



THE CHALFONTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE    December 2024

# CHALFONTS NEWS



*Success is an Attitude*

*Issue 25*



**Our School's  
Four Core Values;**

**Courteous  
Community Minded**

**Conscientious  
and Committed**

## Acts Of Kindness

Willow J, Maya P, Ruby D, Joseph O, Rose L-B and Betsy C all in Year 8, decorated the two Christmas trees in the LRC.

Thank you, we think they look lovely and very tasteful!



This half term, The CCC Student Leadership ran two fundraisers. One for *Chiltern Hills Food Bank*, over **2,000 items** of food were donated. This year CCC smashed their previous donation goal of **234kg** of food and reached a whopping **555.2k**.

The second to support families in our community who need it over the Christmas period with a Gift donation drive. This time of year can be a difficult one for everyone but some have had it harder than others.



## Remembrance Sunday Parade in Chalfont St Peter

On Sunday 10th November 2024 people gathered from all around Chalfonts to march and honour the lives that were taken from 1914 - 1945. Our Deputy Head Girl, **Emma Sene** and our Student Advisor for Year 7, **Avneet Jassal** volunteered to take part in the march, starting at the British Legion and ending at the church with the wreath laying.

What a touching and heartwarming experience to join together with the Chalfont St Peter Parish Council and contribute to the wreath laying at the parish church. With a two minute silence before and after the ceremony as everyone paid their respects with a physical reminder of all those who have served and sacrificed.

With British and Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and women representing together with members of emergency services. They also commemorated horses that fought alongside the soldiers. There was an estimate of around 2000 people that joined us on Sunday as we all came together to commemorate those who lost their lives. Even though not everyone had a wreath they all wore traditional symbolic poppies including dogs! It was a very touching

experience as first timers for a remembrance march.

**Emma Sene - Deputy Head Girl and Avneet Jassal - Student Advisor for Year 7**



# Be Kind

The families of Chalfont Community College have generously contributed over **640 gifts** for our CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE.

This reflects the warmth and kindness, of our community. Each gift will bring joy and comfort to families who may otherwise not receive a gift.

Together we are spreading the magic of Christmas.



# Lest We Forget



## Trip Of A Lifetime

On 29th October, we were lucky enough to be able to take a group of 17 students to Thailand for a trip of a lifetime.

After a day of travelling, our first trip out was to the Siam Technological College where the students were celebrating Halloween. Our students joined in with the celebrations, by having their faces painted with Halloween features, then went around the school offices trick or treating.

On days two and three the students spent their time at the Wat Raja O Ros School. Each student was introduced to their buddy who looked after them. They had a lesson in Thai dance, a lesson in Thai music, Thai cooking, and shown how to write their name in Thai. They also had fun taking part in Thai boxing and making themselves a handmade souvenir. They were then able to spend time visiting a Thai temple.

Day four, was an early start to travel for 1 and a half hours to the floating market where the students were given the opportunity to barter for goods and purchase those all-important gifts for friends and family back home. After a further 1 ½ hour travel the students were extremely lucky to visit an Elephant sanctuary, where they got to feed, mud bath and wash the elephants.

Their final day before departing for home, the students visited the Mercy Centre, a Centre for Orphaned and under privileged children. Each student brought with them a donation of books, clothes, toys, colouring pens, bags, which was given to the Centre to help the students they look after. Our students had a lovely time helping them play in the playground, and helping them in their lessons.

Mrs Dancer - Reprographics Manager



# Thailand Trip



# What's Happening in the Sixth Form

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sixth Form Information Evening - we enjoyed showcasing the range of subjects and qualifications we have to offer, introducing our Sixth Form teaching team to prospective students and their parents and having current students available to answer questions.

