

The Chalfonts Chronicle

21st March 2025 Issue 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the first signs of spring begin to brighten our days, it's wonderful to see the school grounds coming to life. The slightly warmer days are a welcome boost, and I hope your families are enjoying this change in season.

Since our last newsletter, the school has buzzed with the excitement of World Book Day! It was a fantastic day filled with creativity and a celebration of literature. My personal highlight was the magical meeting of 'Gandalf' (pictured here) with The Hobbit, Frodo Baggins, at The Chalfonts Community College! It was truly inspiring to see students and staff embrace the spirit of reading and bring their favourite characters to life.

Our assemblies this week have focused on the school value of "Commitment." We explored what commitment truly means and how students can cultivate it in their daily lives. We discussed the benefits of commitment, including improved focus, increased resilience, and a greater sense of accomplishment.

We encouraged students to identify areas where they can demonstrate greater commitment, whether in their studies, extracurricular activities, or their interactions with others. We emphasised that commitment is not always easy, but the rewards are significant and contribute to personal growth and success.



Wearing school uniform is a commitment to being part of a school community.

It plays a vital role in fostering a sense of community and equality within our school. It removes distractions related to clothing choices, allowing students to focus on their learning. Maintaining high standards in uniform presentation reinforces these values.

Our uniform expectations and link to the online uniform shop and nearly new shop can be found here:

<https://www.chalfonts.org/parents/uniform-1>

Please note: we do not allow students to wear hoodies or other sports tops and jackets under their blazers. Please do not send your child to school with these items of personal clothing.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child adheres to our uniform policy.



Beyond the Classroom: Enriching Activities & Inspiring Voices



A Celebration of Creativity at The Chalfonts Community College

World Book Day 2025 was another fantastic and memorable celebration at The Chalfonts Community College, filled with creativity, talent, and a shared love for literature.

Students showcased their artistic skills with stunning artwork displays, leaving staff and peers in awe of their talent.

Meanwhile, the Food Department wowed everyone once again with beautifully decorated, book-themed bakes, adding a delicious touch to the festivities.



The excitement continued with spectacular costumes, as students and staff dressed as their favorite book characters. The best student costume award went to **Thomas E** (8G4), who impressed as 'Frodo' from The Lord of the Rings. Among staff, **Mr. J Howard** took 1st place as 'Dobby' (Harry Potter), followed by **Miss Vouri** as *The Woman in Black* (2nd place) and **Mrs. Francis-Smith** as *Cleopatra* (3rd place).



The day also featured a bake sale, which students thoroughly enjoyed. A special thank you to Mrs. Sarah Kempster for her generous donation of beautifully crafted cupcakes!

World Book Day was a true celebration of reading, creativity, and community spirit—we can't wait for next year! 📖



Beyond the Classroom: Enriching Activities & Inspiring Voices



Inspiring Young Writers: Author Penny Joelson Visits The Chalfonts Community College

On Wednesday, 12th March 2025, we had the pleasure of welcoming the incredible author, **Penny Joelson**, to The Chalfonts Community College.

Around 145 students from Years 7, 8, and 9 gathered in the hall for an engaging and inspirational talk about her journey as a writer.

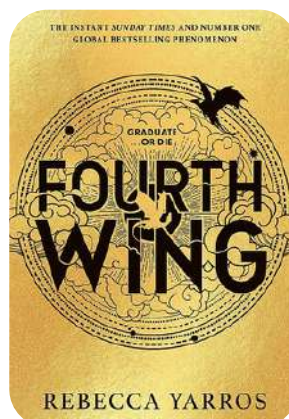
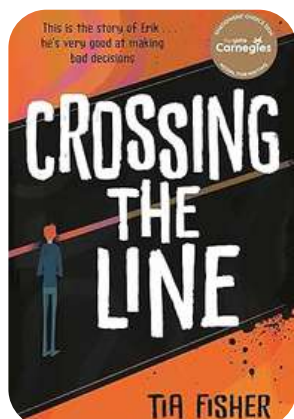
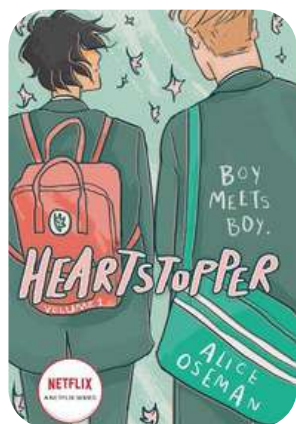
Students were captivated by her insights, and many eagerly asked questions to learn more about her experiences as a successful author.

