



# Chestnut News

Date: 06 March 2020 Issue No: 104

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

You will see from this newsletter that there is so much to be PROUD of at Chestnut Grove at the moment. The opportunities that we are able to provide your children with and the way in which they respond to those opportunities is a constant source of pride for us to. There is so much to celebrate, there really isn't need for me to say anything more other than 'enjoy the read'.

*Christian Kingsley, Headteacher*



### **Safeguarding** *Article 19: Right to protection*

Your child's safety is of paramount concern to us. If you have any concerns over the personal development, behaviour or welfare of your child or any other child within Chestnut Grove Academy that cannot be resolved by the child's teacher, tutor or RSL, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Ms Jackson on 0208 772 2510 or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Mikayla Jolley on 0208 772 2545. Should either of these be unavailable and you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please ask for the other Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Collins (KS3), Mr Bedford (KS4) or Mr Taylor (KS5).

If students/parents have any concern about a safeguarding issue that they would like to report anonymously they can use the SHARP system on the Chestnut Grove Academy website. This is a link which enables an email to be sent into Chestnut Grove Academy reporting any issue. This comes to the school and will be followed up by the appropriate member of the pastoral team depending on the concern.

We've got some excellent news to share from schools within the Wandle Learning Trust this half term. At Chestnut Grove Academy our Head Student has been offered a place at Brasenose College University of Oxford to read Spanish and Beginners' German. Just 20 per cent of students who apply to study at Brasenose are offered a place, so this really is a great achievement. Chestnut Grove has also seen two of its students reach the final of the Wandsworth Young Musician of the Year competition, resulting in awards for their piano and saxophone performances respectively.

We're really pleased to let you know that Paxton Academy's new building is moving ever closer to opening. At our parents' and governors' meeting at the start of February we announced our plan to take some parents from each year group to see the building. We will be sharing more details about that after the half term.

Meanwhile Chesterton Primary has had a visit from Education Ministers from Singapore. Chesterton was asked to host the visit by the Department for Education as the Ministers wanted to see examples of excellent Early Years and Key Stage 1 provision.

***Christian Kingsley and Mark Siswick***  
***Joint Executive Heads of Wandle Learning Trust***

## FINANCE UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE

A core role of the governing body of any school is to ensure that the finances of the school are responsibly managed and that the funds received are spent in a way that provides the best possible education for your children. We take our responsibilities in this area very seriously and have specifically recruited members to our Local Academy Committee with accountancy and finance experience to help us do that. We operate through a Local Academy Resources Committee which works closely with the school finance staff and leadership, as well as with the chair of the Local Academy Committee. We operate under the umbrella of the Wandle Learning Trust which is responsible for the financial management of all the schools in the trust.



In the 2019/20 academic year Chestnut Grove Academy received around £8 million in funding. Most of this comes from the Department for Education (DfE), mainly as a general grant based on the number of pupils we have with some additional funding for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and for those with special educational needs. We also generate income from fundraising through the great work of our development manager, Sharon Noble, as well as from renting out facilities out of school hours, e.g. our 3G pitches and sports halls.

Over 75% of the cost of running the school is the cost of our excellent teaching and support staff (including pay and pension contributions), a total bill of around £6.2 million per academic year. The rest of our cost base is all the other costs of running a school including curriculum resources (e.g. books, IT), facilities expenses (e.g. heating, maintenance), and management costs (e.g. human resources, financial control). Most of these are delivered in house, but some are bought in from Wandsworth Local Authority and some delivered centrally in shared functions through the Wandle Learning Trust.

Since 2011, when it became an academy, Chestnut Grove has worked hard to build up reserves which it has then spent on important projects or operating priorities that were not covered by our normal funding sources. Examples include the significant amount of furniture and equipment that was required for the new buildings and a contribution to refurbishment of the art rooms. In 2019/20 we are using some reserves to maintain levels of staffing at a time of significant staff cost inflation and school growth, as well as to finish off some important projects related to the new build including creating some more much-needed outdoor seating and catering capacity outside the canteen.

Looking forward, we are optimistic about the financial situation of Chestnut Grove. The school is growing – three years ago Wandsworth asked Chestnut Grove to move up to a six-class entry in each year (180 children) and as that flows through the school the total number of students continues to grow. Our highly successful Sixth Form is also growing as it attracts and retains more young people. This growth means that our total income levels continue to increase, providing us with additional funding to direct at resources for our students. While we are continuing to recruit teachers to teach these extra children, there is real benefit to the overall financial situation of the school of just being a little bigger. We are also about to embark on a significant building project which will be largely funded by the Department for Education (DFE) which will provide us with extra space for our growing school. We are also hoping that for the first time in several years we are going to see real increases in funding per pupil from the DFE as government policy in this area does seem to be shifting.

