

Chesterton Blog

11th July 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

Lili wins Speak Out Final!

The Speakers Trust Speak Out competition reaches 600 state schools UK-wide. Year 10 students compete in regional finals for a cash prize and trophy – rewards for a speech that combines inspiring subject matter, rhetorical clarity, and stage presence.

Lili met the challenge, and romped home to victory. Sixteen speakers from thirteen schools across the region showed heart and skill, each delivering three-minute speeches without notes to a large audience gathered in the Mumford Theatre on Tuesday evening. Topics ranged from the importance of cinema, to living with neurodiversity. Lili's chosen topic was "doomscrolling" – the addiction to screens which big business actively exploits. Her speech managed to be both a positive call to action, a celebration of linguistic expression and a bold experiment in stagecraft.

Huge congratulations to her, and to Chesterton's runner-up (and exciting speaker himself) Asher, who assisted on the evening. We hope that this inspires students at the school to enjoy the bracing challenge of speaking in public, speaking up for themselves and for others.



Slackline & Adventure Club: Balancing Fun!



The Slackline and Adventure Club is underway this half term. Students have been learning how to balance on the slackline, taking their time to build confidence and improve their skills. It's been great to see everyone supporting each other and giving it a go.

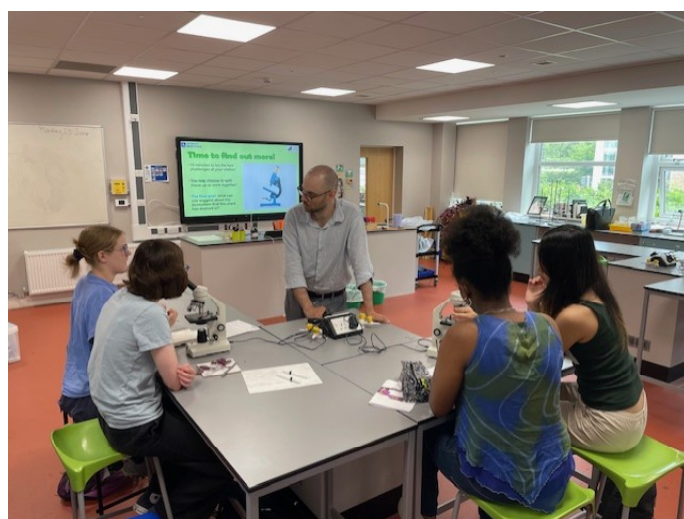
Alongside slacklining, the group has also been learning how to make small fires safely. Last week, they had the chance to toast marshmallows.

Year 10 Taster day

It was great to welcome so many Year 10 students to their sixth form taster day where the focus was highlighting the skills required at A Level, and how we support student development in such skills. The day saw students do some self-reflection as they learned about the VESPA mindset model before then trying to tackle some academic articles in small groups that concluded in short presentations to their peers.

Year 11 Offer holder day

To continue on the theme of events, on Wednesday we hosted our Year 11 Offer Holder day where over 130 offer holders came to experience a day in the life of a Chesterton Sixth Former. The day was fast and action packed with students completing the infamous rat race challenges before then jumping into subject taster sessions to understand our A Level personalised approach to teaching and learning. After the taster sessions, everyone was able to soak up some sunshine with paella courtesy of Azahar Artisan Spanish food and ice lollies! We were blown away with how quickly all the students gelled with one another and really threw themselves into the day. We wish students the very best with their results and look forward to working with them again soon!



Roller Hockey talent on the rise

Bradley B Year 9 impresses on the Roller Hockey Rink

Bradley has had a standout year playing roller hockey for ECU (Ely and Chesterton United), representing both the U15 and U17 teams.

His U15 team reached the National Cup semi-finals in Sheffield in April 2025, following a strong season with consistent tournament wins. Though they narrowly missed out on the final, their performance was exceptional.

Over the Christmas holidays, Bradley attended a four-day hockey camp and was named Best Player in his age group. In September, he will move up to play for the U17 first team.

Well done, Bradley!

Penelope B Year 8 wins National Cup with U17 Roller Hockey team

Congratulations to Penelope, whose roller hockey team recently travelled to Middlesbrough to compete in the National Cup Finals. Competing in the U17 female category, Penelope's team emerged as national champions!

