

THE CHALFONTS COMMUNITY **Chronicle**

*"Success is an
Attitude..."*

Issue 13 - 24th April 2017



James Michie
Assistant Principal
Curriculum & Student Outcomes

Spring has sprung. Looking out of my office window, I am greeted by a sea of colour. The green grass is lush; the trees are littered with fresh blossoms; and the pond is surrounded by tulips. Listening closely, I can hear the birds talking to one another, as a refreshing breeze drifts in through the window. The atmosphere around college has changed. The sunshine puts a spring in everyone's step and a smile on their faces.

It is therefore ironic that this is also the busiest and, perhaps, most stressful time in the school calendar. Coursework is being tweaked, marked and moderated; lessons are focussed on exam preparation and revision; and for Year 11 and 13, the next few weeks offer a final opportunity to catch their breath before they are consumed by exams.

I felt it was pertinent to recognise the hard work that students and staff have been putting in. Revision and exam preparation for Year 11 have been running in every subject area since the start of the academic year. A select group of Year 11 students have been part of a mentoring programme, providing them with 1-2-1 support and guidance. Year 10 students have already completed their exams – their first attempt at real GCSE papers – beginning their preparation for what their Year 11 peers are currently working through.

While students in Years 7-10 spent their Easter break relaxing, many Year 11 and Year 13 students were in school attending revision sessions. I want to thank the dedicated staff who gave up time in their Easter break to deliver them. They were well attended and this will no doubt have a positive impact on results in the summer.

We have further sessions planned for May Half-Term and several departments are inviting students in on Saturdays over the coming weeks as the exams get even closer. A full programme of revision is also planned for Year 11 throughout the exam period and 'progress exams' for Year 12 take place next week.

Therefore, as both teachers and students go the extra mile to prepare for their exams, I thought it would be a good idea to offer some guidance about how to reduce stress at this busy time of year.

- Research has shown that we all struggle to maintain focus and attention. Therefore, revision should follow a mantra of 'little and often'. I personally recommend that the average Year 11 student should revise three subjects per night. Approximately 20-30 minutes per subject with a 5-minute break in between each one. Don't turn it into a chore.
- Sleep is also very important. It is probably the one thing that Year 11 and 13 students will neglect the most. This is counterproductive. They need to be alert in your exams.
- Relaxation is also very important. Students must allow themselves to have some 'down-time'; to hang out with friends or go to the cinema. If all they do is study, then they will over-do-it and not be in the right frame of mind once the exam season kicks in.

With that, I will close. The sunlight is dancing across my desk, telling me to get up and take a break before I get back to marking practice papers. If you have any questions about what is coming up over the next few weeks, please refer to the calendar and exam timestables on the college website.

To all students In Years 11-13, good luck. Knuckle down over the next few weeks and do yourselves proud.

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*"Success is
an Attitude"*





School Planner Competition Winners

During March students have been working on producing entries for the cover design of the 2017-2018 school planners. The competition attracted over 200 entries and were judged by art students. The students then created a short list for the senior leadership team to select the winners from.

A massive thank you to all students who submitted an entry which helped to make the competition so successful.

Kevin Mathieson, Acting Leader of Art

KS3 Planner Winners

Gold - Bronte Delasalle Y8
Silver - Eve Williams Y9
Bronze - Pashmina Aujla Y9

KS4 Planner Winners

Gold - Jessica Bird Y8
Silver - Amanda Harrison Y7
Bronze - Lucas Kayrouz Y8

Creative Writing

A term-long workshop was organised with a 'Writer in Residence' (journalist, Debbie Starrs) for selected Year 8 students who showed a flair for creative writing. Please enjoy!!

Leo was walking briskly through the forest towards his secret treehouse when he noticed a jet-black figure in the distance. He stopped in the dead centre of the woods and stared at the mysterious figure. Slowly the bright summer sun was taken over with darkness: the birds stopped tweeting, the leaves stopped whispering and the forest was flooded with complete silence. Leo turned and sprinted for his life up to his treehouse where he barricaded the door. He peered through a small crack and saw that he was surrounded by werewolves below. The faint sound of crying drifted towards him and he couldn't see anything. His eyes were glazed with darkness. All he could smell was rotten leaves. The temperature dropped, Leo shivered hard, like there was no tomorrow. He curled up in a tight ball.

