

The Chalfonts Chronicle

17th July 2026 – Issue 25

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements, opportunities and experiences that have taken place across our school community in recent weeks, including excellent Sports Days this week with students showing true commitment and team spirit!

Enrichment Week was a wonderful way to end the year, with students taking part in an action-packed programme designed to help them develop new skills, challenge themselves and create lasting memories. There has been a genuine buzz around the school, and it has been fantastic to see students embracing new experiences with such enthusiasm, confidence and positivity.

Students have enjoyed an incredible range of activities both in and out of school. These have included a trip to France, bell tent camping, paintballing, go-karting, golf coaching, fishing, a visit to the Harry Potter Studios, an escape room experience, and a Great Chalfonts Bake Off. There was a varied and exciting programme in school. Action for Youth delivered a series of team-building activities and were incredibly complimentary about our students' enthusiasm, behaviour and willingness to get involved. There was a beauty programme, computer science challenge, an exciting 'murder mystery' investigation for Year 7 requiring forensic science practicals. Students in Years 8 and 9 enjoyed year group challenges, and Duke of Edinburgh taster days to give students a valuable insight into the Bronze and Silver Awards.

A particular highlight of the week was our Young Lives vs Cancer Charity Walk, where students raised over £1,500 and counting for a charity that means so much to our school community as we support one of our very own students. The atmosphere around school was incredible, with students encouraging one another throughout the event and demonstrating outstanding kindness and community spirit. Donations to support Young Lives vs Cancer Charity can still be made here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ccc-enrichment-charity-walk-run>

Year 10 and Year 12 students completed work experience placements last week. There has been tremendous feedback from workplaces and our students have represented the school exceptionally well through their professionalism, maturity, attitude and commitment.



We were delighted to welcome our new students for their Year 6 Transition Day recently as they met their classmates and teachers. We very much look forward to welcoming them fully in September as they begin the next stage of their education with us.

Congratulations to two of our teachers who won awards in the Buckinghamshire Schools Awards last week. Out of thousands of teachers across the county we were incredibly proud that Mr Knutton won Teacher of the Year as voted for by students, and Miss Webb won New Teacher of the Year!



I would like to thank and commend our staff for their continued dedication and commitment to providing students with a high quality school experience. My sincere thanks also go to our PTA who give their time selflessly for the benefit of the school community.

Please look out for our end-of-year parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us celebrate what has gone well and identify how we can continue to improve the experience we provide for our students and families.

I wish everyone a very happy, restful and safe summer holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Kind regards

Mrs C Whitehead
Principal



The Path Ahead – Work Experience

Work Experience – Preparing Our Students for the Future

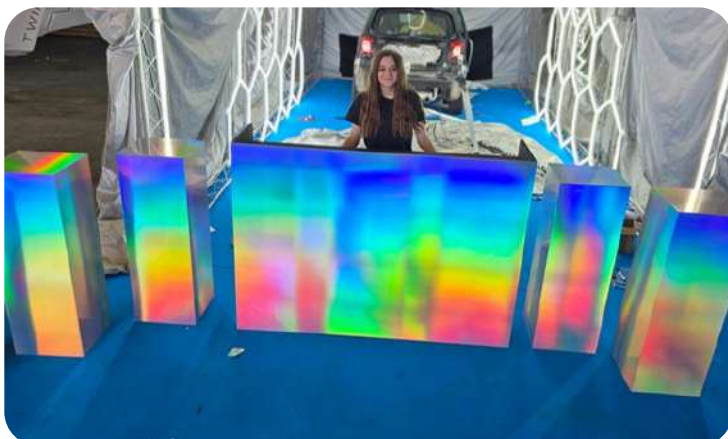
This week, over 250 of our Year 10 and Year 12 students have been out on work experience, gaining invaluable real-world experience, building confidence and developing the skills that will support them in their future education and careers.

Our students have enjoyed an incredible variety of placements across healthcare, engineering, hospitality, retail, finance, construction, education, transport, marketing, media, beauty, childcare, logistics and the public sector.

Whether designing marketing campaigns, supporting children in schools and nurseries, gaining hands-on engineering and construction experience, working alongside healthcare professionals, learning culinary skills, creating social media content, or experiencing careers with organisations including Sky, Mars, Imperial College London, Heathrow Express, Cliveden House, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Legoland Windsor, HP Inc., Transport for London and many fantastic local businesses, every placement has provided valuable insight into the world of work.

These experiences help our students develop confidence, communication, teamwork, resilience and professionalism, while inspiring them to think about their future career pathways.