Following the presentation, 20 lucky students took part in an exclusive creative writing workshop with Penny. The session was highly interactive, with students immersing themselves in the writing process and crafting some fantastic short stories. They even had the chance to share their work with each other, making for an inspiring and supportive atmosphere.

We hope Penny's visit has ignited a passion for storytelling among our students and encouraged the next generation of authors to pursue their literary dreams! 📖🌟



All About Books



Student Recommendations

Heartstopper Volume 1 by Alice Oseman

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance.

But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.

By Alice Oseman, winner of the YA Book Prize, Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small moments of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us.

Crossing The Line by Tia Fisher

Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. Homework and being good at school stop feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing, trap houses and violence.

Making money feels good but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt.

And when his sisters' lives are threatened, Erik will have to cross one more line to save them.

Parents/Staff Recommendations

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

Violet Sorrengail expected to live a quiet life surrounded by books, until she was forced onto the world's deadliest training ground. Now she must fight to join the army's elite: dragon riders. But dragons don't choose fragile riders, they incinerate them, and when your body breaks as easily as Violet's does - death is only a heartbeat away.

Conclave by Robert Harris

Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, 118 cardinals are meeting in conclave to cast their votes in the world's most secretive election.

They are holy men. But they are ambitious. And they have rivals. Over the next 72 hours, one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on earth. Who will it be?



The Classroom Champions

Year 7 Students Lead the BiteBack Movement for a Healthier Canteen



We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students who have taken the lead in improving our school's food experience through the BiteBack Movement!

Passionate about making positive changes, this student-led group has been working closely with staff to suggest healthier, tastier, and more balanced meal options in the canteen.

From gathering student feedback to exploring ways to make nutritious choices more appealing, the BiteBack team is determined to create a canteen that supports both well-being and learning.

Keep an eye out for their exciting initiatives, including taste tests, awareness campaigns, and new menu additions!

Together, they are proving that small changes can make a big difference. Watch this space!

Bucks Mental Health Team - Student Wellbeing



A big thank you to the Bucks Mental Health team for visiting and delivering an engaging talk to our Year 7s!

Your insights on mental well-being were invaluable, and we appreciate your support in guiding our students.



Centre Stage – Music & Art

Join Our Choir

Rehearsals take place every Monday and Tuesday
8.40am - 9.05am
In The Rivers Suite, adjacent to the LRC

Come and be part of our growing musical family.



🎵 Summer Concert Spectacular – Save the Date! 🎵

The Music Department is busy preparing for an exciting Summer Concert on **Wednesday, 9th July at 7:00 PM**, promising an unforgettable evening of live performances!

The concert will showcase incredible talent from across all year groups, featuring the choir, bands, solo performances, and smaller ensemble groups.

We'd love to see a great turnout from staff, students, families, and the wider community—your support means the world to our young musicians!

Refreshments will be available, so come along, relax, and enjoy an evening of outstanding music.

Woven Art Wonders - Twisted Faces: Year 10 Art Students Get Creative!



Our talented Year 10 Art students have been pushing the boundaries of creativity with their latest Twisted Faces project! Using a unique weaving technique, they blended magazine images together, then meticulously recreated each section using coloured pencils or watercolour to form stunning final pieces.

The results? A collection of bold, eye-catching, and truly imaginative artworks!

A huge well done to our Year 10s for their hard work and artistic flair—your creativity continues to amaze us!



