

OCTOBER

THE CHALFONTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

October 2023



CHALFONTS NEWS

Success is an Attitude

Issue 18



POWERED BY



The Parliamentary Review

BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE



"Success is an Attitude"

conscientious

courteous

We are a happy, successful and aspirational community, both today and tomorrow

committed

community minded

Our School's Four Core Values;

Courteous! Community Minded!

Conscientious! and Committed!

Welcome to our new Year 12

Below is a photograph of some of our new Year 12 students on their induction day at the start of September. Students underwent a day of activities including a Learning to Learn programme, problem solving and team building exercises. It was great to see students come together as a new year group and we look forward to working with them over the next two years.

Mr Way - Leader for 6th Form



An Interview with our new Head Boy

What are you studying at The Chalfonts Community College, and what made you decide to stay here at Sixth Form?

"Hi, I am Laurie McGrath and I am currently studying A levels in Physics, Maths and Spanish. Staying at The Chalfonts Community College was an easy option for me as I knew this school had many things to offer and the teachers were outstanding, especially for the subjects I had chosen."

Do you know what you would like to do when you leave Sixth Form?

"I would like to study Business Management and Spanish at University."

What do you want to achieve as Head Girl/Boy?

"As Head Boy, I have the ambition to help the school by further enhancing its excellent reputation and implementing my ideas for improving the facilities and

school system."

What is your greatest achievement so far?

"Getting the grades I wanted for GCSEs and developing myself as a person, especially becoming more independent, and now working hard for my A levels in the spirit of achieving high grades is probably my greatest achievement. Of course along with having the privilege of being elected as Head Boy."

What does it feel like being voted for by peers and teachers?

"Finding out I was chosen to be Head Boy after shaking hands with the Headteacher, gave me a great sense of joy and excitement. I was delighted to work with the teachers and leadership team."

(Interview continues below...)

The First Day

CONGRATULATIONS to our NEW Head Boy! **Laurie McGrath**



(Interview continued...)

What is your favourite book?

*"A book I really enjoyed was called **The Fault in Our Stars** by John Green with lots of emotion and empathy. A series of books I always read as a child was **Cherub** by Robert Muchamore which was about an undercover school where they worked with MI5."*

What would you be doing if you weren't in school?

"If I were not at school and had left after my GCSEs I would have pursued an apprenticeship, perhaps in Business or Finance although I never fully considered it as an option."

What would be your fantasy holiday destination, and why?

"I would love to travel the world for half a year with a friend or partner after University before I start working full time because this way I can enjoy my youth years by travelling instead of doing it when I am older."

What message would you like to say to younger students?

"I would recommend taking part in as many opportunities as you can because it not only improves your skill set and helps you learn lots of new things, but it is also a chance to make new friends and learn more about yourself. Finally, enjoy your school years whilst working hard to be in the top sets for each subject."

An Interview with our new Head Girl

encountered along the way."

What are you studying at The Chalfonts Community College, and what made you decide to stay here at Sixth Form?

"I am currently studying A-levels Chemistry, Biology, and Psychology. Over the years, I have developed a strong sense of comfort and familiarity with the school. My teachers have played a pivotal role in my academic journey, supporting me right from the beginning. They have consistently provided me with the help and encouragement I needed, ensuring I have the confidence in myself that they have in me."

Do you know what you would like to do when you leave Sixth Form?

"Next September, I hope to be undertaking a degree program within the medical field. My deep-seated passion for medicine has been a driving force in my educational journey, and I am grateful for The Chalfonts unwavering support in helping me overcome the challenges I've

What do you want to achieve as Head Girl/Boy?

"I am committed to push the vision of success and happiness at The Chalfonts by introducing various initiatives. These include establishing mental health support groups, organizing diversity and inclusion meetings to ensure every voice is heard, and implementing educational groups for students from all years in overcoming their challenges. Furthermore, I aim to inspire more students to engage in leadership opportunities such as the Student Council, where they can actively contribute their ideas on enhancing The Chalfonts community."

