



8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin this second half of the autumn term, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our students and families.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 14th November 6-8.30pm. Year 11 families have received information regarding the evening and families in Year 10 are also welcome to attend to start thinking about their options after Year 11. We are very excited to show families and prospective sixth form students around our brand new sixth form cafe and dedicated study areas.

Teaching and Learning

This is a very big half term for our exam students in Year 11 and 13. Year 11s have their mocks starting on the 25th of November and the Year 13s are after Christmas. All work in lessons and at home over the next half term will be dedicated to preparing for those mock exams to give us the best snapshot of where individual students stand in their journey to their exams in the summer. Year 11 students will find a 'Year 11 Mock Information' document on Show my Homework that has all of the information needed for them for these mocks including topics that could be covered and helpful resources for their revision. They will also be set revision work by subject teachers on Show my Homework - please check in with them that they are completing this revision. Year 11 students have been given the general exam timetable and will be given their individual timetables next week. All grades for these mock exams will not be released until the mock results day on the 17th of January.

Uniform

Our uniform represents a commitment to our school community, and we expect students to wear it with pride and respect. This attention to detail helps reinforce the positive school culture we value here at The Chalfonts Community College.

Students are reminded to wear a tie and blazer (and optional school jumper) with their outside coat only being worn over the top. Outside coats are not substitutes for blazers and no other items of clothing such as hoodies or sweatshirts can be worn under blazers or in place of a school uniform. The uniform is to be worn without adaptations. This includes skirts which must not be tailored to make them shorter. Students with skirts that are not being worn correctly will be addressed and those with very short tailored skirts will be asked to purchase new skirts. Break time detentions are held each day for students with incorrect uniform.

Our PTA runs an online second hand uniform shop with very reasonable prices for items in good condition/nearly new. Please click on this link to place an order: <https://chalfont-community-college-pta.sumupstore.com/>

Behaviour & Attitudes Update

This year, there has been a concentrated effort to introduce consistent routines at the start and end of every lesson, to provide a strong foundation for effective learning and respectful behaviour. With students lining up outside their classroom. Once inside, they engage in a retrieval starter activity, focusing quietly on key content as soon as they sit down. At the end of the lesson, students stand silently behind their chairs, while staff check uniforms and dismiss them row by row.

This structured approach may seem simple, but it is already bringing noticeable benefits to our classrooms. By reinforcing these routines, we are creating a calm and orderly environment where students know what to expect and are encouraged to engage fully in their learning. Routine helps young people by providing a clear, predictable framework that promotes a sense of security and focus. At an age when many are navigating social and academic pressures, routines allow them to concentrate better on the task at hand, increasing productivity and reducing distractions.

Through this approach, we are also seeing positive changes in behaviour. When routines are established, students quickly understand our expectations and adapt to them, leading to improved classroom discipline. This in turn enables teachers to dedicate more time to supporting students academically rather than addressing disruptions, contributing to a more constructive learning atmosphere for everyone.

Your support is invaluable as we work together to reinforce these routines. By encouraging your child to understand the importance of consistency and responsibility, you are helping to build skills that will benefit them both in school and beyond. We are committed to continuing this approach and look forward to seeing even greater improvements as the year progresses.

Geography department update

Aside from the normal boring stuff of blowing up volcanoes, using students to demonstrate earthquakes and finding out how many Year 7 students don't know where London is on a map, this has been a very good term so far for team Geography. Mr. Smith came up with the mad idea that his Year 9 class should design 'Save the Rainforest t-shirts' and there is no doubt that the results were outstanding. Photos will be appearing in the end of term newsletter, parents should be really proud of the outstanding effort put in by the students. Mr. Keane invited all students to submit a poster for the Royal Geographical Society Competition on the theme of 'Choose Geography' and we will be awarding five RGS Certificates of Commendation after the announcement of the National winners on 29th November. We may even win one of the Nationals. Once again we descended on the River Chess for fieldwork and we have planned a week-long coastal field trip for our wonderful Year 12 students to Slapton in Dorset for next summer. The winners of the Y7 Sustainable City Build project, which they participated in on the second last day of the year, should have now received their certificates from their year leader. Once again a huge shout out to parents and grandparents for all their help and encouragement on this. Year 11 should do well in the mocks so please encourage and support. Please don't hesitate to give us a call or email if you have any concerns.

Good news

For a number of Year 9 students, half term marked an incredible experience—a successful and enriching trip to Thailand. This unique journey provided them with the opportunity to visit an orphanage and an elephant sanctuary, giving them a new perspective on global cultures and conservation efforts. I am certain that the memories and lessons learned during this trip will stay with them for years to come, deepening their understanding of compassion, responsibility, and the world around them. I would like to thank Mr W Clarke, Miss T Hunt, and Mrs C Dancer for the trip.



This week our Year 8 football team beat Thorpe house in an entertaining 4-2 win. Having gone 1-0 up to 2-1 down, the boys were able to equalise and go on into extra time to win 4-2 and progress into the next round of the county cup.

We are very proud that a number of students have had their short stories published following their entries into a 'Short Story writing Competition' which was organised by The Young Writers Organisation. Congratulations to Charlotte Kentish - Finn, Calin Condurache, Zachary Carroll, Jogaila Zilevicius, Darcey Ferres, Bashini Herath, Martha Price, Sophie Brown, Chloe Douglas and Bella Martin

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal