

The Chalfonts Chronicle

June 2025 - Issue 6

Time flies by

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you all enjoyed the half-term break.

Just before the holidays, I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of Year 10 students on a truly unforgettable trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This opportunity, generously supported by additional funding from the UK Government's Turing Scheme, was an incredible experience not only academically and culturally, but also in terms of personal development for our students. From the breathtaking views atop Sugar Loaf Mountain and the awe-inspiring Christ the Redeemer statue to the vibrant energy of Copacabana and other beaches, every moment was enriching.

Students and Staff took part in a Hawaiian Canoe race with an Olympic rower, students learnt the Brazilian blend of martial arts and dance called Capoeira at a university, took part in gymnastics at the Olympic stadium and witnessed a thrilling Jiu Jitsu competition at the Olympic velodrome. The students excelled themselves in a fantastic beach volleyball match following their expert tuition from Maria Elisa Antonelli, a London 2012 Olympian for Brazil.

A huge well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are showing incredible resilience and focus during exam season. Their determination and hard work are commendable – the finish line is in sight, and we're proud of every one of them!

I would like to personally congratulate Katy Grange and James Hardy who have been elected as our new Head Girl and Head Boy. I met them today to welcome them to their new leadership roles and hear about their exciting plans for the student body.



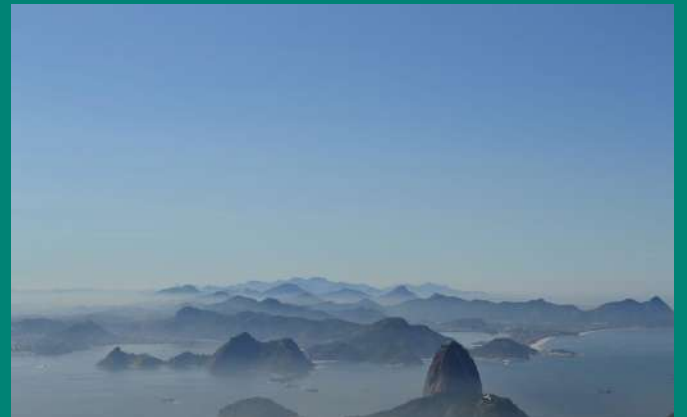
Meanwhile, within the school community, there is much to look forward to. The A-Level Art department is hard at work preparing for the upcoming exhibition, which is already shaping up to be an impressive showcase of creativity and talent. Our Music department is also preparing for the highly anticipated summer concert, promising an uplifting and entertaining celebration of student musical achievement.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing more exciting moments with you as we head into the final half of the summer term.

Warm regards
Mrs C Whitehead
Principal



Rio de Janeiro 2025



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The Classroom Champions

Year 7 Student Alfie W Cast as Bruce Bogtrotter in Matilda the Musical!

We are thrilled to announce that Alfie W, a talented Year 7 student, has been cast as Bruce Bogtrotter in the British Theatre Academy production of Matilda the Musical at Henley Theatre!

Alfie's portrayal of Bruce—a character known for his memorable chocolate cake-eating scene—demonstrates his exceptional acting skills and dedication to the craft.

Alfie's achievement is a testament to his hard work and passion for the performing arts. He has recently been accepted by The British Theatre Academy professionals. We are incredibly proud of him and look forward to seeing his performance shine.

Congratulations, Alfie!



Inspiring Social Action in Year 8

Our incredible Year 8 students are fully immersed in their First Give projects, learning how to make a real impact in their communities.

A huge thank you to Sophie from Wycombe WomenAid for sharing the vital work they do, Dementia Carers Respite and to Sophie and Pete from the Epilepsy Society for their powerful and inspiring talk about the support they provide.

Now the creativity begins—students are designing posters and preparing their social marketing campaigns in class.

We're so proud of their passion, teamwork, and determination to make a difference.