The wind blew roughly against Leo's face, the trees danced in the wild gale. Below, werewolves were everywhere, surrounding the treehouse where Leo was barricaded. A dark cloud grazed over the top of the woods, cutting out the light. After the flood of silence, again leaves rustled and crunched down below the treehouse...

Time passed. Perhaps he had slept, all he knew was that he had closed his eyes tightly and when he opened them again, the sun emerged and shined through every crack of the treehouse. Cautiously, Leo pushed open the door and was serenaded by the tweeting birds. All the werewolves had disappeared. But where?

A strange smell wafted on the breeze, the smell of salty blue tears viciously slapped him across the face. Slowly but surely, Leo got enough courage to go outside and find where the faint noise of crying from earlier was coming from. He swung open the door. A bright ray of light flashed to the left, blinding his left eye. Leo felt a spell of dizziness over him, so he sat down. He felt sour green confusion.

He stepped back into the treehouse in fear. As he curled back up into a tight ball again, he noticed a large tin in the corner, shaking like mad. He was sure the tin hadn't been there before. Slowly, he stretched his long bony arm out, to prise the lid off the beautifully patterned tin, only to discover a small black pug inside, staring up at Leo with great love and affection. Leo finally realised that there was a warm sun-beam shining through the cracks in the wood. Feeling braver, he clenched the pug in his arms and flung open the door. He had to find out where all the werewolves had gone. But everything seemed back to normal. Leo's thoughts about what really happened were interrupted by the excitable pug leaping out of his hands and running away into the distance. Leo blinked, but the pug had disappeared. The dizziness returned and everything went dark.

Leo opened his eyes. He was lying in a warm bed, in a hospital. He saw his dad sitting next to him, and felt a warm black pug, curled up on his lap. He wasn't sure what had just happened, but he knew he had to find out...

Olivia Mussell

Adrian Smith (lead guitarist with Iron Maiden)

jams with sixth form music students

at RnR Studios, Uxbridge,

Prior to jetting off

on Iron Maiden's 'Book Of Souls' world tour

On Friday 31st March Year 12 musicians had their final assessment for their current unit, Session Musician, at the RnR Studios in Uxbridge. The studio had been bought last year by Adrian Smith from the band Iron Maiden and is managed by his son Dylan Smith and co-manager Morgan who both work there as engineers.

The students got down to hard work rehearsing and recording a number of songs. Around 2pm Adrian Smith himself unexpectedly appeared. I encountered Adrian sipping a coffee in the corridor. We had a long chat and he seemed a very down to earth sort of guy. It transpired he bought the studio because he wanted to keep it open for the music communities around the local area and seemed genuinely very caring and nurturing of the talent that came through the doors.

Not to miss an opportunity of a life time, I asked Adrian if he would like to jam with the students. He readily agreed and we decided to play Sweet Home Chicago. Adrian began by turning up the distortion on his amp though the song fell apart towards the end as no one was quite sure how it should end. It seemed that everyone, including Adrian, really enjoyed the experience.





Afterwards there were some autograph signing on guitars and photos taken, all done without any fuss and with Adrian happy and chilled throughout. I think it was an incredible once in a lifetime opportunity and I believe the sixth form students really played well, well enough to jam with one of the world's leading guitarists. I was really proud of them especially as none of them had played the blues before the start of the term and yet here they were jamming with an icon of rock music and playing with style and musicality. They should be proud of themselves!

Danny Munster, Leader of Music

On Friday 31st March, Year 12 musicians had the privilege of being professionally recorded in the newly refurbished RnR Studios in Uxbridge. We had from 10am-6pm to record six songs exploring the nature of three different genres; reggae, blues and country. We found this day very beneficial as we experienced the elements of being a session musician and being professionally recorded. We also had an extraordinary opportunity to play with one of the most famous guitarists in the world, Adrian Smith, from Iron Maiden. We were all very nervous on the approach to this day and felt a lot of pressure. However, once we were setup the day ran very smoothly and even gave us a chance to record some personal song choices. We would all like to thank Mr Munster and the recording studio for the wonderful experience and opportunity.