Overall, as a Local Academy Committee, we take the responsibility of keeping Chestnut Grove on a firm financial footing very seriously. We think the school is prudently managed and financially secure and are optimistic that we are in a position to continue to fund an outstanding education for your children.

## P.E DEPARTMENT

*Article 31 : The right to leisure, culture and play*

### Year 7 Netball Matches

We hosted both Graveney and Ashcroft to play our final league matches for the Wandsworth Tournament. Despite the rain trying to dampen our spirits and threaten to cancel the matches we had a lucky break in the weather and managed to play them all.

First up the 'B' team played Ashcroft and as a new team together they did exceptionally well. It was evident the team were working in unity as limited interceptions were made by the other team and the shooters had ample opportunity to score. Maja made her debut as GA scoring the first 2 goals, which gave the team a positive start. The 7-1 win was secured by a whole team effort - well done girls.

The second match played by the 'B' team was against Graveney 'B' who had some unstoppable tall shooters that scored 5 goals to our zero. The centre court play was close and the girls were just losing out on 50/50 balls. It was a shame not to clinch a goal in this match, but the girls should be very proud of how they played as a new team together. Well done!

Well done to all 'B' team players:  
FLETCHER ROGERS, Jessica  
RAHMAN, Hannah  
KEENLEYSIDE, Niamh  
ALIN, Sireen  
BERHANE, Solyanna  
MOHSIN, Emaan (Capt)  
SHIPLEY, Holly  
GASCOYNE, Bailey (vice capt)  
KOLTERMA, Maja  
IBORRA, Melissa

The 'A' team had some tough competition. First up they played Ashcroft who were a dynamic side that seemed to cover any space that appeared on court. At half time it was 0-0 and this was down to excellent defence from Juanita and Onyievu keeping Ashcroft at bay. The second half was also closely contested with the whole Chestnut Grove team working together to get the ball to the shooters. It was hard work as Ashcroft also had a strong defensive team. But we managed to do it! We snuck the first goal to lead 1-0. Ashcroft however were straight back putting pressure on and with their centre pass equalised at 1-1. Time was not on our side at this point and the whistle went for full time. A closely contested match – well done for demonstrating such resilience girls.

The second match vs Graveney was a hard match as expected. This side won the tournament earlier in the term so we knew we had a tough match ahead. Scoring the first goal was amazing. However, Graveney then came back stronger and were on a roll. We stepped up and played some excellent netball so should not be disheartened by the 10-1 defeat. Well done on playing your best and not giving up.

Well done to all 'A' team players:  
HENRY, Juanita  
SULE, Onyievu  
SKINNER, Lyra  
FLAVIN, Reeve  
NICHOLSON, Isla  
ROG, Sasha (vice capt)  
SPENCELEY, Stella (Capt).  
BARZALLO, Alejandra

**Ms Jarman**  
**PE Teacher**



## Climbing News

Congratulations to Frida Costa De Silva in 11 Turner who made the podium at last weekend's BLOKFEST at the Castle. This is a bouldering competition attracting the best climbers in the South of England, where each competitor attempts 25 bouldering problems in three and a half hours. 10 points are awarded for a successful first climb, 7 for second attempt, 4 for third attempt and 1 for any "top" reached after four or more attempts. Frida came 3rd in her age category - A great achievement. She will now move into the adult category in the new season.

**Mr Hallsworth**  
**PE Department**

## Indoor Cricket

Last week both the Year 8 and Year 10 teams took part in the Surrey C.C. indoor cricket competition. Unfortunately, this year due to renovations taking place at the Oval the competition was held at Ernest Bevin.

The Year 8 team were drawn in pool B alongside Kingsdale, Charter School and Ernest Bevin. The first was a comfortable victory against Charter. In the second match Ernest Bevin scored a massive total of 63 which Chestnut Grove were unable to chase down, but did manage not to get bowled out. The final group game required Chestnut Grove to win and to take all six wickets in the process. Setting 38 to win, another excellent bowling performance was produced taking two Kingsdale wickets in the first over. Some excellent counter attacking batting turned the game until two suicidal runouts and an excellent catch turned the match towards Chestnut's favour. In the final over Chestnut needed one wicket and Kingsdale needed nine runs, an excellent catch on the back wall off the second ball of the over meant Chestnut won the match and advanced to the final. The final was a very close affair with Bishop Thomas Grant winning the toss and batting first scoring 52 runs. In reply, the team got off to an excellent start scoring 23 from the first two overs. A combination of tight bowling and poor shot selection saw Chestnut throw away wickets trying to maintain the big hitting, eventually being bowled out 10 runs short with an over remaining.