Year 8s Road to Excellence



Miss Look would like to take this opportunity to thank 8k/En3 for their hard work and dedication in preparation for their Speaking and Listening assessment. The results were simply astonishing. A special shout goes out to: Lexi B, Kleonda C, Chloe D-V, Darcey F, Cooper H, Charmaine M and Tia R for achieving an OUTSTANDING grade. Well done everyone! Best of luck in future assessments.



Personal Development

Empowered to Give Back: Our Students Shine with DofE Recognition

We are proud to share that our students have been recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for their outstanding commitment to volunteering and community service. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, resilience, and team spirit our students consistently demonstrate.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers an incredible opportunity for young people to challenge themselves, build confidence, and develop a wide range of valuable life skills. Whether it's mastering map reading, cooking outdoors, giving back through volunteering, or learning the importance of teamwork, the experience encourages students to step outside their comfort zones – and enjoy the journey along the way.

Participating in the programme not only helps students grow in independence and self-discipline, but also provides them with an achievement that truly stands out on future applications for universities, apprenticeships, or employment.

A huge well done to all our amazing students involved, and a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated staff who guide and support them throughout their DofE journey. We're incredibly proud of everything they've accomplished!

DofE Expeditions: A Weekend of Adventure and Achievement

This past weekend, over 70 of our students embraced the great outdoors as they took part in their D of E expeditions. Our Bronze participants successfully completed their assessed expedition, while a dedicated group of Silver participants undertook their practice expedition.



Despite a few minor map mishaps along the way (all part of the experience!), every student safely navigated their route and arrived at camp in great spirits. The evening was spent enjoying classic campsite activities and building friendships, before setting off again the next morning to complete the final leg of their journey.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their perseverance, teamwork, and positive attitude throughout the weekend. A heartfelt thank you must also go to the amazing staff team who generously gave up their weekend to support and supervise the expedition – your commitment makes these invaluable experiences possible.

Well done to all involved!



Sixth Form

Introducing our New Head Girl and Head Boy - **Katy Grange** and **James Hardy**

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

Katy: *I am studying Biology, Geography, and Chemistry. I decided to stay because the school setting and environment was familiar to me, it also enabled me to achieve the grades required at GCSE so I believe the same will be for A level.*

James: *For my A levels I am studying Geography, Biology and BTEC Sport Science. I decided to stay at The Chalfonts Community College as since I joined in year 7 I have built countless positive relationships among the staff and my peers which meant I was successful in my GCSEs, so I wanted to stay for the same experience over A-levels. As well as this the sixth form here allows us to excel as students by treating us adults and giving us extensive personal development opportunities.*

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

K: *When I leave sixth form I would like to attend university to study Biomedical science.*

J: *When I leave Sixth Form I'd like to ideally pursue a career in Physiotherapy while still actively competing in power-lifting. My personal greatest achievement has been winning the Great British Power-lifting Championships and claiming one English record in addition to 20 regional records which gave me the opportunity to represent team GB at the World Power-lifting Championships later this year.*

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

K: *As head girl I would like a chance to improve students voice, as everyone's ideas and opinions are valuable in shaping the school.*

J: *As Head Boy I want to make as many positive contributions as possible no matter the size in order to benefit the student experience at our school. I also want to foster the community of our school by listening to everyone's ideas and opinions as they are vital for making an impactful change.*

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

K: *It feels like such an accomplishment to be voted for by teachers, as it shows the belief they have in me and James.*

J: *I am indebted to the tremendous support that I have received from my peers and teachers and I am so thankful that I have been given trust in this vital role.*

What message would you like to say to younger students?

K: *To any younger students I would say to have confidence in yourself, and don't be afraid to ask for help.*

J: *My message to younger students would be to always chase what you are passionate about and go all in to everything you do. Dreams will stay only dreams if they are left on the pillow.*



Sixth Form

🎬 Lights, Camera, Harrison! 🎬

We've got some blockbuster news to share—our very own Head Boy, Harrison Tindall, has been shortlisted for the prestigious MediaMag Production Competition at the BFI!