Beyond the Finish Line – Sporting Achievements



Year 7 boys football team vs Amersham School, was ahead in the first half, but conceded two goals in the second half to finish 2-1. A fantastic show of team spirit and determination.

A narrow defeat for our 1st XI football team in the County Plate Semi-Final, but a fantastic effort! A special shoutout to **Oliver A** for a terrific goal! Well done to all who have played this season!



And an amazing result for our U13s Girls Football team who secured a 9-0 victory against Amersham!

Incredible goal-scoring from **Thea, Bailee, Bonny, Darcy, Alana, and Chloe**, plus fantastic team spirit throughout a tough match.



Last week, we celebrated a fantastic Girls' Football event with over 110 players from Years 7-10. Thanks to all who joined and contributed – funds will support a new Girls' Football kit!

Huge congratulations to **John T** for an incredible achievement with Explorer Scouts, taking on a 60km Endurance challenge through the Chiltern Hills, navigating with just a map - even in the dark!



Fantastic Season End for Our Year 7s Netball Team! An amazing tournament showcased their dedication and teamwork against tough opponents. Congratulations to the girls' team for securing 3rd place in the medal round!



Sixth Form

Student Leadership Quiz

Last Friday, our school community came together for an unforgettable evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition, all in support of a truly special cause. Our annual Charity Quiz Night, organised by the Student Leadership Team, saw parents, Sixth Formers, and teachers battle it out for the coveted title of Quiz Champions, all while raising money for **Forever Colours**, a local charity dedicated to supporting children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

The night kicked off with our amazing hosts, **Jenna** and **Harrison** with help from **Mrs Whitehead**, who kept the energy high and the competition fierce. Their quick wit and brilliant sense of humour had the audience entertained throughout the night, ensuring that even those who didn't win had an incredible time.

As the quiz teams racked their brains over a mix of general knowledge, pop culture, and some surprisingly tricky school-related questions, everyone enjoyed a delicious serving of fish and chips, a well-earned treat to keep the thinking caps firmly in place! The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement, and even when some questionable maths nearly caused chaos in the final round, the correct winners were crowned in the end (after a quick recount, of course!).

In addition to the quiz itself, the raffle proved to be a huge success with thanks to **Avneet** and **Emma**, who provided fantastic prizes generously donated by local businesses and staff.

We want to say thank you to **Mrs Byrne** for running the bar along with John and Katy, helping us to raise even more funds for such a deserving cause.

Written by Jenna May, Head Girl and Harrison Tindal, Head Boy

ForeverColours
children's hospice



The Path Ahead

Bucks Skill Show

The Bucks Skill Show provides Year 10 students with a valuable opportunity to explore various career paths and gain practical insights into their futures.

Students experience an interactive environment with hands-on activities like operating machinery, coding, and creative projects, offering a real glimpse into different careers.

Highlights include engaging with industry professionals who share advice, career stories, and answer questions. Workshops cover topics like apprenticeships, higher education, and employability skills.

The event also emphasizes soft skills such as teamwork and problem-solving, boosting students' confidence and helping them align their interests with real-world opportunities. Students leave inspired, informed, and excited about their future.

Quotes from Students

“Loved learning about different careers.”

“This experience helped me enhance my social skills by connecting with new people from each job sector. This also helped me think of new opportunities that may help me with my future career choices.”

“Great variety of careers to learn about.”



The National Apprenticeship Show

The National Apprenticeship Show in Surrey offers Year 12 students a fantastic chance to explore post-education pathways and interact with industry leaders. This inspiring event connects students with employers and training providers, showcasing opportunities in fields like healthcare, construction, technology, and engineering. Representatives provide details about apprenticeship programs, entry requirements, and career progression, helping students align roles with their goals. It's a valuable experience that bridges education and employment, inspiring informed decisions about their futures.



A Community Of Care



What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding refers to the actions and measures taken to protect individuals' health, wellbeing, and human rights, enabling them—particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults—to live safely, free from abuse, harm, and neglect.

