



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.

I would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer break wherever you choose to be.

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

## Fawcett wins Sports Day, again!

Chesterton Sports Day was back in full force, and it had everything: triathlons, archery, boules, wheelchair basketball,... The five houses gave it their all, with students rocking their colours in wild hairstyles, glitter, and some face paint that definitely took days to be removed... The track was very loud and the cheers non-stop.

In the end, Fawcett took the crown, for the second time ever (the first was a virtual win during lockdown, which still counts). Cavendish came in second, followed by Hill, Equiano, and, in a shock result, Robinson finished last, despite usually being the champions.

One of the day's highlights? The epic 1500m students vs teachers race, where student Hamish Y9 just overtook the teacher Mr Lindars. Respect to all the staff who ran after umpiring all day! It was a brilliant day full of laughs, effort, and house pride, and Fawcett, you've officially made history!





## Enrichment Week: A Celebration of Opportunity and Experience

Last week, Chesterton students embraced an incredible three days of enrichment, stepping beyond the classroom to explore, learn, and grow through a wide range of exciting opportunities.

In total, over 300 students took part in residential experiences, with 129 students travelling abroad, creating unforgettable memories and broadening their horizons. Back at home, 232 students gained vital first aid skills as well as getting involved in sustainability activities, while 158 students made a meaningful impact through acts of service in their communities.

Meanwhile, over 150 students took part in local trips and visits, and more than 100 students engaged in work shadowing and experience, gaining valuable insights into the world of work.

## Students Tackle Bike Repairs and Car Checks

Fantastic day learning real-life skills. We got our hands dirty, worked as teams and repaired most of the school bikes, as well as checked staff cars! Two passes and one FAIL!

Massive thanks to everyone involved.



## Year 8 Build for the Future

Year 8 have been planning, constructing and presenting their own sustainable houses during their enrichment week. The winning house was built to include features that met the social, economic and environmental needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. These features included a green roof, natural pond, water butt and solar panels.





## Year 7 PGL

Over 100 Year 7 students visited PGL Caythorpe Court for three fun-filled days of outdoor activities.

Canoeing really made a splash, with most students saying it was their favourite activity. Why? Maybe it was the games like water tag or body part bingo. Perhaps it was the opportunity to get the teachers wet! Really though, most said they loved swimming in the lake with their friends afterwards.

Other HIGH-lights were the climbing activities. Many students reached the top of the trapeze to hit the big red ball. As duos or trios, lots of students helped each other to the highest rungs of Jacob's Ladder. Encouragement also came from the ground in the form of cheers and advice. Miss Moss and the other teachers were really impressed by lots of students who supported each other during the trip. They were also proud of all students who developed their resilience by going out of their comfort zone. Many with a fear of heights got at least one-third of the way up the climbing wall! Students with the biggest worries about the zip wire were those who enjoyed it the most!

Breaking up all these activities were survival skills and problem-solving sessions. Students learned how to start a fire, build a shelter, think through riddles, and balance carefully. Leadership and teamwork came into play during the sessions. Finally, fierce battles were fought on the laser tag lawn, where a steady hand and precise eye were needed.

As early preparation for the Year 11 leaving party, students threw themselves into a disco on the first evening. Energetic dancing was on display, including cartwheels and backflips! Mr Moore still has 'Party in the USA' by Miley Cyrus stuck in his head. Students were singing (screaming?) around the campfire on the second evening. Marshmallows were eaten between epic stories of dragons and knights.

Thank you to Cam, Millie, Sophie, and the many PGL activity instructors for their encouragement, patience, and party hats. Thank you to the CCC staff for their time and energy: Miss Moss, Mr Moore, Miss Palacios, Mrs Sterecki, Mr Dooley, Mr Lindars, Miss Ahmed, Dr Kirk, Miss Wordie, Mrs Blanchard-Tweed, and Mr Pilsworth.