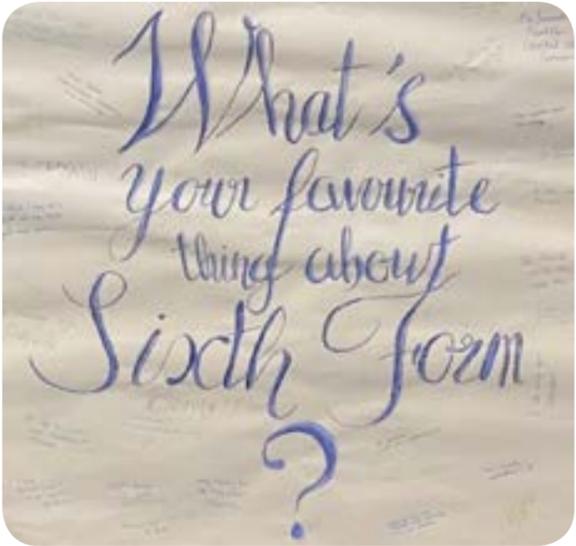
If you have a child in Year 11 and would like to find out more about life in the Sixth Form, please feel free to email in any specific queries to: [info@chalfonts.org](mailto:info@chalfonts.org)

Sixth Formers have been enjoying the range of hot and cold drinks, sweet and savory snacks and cold lunch items in their new Sixth Form only cafe where a delicious hot chocolate has proven to be an excellent addition to a busy winter's day of lessons, independent study and extracurricular activities and gives the perfect excuse to take a break and relax with friends!

Preparations are underway for our Sixth Form Winter Social Event taking place on Monday 16th December - a well-deserved celebration of a successful first term and what better way to get into the festive spirit than embracing a gingerbread theme!

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas break from the Sixth Form team

**Ms White - Sixth Form Study Centre Manager & Administrator**



# Coming Soon...



# Sixth Form News

## What's Your Favourite Thing About Sixth Form?

- The Staff.
- Making everlasting friendships.
- The freedom with studying and support from teachers.

- Only having to do my favourite lessons.
  - Beauty!!
- The free periods and independence.

- Freedom in clothing and academic independence.
- My favourite thing about Sixth Form is the Art Studio, just for Sixth Formers.
  - I like the creative aspect.

- The Students.
- My favourite thing about Sixth Form is the close knit school community.
- I enjoy spending time with my friends in the Cafe.

- I love the I.T. classrooms.
- I like spending my frees in Art
- I love History with Mrs Hunt.

# WE WILL ROCK YOU!

# Employability Skills Day

Tuesday 28th January - 8.45am-1.35pm

Thank you so much to the amazing companies confirmed to come to our Employability Skills Day. We would still love to have a few more, in particular we are looking for people working in the below industries;

- Estate Agents
- Theatre Industry
- Banking/Finance
- Recruitment
- Gyms

Can I request that you ask the company you work for to determine whether it can attend our Careers Fair if you are linked to any of the above and can take a stand if so, I would love to hear from you, similarly if you are experienced in interviewing and could volunteer an hour of your day to interview a few students, again I would love to hear from you?

Thanks in advance for any support you can provide to the school for what is a very important step in our students' futures.

**Miss Vinten - Employability and Careers Leader**



## Chalfonts Success Stories

**Name:** Clare Horle

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

I am a Garden Manager working part time, self employed on a 4 acre

private estate in Sussex and Dog Groomer working part time, self employed from my home in Crawley, Sussex. I also juggle house cleaning and child care as a mum of two.

### Tell us a bit about your job.

Both jobs give me creative license to do what I love to do. I am outside getting fit and healthy in the garden and I am with animals who benefit from my love, care and attention. Plus I get time to look after and enjoy quality time with my family and friends.

After leaving The Chalfonts I didn't know what I wanted to do, and that was ok. I worked a few retail jobs and started a nursing course that I quickly bailed out of. Then I thought about what brought me joy and at the time this was occasionally hanging out and working at my grandad's bedding nursery. So then I thought what did I do best at in A levels, I got E's for most, only design technology I got B. Lightbulb moment. So I chose to go to university to study a degree in Landscape and Garden Design achieving a 2.1. This put me in a great position to get a job with Mid Sussex District Council as a landscape designer which I did for 5 years.