At The Chalfonts Community College, safeguarding is a collective responsibility that every staff member takes with the utmost seriousness. Additionally, we have designated roles specifically focused on safeguarding to ensure this commitment is upheld.

What Parents Need to Know About Online Dangers

Online Risks Are Growing – Teens and pre-teens face increasing dangers from inappropriate content, toxic influencers, and addictive platforms like TikTok.

Influence & Addiction – Exposure to pornography, harmful masculinity ideals, and dangerous social media trends can shape their views and behaviors.

Parental Awareness Matters – Many parents feel out of touch or avoid difficult conversations, but subtle changes in their child's behavior can go unnoticed.

The Digital World is Unforgiving – Unlike past generations, today's youth navigate an internet that never forgets, pressures them into risky behavior, and blurs the lines between childhood and adulthood.

The Key Question – how can parents stay informed and engaged without pushing them away?

Body Image

A survey conducted in 2023 by Tommy Hatto and the GEC found some troubling insights from young people into their body image. They surveyed 1,146 young people between 12 and 30 years and found that only 15% had a positive body-image, with 46% claiming their body-image was neutral and 39% saying it was negative. The main factors at play were the impact of social media and unattainable / fake / edited photos which claim to represent 'reality'.

Top Tip: Discuss body image, look at unrealistic expectations, consider how cosmetic and product marketing asks us to find fault in our bodies in the ever-changing search for perfection. 'Instagram influencers' and their unrealistic and manipulated versions of beauty are also complicit in this idea of 'perfection'. Use the Olympics / Paralympics as a way of exploring what amazing machines our bodies are and the variety of ways our bodies can look and behave.



A Community Of Care

Recognizing Problematic Language & Attitudes

As teens adopt new slang, some shifts in language may signal exposure to sexist or harmful masculine ideologies.

🔍 Warning Signs:

- Using terms like "girls" or "females" instead of "women."
- Saying "feminism's gone too far" or that "feminists hate men."
- Talking about "false accusations ruining men's lives" when harassment cases arise.
- Using phrases like "fatherless behavior" / "raised by a single mother."
- Saying "men are oppressed now" or that a "traditional man is a provider."
- Mocking empathy with words like "simp," "cuck," or "Low-T" (low testosterone).
- Repeating political slogans like "Your Body, My Choice" in response to women's rights discussions.

Tip: The 'manosphere'—an online space promoting toxic, dominance-based masculinity—has its own language and rules. To understand its impact on men, boys, and women, check out Laura Bates' book *Men Who Hate Women* for an in-depth exploration.

It's not always their fault

In a BBC News report from September 2024, misinformation correspondent Marianna Spring spoke to young people about how internet use affects their mental health and views.

Social media algorithms target specific content to different groups, which is expected. However, the way these algorithms show harmful, violent, misogynistic, and pornographic content to boys and men, while promoting weight loss, music, makeup, and exercise to girls and women, seems troubling and intentional.

One teenage boy shared that he doesn't actively seek out the disturbing content he comes across, and some of it "stains your brain."

Tip: As parents, it's helpful to consider using WiFi filters to control what your children can access. You might also want to set specific times for WiFi use and keep an open, non-judgmental conversation about the content they're viewing. Shaming them can shut down communication quickly.

Important Parking Notice for Student Safety

To ensure the safety of our students, please do not use the front car park for drop-offs before 9am or pick-ups at the end of the school day. This area is strictly reserved for staff and visitors with appointments.

We understand parking near the school is limited and appreciate your cooperation in dropping off and collecting your child further away to avoid congestion and safety risks. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe!

Key Dates

Friday, 04 April - Last day of Term - 12:35pm Finish

Tuesday, 22 April - Return to school

Monday, 05 May - Bank Holiday

Friday, 23 May - Students break up

Monday, 02 June - Return to school

Tuesday, 22 July - Last day of term - 12:35pm Finish



Courteous

Community Minded

Committed

Conscientious