Ryan Grover, Josie Coyle

UCAS

EXCEL

On Tuesday 28th March, Year 12 students attended the UCAS Convention at ExCel, Docklands, East London. UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service and is the centralised service that students use to apply to university.

Exhibitions/conventions play a vital part in helping applicants decide what and where to study in higher education. They consistently attract over 300 exhibitors such as universities, colleges, charities, gap year companies, recruiters and organisations from across the UK, united in their aim to inform and advise 16-17 year olds on their future options.

The next step along the **UCAS process** is our **UCAS Day on 22nd June**, where we invite former students and guest speakers from various universities to deliver presentations on choosing a course/university, student finance, writing personal statements as well as giving an insight into student life. There will also be a **Parents' UCAS Information Evening on 29th June** covering all of the above. More information about attendance and the timings of these events will follow nearer the time.

Applying to university is not the right choice for everybody but we aim for our sixth form students to be armed with enough knowledge to make an informed choice.

leave for the duration of the exams but their teachers will still be available to give support/guidance at the times when students would normally have lessons.

Martyn Way
Leader for Sixth Form

Most of our Year 12 students attended and came back to school the following day buzzing with what they had experienced. Comments included:

"The stands were so useful and gave tips on what to include in your personal statement for particular courses, as well as advice on what they are looking for in terms of work experience."

"It helped to narrow down university choices and the speakers were really helpful in recommending universities for particular courses."

"For me the UCAS day was an eye-opener because it was tailored for the individual student."

"Our arms ached from carrying so much information! Lots of freebies to tempt us. A really productive and informative day out."



Next week our Year 12s will be taking internal progression exams. These exams will have all the challenge and rigour of an external exam and will be used to inform UCAS predicted grades, as well as progression into Year 13.

These exams will take place from Monday 24th April to Friday 28th April. Year 12 students will be on study leave for the duration of the exams but their teachers will still be available to give support/guidance at the times when students would normally have lessons.

Martyn Way

Leader for Sixth Form

11-20 March

British Science Week 2016



The Science department celebrated British Science Week during the last week of March with a variety of activities on the theme of "Change".

Years 7 and 8 were asked to submit entries for a poster competition and were invited to practical science demonstrations during lunch breaks. The demonstrations included; making things invisible, antigravity, rocket fuel and electric bananas.

The attendees were made aware that many changes in the world today are due to advances in science.

The pictures below show some of the effects.

Invisibility

Now you see it...now you don't!

Can you find the test tube in the beaker?

Well, you just had to be there.





Adding the ingredients...

Shooting out and filling the tray





RANDOM HOUSE

Penguin Random House is the world's first truly global book publishing company, publishing some of the world's most beloved books and authors such as Margaret Atwood, Harlen Coben, Zoella, Jamie Vardy, DJ Khaled, Jamie Oliver, Dan and Phil, Zadie Smith, Roald Dahl and more.

We were very lucky to have two representatives come in and talk to our students. The presentation was extremely interesting and demonstrated to the students the very exciting roles within the organisation.

Students learned about: how long books might take to be created; the process from editing to production; the different jobs involved in publishing and the process of an editor commissioning a book to how they creatively build digital innovations, film tie-ins and more.

An informative and intriguing look into the creative and publishing processes of Media. The presenters gave us both an interesting personal view of the work they do and why they enjoy it, and an outline of the jobs and requirements involved in the varying careers within publishing.

James Irving, Year 12

I came along to this talk as I didn't know anything about this particular industry. The presentation opened my eyes to the amazing opportunities within an organisation like this. I have added this to the list of possible careers for me now!

Vishal Gadday, Year 11

I found the presentation very beneficial as it showed us that there are multiple paths within the publishing industry such as marketing and editing. It was also interesting to see how long a book takes to publish and the stages that each book has to go through before being released. Overall, I found the presentation very interesting and informative, and it has definitely broadened my thinking in relation to the publishing industry.

