB1 1PT



24 June 2025
6:30 PM



a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin
University



SPEAKERSTRUST.ORG

SHAKESPEARE'S

ROMEO & JULIET

15TH TO 17TH
JULY 2025

THE ATRIUM
THEATRE

CAMBRIDGE

PASSION LENDS THEM POWER

SHORT SHOW AT 4:30PM (YOUNG COMPANY)

FULL SHOW AT 7:30PM (YOUTH & ADULT COMPANY)



Gold DofE Training in the Lake District

Last week, four Sixth Form students travelled to the Lake District for five days to complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award training and practice expedition.

The group encountered a mix of weather, which added to the challenge, but they remained in good spirits and worked well together throughout. Their route took them across varied terrain, including mountain summits, where they were treated to some impressive views when the clouds lifted.

They also experienced wild camping, which gave them a real sense of the expedition conditions they'll face in their final assessment. The students showed steady progress in their navigation and campcraft skills, and they're now well prepared for their assessed expedition in September.

Well done to all involved.