The Year 10 competition was a round robin format and Chestnut Grove eased past Charter School in their first match. In match two Chestnut came out narrow winners needing three runs off the final ball against Ashcroft. In match three against Bishop Thomas Grant, we limited them to 23 runs by excellent bowling and fielding allowing a convincing run chase within three overs. The final match saw the two undefeated teams, Chestnut Grove and Ernest Bevin face each other. Ernest Bevin batted first. Their first three batters all reached 25, setting a mammoth 98 runs to win the competition. Ernest Bevin's bowling was as strong as their batting, restricting Chestnut to 36 runs, being bowled out with one over of their allocation remaining.



Overall both teams performed excellently on the day and have announced themselves as the teams to beat for the Last Man Stands hardball tournament in the summer term. Congratulations to all involved.

Year 8  
Bill Davy, Yash Baba, Ruben Morris, Sebastian Reynolds, Max Reynold, Seb Travakani Carver, Arthur Abusch, Ishraq Pathway

Year 10  
Sidharth Babla, Charlie Barry, Max Hunt, Seb Hunt, Samar Asif, Mussawir Ahmed, Asher Ahmed, Masror Syed.

## London Youth Games

Judo trials, which take place at Ernest Bevin over the next two weeks:

Trial 1

Date: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Trial 2

Date: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Age Groups (both trial dates)

Under 14's 6-7:30pm

Under 18's 7:30-9pm

If any students are interested in attending this year's judo trials, please complete the registration form, which can be found at: [www.enablelc.org/lyg](http://www.enablelc.org/lyg)

The trials will be used to select the team to represent Wandsworth at the London Youth Games 2020 competition, where the 33 London Boroughs compete. For more information on the London Youth Games, please visit: <https://www.londonyouthgames.org/>

**Mr Tobin**  
**Head of PE**

## DANCE SHOW

Students from across the school have been working extremely hard in their clubs and lessons for this year's Dance Show 'A Night at the Movies' which is taking place on the 12th March 2020, 6:00pm-8:00pm in the theatre. This year will be showcasing approximately 23 pieces of work that the students have been creating and learning throughout the year so far.

This is an exciting opportunity to see all the hard work that the students have put in. They have been working tirelessly to ensure that this year's show is a step up from last year's. I would urge all family and friends to come and support and see the amazing work they have put together.

Tickets are available through parent pay and are £4 for adults and £3 for students. Tickets are selling extremely fast so be sure to get yours as soon as possible as it is unlikely that any will be available at the door.

Students need to ensure that they have collected and handed in their letters for the show, and have collected their costume list from Ms Atkinson in the Performing Arts Office.

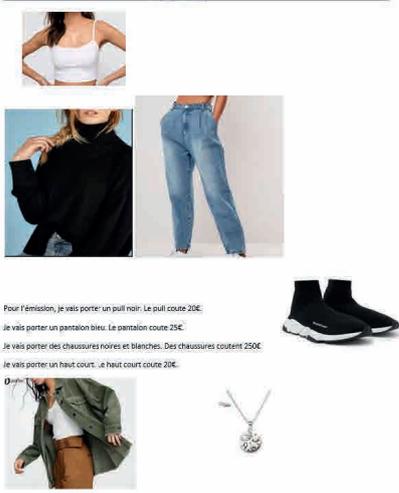
**Ms Atkinson**  
Dance Teacher

## YEAR 8 FRENCH

Last half-term, Year 8 French classes were learning about clothes and going shopping in French. Before half-term they entered a competition in class called Les Reines du Shopping (The queens of shopping), based on a real French TV show. The students had one hour and a budget of €500, to create and describe an outfit on the computers. It was great to see the students demonstrate their positivity and enthusiasm when using the language they have learnt over the recent weeks, and it made the MFL department very PROUD. Well done to everyone, and congratulations to the winners for the fabulous outfits below!

**Ms Mignon**  
MFL Teacher

**les reines du shopping**



Pour l'émission, je vais porter un pull noir. Le pull coute 20€.  
Je vais porter un pantalon bleu. Le pantalon coute 25€.  
Je vais porter des chaussures noires et blanches. Des chaussures coute 250€.  
Je vais porter un haut court. Le haut court coute 20€.

Je vais porter une veste verte la veste coute 50€ je vais porter un collier. Le collier coute 10€.  
Je pense que le pull est à la mode. By anouk zappa

**Les reines du shopping**

Pour l'émission, je vais porter une chemise rouge. Je pense que la chemise est à la mode et est jolie, la chemise coute 55€.



Et je vais porter un pantalon noir, je pense est à la mode et est joli, le pantalon coute 40€.

Je vais porter talon noir, je pense que le talon est à la mode et joli, le talon coute 30€.



Je vais porter veste en cuir noire, je pense que le cuir est à la mode et joli mais brillant, le cuir coute 60€.



Je vais porter un collier gris. Je pense est beau et joli, le collier coute 15€ by Colina

**Les Reines du Shopping**



Pour l'émission, je vais porter un crop top jaune. Le crop top coute 35€. Je pense que le crop top est a la mode.