Olivia Rodriguez, Year 12

Chalfonts Community College PTA invites you to

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

Friday 5th May 2017



Venue: CCC Main Hall

Doors Open: 6.45pm

Racing starts: 7.30pm

Tickets: £12.50

Includes Fish & Chip Supper

Licensed Bar

Tickets available on Parent Pay or contact
Cath Smith: cath@milestonetechnologies.co.uk



James Bertrand, a former student who completed his education at Chalfonts last year, is trying to raise £90,000 for surgery on his legs in Australia. Please support this very worthy cause if you are able to. We will also be arranging other fundraising events to support James.

Please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jamesbertrand> to contribute and read more.

Cathy Jones

Learning Support Department

Dates for your Diary

27th April 2017 - Y7-8 Junior Maths Challenge

1st May 2017 - Bank Holiday

2nd May 2017 - Y10 Reports

4th May 2017 - Y10 Parents' Evening (4-8pm)

5th May 2017 - PTA Race Night

Important Information

Help us to help you!

Do your online shopping through The College website and The College will benefit in commission.
No registration or sign-up required.

Add this page to your favourites and start shopping today!:

<http://www.chalfonts.org/page/default.asp?pid=56>

Relief Catering Assistant

Would you like to work in The College Café? We have a vacancy for a Relief Catering Assistant.
Regular hours are available each week and you would need to be on call as required.
This could lead to a permanent position.

You must be prepared to work hard and be physically fit. The job will involve food preparation and serving the students, washing up and cleaning of the kitchens. Term time only. Experience in catering preferred but training will be given, including a Level 2 Food Safety Certificate.

Apply to Carole Fadipe or Barbara Pestellon 01753 881 781 or by email:
carolefadipe@chalfonts.org

'The Day'

The school has subscribed to The Day. If you are looking for thought provoking news articles please log-in:

<http://theday.co.uk>

Username: Chalfonts

Password: theday

Nearly New Uniform

- 
- 
- ✓ Girls' blazers
 - ✓ Boys' blazers
 - ✓ Shirts
 - ✓ Ties
 - ✓ Skirts
 - ✓ Trousers
 - ✓ PE tops
 - ✓ PE skorts
 - ✓ PE shorts
 - ✓ PE fleeces
 - ✓ Socks
 - ✓ And other items...

Email:

orlessa@aol.com

Or

caroleannpollock@btinternet.com

Health Zone

Confidential 'drop in' clinic from
Bucks NHS, **Addaction** and our
School Counsellor

advice for any health issues,
drugs or anything else that is
worrying you, including...

Sexual health testing
Drugs advice
Safe sex
Health worries

Relationships
Free condoms
Chlamydia tests
Nutritional advice

CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN TO YEAR 9'S-13'S ONLY

**every other tuesday lunchtime
in the LRC.**

Dates: 31st Jan, 28th Feb, 14th & 28th March,
25th April, 9th & 23rd May, 6th June, 4th & 18th July



News from the Medical Room and Lost Property

Lost Property

There is still a lot of 'lost property' being generated – please encourage students to look after their belongings – especially items of PE kit.

All named lost property is returned to its owner via e-mails to the student's tutor, so please name anything that is likely to get 'lost'. Un-named lost property is put on the table in the corridor outside the medical room for anyone to claim and is re-cycled after a couple of weeks as there isn't any storage space for the quantities of items received.

Students diagnosed With a Medical Condition

If your son or daughter are diagnosed with any medical conditions, or are prescribed any medication that they may need during the day, please contact Miss Romney so that the information can be recorded.

Medical Time-Out cards

Students diagnosed with a medical condition, which may necessitate them leaving a lesson, are issued with a Medical Time-Out card so that they can leave the lesson, without having to explain the reason to the teacher and with as little disruption as possible to the rest of the class.

Most students issued with these use them very responsibly but last term a small minority abused their use of them.

If your child is issued with an M T-O card, please will you remind them that they need to use it sensibly as they are issued for their benefit.

i.e. they don't need to explain to each teacher why they need to leave the room.

Use of the Medical Room

Reminder for students that the medical room is open at break and lunch-time for students to 'Drop-In'. It is only open during and between lessons for accidents and medical emergencies.

Gayle Romney

Medical Administrator/First Aider/Lost Property

01753 881627

gayleromney@chalfonts.org



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