Now life changes and throws a few curve balls and I left. I did love the job only being tied to a desk most days and the monotony of routine was not doing me any good. Becoming a mum was life affirming and career took a back seat whilst I juggled the children and worked with husband by utilising my transferable skills to build a catering experience company.

This ended 7 years later and COVID hit. So I reinvented myself and started again.

# Employability Skills Day Chalfonts Alumni



Going back to my gardening roots I working part-time in garden centres combined with going back to school and training to be a dog groomer. The link here was again thinking of my childhood happy memories with my grandparents and as well tending to the plants we spent a lot of time walking the dogs, which I also loved. So now I do both. The passion I share with others is continuing to open doors to new opportunities and even with life's unpredictable ups and downs I have a truly flexible work life balance.

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

My advice would be be brave and put yourself in situations, ask for things, ask for help, ask for a job. Fail a few times, getting a no first, second or third try is just a no today, maybe try tomorrow, maybe ask another person, maybe change your approach. Believe you can do what you want to do and time and persistence will lead to a yes, giving up will certainly lead to nowhere and regret.

Really think about what you love to do, and what makes you happy. Stop doing what doesn't make you

happy and follow both your heart and head.



## An Alumni Returns

We were delighted to host our Alumni **Annabel Dimmock** who has just won the Women's Irish Open in September 2024 to our Year 11 Careers assembly today.

Annabel Dimmock is an English golfer who lives in London. In 2024, she won the KPMG Women's Irish Open after overcoming a career-threatening injury. Dimmock had surgery to remove a bone in her hand and was out of the game for seven months.

Annabel talked about finding a passion and dedicating yourself to it and then you will succeed. She started playing golf at the age of 8 and talked about her career knock backs with injury and successes.

Congratulations Annabel on your recent win at the Irish Open and thank you for giving up your precious time to pass

on your knowledge to our students. We agree trying to be the best version of yourself is a winning formula for "success is an attitude".

**Miss Vinten - Employability and Careers Leader**



## The University of Buckingham Comes to CCC

We were delighted to welcome Annette Priest to our sixth form assembly last week. Annette talked about the benefits of attending Buckingham as they are one of the few Universities that offer two year degrees.

**Miss Vinten - Employability and Careers Leader**



# Special Guest Assemblies

# More Special Guest Assemblies

## DIMMOCK CLINCHES PLAYOFF VICTORY AT 2024 KPMG WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN

Posted on 01/09/2024



Annabel Dimmock completed her comeback from injury as she won her first Ladies European Tour (LET) title in five years after defeating **Pauline Roussin Bouchard** in a playoff at the 2024 KPMG Women's Irish Open.

### Why choose Buckingham?

*We believe in a high-quality education delivered with passion and focus on imparting useful and relevant knowledge. We also offer students the opportunity to study a degree their way, giving a range of options on how to study, and September and January start dates for almost all of our courses.*

*The University of Buckingham is ranked 2nd for Graduate Prospects (On Track) in the UK. At Buckingham, you'll be taught by experts who are internationally recognised as pioneers in their field – so you'll graduate with the latest industry knowledge.*

*Buckingham is surrounded by green spaces, and our riverside campus is the ideal backdrop for your studies. You can get the best of both worlds; you are never far from a city. Milton Keynes is a 20-minute drive away and offers plenty to do. You could even jump on a fast train to explore many big cities.*

*The Good University Guide 2022 ranked us in the top 10 in the UK for Teaching Quality. We keep class sizes*

*small, so you won't get lost in the crowd. You will be assigned a personal tutor to support you every step of the way, and our academic and student support teams will ensure you have the tools to succeed in your studies.*

*We also offer the option of two-year degrees, a condensed version of the traditional three-year degree, meaning you can gain a full honours degree, but graduate a whole year earlier. Alternatively, you can complete both your undergraduate and master's degree with us in just three years: saving you time and money.*

*Our dedication to teaching quality and student life has resulted in us being rated highly by our students and in national surveys. We are proud that the Good University Guide 2023 ranked us top 10 in the UK for Student Satisfaction. Nothing is more important to us than happy students.*



# Year 11 Historians Face Their Fears and Make History

This term, our Year 11 GCSE History students embarked on a thrilling and educational trip to London, combining the terrifying tales of the London Dungeon with the rich archives of historical Whitechapel. The day was a perfect blend of scares, learning, and unforgettable experiences.