## Innovation, Adventure and Real-World Skills

For those in the UK last week, Yr 9 enrichment saw all students taking part in an Enterprise day with local science company Illumina. They were tasked with designing a product that solves a real world health problem. The range of ideas were excellent: from anti toe stubbing socks, to innovative 'Litter Critters' – robotic animals that roam the streets eating litter! The winners however designed an allergy testing app that allows for quick and accurate testing for people to see if they are allergic to anything. Flash forward 10 years and you may see this on the market!



Other highlights of enrichment were that all students went off site on a trip, including to the IWM Duxford, Fitzwilliam Museum, Scott Polar Museum, Heong Gallery. Many students also took part in a bike, car and motorcycle maintenance day learning how to check to see the bikes, cars and motorcycles they were given were roadworthy: great knowledge to have!

It was a super three days for everyone!

## Year 9 Explore Art and Inspiration

Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to Kettles Yard with a bonus behind the scenes glimpse into the forthcoming Lubaina Himid exhibition. Then onto the Gillian Ayres exhibition at the Heong Gallery with drawing and sketching in both locations.



## Chesterton Actors Lead the Way in National Youth Monologues

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 46 members of Chesterton Youth Theatre from years 7 – 13 participated in a monologue workshop hosted at Chesterton by Marcus Condron from National Youth Monologues. Marcus encouraged the students to bring clearer thought processes and optical focus to their monologues, as well as to consider the specific feeling of certain emotions in their bodies when playing a character. Students described the workshop as 'amazing' and 'incredibly helpful' in terms of future oracy-based endeavours and acting challenges. They then went on to film their monologues as self-tapes so that they might enter this new, nation-wide competition which has had over 1000 entries. The filming process inspired everyone to reflect on the complexity of making self-tapes, which is the dominant way in which castings are now conducted in the profession. All in all, it was a useful and unifying experience, and Marcus was kind in giving Chesterton the chance to feedback on how they felt about this new, prestigious initiative, sponsored by the Ambassador's Theatre Group and associated with the Confederation of Drama Schools.

Since the workshop, we have received the thrilling news that 6 of our students have been selected to perform in the National Finals at the Ambassadors Theatre in London's West End on Sunday 13th July, with one of them representing every classical and contemporary monologue age category. You can see this on the weblink below:

### Results | National Youth Monologues

Whilst there are multiple, well-known independent schools listed here, Chesterton is the school with most representation in the Final/Regional Shortlists, and this is an extraordinary achievement. The very best of luck to Kader & Marnie (sixth formers in Chesterton Youth Theatre); Gabrielle and Kat (KS4); plus Orla and Sheba (KS3) who will be performing their monologues this Sunday and hoping to be crowned 'best actor' in the Country in their prospective age groups. A special congratulations should also go to Charlie C (who was also invited to perform in the Final but sadly cannot make it) and Laurie (who was invited as First Reserve for KS4).

We also want to congratulate a further 22 performers from Chesterton who were shortlisted as Regional Finalists and some 17 performers from across the year groups who have been 'highly commended' by the judges of the Competition. Sadly, Ms Marston and many other Chesterton Youth Theatre core members won't be able to attend the event of the Final because we will be doing the tech for 'Romeo and Juliet', but we will be with them in spirit, and if you would like to go and support our students, you can book tickets here:

### ATG Tickets

Whatever happens, the 6 Chesterton performers should be supremely proud, and relish the experience of making their West End acting debuts!

## Cambridge: Then and Now

This week Y8 German produced some lovely leaflets comparing Cambridge in the past with Cambridge today, including great artwork as well as high quality language. This work shows how much they have learned since starting German at the beginning of this year.





## Bronze DofE Expedition Success!

A huge congratulations to the 66 Year 10 students who successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition as part of enrichment.



With the warm summer weather adding an extra layer of challenge, our students showed incredible determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the journey. From navigating tricky routes to setting up camp and cooking meals outdoors, everyone rose to the occasion and did exceptionally well.

We're proud of each and every participant for embracing the adventure and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Well done, Year 10!