Je vais porter un short. Le short coute 20€.



Je vais porter un collier.



Je vais porter vans. Le vans coute 125€.



Pour l'émission, je vais porter une veste jean.

Sofia

Pour l'émission, je vais porter: un smoking gris, des fausses chaussures balenciaga, un pantalon noir, une chemise blanche et une cravate noire. Dele

103.24€ - un smoking



Une chemise - 48€



Une cravate - 21.99€



80€ - un pantalon



Balenciaga chaussures (fake) - 275€



## Une chemise

Je vais porter une chemise grise fait par Tommy Hilfiger. Une chemise coûte €40 à le Tommy hilfiger magasin.



## Un pantalon

Je porte un pantalon noir par addidas. Un pantalon coûte €30 à addidas magasin.



## Un pull

je porte Un pull noir par addidas. Un pull coûte €20 à addidas magsins.



## Une chaussure



Raheem

## Sarah's outfit of the day

Les reines du shopping

Une veste !  
Je vais porter une veste  
Vous pouvez choisir ce que vous voulez porter.



Des chaussures  
Je vais porter des chaussures noires



Un collier  
Je vais porter un collier



Une ceinture  
Je vais porter une ceinture



Un pantalon  
Je vais porter un pantalon bleu.



Le costume coûte 50€.



Le costume coûte 50€.

Pour l'émission, nous voulons porter un costume orange et vert.

La veste, le pull et la jupe coûtent 27€.



Le tee-shirt et le pantalon coûtent 23€.

Je pense que le tee-shirt est à la mode.

MERCI

VOTE LOTTIE AND RACHEL FOR THE WIN



39€



90€



110€



90€

Pour l'émission, je vais porter une veste denim. La veste denim coûte 39€. Elle est à la mode!

Pour l'émission, je vais porter un jean noir. Le jean noir coûte 110€. Il est moderne.

Pour l'émission, je vais porter un talon gris. Le talon gris coûte 90€. Il est mignon!

Jago et Grace

Before half term A level students went to Cervantes Theatre to see “La Casa de Bernarda Alba” (“The House of Bernarda Alba”) by Federico García Lorca. As part of their Spanish course students have to read this play and write an essay about it in their final writing exam.

“La Casa de Bernarda Alba” explores themes of repression, passion and conformity through the depiction of a matriarch’s domination of her five daughters. Described by the author as “a drama of women in villages of Spain”, it shows us the harsh reality of women in Spain during the 1930s.

Federico García Lorca (1898-1936), poet and dramatist, was one of the greatest Spanish writers of the 20th century. He was killed by nationalist partisans at the age of thirty-eight at the beginning of the Spanish Civil war, two months after completing “La Casa de Bernarda Alba”.

Students enjoyed seeing the production and it helped them having a better understanding of the play and the Spanish reality of the 1930s.

*“Lorca’s ‘La Casa de Bernarda Alba’, gave us an insightful experience into Spanish theatre and further reinforced our knowledge of Spanish culture. The brilliant acting allowed us to emotionally attach with the characters of the play, making the experience more memorable. This was my first time watching a play in Spanish and it convinced me that Spanish literature is rich in every way.”* **Sonia**

*“As part of the Spanish A level course you get to read the play ‘La Casa de Bernarda Alba’ and we were lucky to be able to see it performed in real life too. Seeing the play helped me remember the key moments and quotes that will be very useful for my essays. I was very impressed by the high level of acting and the nice atmosphere that the theatre offered. Overall it was a great experience; we had a lot of fun and this will be a great memory in the future.”* **Gabriela**

*“This play was a striking production. The strength and passion of all the female characters took me back to the Spanish time the play is based on. All the details, including the language and expressions used as well as the clothes were perfectly planned to make the audience empathise with the performers”* **Hilary**

**Ms Sanz**  
**MFL Teacher**



## YEAR 8 ITALIAN SPECIALISTS

As a reward for their hard work this term the Year 8 Italian specialists spent their lesson this week in the cookery room making pizzas from scratch. After preparing and kneading the dough, students were left to create their own Italian toppings. Pancetta, mozzarella, prosciutto, passata, chorizo, pepperoni, olives...We were all impressed with the end results!



## *Article 2: Non - Discrimination*

Over the last term, Lyra, Isla, Jerome, Ria, Sarah and Cicely in Year 7 have been working on a project to raise awareness of autism. Autism is much more common than many people think. There are around 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK – that's more than 1 in 100. If you include their families, autism is a part of daily life for 2.8 million people. Autism is a hidden disability – you can't always tell if someone is autistic – and people experience autism very differently. The group visited Ms Guerreiro, our autism specialist at Chestnut Grove, to try and learn more about it. They completed weeks of research before preparing a quiz that they sent around to every tutor group. They are now working on new projects which include starting a sign language course and raising money for a stall at Pride!