The adventure began at the London Dungeon, where students were plunged into the darker side of history. Immersive performances, eerie storytelling, and sudden frights brought history to life in a way they'll never forget. Ghostly figures and gruesome tales had even the bravest students jumping out of their skins – though it was the three teachers who were spotted cowering at the back! Despite the screams, the students showed remarkable bravery, turning the scares into laughter and making memories that will surely outlast their GCSEs.

After recovering from the Dungeon's thrills, the group headed to The National Archives, where they got to engage with history in a much calmer (and less terrifying) way. Handling original documents gave students a unique insight into their GCSE Crime and Punishment module, particularly their study of Whitechapel. A standout moment was seeing the Dear

Boss letter, linked to the infamous Jack the Ripper case. This incredible opportunity allowed students to connect their classroom learning with real historical artifacts, sparking thoughtful discussions and curiosity.

Throughout the trip, the students were exceptional. Their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and genuine interest made them a credit to the school. This experience not only deepened their understanding of the past but also reminded us all how much fun history can be – even if it's a little scary at times!

A huge thank you to the staff who made the trip possible and to Year 11 for making it such a fantastic day. We're excited to see how their learning continues to grow as a result of this incredible experience!

**Ms Hunt - Teacher of History**



# Under 13 Girls' Football Success

The U13 girls' football team has been on fire this season, delivering an exceptional performance by winning every game so far! With teamwork, determination, and great skill on display, the girls have dominated their opponents, earning well-deserved recognition and support from the school.

**Miss Walker** praises the team's effort, saying, *"The girls have shown incredible dedication and passion for the game. Their hard work throughout is paying off on the pitch, and it's inspiring to see them grow with each match (as long as Thea doesn't get another red card) and I can't wait to see them grow as a team and see how far they can get"*

As the competition heats up and the team moves through the rounds the players are determined to keep their unbeaten streak alive and are gearing up for their next challenge with confidence and enthusiasm.

Supporters are encouraged to come for the team as they continue their journey toward what could be a historic season. Stay tuned for updates as these talented girls aim for win!

Good Luck CCC!

**Miss Walker - Teacher of PE**



# History Trip



# Super Sport



## Poetry Competition for Black History Month

For Black History Month, 2024, the students were encouraged to write a poem about an influential black person who has inspired them. It was great to see how many students took on the challenge. They wrote some beautiful poems, however **Mihin H**, a Year 9 student, wrote the winning poem. Read and enjoy.

**Miss Brooks - Teacher of English, Literacy Coordinator and Year 9 Coordinator for English**



## 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](https://soraapp.com).

- In Sora, find your school (The Chalfonts Community College), 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.



# Black History Month Poetry Winner

# SORA App Update!

## Usain Bolt the Thunder on the Track

By **Mihin H (9k3)**

**He stands at the line the crowd hold its breath  
A figure carved by speed and quiet strength.  
His eyes fixed forward, a lion's calm gaze  
In his heart beats thunder, the whole world sways.**

**From Trelawny's hills to Olympic fame,  
Where Jamaica's son would carve his name,  
Feet lightning, spirit like fire,  
He became the man every runner admired.**

**The moment the gun cracks he's out like a storm,  
Stride after stride, this legend is born.  
Eight gold medals, a legacy grand.  
The world remembers his outstretched hand.**

**But beyond the race, his laughter rings, a champion  
with joy, not just gold or wings  
He dances for victory, smiles for peace, in each  
step, a gift our hearts release.**

**He broke the records, but stayed so true,  
Inspiring kids with dreams anew.  
His spirit ran farther than any track,  
The thunder we still feel echoes back.**

**In every young sprinter's eager gaze,  
Usain's spirit sparks like sunlit rays.  
The legacy of Bolt is more than speed –  
It's the hope he planted as a universal seed.**



## 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

## THANK YOU From the LRC

On Friday 18th October, the LRC held a cupcake sale to raise more money for our new floor, we raised another **£340**, getting us a little closer to our total!