What is your greatest achievement so far?

"My greatest achievement and privilege have undoubtedly been holding the position of Head Girl here at The Chalfonts. This role has allowed me to represent my peers, voice their opinions, and collaborate effectively as a member of the leadership team." (Interview continues below...)

Whole School Merit Competition!

Calling all Year 7 to Year 11 students!

Are you ready to seize the opportunity to shine and earn merits while embodying our core values? The Whole School Merit Competition is here, and it's your chance to be recognized for your dedication and commitment to excellence.

Our Core Values:

Committed: Show dedication in every lesson, every day.

Conscientious: Complete all tasks with care and diligence.

Community Minded: Be a supportive member of our school community.

Courteous: Treat others with respect and kindness.

How to Win: To claim victory in your year group, follow these simple steps:

Work Hard: Give your best effort in every lesson.

Complete Tasks: Finish all assignments as directed by your teachers.

Ask Questions: Seek clarity when you need it; your curiosity is commendable!

Stay Focused: Avoid distractions, ensuring a productive learning environment.

Prizes Await! The students who amass the highest number of merits in each year group will be celebrated with certificates and fantastic prizes!

Your Time to Shine Is Now!

This competition is your chance to show your commitment to learning, grow as a student, and set an example for your peers.

All the very best on your merit-earning journey!

Note: Merit competition details and updates will be provided regularly. Stay tuned for announcements and watch your merits soar!

CONGRATULATIONS to our NEW Head Girl! Aswini Rejeesh



Marvellous Merits

(Interview continued...)

What does it feel like being voted for by peers and teachers?

"Being elected as Head Girl by my peers and teachers bestowed upon me a significant sense of responsibility. It became clear that I needed to meet the expectations of both students and teachers."

What is your favourite book?

"The Perks of Being a Wallflower is my favourite book as it captures the essence of what growing up feels like in an incredibly relatable way. The author Stephen Chbosky, does an excellent job of touching on important themes such as friendship, mental health, and self-discovery. It's a literary gem that continues to hold a special place in my heart."

4 What would you be doing if you weren't in school?

"Well, I'll consider the possibility of attending culinary

school to acquire professional cooking skills. With this training, I would be opening a bakery in a location that serves only locally sourced ingredients."

What would be your fantasy holiday destination, and why?

"My fantasy holiday destination is Lake Como, Italy. First and foremost, the natural beauty of Lake Como is simply breath-taking. Nestled amidst the Italian Alps, the deep blue waters, lush greenery and charming villages all feel like it's straight out of a fairy-tale. In addition, it is even featured in Stars Wars as Naboo."

What message would you like to say to younger students?

"Dream big and never limit your aspirations. The sky is your only limit. With the right mindset and determination, you have the potential to achieve anything."



Pony Club Competition

Earlier this year, I was lucky enough to have qualified for the Pony Club Eastern Regional Championships held in Norwich in the PC 80 Grassroots Dressage test. We travelled up there on the Friday afternoon ready to compete on Saturday. It was a great day however we ended up not being placed but managed a respectable score of 61%. Charlie (pony) looked after me incredibly with it being the biggest show that I've ever competed in and we both coped better than I could've expected in a huge atmosphere with a million different things happening at once. I hope to qualify again next year and better our performance with the experience we've gained and will gain in the coming year.

Emily S - Year 11 Student

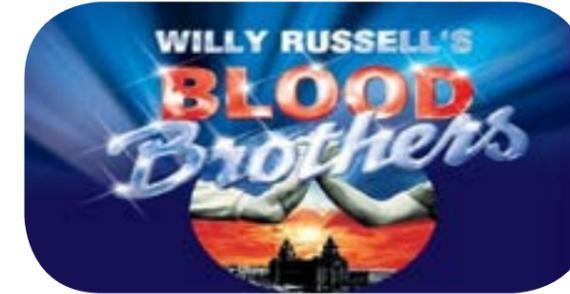


Blood Brothers Trip - 14th September 2023

Our Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students took a trip to the Oxford Playhouse to see the National Tour of **Blood Brothers** by Willy Russell.

The students behaviour was exemplary and they thoroughly enjoyed the production. Having studied the play for their written exam it was an immeasurable learning experience for them to see it performed by professionals. The design and performance elements worked together to portray a 30-year tale of class division, desperation and tragedy. This socio-political style of the 1980s proved to be British theatre at its best!

**Miss Hughes -
Drama Department**



Pony Club

Drama, Drama



Whole School Musical

LEGALLY BLONDE auditions went bruisingly well (Bruiser is the dog), in other words it was brilliant! A brilliant turn out, banging auditions, belting singing, beautiful behaviour and bright spirits!

Fast forward two weeks and casting is complete. Congratulations to everyone involved. It was noted that this show has been the hardest to cast ever at CCC because of the sheer talent and enthusiasm. A double cast, a lot of excitement and an epic adventure ahead. Rehearsals begin **Wednesday 18th October 3:05 – 4:30pm** in **Java Drama**. Anyone else that is interested in joining, please do come along!

Miss Hughes - Drama Department



SORA

Since we launched SORA, our free reading app, over the summer we are delighted to say that **300 books** have been read, which is brilliant!

Please can I request, if you have not downloaded the app on your phone/chromebook already, that you do so following the instructions.

Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com.

- In Sora, find your school (or enter your school's setup code), then sign in.
- Browse the Explore tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away
- Close the book and go to your Shelf to see all your books (including assignments).

From there, you can:

- Tap Open Book or Open Audiobook to read or listen to the book.
- Tap Options to renew or return the book, get to your notes and highlights, and more

SORA has a wide range of up to date books with extra functions listed below.



Benefits of reading daily

- Reading is exercise for the brain.
- Improves your focus and concentration.
- Reading is a way to escape your own life, and can take you to faraway lands from the comfort of a chair.
- Increases your vocabulary.
- Strengthen your writing skills.
- Expands your knowledge.
- Gives you a mood boost.
- Stronger analytical thinking skills.
- Reading regularly will increase your memory.
- Reduces stress, worry or tension.
- If you read a book before you go to bed it helps you relax and go to sleep.
- The most important benefit is FUN...



SORA App Update!

A few benefits for using the SORA App below;

- It has 5,000 books the students and teachers can access up to date and classics (not revision)
- Audio Books available
- Foreign Language books (x32 Ukrainian also Spanish, Italian, Polish, Portuguese etc)
- Font can be changed to an easy read for dyslexic students
- Manga books - x150 of these. Our LRC has very few and are always out on loan
- Comics corner x320 different ones
- Updated every quarter to include new and relevant titles for schools
- Waiting lists for the popular books waiting time is a maximum of one week
- If the student does not understand a word you can highlight it for it to be explained

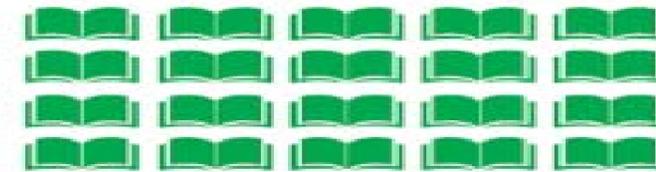
LRC

Benefits of Reading!

Why Read at home?

STUDENT A READS

- 20 minutes per day
- 3,600 minutes per school year
- 1,800,000 words per year



STUDENT B READS

- 5 minutes per day
- 900 minutes per school year
- 282,000 words per year



STUDENT C READS

- 1 minute per day
- 180 minutes per school year
- 8,000 words per year




SCORES IN THE 90TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS


SCORES IN THE 50TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS


SCORES IN THE 10TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS

Book Reviews

Every week **Miss Gilbert** recommends a book for Key Stage 3, 4 and Sixth Form. These are her latest recommendations.