***Ms Taylor-Campbell***

***i.c. SMSC, Human Rights, Student Leadership Head of Department Health (PSHE)***



## EQUALITIES, AND DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

On the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 14 members of Chestnut Grove's Equalities club attended the Equalities and Diversity Conference held at Burntwood School. The conference was organised and held by Burtwood's Equalities club and included a variety of engaging activities. Talks were given about the evolution of school policy, clubs, and societies surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. Students were then given the opportunity to circulate around different workshops, each associated with key equality issues faced in schools. This included school uniform policies, the use of pronouns, and BAME representation. The students had an enjoyable morning and were praised for their maturity throughout the conference.



*Mr Collins, Ms Jayaskera, Ms Matiola*

## SCIENCE WEEK

**9th - 20th March**

**SCIENCE WEEK 2020**

STEM careers panel Y9-11  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Dissection club  
KS4 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
KS3 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Women in Science Treasure Hunt Y7

Science Week Quiz and shows

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The science department are hosting a variety of events for Science Fortnight from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March. From squid dissections, treasure hunts, quizzes, explosions and careers panels there are plenty of opportunities for your child to get involved. The key dates for Science Fortnight are:

STEM careers panel Y9-11 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
KS4 dissection club – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
KS3 dissection club – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Science week quizzes, assemblies, themed lessons and a “Women in Science” treasure hunt will be taking place during Science Fortnight, so please do encourage your child to participate and be excited about science!

**Ms Holmes**  
**Science Teacher**

## WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday Chestnut Grove celebrated World Book Day. Staff and Year 7 students dressed up as characters from a wide range of books, with the English department celebrating 2020 in Great Gatsby style! Throughout the day, tutors and teachers shared ‘the book that changed my life’ with their classes, ranging from Malcom X’s autobiography to The Northern Lights, and everything in between!

The full list of books will be shared next week, kicking off a competition where students will be encouraged to choose a life-changing book to read, and write a short review explaining the impact it had on them. Entries will be taken until the May half term, and the winner will receive a book as a prize. Please encourage your children to participate!

**Ms C Smith**  
**English Teacher**





## Year 7 - Clay Fish

We have just taken Year 7's clay fish out of the kiln after their second firing with glaze. Making these fish has been a long process where we have made them, done their initial biscuit firing, glazed them and then fired them again. Each firing takes 3 days. We also selected a range of different materials to create a texture by pressing them into the surface of the clay; this is known as intaglio. Please see just a few of beautiful results below.



## Rights respecting school and art specialists

Year 7 and 8 are currently working on creating screen prints that highlight our student's Unicef rights. These will be printed onto fabric and displayed around the school.

## Linean Society and Art specialists

Year 7, 8 and 9 art specialists have recently finished their felting and embroidery that are going to be collected this month by the Linean Society. This work is going to be entered into one of their competitions that we have a history of being very successful in! When we have an update on how well we do, we will let you know.

## Collection of art work

Please could all Visual Art, Textile Art and Digital Art GCSE students from 2019 collect their work as soon as possible. It is all in the Sixth Form room in the art pavilions.

**Ms Horne**  
**Art Teacher**

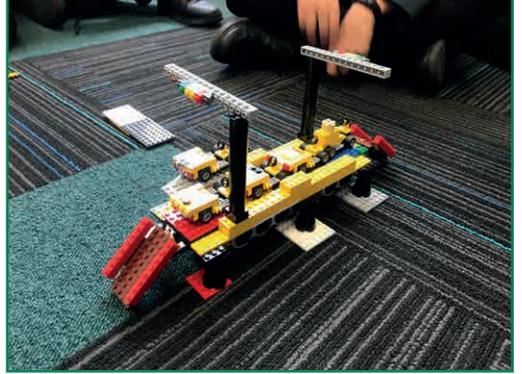
## KEY STAGE 3 LEGO MINDSTORMS COMPETITION - WINNERS

On Tuesday, Ms Ball and I took six Key Stage 3 students to the Lego Mindstorms competition (organised by Tomorrow's Engineers). I'm delighted to say WE WON the competition out of all the London schools who took part. The students personified our PROUD values and also won the prize for the best teamwork!