## Catch up on the latest from across our Trust

As we reach the end of another academic year, our latest ELA Newsletter brings together reflections and updates from headteachers across the Trust - highlighting the achievements, milestones, and moments that have shaped this year. From Outstanding Ofsted results to everyday successes in our classrooms, it's a celebration of all the hard work and dedication from staff, students, and communities across our schools.

Click [here](#) to read more and see what's been happening across the ELA family.

## Battlefields Trip 2025

Year 8 and Year 9 historians went to Ypres and the surrounding First World War battlefields last week. On the first day, following an immersive experience in a preserved trench system, students visited Tyne Cot and Langemark cemeteries and reflected on the differing British and German approaches to memorialising the war.



We were also able to visit the smaller Maple Copse cemetery to find the grave of one of our students' relatives. On the second day, we built up a more complex understanding of the war by visiting the In Flanders Fields museum and Talbot House, a social club for British soldiers, where students impressed us with their piano and chess skills. We finished off with the obligatory trip to a local chocolate shop! Students were a credit to the school and were thoughtful and respectful throughout.

## Chesterton Athletes Make Their Mark on Every Stage!

We are incredibly proud of our students and how well they have represented Chesterton Community College throughout this academic year.

It's also fantastic to see the amazing things they're achieving outside of school, and we'd love to celebrate these successes with our wider community, and hopefully inspire others to get involved in sports too!

### Flying High! Omondi O Year 11 ranks Top 5 in England for U17 High Jump

A huge well done to Omondi O (Year 11), who jumped an impressive 1.96m in the high jump at the Anglia Athletics Competition. He is currently ranked in the top 5 in England for under 17s and will be competing at the National Competition this July!



## Chesterton Students Selected for Cambridgeshire County Basketball Teams

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Cambridgeshire in county basketball competitions:

- Grace W (Year 7) – U13 Cambridgeshire County Basketball
- Allan V (Year 7) – U13 Cambridgeshire County Basketball
- Jibrail G (Year 8) – U14 Cambridgeshire County Basketball
- Robert S (Year 8) – U14 Cambridgeshire County Basketball
- Anna L (Year 9) – U15 Cambridgeshire County Basketball
- Lilijana L-M (Year 9) – U15 Cambridgeshire County Basketball

### Imogen F Year 9 joins Tottenham Hotspur U16s after rising through local clubs

After several successful years playing for both Cambridge City and Cambridge United FC, Imogen has taken an exciting next step in her football journey by signing with the Tottenham Hotspur Under-16s team. Her dedication, skill, and consistent performances at the local and regional levels have earned her this well-deserved opportunity to compete at a higher level and continue developing within a top-tier academy environment.





## Aleks L-M Year 9: A Rising Star in Football and Basketball

### International Football Debut

- Earned her first international cap for the England Schoolgirls team over Easter.
- Represented Chesterton Community College (CCC) in the Bob Docherty Tournament in Northern Ireland.
- Will receive her official cap and framed shirt at a ceremony at Wolverhampton Stadium this month.

### Club Football with Aston Villa Girls Academy

- Competed in a football tour in Lisbon, playing against Benfica and Sporting Lisbon.
- Upcoming National Opportunities: Invited to a Future Lionesses national trial at St George's Park in June.
- Reached the quarter-finals of the U14 National Professional Girls Academy Cup (narrowly lost to Manchester United).
- Reached the semi-finals of the JPL Peer-to-Peer Tournament (lost in a penalty shoot-out vs Brighton).

### Basketball Success

- Trained alongside football commitments with Milton Keynes Breakers U14s. Won the National Championship Title at the U14 Girls Final Fours.
- Selected for the England U14 basketball camp in May at the Manchester National Performance Centre (tournament selections vs Greece and Home Nations).
- Will represent the South of England in a national U15 5v5 basketball tournament in July.

### Professional Football Pathway

- Accepted a two-year place at Aston Villa's U16 Professional Game Academy. Pre-season starts with a tournament tour in Northern Ireland in July.