A huge thank you to Ms Vinten and her team for coordinating placements for over 200 students, and to every employer who generously gave their time, knowledge and encouragement. Your support is helping to inspire the next generation.



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The Path Ahead – Work Experience



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Year 10 Work Experience Feedback

Our students have been out in the world of work – and the feedback has been brilliant! We are so proud of you all - well done!



“Zac’s confidence grew throughout the week, which lead to a greater independence in tasks. Zac was an amazing ambassador for CCC, and his competence was noticed by each member of the department. He would be a wonderful PE teacher in the future.”

“Raya was consistently confident, articulated herself very well and communicated with the team with ease.”



“Jess listened carefully to instructions and used her own initiative to help with a few tasks and checked in before doing so – took on a project we asked of her to help with and when the spa was busy she took herself off and continued researching without even asking. Helped set up really well and engaged well with all the team and clients. Was friendly and polite.”

“Ben has learn a lot of accounting skills during the week, double entry , excel, power point skills & at the end of the week he presented to the team what he learnt over the week in a very impressive powerpoint presentation & showed his workings for an accounting scenario we provided . He has grown a lot in confidence during the week. as a team we have been really impressed with Ben & what he has achieved this week.”



“Maddie settled in to the placement very quickly. She was able to use her initiative and independence to interact appropriately with the children.”

Year 12 Work Experience Feedback

Our students have been out in the world of work – and the feedback has been brilliant! We are so proud of you all - well done!



“Darius is a polite young man, punctual and very pleasant. He is not afraid to ask questions about the work given to him and it has been a pleasure in teaching him.”



“Mia built in confidence over the week, was highly professional and really cared about her role and supporting the children.”



“Aydan learnt a lot about the car body repair process along with various mechanical skills which certainly showed improvement as the week went on.”



“Completing daily tasks without prompting, growing in confidence in placing orders whilst asking the relevant questions. Coping with new enquiries and noting important points. Realising how many parts there are to running a business.”



“Ruby did really well with all aspects of the tasks we gave her, we think she will fly wherever the wind takes her.”



“It was a pleasure having Eva join the business for a few days. She is a confident, approachable and capable individual.”

Enrichment Week 2026: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Enrichment Week once again gave our students the opportunity to step outside the classroom, try new experiences and create lasting memories.

Students enjoyed a fantastic range of activities, from an exciting trip to France, including visits to Puy du Fou and Futuroscope, to fishing, golf, paintballing, go-karting, room escapes and an outdoor residential. Back at school, students took part in science experiments, Duke of Edinburgh taster sessions, dance challenges and our very own Great British Bake Off.

The week also included a Charity Fun Run/Walkathon in support of Young Lives vs Cancer, with students enthusiastically raising funds for this important cause.

Enrichment Week is about so much more than having fun—it helps students build confidence, resilience, teamwork and independence while developing new skills, strengthening friendships and creating unforgettable memories.

A huge thank you to all the staff who made another incredible Enrichment Week possible.



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Enrichment Week 2026: Learning Beyond the Classroom



Enrichment Week 2026: Learning Beyond the Classroom



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Adventures Abroad

Thailand Expedition: A Journey to Remember

A group of our students recently returned from an unforgettable expedition to Thailand, where they experienced an incredible blend of adventure, culture and personal development.

Throughout the trip, students immersed themselves in Thai culture, explored stunning landscapes and took part in a range of exciting activities that challenged them to step outside their comfort zones. Along the way, they developed greater confidence, resilience and independence while creating lifelong memories and strengthening friendships.

The expedition was a fantastic opportunity to broaden horizons and experience a different way of life, with our students representing The Chalfonts Community College exceptionally well throughout.

A huge thank you to the staff who organised and accompanied the trip, making this incredible experience possible.



First Give Final

Year 8 First Give Final Celebrates Student Voice and Community Impact

Our Year 8 students recently took part in the exciting First Give Final, showcasing inspiring presentations about charities they are passionate about.

After weeks of research, teamwork and fundraising, each group confidently pitched their chosen charity to their year group and a panel of judges, demonstrating excellent communication, creativity and a genuine commitment to making a difference in their community.

The winning team was awarded an additional £1,000 for their chosen charity, recognising the impact of their campaign and presentation.

Congratulations to all of our Year 8 students for their enthusiasm, confidence and dedication throughout the programme. A huge thank you to our judges for giving their time to support the event and to everyone who helped make the First Give programme such a success.

First Give continues to inspire our students to become active citizens, showing that even small actions can make a big difference.



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The Path Ahead – Chalfonts Success Story



Jasmine Wright

Senior Sister at Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Specialist Care

Introducing Jasmine Wright, a Chalfonts alumni member, who is now a Senior Sister at Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Specialist Care.