There were five challenges we had to take part in:

1. Speed and Control Challenge (20 points): Teams raced their robot to cover the distance as quickly as possible and then returned home. They needed to be quick and controlled for this task - on our first attempt we came in at 30 seconds - during our second attempt we smashed this time and achieved 12 seconds!
2. Robot Challenge (40 points): Teams completed a range of exciting mat-based tasks. Teams had two chances to score as many points as possible on the table-top challenge - despite the first round not going as planned the second attempt went far better after some tweaks to our robot.
3. Robot Design (40 points): Teams presented their robots to judges in a show and tell style format and explained what they learnt about robot design and programming.
4. Project Presentation (40 points): Teams delivered a presentation they prepared answering the question 'How could engineers help future-proof the world?'. The students blew us away with the professionalism and confidence during the talk. It really felt like I was watching a university level group of students present their work.
5. Teamwork Challenge (40 points): This was an unseen challenge, they were reviewed on how well they worked as a team. The judge commented how much of a credit our students were to the school as they completed the task so well.

Now, we face the other UK finalists in Birmingham on Friday 13th March. Fingers crossed we win!



**Mr Wildman**  
**Head of Design & Technology/Head of Art and Design**



## WELCOME TO CHILLI

We are thrilled to announce that Chestnut Grove will soon be working with our very own therapy dog to support our students' reading ability. Research shows that young people can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a therapy dog enters the group, they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgemental. Before long the young people are starting to look forward to the reading experience as they are going to read to their new friend, the therapy dog. Therapy dogs provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun. Students who currently attend reading intervention will soon get the opportunity to work with Chilli the super friendly Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and after the initial trial, we are hoping to welcome more therapy dogs into the school with a view to supporting students who suffer with anxiety. So if you know anyone who is interested in volunteering with their dog, going through the training programme and supporting our students in the future, please get in touch. We are excited about welcoming Chilli into the Chestnut Grove family and will update you all soon on how the reading club is going.



**Ms Bradley**  
**SENC**

## FRIENDS OF CHESTNUT GROVE

### Next FoCG Meeting:

Our next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the canteen (entry via Boundaries Road). All are welcome to come along and find out what is happening and propose fundraising ideas.

### FoCG Parkrun 2020 - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Please save the date - more information to come in due course.

### Easyfundraising

We have raised over £1,530 so far using this scheme and there is absolutely no cost to you! Please consider signing up to activate it for all of your online shopping (holidays, groceries, insurance, fashion, home, garden, presents and more). Once you have done so you will only need to click on the automatic pop-up whenever you browse these sites.

The link is: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chestnutgroveacademy](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chestnutgroveacademy)

If you would like to join our mailing list to hear about the events that we organise, please email us at [friends@chestnutgrove.org.uk](mailto:friends@chestnutgrove.org.uk) to Opt In.

General emails to [friends@chestnutgrove.org.uk](mailto:friends@chestnutgrove.org.uk)

Follow us on our Facebook page Friends of Chestnut Grove.

Virgin Giving Page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1009361>



Headteacher's commendations are given for students demonstrating the PROUD ethos, either through behaviour or exceptional pieces of work. Any student can be nominated by their teacher. Students who receive a commendation get a certificate from the Headteacher and also receive 100 Proud Points. The following students have received commendations in the past fortnight:

### **Geography**

**James Wong**  
**Jasper Rowles**  
**Alex Fitzpatrick**  
**Shannon Walker**  
**Oliver Cockle**  
**Oscar Brent**  
**Toby Tredray**  
**Jerry Athymartis**  
**Beatrice Isted-Aggrey**  
**Ava Rokita**  
**Elsa Brayshaw**  
**Hugo Goulborn**  
**Joseph Oliver-Abrahams**  
**Afran Abrar**  
**Nina Serrant**  
**George Walsh**  
**Leo Huie**  
**Daniel Clark**  
**Octavia Hunt**  
**Reeve Flavin**  
**Agne Guedraityte**  
**Che Liston Lazarides**  
**Maya Legendz**  
**Glory Bunga**  
**Benjamin Bourne**  
**Emma Cox**  
**Danae Perez-Murata**

### **French**

**Umma Zukanovic**

### **History**

**Lara Sharpington**

### **Reach Out Sessions**

**Yousuf Anam**  
**Jason Tutt**  
**Phoenix Watson**  
**Levi Meara-Gomes**

## YEAR 7

Last week Mr Bedford joined us in our assembly to celebrate the hard work of Year 7 so far this academic year. He provided us with a reminder of Chestnut Grove's positive behavior for learning expectations and I was very impressed with Year 7 when Mr Bedford asked students if they could remember what our student-teacher charter listed for our Positive PROUD value. So many students were keen to answer this questions and could remember most of the things listed below. In particular, greeting teachers with a smile!