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to **Sarah Kempster**, a CCC parent and business owner for making us some beautiful cupcakes from her business '**Kempster Kakes**'. They were delicious!



We would also like to thank **Rachel Turkington**, another CCC parent, for her very generous donation of some fantastic, nearly new books, two bags and a plastic crate full of them!

All these books are now on the shelves and ready to be enjoyed by our students. It took us a few days to catalogue them there were so many!

If you have any books you no longer want, please donate them to us, just leave them in Reception for us.  
**THANK YOU!**



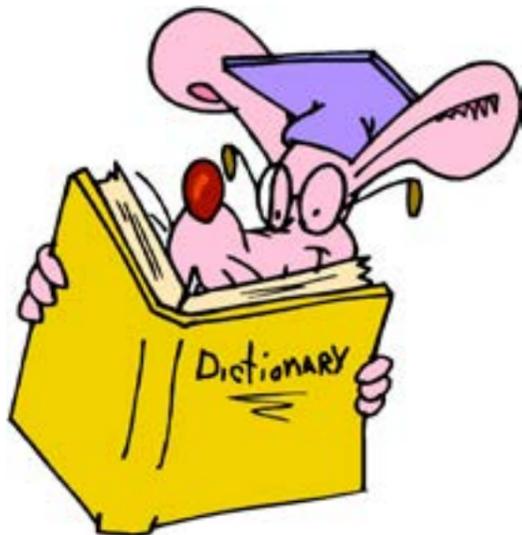
## Benefits of reading daily

- 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...



# All About Books

# Benefits of Reading!



## 'Wordle'

Fancy a game of '**Wordle**'? Then [click here](#) to play. ENJOY!



### Word of the Term

Miss Vouri's favourite word is...

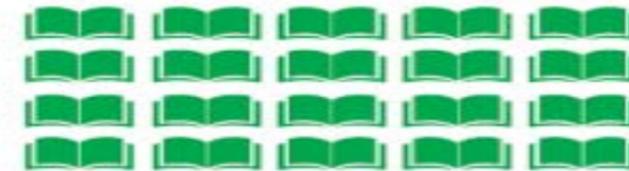
**Shenanigans**

**Meaning** - silly or high-spirited behaviour; mischief.

## 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.

**Wicked**  
By Gregory Maguire  
Genre: Fantasy

**Blurb:**  
In this classic tale of good and evil, what if we weren't told the whole story?

Long before Dorothy follows the yellow brick road and triumphs over the Wicked Witch of the West, a little girl with emerald-green skin is born in the land of Oz.

Elphaba grows up to be smart and prickly, a lonely outsider

with an extraordinary talent for magic. Arriving at university, she dares to believe she might finally fit in.

But Oz isn't the haven she'd dreamed of. Some of its citizens are in grave danger, and Elphaba is determined to protect them from the Wizard's power.

And when the world declares her a wicked witch, Elphaba takes matters into her own hands...

Fall under the WICKED spell this year.



**The Return Of The King**  
By J.R.R Tolkien  
Genre: Fantasy/Classic

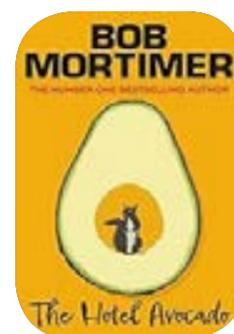
**Blurb:**  
The third part of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic adventure THE LORD OF THE RINGS

The armies of the Dark Lord are massing as his evil shadow spreads even wider. Men, Dwarves, Elves and Ents unite forces to battle against the Dark. Meanwhile, Frodo and Sam struggle further into Mordor in their heroic quest to destroy the One Ring.