"I chose my career in nursing after I became unwell myself. I realised the power and impact having a good nurse makes when you are unwell and what a difference it can make. I also love how nursing is so diverse, with research, critical care, different specialities."

Preparing for the World of Work with Speakers for Schools

We were delighted to welcome Mark Evans to Chalfonts Community College as part of the Speakers for Schools programme.

Mark, a Coach, Non-Executive Director, Trustee, Advisor and former Chief Marketing Officer at Direct Line Group, will be sharing his career journey, life experiences and valuable insights to inspire our students as they consider their own future pathways.

A huge thank you to Speakers for Schools and Futures For All for making this fantastic opportunity possible.



Sporting Activities

Determination, teamwork and school spirit on display.

After several cancellations and rearrangements due to the weather, we were delighted to finally hold our Sports Days, combining year groups to ensure that all students had the opportunity to participate and enjoy the team spirit and rewards that sporting activities bring.

From individual sprint races and relays to javelin throwing and long jump, students embraced a wide range of events throughout the day. Many rose to the challenge of trying activities they would not normally take part in, showing impressive determination, resilience and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones.

What stood out most was the encouragement students gave one another, supporting teammates from the sidelines or celebrating each other's successes. Our students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and community spirit.

Sports Day is about far more than winning medals or races; it is about participation, perseverance and working together. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, effort and positive attitude shown by all students, and a huge thank you goes to the PE Department and staff who worked so hard to make the events possible.

Well done to everyone who took part and helped make Sports Day 2026 such a memorable celebration of sport and teamwork.



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Sporting Activities



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Learning Outside the Classroom

Year 10 Geography Fieldwork



Our Year 10 Geography students recently visited the River Chess to carry out fieldwork as part of their GCSE studies.

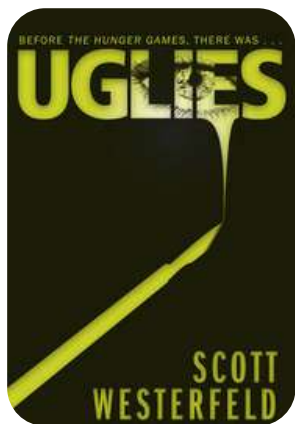
Throughout the day, students collected a range of data, including measurements of the river's width, depth and velocity, while investigating how river characteristics change downstream. This hands-on experience brought classroom learning to life and helped students develop the practical skills needed for their GCSE examinations.

The trip provided an excellent opportunity for students to apply their geographical knowledge in a real-world environment, while developing teamwork, observation and data collection skills.

A huge thank you to the Geography Department for organising such a valuable learning experience. Our students represented the school brilliantly and made the most of this fantastic opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.



All About Books



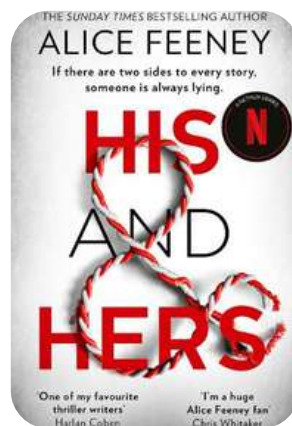
Student Recommendations

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Tally can't wait to turn sixteen and become Pretty, transforming from an Ugly into a beautiful citizen. But when her friend Shay runs away instead of undergoing the operation, Tally discovers the dark truth behind her society. Forced to choose between betraying Shay or giving up her own future, Tally makes a decision that changes everything.

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones

Sophie, with nothing left to lose, climbs to the moving castle above Market Chipping—home of the feared Wizard Howl. Inside, she meets his apprentice Michael and the fire demon Calcifer, with whom she strikes a risky pact. As she seeks to break her curse, her tangled bond with Howl, Calcifer and Michael unfolds through Diana Wynne Jones's trademark magic and humour.



Sixth Form/ Parents / Staff Recommendations

His And Hers by Alice Feeney

Jack describes his wife as beautiful, ambitious and unforgiving. Anna needs only one word for her husband: liar.

When a woman is murdered in Blackdown, newsreader Anna Andrews reluctantly returns to cover the case. Her ex-husband, DCI Jack Harper, grows wary of her connection—until he becomes a suspect himself. Someone is lying, and some secrets are worth killing to protect.

A Court Of Thorns And Roses by Sarah J Maas

Feyre is a huntress, but killing what she believes is a wolf brings a terrifying Fae creature to demand retribution. Taken to a magical land she knows only from legend, she discovers her captor, Tamlin, is not a beast but a powerful, immortal Fae.