## Rowing success for Jay S Year 10

The Marlow Regatta at Dorney Lake is a major event in the British rowing calendar, featuring top crews from schools, clubs, and universities. Recently, one of our Year 10 students, Jay S, proudly competed in the U18 races. It's a fantastic achievement to race at this level, and we're excited to see Jay's progress in the sport.





## Year 8 enrichment

Year 8 enrichment focused on 'Self and Others'. The three day programme included work shadowing or careers-related learning (self), practising First Aid skills (caring for others in our local community) and learning about sustainability (caring for our environment) in a sustainable way!

### First Aid skills

The First Aid skills training included basic first aid, managing bleeding, managing head injuries and CPR training. Thank you to Miss Welton for making the First Aid bingo game and congratulations to our ten first aid bingo winners – please collect your prize from Dr Hutchinson before the end of term.

### Environmental Artwork

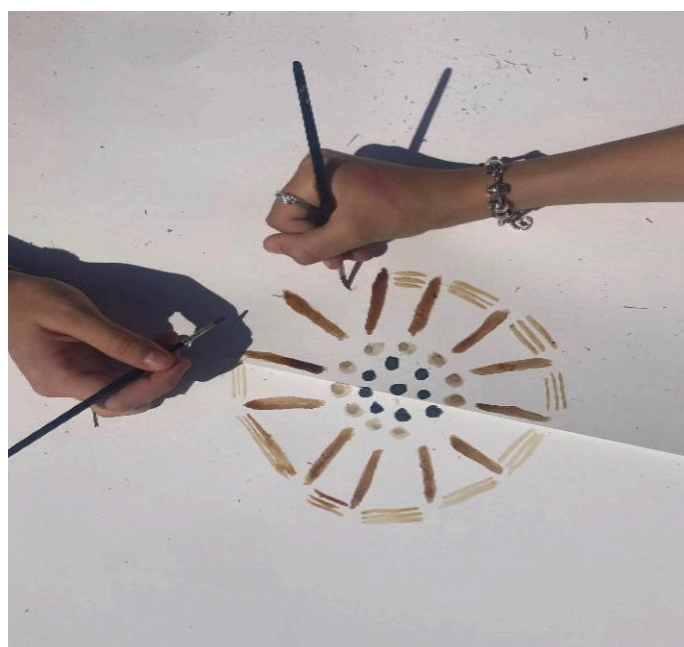
Students used a variety of scrap or scavenged material to create environmental artwork, such as this mandala.

### Building sustainable houses

Students learnt about techniques for making housing more sustainable before planning, constructing and presenting their own sustainable house designs and models (made from recycled materials). The winning house was built to include features that met the social, economic and environmental needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. These features included a green roof, natural pond, water butt and solar panels.

### Textiles workshop

Some students spent time in the textiles department. They used only recycled materials to make beautiful decorative repairs to clothes and create beautiful new textile pieces including bags, bookmarks, cushions and decorative art. They drew inspiration from Japanese sashiko and artists such as Mira Gupta. Thank you to everyone who donated fabric and materials this year so our students could have the opportunity to make beautiful and environmentally friendly textile art.



## Year 8 enrichment: continued...

### Environmental photography

Students used their photography editing skills to create a gallery of environmentally-based images to inspire their peers to look after the environment. You can view the gallery here:

<https://padlet.com/nmansfield7/environmental-photography-ft6ws187pfzhekuh>

### Nature poetry

A group of students wrote poems inspired by nature with a view to inspiring others to conserve and enhance the natural environment. Here is one of the poems, written in Turkish and translated into English.

*"Nymphlar" diyorlar bize*

*Suyunun analar Kara bitkinin Kuruchu*

*bu dağın Shihirsel evciler*

*pamuk Gigi hafif*

*vede bin tasdan agir*

*Suyu bilmek, bir onur*

*the delicious water licks your legs*

*sweet and clear and a picture of nature*

*a legacy of Greek nymphs*

*You slip in, swim out*

*lounge on the knife edge between*

*the muggy air and the fresh, sweet mountain melt*

### Building bird boxes to help enhance biodiversity

Thank you to the team from Cambridge City Council who led a workshop in which students built bird boxes to promote biodiversity in our local area. We look forward to seeing them hanging in gardens in the local area!

