

The Chalfonts Chronicle

February 2026 – Issue 17

A Note from the Principal

We are now at the half way point in the academic year and it has been a wonderfully busy half term. The past two weeks have been particularly inspiring.

The highlight was undoubtedly our Employability Skills Day – my thanks to Ms Vinten and Ms Gilbert for organising such a valuable event. We welcomed over 40 companies into school to broaden students' horizons and showcase a wide range of career opportunities.

We were especially grateful to Mr Mike Clare, founder of Dreams, for his inspiring words and support with interviews, and to local councillors Isobel Darby and Karen Dickson for recognising the strength of our school community. Thank you also to the volunteers and Governors who gave their time to provide every Year 11 student with a practice interview.

Students took part in practical workshops across industries including law, marketing, construction and the NHS. It was a pleasure to welcome back former students Lydia Alty, now a Royal journalist, and British stuntwoman Amber Smith, who inspired our young people to aim high. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback, a few examples of which are shared below.

"I was impressed at some of the levels of maturity, focus, drive, passion and thought about their plans and career expectations". Volunteer interviewer

"It was fantastic to be surrounded by so many incredible brands and, most of all, to have the chance to speak with Year 11 students and others about future career paths. I felt very honoured to talk with so many amazing students – they were polite, engaged, and genuinely attentive, which made the experience incredibly rewarding. Careers Fair exhibitor"

Last Friday, our talented Drama students delivered a truly fantastic performance of *The Little Mermaid*, expertly led by Ms Hughes. It was a magical production, transporting the audience under the sea with stunning scenery designed and created by our Art students. The acting, singing and lighting combined beautifully to create a memorable evening of song and dance – a wonderful showcase of creativity and teamwork.

Looking ahead to future pathways, this week has also marked National Apprenticeship Week. It has been an important opportunity to highlight the many diverse routes available to our students. We recognise that university is not the right or best path for everyone, and it is vital that students are aware of the wide range of exciting alternatives open to them.

A sincere thank you to our Year 11 parents for their flexibility in attending Parents' Evening. These conversations are invaluable, giving teachers and families the opportunity to work together in supporting students as they approach the final stages of their GCSE courses.

Finally, I would like to wish our students heading to Canada for the skiing trip a fantastic and safe experience.

Wishing everyone a happy and restful half-term break.

Warm Regards
Mrs C Whitehead
Principal



Employability Skills Day

Opening Doors to Opportunity

The school welcomed more than 40 companies into the hall to speak with students about future career pathways. The event provided valuable insight into the world of work, introducing students to opportunities they may not previously have considered.

Special guest Mr Mike Clare, founder of Dreams, offered inspiring words and supported students with interview skills, while local councillors Isobel Darby and Karen Dickson visited to show their support for the school and its strong community links.

Throughout the day, students participated in practical workshops across a range of industries, including law, marketing, construction and the NHS. Former students Lydia Alty, now a Royal journalist, and British stuntwoman Amber Smith also returned to share their career journeys, inspiring the next generation to think ambitiously about their futures.



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Employability Skills Day



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Powering Up for A Level Economics: Year 13 at the EconplusDal Conference

Our Year 13 A Level Economics students recently attended an inspiring Economics Conference led by EconplusDal. A nationally recognised economics educator and something of an online sensation in the world of A Level Economics, he is known for his energetic style and hugely popular online revision resources that support thousands of students across the UK.

The day was intense and fast-paced, packed with challenging theory, exam technique and real-world application. Students also took part in friendly competitions, testing their knowledge against peers from other schools.

It was a demanding but highly rewarding experience and will greatly benefit students as they prepare for their A Level Economics examinations.



Mike Clare

Founder of Dreams and The Clare Foundation



Introducing Mike, a CCC alumni member who is now an entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist.

"Learn to dance in the rain

Get up early...work hard...have fun...sleep well...and never give up on your Dreams"

Dreams

**THE CLARE
FOUNDATION**
SUPPORTING CHARITIES & MAKING BUCKS HAPPY

Careers and Beyond



Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

This week has been National Apprenticeship Week, highlighting the wide range of opportunities available to students. The focus has been on educating our students about the variety of companies offering apprenticeships, what these roles involve, and the different levels available.

Apprenticeships are an increasingly popular pathway, allowing students to gain valuable work experience, earn a salary, and study for a qualification all at the same time.

Students Explore Future Career Pathways at National Apprenticeship Show

A group of students visited the National Apprenticeship Fair at Sandown this week to explore the wide range of career pathways and apprenticeship opportunities available to them.

The event gave students the chance to speak with employers and training providers from a variety of industries, helping them gain a clearer understanding of the different routes into future careers.

It was a valuable and eye-opening experience for all involved.