The devastating conclusion of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic tale of adventure, begun in The Fellowship of the Ring and The Two Towers.



Here in the LRC we obviously LOVE reading and books and thought it would be a brilliant idea to encourage parents and staff to pick up a book for pleasure. These are our latest recommendations.



**The Hotel Avocado**  
By Bob Mortimer  
Genre: Comedy

**Blurb:**  
Gary Thorn is struggling with a big decision. Should he stay in London, wallowing in the safety of his legal job in Peckham and eating pies with his next door neighbour, Grace and her dog Lassoo, or should he move to Brighton, where his girlfriend Emily is about to open The Hotel Avocado? Either way, he'd be letting someone down.

But sinister forces are gathering in a cloud of launderette scented-vape smoke, and the arrival of the mysterious Mr Sequence puts Gary in an even worse predicament: soon he might be dead.

All Gary wants is a happy life. But he also wants to be alive to enjoy it...

Can Daniel and Detective Sergeant Neil Vanloo solve the crime and catch the Christmas killer?

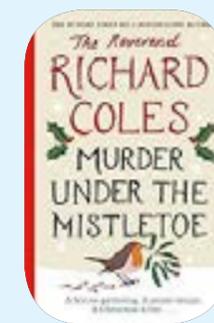
**Murder Under The Mistletoe**  
By The Reverend Richard Coles  
Genre: Thriller/Novella

**Blurb:**  
It is Christmas Day and at Champton Rectory, Canon Daniel Clement and his mother Audrey are joined by the residents and guests of the big house to drink, eat and be merry.

At the festive feast, peace and goodwill prevail.

Until two meet under the mistletoe. One of them falls down dead. And Daniel suspects murder has returned to Champton...

Can Daniel and Detective Sergeant Neil Vanloo solve the crime and catch the Christmas killer?



# Miss Gilbert Recommends Recommended Reads for Parents/Staff

**Charlie and the Christmas Factory**  
By Roald Dahl  
Genre: Comedy

**Blurb:**  
A star-studded cast of authors including Pamela Butchart, Hannah Gold and Adam Kay deliver twelve brand new stories inspired by the great Roald Dahl's incredible characters in this Christmas collection that will delight readers 8-12.

Why is Matilda worried about being on the naughty list?



creation of his original marvellous medicine George's granddaughter Gigi decides to make her own potion? And how does Charlie plan to celebrate Christmas at the chocolate factory?

A magical and hilarious collection from 13 bestselling, much-loved storytellers. Perfect for Christmas Eve, this collection features 12 brand-new short stories based on their author's favourite Roald Dahl characters.

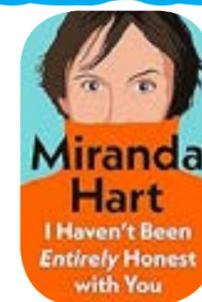
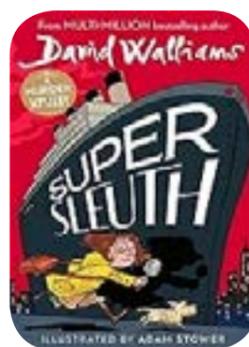
**Super Sleuth**  
By David Walliams  
Genre: Mystery

**Blurb:**  
Dilly loved a good murder. Not a REAL murder. A made-up murder. One you would find in a murder mystery novel. Sherlock Holmes was her favourite detective, so much so that she had named her dog Watson after his faithful companion.

Dilly had trained her Watson to sniff out clues and follow scent trails. Something he would happily do for a dog biscuit. Or two. So far, Dilly and Watson hadn't had much luck cracking cases – beyond lost cats, or missing biscuits that turned out to have been eaten all along.