How To Survive Your Murder

By Danielle Valentine
Genre: Horror/Crime

Blurb:

Alice Lawrence is the sole witness in her sister's murder trial.

And in the year since Claire's death, Alice's life has completely fallen apart. Her parents have gotten divorced, she's moved into an apartment that smells like bologna, and she is being forced to face her sister's killer and a courtroom full of people who doubt what she saw in the corn maze a year prior.

Claire was an all-American girl, beautiful and bubbly, and a theater star. Alice

was a nerd who dreamed of becoming a forensic pathologist and would rather stay at home to watch her favorite horror movies than party. Despite their differences, they were bonded by sisterhood and were each other's best friends.

Until Claire was taken away from her.

On the first day of the murder trial, as Alice prepares to give her testimony, she is knocked out by a Sidney Prescott look-alike in the courthouse bathroom. When she wakes up, it is Halloween night a year earlier, the same day Claire was murdered. Alice has until midnight to save her sister and find the real killer before he claims another victim.

Available on the Sora App



Art News - A Great stART

Year 7s have made a great start to their Art sketchbooks. This term they are studying the Formal Elements of art: tone, line, form, shape, pattern, texture and colour. They have created 'splodges' of paint using the primary colours (red, yellow and blue) and then designed facial features to transform the splodges into cute characters to decorate their sketchbook covers. Well done Year 7s!

Art Department



Miss Gilbert Recommends!

Amazing Art

The Night House

By Jo Nesbo
Genre: Horror

Blurb:

WHEN THE VOICES CALL, DON'T ANSWER...

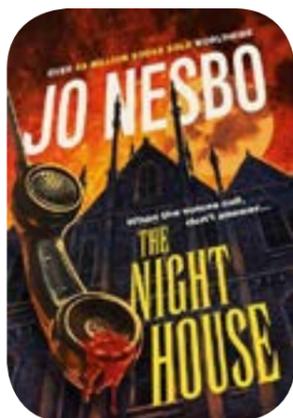
In the wake of his parents' tragic deaths fourteen-year-old Richard Elvaud has been sent to live with his aunt and uncle in the remote town of Ballantyne, where all is not as it seems.

Richard quickly earns a reputation as an outcast, and when a classmate named Tom goes missing, no one believes him when he says the telephone booth out by the edge of the woods sucked

Tom into the receiver like something out of a horror movie.

No one, that is, except the enigmatic Karen, who encourages Richard to pursue clues the police refuse to investigate. He traces the number to an abandoned

house in the woods. There he catches a glimpse of a terrifying face in the window. And then the voices start.



Tomorrow And Tomorrow And Tomorrow

By Gabrielle Zevin
Genre: Literary Fiction

Blurb:

This is the story of Sam and Sadie. It's not a romance, but it is about love.

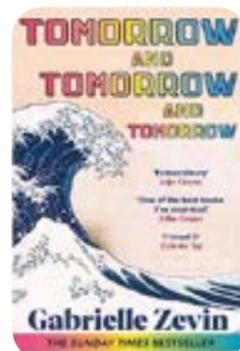
When Sam catches sight of Sadie at a crowded train station one morning he is catapulted straight back to childhood, and the hours they spent immersed in playing games.

Their spark is instantly reignited and sets off a creative collaboration

that will make them superstars. It is the 90s, and anything is possible.

What comes next is a decades-long tale of friendship and rivalry, fame and art, betrayal and tragedy, perfect worlds and imperfect ones. And, above all, our

need to connect: to be loved and to love.



Art Fun...

What is a painting done by a cat called? A paw-trait



Guess the Artist:



Answer: Banksy

Chalfonts Success Stories

Name: Daniel 'Dee' Riley

What is your current role and who do you work for now?

I am a Stage & Closeup

magician, I'm self employed working for different clients, private event, celebs, hotels, bars and restaurants.

Tell us a bit about your job.