As Feyre adjusts to her new home, her hostility toward Tamlin shifts into fierce passion, challenging everything she thought she knew about the Fae. But shadows gather, and Tamlin hides a secret that could destroy his world. Saving him will force Feyre down a path from which she can never return.





Getting started with Sora



The library staff are excited to announce that the school once again has access to the Sora reading app. This virtual library allows our students to borrow books, audiobooks and magazines through their webpage and app. We hope students will take full advantage of this addition to our library.

Accessing Sora:

Step 1: Install the Sora app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#), or go to [soraapp.com](#).

Step 2: In Sora, search “The Chalfonts Community College”, or click [this link](#), then sign in.

Note: You sign in with your @chalfonts.org / @chalfonts.net google account’s email and password.

Step 3: Once you have access to Sora, you can change your nickname and profile picture

Searching for and accessing books:

Step 1: Click the  **Explore** tab to browse by categories or  **Search** for a book, then select a book.

Step 2: You can listen to, or read, a sample by clicking on read sample.

- Click the **X** button next to close to exit the sample.
- Click the blue **Borrow** button if you decide you do want to borrow the book.

Note: If a book isn’t available, you can click **Place Hold** to get in line to borrow a book.

Step 3: Once you click borrow, your book will open so you can start reading right away.

Step 4: Close the book and go to  **Shelf**

- to see all your books. From there, you can:
 - Select **Open book** or **Open audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Select **Options** to renew or return the book, see your notes and highlights, and more.

Borrowing Information:

- The loan period is two weeks, the same as our physical library.
- The maximum number of book loans is 5.
- The maximum number of books on hold is 3.

For more help with Sora, visit: <https://help.soraapp.com/en-us/categories/using-sora.htm>

Care in The Community

RSE at Home for Parents & Carers: Helping Young People to Stay Safe Online

Summer holidays often mean more time online for children and young people through gaming, social media, and group chats.

Following feedback from parents and carers across Buckinghamshire, Brook is offering a free online session to help families feel more confident navigating topics such as online safety, online relationships, pornography, digital wellbeing, and talking to young people about life online.

Together we'll explore:

- Practical steps to help keep children and young people safe online
- How to start open, supportive conversations about digital life and wellbeing
- Creating healthy boundaries and family agreements around internet and device use
- Trusted sources of information, advice, and ongoing support

This session is designed to be supportive, non-judgemental, and accessible - helping parents and carers feel more confident navigating online safety with their child.

To book your free place, please click on the dates below:

- [Tuesday 11 August – 10:00-11:00](#)
- [Thursday 20 August – 12:00-13:00](#)

New Free Peer Mentoring Programme

We are pleased to share details of Peerly, a new free peer mentoring programme from Youth Enquiry Service (Wycombe) for young people aged 11–18 in High Wycombe and the surrounding areas.

Peerly provides face-to-face mentoring in a safe and supportive environment, helping young people build confidence, improve wellbeing, develop coping strategies and work towards personal goals alongside trained peer mentors.

Referrals and self-referrals are now open. Initial spaces are limited, but a waiting list will be available as the programme grows.

To find out more, check eligibility or complete an application, visit:

<https://yeswycombe.org/peer-mentoring/>

If you think your child could benefit from additional wellbeing or peer support, we encourage you to take a look.



Care in The Community

New Support for Families – DLD Together

Buckinghamshire's Inclusion Specialist Teaching Team is pleased to offer DLD Together, a free seven-session course for parents and carers supporting children and young people with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) or language differences.

The course is designed to help families better understand language differences and provide practical strategies to support their child at home. Children do not attend the sessions, and a formal diagnosis of DLD is not required.

Places are limited, with just eight spaces available on each course. If you feel this programme would benefit your family, please contact the school. Referrals are made by the school, after which the Inclusion Team will contact families directly with booking information.

Please note that this course is not designed for families of autistic children. Separate support programmes, including the National Autistic Society EarlyBird Plus and Teen Life courses, are also available.



DLD Together Free Course for Families



What is DLD Together?

A free 7-session course for families of children and young people with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) or language needs.

Led by experienced professionals. Sessions last 60–90 minutes.

Why join?

- 💡 Understand DLD
- 🧠 Learn your child's communication profile
- 🏠 Strategies for home
- 🎯 Support learning
- 👫 Meet other families

🏠 In Person

Castlefield Children's Centre, Wycombe

Wednesday (mornings):

30 Sept – 18 Nov

💻 Online

Tuesday (afternoons):

29 Sept – 17 Nov

Both courses will break for the half-term.



Book your free place now!

<https://forms.office.com/e/zzecPfqEJ2>