

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

International Breakfast!

On Thursday morning, Chesterton Community College had the pleasure of welcoming the parents of our incoming Year 6 students for a special international breakfast. The event was a wonderful opportunity to bring families together and celebrate the rich diversity that defines our school community.

The breakfast featured a delicious spread of pastries, tea, and coffee, encouraging conversation and connection among families and staff. The event was led by our EAL Coordinator, Rosaria Maffei, who spoke passionately about the incredible work taking place here at Chesterton to support students who speak English as an additional language. Rosaria highlighted the inclusive ethos at the heart of the school and the wide range of support in place to help all students thrive. We're proud to have such a vibrant and multicultural school community, and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September.

Year 10 French Students Explore Language Through Art at Fitzwilliam Museum

Last week, our Year 10 students studying French had the exciting opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom during a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Organised in collaboration with the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Education, the trip was led by enthusiastic trainee teachers who guided students through a unique language experience.

During the visit, students practised their French while exploring two fascinating museum spaces: the Armoury and the Portrait Gallery. As they observed historical artefacts and artworks, they engaged in activities designed to expand their vocabulary and improve their speaking and listening skills — all in French.

This immersive approach offered a valuable opportunity to link language learning with history, helping students see the connections between culture, art, and communication. Learning in a new environment also encouraged fresh thinking and greater engagement, making the experience both educational and inspiring.



GCSE Photography Students Find Creative Inspiration at Tate Modern

Year 10 GCSE photography students went to TATE Modern, in London, on Friday 20 July to see three, yes three, exhibitions: Antony McCall 'Solid light', Do Ho Suh's 'Walk the house' and Giacometti's first major UK retrospective. Students enjoyed a day full of visual inspiration and photoshoot opportunities to inspire their current project on the theme of POWER.



Year 12 Geography Fieldwork in Hunstanton

This week, our Year 12 Geography students visited Hunstanton to carry out fieldwork as part of their A-Level studies. The trip focused on exploring the causes of change along the coastline, including both natural processes and human influences.



Students used a range of techniques to collect data, such as beach profiling and sediment analysis. They looked closely at erosion, deposition, and the role of sea defences in shaping the coastal landscape.

The group gathered some useful data, which will support their independent investigations back in the classroom. It was a valuable opportunity to apply what they've learned in lessons to a real-world setting.

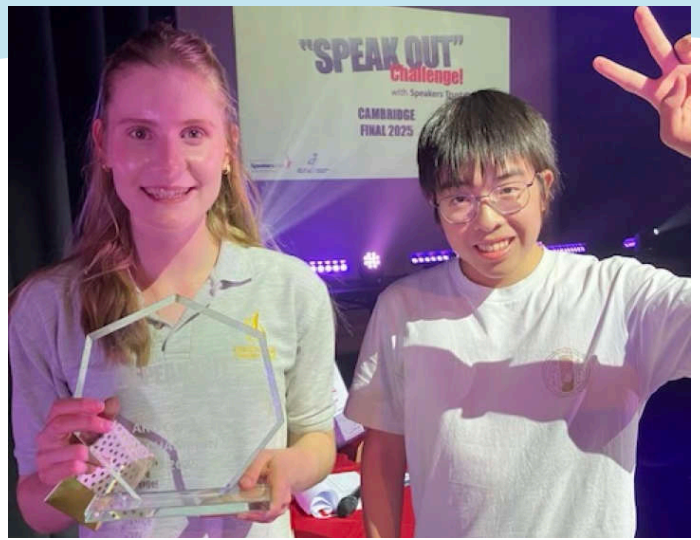
Well done to everyone for their effort and focus throughout the day.



A Day to Remember

On Sunday 22nd June, Chesterton students were at the forefront of a fundraising concert, organised by Michael Rosen and Helen Weinstein of HistoryWorks. Called "Voices of Hope and Compassion", the event – before a large audience at the Cambridge Corn Exchange – brought young performers together from across the county, to share poems, music, dance and drama inspired by Michael Rosen's words. Over the course of the year, in preparation for Refugee Week, Michael delivered workshops in Cambridgeshire schools to over 5,000 students – as he did with us in the spring term. The event on Sunday was the culmination of this work.

Miss Wilson co-ordinated and conducted choirs from Cambridgeshire primary schools and led by Chesterton Junior Choir. The songs they sang were musical settings by Cambridgeshire students, of lyrics written by Michael. Those young composers couldn't have been more fortunate in having our musicians bring their pieces to life. The school's musical contribution continued with another setting of Michael's words, this time by Year 10 band Mirada. The Corn Exchange is, of course, a major touring venue for bands – and Mirada sounded great and looked in their element on that stage.



Chesterton Youth Theatre also shone. After his visit to the school earlier in the year, Michael was so taken with the Year 10 drama class's work on Nineteen Eighty-Four, that he sent in a short dramatic piece he had written. This piece, "Fragility of Freedom", is a meditation on his lifelong struggle to discover and understand the fate of his two uncles and other relatives who were murdered at Auschwitz. Ms Marston adapted the script to work to the students' strengths in physical and vocal storytelling – and the result was spectacular. Michael and Helen were superlative in their praise, and clearly moved by the effect of the work.

In sum, Chesterton did artistic justice to Michael's words. And art was in the service of justice here – justice to the memory of refugees who resisted or lost their lives to cruelty; and justice to the refugees around the world and in our midst who still depend on our empathy, advocacy, and practical action.



Music Department Showcases Student Talent in a Weekend of Performances

Last week the music department had an exciting array of concerts!

On Friday we heard some fantastic performances from students at St Andrew's Church, Chesterton. There were string, woodwind, brass, vocal and piano performances from Years 7-10. A big well done to all the students who took part, who had been nominated to perform by their instrumental teachers following their excellent work this year.

On Saturday the folk fiddles, samba band, Zero and the jazz band performed to a very appreciative audience at Chesterton Festival, before the folk fiddles gave another great performance at Jesus Green Lido in the evening.

On Sunday the Junior Choir and Mirada also performed in the Michael Rosen concert at the Corn Exchange.

Thank you to all the students and parents who supported these events.



Year 7 Geography fieldtrip

Since Easter, Year 7 have been learning about rivers! Where do they start and end? How are waterfalls and gorges created? There's also been a lesson on that classic of school Geography: ox-bow lakes!

In the final weeks of term, Year 7 classes will have the opportunity to visit the River Cam. This is a chance for students to apply their new knowledge to their local area. 7r(9-7) enjoyed discussing the different parts of the River Cam and how it's used by people. They also created a field sketch to capture the trip and their learning. River-ting stuff!



Year 13 Leavers' celebration

At the start of the week, all of Year 13 and the sixth form team met for one last time to celebrate their completion of their time at Chesterton Sixth Form. They have been a truly fantastic cohort who have worked immensely hard. They should be proud of their efforts and very excited about the wonderful opportunities that now await them.



The celebration took place at the Tivoli where we enjoyed crazy golf, shuffle board, music and plenty of food! We wish all of our Year 13 students a well deserved and happy summer and the very best of luck in the future.





Work in progress: Year 10 self portraits in the style of Tai Shan Schierenburg.