On average a magician will do a 1-2 hour closeup gig an evening, sometimes a couple of gigs a night, I also host stage show and feature in stage shows with 10 - 20 minute stage acts.

Fee always varies Especially when you're first starting out but in average a good closeup magician can go

out for £400-500 per hour for a private gig.

What did you study at The Chalfonts Community College and which years were you in Chalfont?

I was at The Chalfonts from the years 2002-2010 (I think) stayed on to 6th form and studied philosophy, psychology & performing arts.

What inspired you about doing this role? When did you decide to take this career?

I was Inspired by watching Derren Browns TV shows and seeing his stage shows, I wanted to be like him and perform mind reading tricks, I learnt a few tricks when I was younger and I would regularly show friends at school the latest thing I'd learnt.

After showing friends tricks a few would ask me to perform at their parties and it grew from there as a career going on to do bigger events in and around London.

(Interview continues below...)

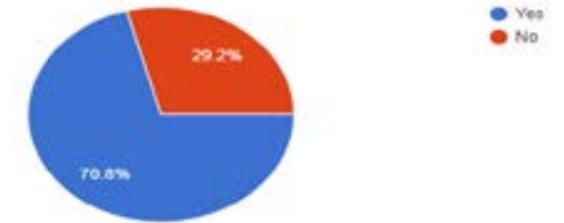
Employability Workshop on CV Writing Skills and Interview Techniques.

We welcomed the talent Foundry to school to give all our Year 11 students a two hour workshop. The feedback below was very positive from the students. These workshops will help support the students to get ready for our Employability day in January.

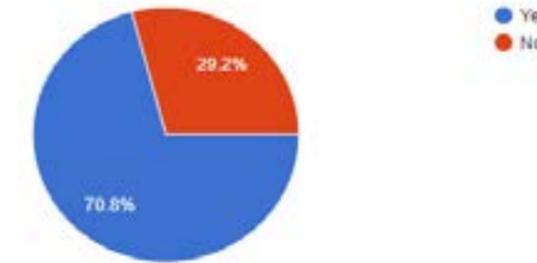
Did you feel the workshop helped you to write your own CV?



Did you feel the workshop helped you prepare for an interview?



Do you feel the workshop has helped improve your confidence?



Chalfonts Alumni

(...Interview continued)

What tips would you give to students about their future careers?

Focus on your studies but take the time to think about where you would like to be in the future, you don't have to know right away exactly what you'll be doing as this will shift and change over time, but if you have a passion for something,

12 *anything go for it put your focus and your energy into working hard*

so that you can achieve that. Always try your best, that will look different day to day yet know that if you don't get the grades you want the world is full of second chances and opportunities for you to grow and become the individual you want.

Dare to believe in yourself, doubt killed more dreams than failure ever did.



Brand New! The CCC Careers Newsletter

Please find our first careers newsletter attached for the new academic year. We hope the information is useful and inspiring for our students, parents/carers. Please feel free to email us any requests or feedback. [Click here](#) to read it.

Volunteers needed please

Our save the date for this event is Tuesday 30th January. If you work for a company whom you think would like to attend our Employability day in order to inspire our students, or even maybe consider running an inspirational workshop please can you email me kirstyvinten@chalfonts.org. We are looking for all types of industries for example; **Media and Advertising, Construction, STEM, I.T. Local Businesses, Entrepreneurs, Recruitment, Sport and Fitness, Retail, Property, Teaching, Healthcare, Banking, Catering and Hospitality, Engineering and Mechanics.**

THANK YOU!



Success is an Attitude

Mr Modha would like to share an inspirational story and poem to help motivate his students.

Ability teaches us how we do, motivation determines why we do, and attitude decides how well we do.