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Culture, Competition, and Centre Stage

Students Shine in Magical Performance of The Little Mermaid

What a fantastic performance of *The Little Mermaid* on Friday night! Our students delivered an incredible show, immersing the audience in the underwater world with stunning scenery, creative stage design, and captivating performances.

The production was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, showcasing the talent and dedication of our drama students. A special thanks goes to Ms Hughes and everyone who contributed behind the scenes to make the evening such a success.



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Students Shine at KS3 Rowing Challenge

A huge thank you to St Mary's School for hosting the KS3 Rowing Challenge! Our students had a fantastic day taking part in a variety of challenges and relays, demonstrating remarkable team spirit and determination throughout.

It was a brilliant day of competition and fun, leaving everyone inspired and energized.



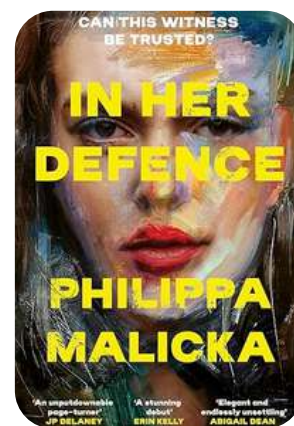
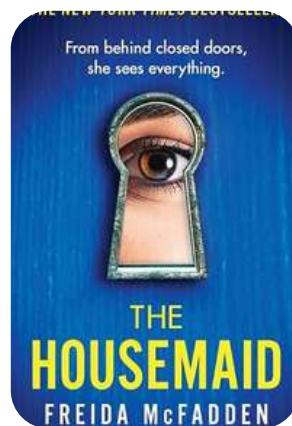
Year 8 Basketball Team Impresses Against District Leaders

The Year 8 basketball team put in a fantastic effort playing against one of the top sides in the district. The team performed admirably, with standout performances from Eugene B, Alex N, and Tommy B.

Their skill, determination, and teamwork were evident throughout the match, making it a game to be proud of.



All About Books



Student Recommendations

A Kind Of Spark by Ellie McNicoll

A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and her autism, and make her voice heard?

The Light In Everything by Katya Balen

Tom is quiet and grieving his dad. Zofia is loud and furious at the world.

They can't stand each other—but Tom is moving into Zofia's house because their parents are in love and expecting a baby.

Both wish the baby had never happened.

Then Tom's mum falls ill, and their wish starts to feel dangerously close to coming true.

Sixth Form/ Parents / Staff Recommendations

The Housemaid by Freida McFadden

Nina Winchester welcomes me into her perfect home. This job is my fresh start—but the family's secrets are darker than mine.

I clean, cook, and care for their daughter while Nina toys with me and her husband, Andrew, grows more distant. One mistake—trying on her dress—changes everything. My attic door locks from the outside.

But they don't know who I really am.

They don't know what I'm capable of.

In Her Defence by Philippa Malicka

Everyone is watching.

In court, wealthy Anna Finbow accuses therapist Jean Guest of manipulating her daughter, Mary, for her trust fund. Jean insists the recovered memories are real—and that Mary needs freedom from her family.

But don't believe either of them.



Half Term Activities



NEW: HALF-DAY TASTER SESSION

Not sure if your child will settle or enjoy camp?

Try a half day first!

9:30 - 12:30

✓ Perfect for first-timers or little ones who need a gentle start ❤️

✓ Fun games

✓ Dancing & activities

✓ Friendly, supportive coaches



No pressure. No full-day commitment. Just a chance to build confidence and have FUN!

Ages 4-11 | Stay Active Youth Camp

Message us to book - limited spaces!



DAY CAMP SCHEDULE

9:30 - 9:45 Registration & Welcome

9:45 - 10:45 Warm-Up & Ice Breaker Activities
Movement games to get everyone smiling and settled

10:45 - 11:00 Snack Break

11:00 - 11:45 Dodgeball / Benchball

11:45 - 12:30 Scooter Disco / Basketball

12:30 - 1:15 Movie & Lunch Time

1:15 - 2:00 Arts & Crafts

2:00 - 3:00 Football / Dance

3:00 - 3:15 Awards 🏆

3:30 Collection



Half Term Activities

BRAND NEW LOCATION!

STAY ACTIVE YOUTH

FEBRUARY CAMP!

Tuesday 17th & Thursday 19th February

Our new venue has **WAY MORE SPACE & BRAND NEW SPORTS!**

Fun Sports Games!

Awesome Dance Routines!

Cool Multi-Skill Activities!

JOIN THE FUN! BOOK NOW!

9:30 - 3:30pm Chalfonts Community College,
SL9 8TP

£35 a day & sibling discount
Ages 4-11 years old

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