Harrison's film-making journey began early; he clinched the school's stop-motion video competition back in 2019 as a Year 8 student. Since then, he's been honing his craft, and now, his talent is gaining national recognition.

With aspirations to study film at university, Harrison's passion and dedication are truly inspiring. Let's all cheer him on as he takes this exciting step forward in his film-making career!



Sixth Form Students Dive into Hands-On Fieldwork at Slapton Sands

Sixth Form students recently took part in a memorable field trip to Slapton Sands, supporting their A-level Geography and Biology studies. The visit offered valuable hands-on experience in data collection, fieldwork techniques, and real-world application of classroom learning.

Set along the beautiful South Devon coast, students developed key skills in observation, analysis, and teamwork. Evenings brought a chance to relax with campfires and football, creating a great balance of work and fun.

One Year 12 student said, *"It was intense, but so worth it – the experience will really help with our coursework and exams."*

A big thank you to **Mr Smith**, **Mr Knutton**, and **Miss Wenden** for their support and organisation. The trip was a definite highlight of the year!



Beyond the Finish Line – Sporting Achievements

Hillingdon Athletics Success! 🏆

What a fantastic day representing our school at the Hillingdon Athletics meet, competing against 14 other schools! We're incredibly proud to have finished 8th overall, with so many outstanding individual performances and moments of true team spirit.

A huge thank you to our amazing athletes for their exemplary behaviour and dedication, and to all the teachers and parents who supported us on the day – we couldn't have done it without you!

Special shout-outs to our medal winners and top finishers:

- Ruben B – 🏆 1st in 300m & 🏆 1st in Javelin
- Frankie D – 🏆 1st in 100m
- Chloe S – 🥉 3rd in 800m
- Lola W – 🥈 2nd in 200m
- Toby E – 4th in 1500m
- Ozcar H – 🥈 2nd in 200m
- Tavia N – 🥉 3rd in High Jump & 🏆 1st in Hurdles
- Bradley W – 🥉 3rd in 100m
- Chloe K – 🥈 2nd in 200m
- Ted M – 🥈 2nd in Hurdles
- Joseph F – 🥈 2nd in 1500m
- Grace M – 🏆 1st in Hurdles
- Stanley P – 🏆 1st in 200m
- Jasmine P – 🥉 3rd in 100m
- Thea A – 🥉 3rd in Hurdles
- Ruby W – 🥉 3rd in 100m



Well done to the entire team—you represented our school with pride, perseverance, and passion. 🏆



The Path Ahead

Chalfonts Success Story

Charlotte Dancer Freelance Groom

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

I'm a Freelance Groom, so I'm my own boss, but have several clients.

What did you study at The Chalfonts Community College and which years were you a student here?:

I look after other people's horses. This is mostly mucking out stables, grooming the horses, exercising and clipping, but sometimes includes field maintenance as well

What did you study at The Chalfonts Community College and which years were you a student here?

I started at The Chalfonts Community College in 2005 and left in 2012 and studied biology, psychology and product design at A Level.



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

I've been around horses my whole life and knew from a young age that I wanted to work with them. I originally wanted to be an equine vet, but after realizing that blood made me faint, I would have to take a different path! I've always loved looking after my own horses, so becoming a groom was a natural progression of that.

