



14th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. It is through this strong partnership approach that we are able to achieve high standards of student conduct and learning.

We held a highly successful Open Evening last Wednesday, and the school had a very high number of prospective students and parents who were very impressed with the many activities on offer across our extensive curriculum. Our students were particularly commendable in the way in which they welcomed visitors and confidently held tours of the school.

### **Teaching and Learning**

We will be sharing a spotlight on each subject with you as a snapshot of what our students are studying across the term. I hope you will find this spotlight on the History department of interest.

We have had a great start to the year in the History department with the study of many different interesting topics. In Year 7, students have been introduced to the skills of History and have enjoyed the investigation into the death of Tollund Man. They are then studying the Iron Age and the impact of the Romans. In Year 8, students have studied pre-colonial Africa and the impact of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In Year 9, students have been studying the causes and nature of the First World War and will be researching key events such as the Armistice and Remembrance Sunday, as well as significant individuals such as Walter Tull and significant events such as the Christmas truce of 1914 and 1915. Exam groups have been working very hard. In Year 10, students have been making pamphlets that might have helped the first pioneers cross the Great Plains in their journey west. In Year 11, students are now studying the "Whitechapel Murders", as part of Crime and Punishment, prior to a visit to the Jack the Ripper tour.

### **Literacy and Bedrock Learning**

Bedrock Learning has started for all students in Year 7 and restarted for those in Year 8. For one hour a fortnight in English lessons, students will work at their own pace through a bespoke literacy program designed to expand their tier two vocabulary. Access to this vocabulary will mean that they can be successful in their classwork, assessments and examinations across all subjects by broadening their understanding of many different types of words across many different contexts. For parents, a communication has been sent home with login details outlining how you can support your child at home and encourage them to keep up with their points. We look forward to giving out achievement certificates to those who are really engaging with the program each week, next half term.

## Safeguarding Week

As part of our annual Safeguarding Week, we were proud to host Alison Cope as our Keynote speaker. Alison Cope is the mother of Joshua Ribera who was tragically murdered in 2013.

She now works tirelessly to help prevent youth violence by sharing her son's unique life and death story to help educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence. Her powerful presentations convey: the importance of prevention, the emotive realisation of how choices and the use of social media affect loved ones and how young people retain hope for the future

Alison spoke to each year group in an age appropriate manner during Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of October, as well as hosting a parent presentation on Monday evening. Although hard hitting, Alison's message resonated and impacted upon all members of the school community, both staff and students alike. We hope by hearing Alison's message it will empower our students to think more carefully about the choices they make and understand the consequences of their actions (including in the online world) on themselves and others. You can read more about Alison Cope and her work on the links here: <https://www.alisoncope.com/> [The Joshua Ribera Foundation](#) | [Depzman - Life Cut Short](#)

The Buckinghamshire Mental Health Support Team will be providing a timetable of Parent/Carer Webinars for the academic year 2024-2025. The webinars are 1.5hrs each and are being run throughout the year and will focus on common Mental Health themes, as well as transition and exam stress. You can use the QR codes to express interest and sign up. All webinars are free to join. Please see the information attached to this letter from MHST.

## Student Safety at the front of the school

May I once again, politely request that families who drive their children to and from school, do not park in the turning circle or the bus stops at the front of the school. School buses require full access to the turning circle in order to reach the school bus stop to enable students to disembark and board buses safely. When there are cars parked in these areas it presents a safety risk to students. The school car park and entrance to the school is not to be used for dropping off or collecting students, other than through prior agreement with us in the case of medical or disability requirements. Please arrange to drop off and collect your child further from the school for the safety of all.

## Chalfont Live

You are welcome to join us for The Chalfonts Community College's first music performance of this academic year on Tuesday 15th October at the Chalfont St.Peter Cricket Club 6.30pm. The event is built around a 45 minute set by our Year 12 group 'Soundcheck in the Alley' for their A level coursework. The event is free to attend but a kind donation to the department would be gratefully accepted.





**School finishes for the half term holiday on Friday 18th October at 3.05pm and all students return to school on Monday 4th November.**

I wish you all a pleasant half term break ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Whitehead  
Principal