But now the detective duo found themselves on a luxury ocean liner bound for London. A thousand passengers. A thousand nautical miles of ocean around them. It was the perfect place for a murder...

Or two. Or three. Or four. Or MORE!



**I Haven't Been Entirely Honest With You**  
By Miranda Hart  
Genre: Memoir/Comedy

**Blurb:**  
Hello to you, I am with news. I have a new book.

Basically, I have had an unexpectedly difficult decade – there have been surprising joys, but also challenging lows. I shall be honest about those, because what I discovered in the difficult times were my, what I call, treasures. Practical tools, values, ways, answers researched from some great scientists, neuroscientists, therapists, sociologists (all the 'ists') out there, that have led to a sense of freedom, joy, peace and physical recovery I never would have thought possible.

If you fancy having a read, then I hope my story might help your story. Rest assured there are funny stories along the way. Oh, and I couldn't possibly say if there is a love story in it . . . (There is - shush) Exciting.

**An Eye For An Eye**  
By Jeffery Archer  
Genre: Thriller

**Blurb:**  
In one of the most luxurious cities on earth... A billion-dollar deal is about to go badly wrong. A lavish night out is about to end in murder. And the British government is about to be plunged into crisis.

In the heart of the British establishment... Lord Hartley, the latest in a line of peers going back over two hundred years, lies dying. But his will triggers an inheritance with explosive consequences.

Two deaths. Continents apart. No obvious connection.

So why are they both at the centre of a master criminal's plot for revenge?

And can Scotland Yard's William Warwick uncover the truth before it's too late...

The ultimate race-against-time is about to begin.



## Design the Jumpers

We hosted a tutor competition where students worked in tutor groups to design a Christmas Jumper. Students had until Thursday 12th December to Design the Jumpers.

**River Island** very kindly donated 45 white jumpers. Students then planned the designs in their tutor groups. They could go as wild as they liked, but they only had one jumper.

Sustainability was embraced by using eco-friendly materials or upcycled items in your sweater design. Extra points for creativity with recycled elements! Ten points were awarded for originality, ten points for eco-friendliness and ten points for style. The Senior Leader Team, Year Leaders, Head Boy and Girl voted for the best jumper per year group. Students and parents voted for the overall best jumper. **River Island** have donated over £150 in vouchers to give out to the best designs as prizes.

Then, on Thursday 12th December, we hosted a Catwalk Show in the LRC for every Year Group's design. One student in every tutor group brought their jumper and represented it.

Everyone had fun creating their Earthy Christmas Jumper

masterpiece! We celebrated the season while keeping our planet in mind.

A huge thank you to our Alumni member, **Ellie Court** from **River Island** who came to judge our Christmas Jumper Competition.

*"What an incredible display of talent from the students at Chalfont! I was truly amazed by their creativity and the festive competitive spirit they brought to the table. The designs were fantastic, making it incredibly challenging to pick a winner. Well done to all the participants—you've truly outdone yourselves!"*

**Mr J Howard - Assistant Principal**



**Year 9 Christmas Jumper Winners**



**Year 10 Christmas Jumper Winners**

# Christmas Jumper Design Competition

# Christmas Jumper Winners



**Year 7 Christmas Jumper Winners**



**Year 8 Christmas Jumper Winners**



**Year 11 Christmas Jumper Winners**



**Sixth Form Christmas Jumper Winners**

### The CCC Choir

The CCC Choir and Band went off in their tour bus again yesterday to deliver a Christmas Concert to the residents, families and staff at **Windsor Lodge Care Home** in Gerrards Cross. We have been delivering Christmas Concerts to **Windsor Lodge** since December 2020, which we live streamed via Youtube until last year, when we went face-to-face for the first time!

As always, our students were amazing and an absolute credit to our school community. We performed eight songs including **Snowman**, **Somewhere Only We Know**, **Merry Christmas** and our traditional fully choreographed **One More Sleep** and **Hallelujah!**

While waiting to board the bus for the second trip back to school the remaining students entertained the residents with yet more festive hits! Huge thanks to **Mrs Dancer** for driving the minibus for us. Wishing you all a wonderful festive period and we will see you in 2025.