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

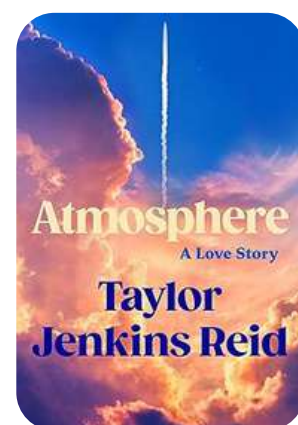
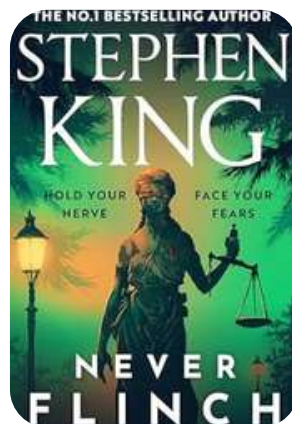
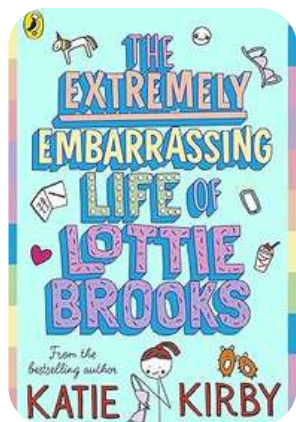
Take learning opportunities when they are offered. I completed a level 3 NVQ qualification within a year of being at my first job.

Research your employer thoroughly before agreeing to work for them.

If you can make a career out of something you enjoy, do it. It's a lot less like hard work if it's something you enjoy doing!



All About Books



Student Recommendations

The Extremely Embarrassing Life Of Lottie Brooks by Katie Kirby

Lottie Brooks, 11¾, is convinced her life is over. Starting secondary school without friends or stylish hair is bad enough, but now she's too flat-chested for a bra! She might as well retreat with her hamsters, Sir Barnaby Squeakington and Fuzzball the Third.

This hilarious illustrated series for pre-teens follows Lottie's journey through friendship, embarrassing moments, and plenty of KitKat Chunkys.

Matilda by Roald Dahl

Matilda is a brilliant child with a magical mind.

But her parents have decided she's just a nuisance who wastes too much time on reading and stories.

And her headmistress Miss Trunchbull is a terrible bully, who thinks children are rotten and awful and should be locked up.

Now it's time for Matilda to find the power to change her story, and show them just how extraordinary children can be . . .

SixthForm/Parents/Staff Recommendations

Never Flinch by Stephen King

When the Buckeye City Police receive a chilling letter threatening to "kill thirteen innocents and one guilty" in retribution for a wrongful death, Detective Izzy Jaynes is left shaken—and soon realises the threat is real. She turns to her friend Holly Gibney for help.

Meanwhile, outspoken women's rights activist Kate McKay is being stalked during her lecture tour by someone determined to silence her. As the danger escalates, Holly is hired as her bodyguard, navigating a tense dynamic between a headstrong client and a fanatical stalker.

With a cast of vivid characters, including gospel legend Sista Bessie and a chillingly obsessed killer, these two storylines collide in a haunting and masterful finale only Stephen King could deliver.

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

In the summer of 1980, astrophysics professor Joan Goodwin begins astronaut training at Houston's Johnson Space Center with a standout group of candidates, including Top Gun pilot Hank Redmond and enigmatic engineer Vanessa Ford. As they prepare for their first missions, Joan discovers unexpected passion and love, challenging her understanding of herself and the universe.

But in December 1984, during mission STS-LR9, everything changes in an instant.



A Community Of Care

Safety for Teenagers

The Thames Valley Police are continuing to prioritise the illegal use of e-scooters and e-bikes. For further information on this and access to other information please visit www.chalfonts.org/safeguarding-parentinformation

Free Community Talk – Understanding the Teenage Brain

 Wednesday 19th June

In partnership with the Marlow Living App, this in-person event is open to parents, carers, teachers, and anyone supporting teenagers.

Learn what's really going on in the teenage brain – and how adults can respond in ways that support wellbeing and build stronger relationships.

 [Click here](#) for more details

Work Experience Callout

We are currently seeking work experience placements for our students and would be grateful for your support.

If you are able to offer a placement at your workplace or own a business that could host a student, please let us know.

These opportunities provide students with valuable real-world experience, helping them develop confidence, key employability skills, and a better understanding of career options.

By offering a placement, you are not only supporting a young person's future but also strengthening the link between school and the wider community.

Your involvement can make a meaningful difference – thank you for considering it.


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SCHOOL
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