**A CREATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY Student - Teacher Charter**

VALUES	STUDENTS	TEACHERS
<p><b>POSITIVE</b></p> <p>We approach learning with enthusiasm and we value the contributions of others</p> <p>Everyone has the right to free speech and belief (Articles 13 &amp; 14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are punctual, dressed for success and prepared for learning</li> <li>We greet our teachers with a smile</li> <li>We swiftly engage with learning upon entering the classroom</li> <li>We show that we are willing to learn by getting out our equipment, sitting up at our desks and focusing on the lesson at hand</li> <li>We show a positive attitude to our learning by asking and answering questions, taking notes and doing our best work</li> <li>We are able to articulate the learning goal and our own progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We create a positive learning environment by welcoming students at the door with the task at the ready</li> <li>We build relationships with students and take the time to understand their needs</li> <li>We ask students for their contributions in class and provide different ways of finding out their opinions</li> <li>We prompt for an ordered end to the lesson and ask students to stand silently behind their chairs</li> </ul>

The reason for the assembly was to remind students that demonstrating each of our PROUD values on 75 occasions means they can collect the badge for that value, with the hope that students will collect all five badges before the end of the year. Despite collectively having the highest number of PROUD points in the whole school, Year 7 students are yet to collect any of the badges.

A particular area where Year 7 could work hard on to gain more PROUD points is the start of lessons. The beginning of lessons are really important to set the tone for the whole lesson. By arriving on time, promptly getting out their books and equipment and starting work straight away, students will be starting their lessons in a positive way and then will be rewarded by their teachers with PROUD points for demonstrating their positivity and preparedness to learn. Teachers have also been encouraged to look out for this and reward students with PROUD points... so I look forward to seeing the PROUD points flooding in and awarding some badges in the near future.

Here is an update on the highest numbers for each PROUD value in the year, I am hoping that following the assembly students are more determined than ever to demonstrate their positive behaviour for learning and are even reminding their teachers to award their PROUD points!

**Demonstrating Positivity**

Alana Dias	54
Benjamin Bourne	54
Emma Cox	52
Jerry Athymaritis	52
Beatrice Isted-Aggrey	52
Danae Perez-Murata	52

### Demonstrating **Resilience**

Muhammed Ahmed	25
Danny Dobbin	21
Emma Cox	21
Jessica Fletcher Rogers	21
Aran Kennedy	21
Jacopo Sai	21
Molly Boyle	21

### Demonstrating Open **Mindedness**

Hugo Goulborn	12
Ava Rokita	12
Stella Spenceley	12
Isabela Lazar	11
Noam Atzmon	11

### Demonstrating **Unity**

Dhillon Pattni	32
Che Liston Lazarides	31
Octavia Hunt	30
Iain MacKenzie	30
Sarah Tutt	30
Daniel Clark	30
Marcus Bego	30

### Demonstrating **Determination**

Elisa Bellas	38
Tiago Romallo-Salvi	38
Harrison Kern	37
Jessica Guede	35
Jemima Timlin	35
Umma Zukanovic	35

Well done to all of the students listed above and the many students who consistently demonstrate our PROUD values every single day. As you can see, some students are not far from receiving their POSITIVE badges; I look forward to handing these out in assembly very soon.

Finally, well done to 7 Da Vinci for a super effort in the weekly quiz last half-term. All students have received PROUD points from me for demonstrating each of our PROUD values weekly when completing the quiz.

### **Key dates for next half-term**

- Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March – KS3 assessment week
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Dance Show
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Year 7 trip to Paris

Thank you all for your continued support, the students and I really appreciate it.

**Miss C Sweeny,**

*Raising Standards Leader Year 7*

## YEAR 8

I hope that your children had a lovely half term holiday. Coming up in the rest of the year are two important events, firstly Parents' Evening on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and secondly all Year 8 immunisations on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, with a catch up date of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. Letters about both of these events will be given out nearer to the time, but I am aware that some people may need to rearrange work in order to come to the Parents' Evening.

Congratulations to the following 7 students who have also gained their Positive Badge for recording 75 separate logs of Positivity. That means we now have 31 students in the year group with a Positive Badge, that's almost a fifth of the year group.

Daisy Knights  
Rochana Cummins-Thomas  
Charlotte Sutton  
Tania Zia  
James Preston  
Jee To  
Joshua Simpson



Many congratulations to the following **84** students who have achieved the 700 Proud Points required for the Rewards Trip in the Summer Term. Another 77 students are on track to achieve the 700 Proud Points needed. If your child is not on the list below, please encourage them to politely ask for Proud Points as I am sure that they deserve them.