There was a man who made his living selling balloons at a fair. He had balloons of many different colours, including red, yellow, blue and green. Whenever business was slow, he would release a helium-filled balloon into the air. When the children saw the balloon go up, they all wanted one. They would come up to him, buy a balloon and his sales would go up. All day, he continued to release a balloon whenever sales were slow. One day, the balloon man felt someone tugging at his jacket. He turned around and a little boy asked, "If you release a black balloon, will that also fly?" Moved by the boy's concern, the man replied gently, "Son, it is not the colour of the balloon, it is what's inside that makes it go up."

The same principle applies to our lives: It's what's inside that counts and what's inside of us that makes us go up is our attitude. William James of Harvard University said, "The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."

Mr Modha - Teacher of Maths



Bali Trip 2023

In July 2023, we took 14 amazing Year 11 and 12 students on a life-changing World Challenge to Bali. We spent two weeks moving around the island and working on different initiatives. The students learned about Indonesian culture and embedded themselves into remote communities. They cultivated seaweed for the local community to sell, trekked up a volcano to watch the sunrise across Bali, trekked around idyllic lakes, and snorkelled with an array of marine life. They also learned about the devastating impact of tourism on the island and the impact that pollution and global warming had on the island. To overcome it, the students did frequent beach cleanups. It was an amazing experience for all involved, and the memories will last for the rest of their lives.

Mr Howard - Assistant Principal



Motivational Maths

'The Man Who Thinks He Can' by Walter D. Wintle

*If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;*

*If you'd like to win, but think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose, you're lost, For out in the word we find
Success begins with a fellow's will, It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you're outcasted, you are;
You've got to think high to rise.*

You've got to be sure of yourself before You can ever win a prize.

*Life's battles don't always go,
To the stronger or faster man;*

*But soon or late the man who wins,
Is the man who thinks he can.*



Travelling Experiences



Open Evening 2023

On Wednesday 11th October, the school opened its doors to the public to come along to our annual Open Evening. Hundreds of parents and children attended the evening which started with the choir filling the main hall with a rendition of Miley Cyrus 'The Climb' followed by speeches from our Head Boy, **Laurie** and Head Girl, **Aswini** with a Q&A by the Leader for Year 7, **Miss Head** with some of her students done in the style of Jonathan Ross!

Mrs Whitehead then took to the stage and explained to parents why The Chalfonts is the right school for their child. If that was not enough, parents and Year 6 children were invited in again to see the school in action to our Open Morning on Thursday 12th October. This gave parents the opportunity to see the school in action.

Mr Vahora - Assistant Head



Buckinghamshire Helping Hand

Buckinghamshire Helping Hand team is available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis. Let them know if

- you are struggling to afford food
- you cannot keep on top of your bills
- you are in debt
- you are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/contact-helping-hand/>

You can request support from the Helping Hand team by: completing an online form or calling **01296 531 151: Monday to Thursday (9am to 5:30pm), Friday (9am to 5pm)**

If you would like to apply for Free Schools Meals for your child please [click here](#) to download the application form. It should be returned to **Rachel MacKeith** or via email rachelmackeith@chalfonts.org

Open Day

Helping Hand



Aspirational Tree

We welcomed lots of parents/carers, and children into the LRC for the Year 7 open evening on Thursday 11th October. We asked the children to complete our **Success is an Attitude** student symbol by writing down what they would like to do when they finish school.

Please take a look at our full tree of ambitions and aspirations we were really impressed.



helping hand



20th

End of Term -
3.05pm finish



6th

Everyone
Returns to School



30th

Employability Skills
Day



Is your child a budding guitarist?
Lessons are available at CCC
with **Mark Lague**.
Contact mark.lague@btinternet.com
for details



USEFUL LINKS:

Young Minds
Supporting & empowering
young people through life's
difficulties

**The Proud
Trust**
LGBT+
Online support &
information

Family Lives
Online support for
parents & families

CCC Vacancies
Join our amazing
team!



1,690+ people follow the College
on **X** (formerly **TWITTER**)
(**@ccchalfonts**)
(**@ccc6thform**)

Follow our Sixth Form
on **INSTAGRAM**
(**@ccc_6th_form**)

Why not join us?