This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the team's dedication, skill, and teamwork. Well done to Penelope and her teammates on this incredible success!



Chesterton Year 10 trip to The Houses of Parliament

This Monday, Chesterton Year 10 GCSE students visited the Houses of Parliament. We were very fortunate in securing a place last year for a free school visit to the Houses of Parliament which included a chance to sit in the public galleries of The House of Commons, to listen to home office questions on rise in crime and The House of Lords, where questions were asked on how to solve the recruitment crisis in our armed forces. We also visited also other key parts of The Palace of Westminster such as the Great Hall (pictured) and the galleries. Mr Reed and Mr Hawes as you can see tried their hand at photography to get the best light in the Great Hall of Parliament.

During the tour we were able to see some well-known politicians who included:

- Gavin Williamson – former education secretary, defence secretary and chief whip.
- Yvette Cooper – Home Secretary
- Chris Philip – Shadow Home Secretary
- Jess Philips: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Lee Anderson – Chief Whip of Reform UK.
- Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon – Mother of Stephen Lawrence.
- John Richard – Earl Atlee.

It was a unique chance for our students to see parliament on a working day and view both Houses at Work and the students were a pleasure to have with us.



A Summer Showcase of Creativity and Community

A few photos from a successful A level summer exhibition. We celebrated the creative journeys of our year 13 art and photography students and showcased current year 12 work. Thanks to all the family, friends and staff who came to admire the work.



Bash 2025: A Night to Remember

On Friday 4th July, the school courtyard came alive as students, teachers, and parents gathered to celebrate Bash 2025 — an evening filled with food, fun, and fantastic music.

Students took the lead in creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere, running stalls offering everything from football challenges and Nerf games to an array of sweet and savoury treats. Their energy and creativity were on full display – well done to all the students involved.

A special shoutout goes to the ex-Chesterton parents who returned to treat everyone to delicious Greek Gyros — a definite crowd-pleaser!

The evening's soundtrack featured a variety of talented bands, with student and parent bands giving an incredible performance. The evening ended with a joyful burst of dancing led by a professional salsa dancer.

With its warm community spirit and outstanding student contributions, Bash 2025 was truly a celebration to be proud of.



Music News

Last Thursday we enjoyed a sunny end-of-year music celebration concert in the Wynn Williams Garden at school. Over 200 students took part in a concert which showcased all our choirs and music ensembles. Very well done to everyone and thank you to all the staff, parents and carers who have supported the music department this year. We are really grateful.

On Sports Day, the samba band and jazz band played a great set to welcome everyone to the field too!

Our last event of the term is the Gabrieli Roar concert at Ely Cathedral on 23rd July. Members of our choirs will be taking part in this performance of Haydn's Seasons, as part of a massed youth choir including students from schools and choirs across the country, and alongside a professional orchestra and soloists. Tickets for the concert can be bought from the cathedral website.

Enrichment update

The Y10 creative volunteering group have had a great start to Enrichment week. They have painted the school steel pans in our Chesterton colours and also had a highly successful bracelet sale for the Red Hen Project. Everyone has had a good experience of volunteering and hopefully will go on to do some voluntary work at some point in the future.



Last Call for 'R & J' – It Would Be a Tragedy to Miss It!

A handful of tickets are still available for the 'Full Show' performances of 'Romeo & Juliet' which is being performed next week from 15 – 17 July in Chesterton's Atrium Theatre.

Don't miss the chance to see this definitive version of this GCSE set text and Shakespeare's most popular tragedy, which brings together a 70 strong company of professional and student performers, spanning five decades of acting experience!

There's also good availability for the 'Short Show' matinees, in which the Year 7 – 10 student actors within the Company perform an hour-long rendition of Shakespeare's text: this compression makes the story all the more pulse-raising and tear-jerking! Best of all: why not come to both the Full and Short Show?! Or even see the Show three times so that you can compare lead casts?!

It really would be a tragedy to miss it...so see you there, smiling in the curtain call in awe and wonder at this staggeringly good ensemble as well as the sheer power and passion of the play. See our poster below for more details or book tickets on this link:

Romeo & Juliet at The Atrium Theatre event tickets from TicketSource

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)