Mrs Winterborne - KS3 Music Co-ordinator



### 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

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)

For more information please click on this link: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/contact-helping-hand/>

If you would like to apply for Free Schools Meals for your child please click on this link to download the application form: <https://www.chalfonts.org/parents/forms-to-download> It should be returned to Victoria Gibb or via email [victoriagibb@chalfonts.org](mailto:victoriagibb@chalfonts.org)

# Care Home Christmas Concert

# Helping Hand



# Lighting the Way: A New Year's Message Inspired by Thomas Edison

As we step into a new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on the role we all play in shaping the future— whether as teachers, parents, or students. A powerful story from the life of Thomas Edison serves as a reminder of how belief, encouragement, and perseverance can transform lives.

As a child, Edison faced rejection at school. One day, he came home with a note from his teacher, which read:

*Your child is not a good fit for our school. His low level of intelligence and weak academic skills mean that we cannot teach him here. Please keep him at home.*

His mother, upon reading the note, made a life-changing decision. Instead of letting her son feel the weight of those words, she turned them into a message of hope and possibility.

*My dear child, she told him, your teacher says you are so brilliant, so exceptional, that the school doesn't have the resources or expertise to teach someone as*

*intelligent as you. From now on, I will teach you at home.*

Edison believed her. He grew up thinking he was extraordinary, and that belief became his driving force. Years later, after he discovered the original note. It didn't speak of brilliance; instead, it labelled him as "dumb" and unworthy of education. His mother's refusal to accept that label and her unwavering faith in his potential turned Edison into one of the most celebrated inventors of all time.

## A New Year's Message for Teachers, Parents, and Students

As we embrace the opportunities of this new year, let Edison's story inspire us to see the potential in every challenge and to encourage those around us to shine their brightest.

### For Teachers:

This year, let's look beyond grades and test scores to see the unique talents and strengths of every student. Our belief in them can spark confidence and ignite a lifelong love for learning. A small word of encouragement can be the light that guides them through their darkest moments.

## A Message From Our Principal

As we approach Christmas, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy but rewarding term.

We've seen students flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. Whether it's excelling in mock exams, showcasing their talents, engagement in enrichment and leadership activities or simply supporting one another, they have embodied our school values.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond to provide our students with the best possible education. Your passion, commitment, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in our success this term

We are also celebrating the overwhelming generosity shown by you in supporting our local community during our Christmas Food Bank and Gift Scheme. Your kindness will bring joy and warmth to families in need.

As we look forward to the New Year, I am confident that together we will continue to achieve great things.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Best wishes,

**Mrs Whitehead - Principal**



# Motivation

### For Parents:

The new year is a chance to strengthen the foundation of belief in your children. Encourage them to dream big, remind them that mistakes are part of growth, and celebrate their efforts, not just their achievements. Like Edison's mother, your belief can transform their self-image and help them achieve greatness.

### For Students:

As you set your goals for the year, remember that challenges are opportunities in disguise. Believe in your ability to overcome obstacles and keep moving forward, even when it feels difficult. Your determination and resilience are your greatest strengths.

### A Year of Possibilities

The story of Thomas Edison reminds us that belief is a powerful force. It teaches us to see potential where others might see limitations and to nurture brilliance in as we enter this new year, let's commit to fostering a spirit of encouragement, resilience, and optimism in everything we do.

Together, we can help our children—and ourselves—light up the world, one step at a time.

**Here's to a bright and hopeful New Year 2025!**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# We'll see you on Tuesday 7th January 2025!



20<sup>th</sup>



7<sup>th</sup>

28<sup>th</sup>

End of Term -  
**12.35pm finish**

**Everyone**  
Returns to School

**Employability Skills**  
Day



1,000+ people follow the College  
on **LinkedIn**  
with **966+ Alumni**

## 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!



1,808+ people follow the College  
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