### Visit to Cambridge Central Mosque, Europe's largest eco-mosque

Thank you to the team at the Cambridge Central Mosque who hosted groups of students learning about its eco-mosque credentials.

### Exploring fossils

Students uncovered secrets from the past by examining fossils. They were excited to then be able to create their own fossil imprints using Plaster of Paris. Thank you to the PTFA for sponsoring the materials required for this event.

### Work shadowing and careers related learning

On Friday, students undertook work shadowing with a family member or friend or took part in a series of workshops in school to develop their employability skills. They were challenged to use the skills they had developed in their Year 8 'Earthquake Engineering' geography lessons to build the tallest tower possible from spaghetti (uncooked!) and marshmallows. Congratulations to the winning teams.





## Sixth Form

Sixth Form enrichment week started off with students putting their negotiating skills to the test as they were tasked with the paper clip challenge! Students set off into town to see how they fared at trading a paper clip and any other subsequent items to see who ended up with the most impressive item. Groups came back to school with various artwork, a wooden clock that now features in the common room and even additional table top games which students have since been playing.

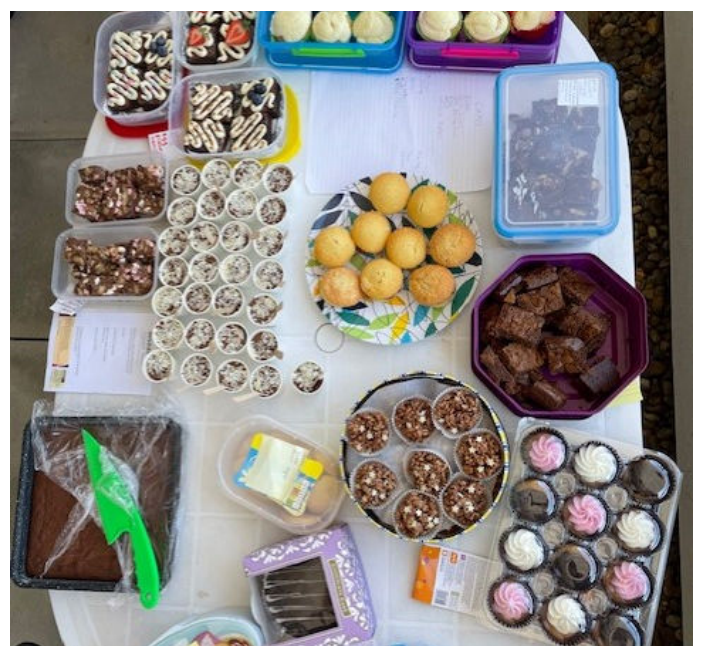


The second enrichment day, students received CPR training by the East Anglian Air Ambulance as well as futures session focusing on CVs. The final day was an opportunity to celebrate as a community with our annual community lunch. Students pulled out all the stops with the dishes they prepared, from homemade sausage rolls, fresh pizza and an array of sweets and cakes. This year, there was stiff competition for the best brownie!

In this final week, we welcomed back Karim and Mae who have just finished their A Levels, who came to speak about their experience when they visited Auschwitz on a 24 trip through the Holocaust Education Trust. They both detailed how they entered the competition and how the trip ran, and most importantly, the impact the visit has had on them.



We would like to wish all of our sixth form students and staff a very restful and enjoyable summer and thank them all for all of their efforts this year.





**CHESTERTON ACTORS LEAD THE  
WAY IN NATIONAL YOUTH MONOLOGUES**





Year 10 self portraits on display





**Fudge Kitchen**



**Decorating Manor Care Home**



**Sustainable House**



**Sketching at the Gillian Ayres Exhibition**



**Car Maintenance**

# ENRICHMENT WEEK IN PICTURES



**Behind the scenes at Kettles Yard**



**Recording Podcasts**



**Bird Boxes**



**Sustainable Textiles**



**First Aid**