<b>Name</b>	<b>TutorGroup</b>	<b>Proud Point Total</b>
Cassidy Gattegno	8 Blake	1448
Serena Anthony	8 Kapoor	1395
Aine O'Kane	8 Kapoor	1346
Olivia Ray	8 Hepworth	1270
James Wong	8 Hepworth	1256
Roza Dzieciol	8 Turner	1241
Kyah-Jai Burland	8 Hepworth	1225
Raheem Valimahomed	8 Turner	1208
Danny Barlow	8 Kapoor	1189
Rachel Fletcher Rogers	8 Da Vinci	1094
Rickwaun Nicholson	8 Blake	1083
Bjorn Dokou	8 Hepworth	1070
Billy Wickham	8 Kapoor	1061
Sonny Neath	8 Kapoor	1056
Josie Hallett	8 Kapoor	1055
Felix Papa	8 Kahlo	1053
Charlotte Kelly	8 Kahlo	1043
Charlotte Sutton	8 Blake	1036
Isabel Morris	8 Turner	1036
Shannon Walker	8 Hepworth	1030
Jake Brookes	8 Turner	1025

Fatima Rasul	8 Turner	1004
Cerys Kaniuk	8 Blake	1003
Leila Gashi	8 Hepworth	980
Tania Zia	8 Blake	977
Lola Linero-Westfold	8 Kapoor	977
Ella Eastaway	8 Kapoor	964
Oliver Fogarty	8 Blake	950
Minh Nguyen	8 Blake	948
Nami Ramos	8 Da Vinci	936
Jurre Campman-Williams	8 Turner	933
Burhan Munir	8 Blake	924
Farah Kennedy	8 Da Vinci	916
Daisy Knights	8 Blake	915
Estrella Del Pozo Jofre	8 Da Vinci	902
Cherise Forbes	8 Blake	897
Jee To	8 Hepworth	895
Koko Tatsuta-Holmes	8 Kapoor	893
Lincoln Peto	8 Hepworth	892
Wiktoria Powietrzynska	8 Turner	891
Nicole Kwiecien	8 Turner	885
Jayden Amin	8 Hepworth	870
Daniel Painter	8 Da Vinci	869
Celina Mateo De Leon	8 Da Vinci	857
Hannah Anderson	8 Turner	856
Brody Young	8 Blake	852
James Preston	8 Hepworth	852
Sarah Abduelatief	8 Turner	849
Sophia Shade	8 Hepworth	848
Patrycja Gromczynska	8 Kahlo	845
Victoria Fuentes Vaskuez	8 Kahlo	840
Olivia Brinton	8 Kahlo	837
Yash Babla	8 Da Vinci	834
Tinashe Bimha	8 Kahlo	831
Josephine Le Brun	8 Kapoor	822
Ahmed Haqqi	8 Hepworth	812
Lorina Kurowska	8 Hepworth	791
Jessie Turner	8 Hepworth	790
Lyra Clarke	8 Turner	787
Anouk Zappa	8 Da Vinci	785
Khalid Nurhussien	8 Hepworth	777
Safiya Ahmed	8 Blake	775
Dre Harrison	8 Kahlo	762
Sofia Ivanova Elvira	8 Turner	756
Lauren Barker	8 Hepworth	749
Angus Heritage	8 Blake	745
Declan Maher	8 Da Vinci	741
Florence Bazeley	8 Blake	735
Krish Patel	8 Da Vinci	735
Brian Liu	8 Turner	732
Charlie Parsons	8 Da Vinci	726
Natalie Lambert	8 Da Vinci	726

Sonne'T Pilgrim Parks	8 Hepworth	723
Kyle Copeland	8 Kahlo	723
Betty Elmes	8 Kapoor	722
Dorothy Johns	8 Hepworth	719
Grace Allen	8 Kahlo	719
Floyd Gillbe	8 Da Vinci	717
Lucy Charlotte Rowles	8 Hepworth	717
Mohammed Khan	8 Kapoor	717
Aiza Mohammad	8 Kahlo	715
Eva MacKenzie	8 Hepworth	714
Jago Toyloy	8 Kahlo	705
Jessica Forde	8 Kapoor	704

Last week, Year 8 took part in a question and answer session focusing on LGBTQ. The students had been asked to prepare questions to ask the two panelists and the event was over seen by Ms Taylor-Campbell. Raphael Alabi was extremely helpful in running up and down to students to hold the microphone for them to ask questions and will receive a Headteachers Commendation for his efforts. Ms Davies, Senior Deputy Head, came in and sent me an email afterwards stating 'Their questions were thoughtful. They were engaged and showed genuine curiosity whilst displaying a positive attitude and empathy.' This is obviously lovely feedback from a senior teacher in the academy, well done Year 8.



Whilst not strictly Year 8 related, I would like to draw your attention to the new lead in the West End Musical 'There's something about Jamie'. Noah Thomas now plays the main role having attended Chestnut Grove as a member of my year group some years ago. If you have the opportunity to attend, he will not be performing in the following weeks:

- 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March
- 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April
- 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June

**FROM CHESTNUT GROVE TO APOLLO THEATRE**

Noah Thomas is currently studying at Mounview. That's right, he hadn't even finished his course when he auditioned for the role! Nica Burns, Producer of Everybody's Talking About Jamie said:

"Noah was the 21<sup>st</sup> and final performer we auditioned for Jamie. After he'd sung the opening number and read the first scene. I was tingling with excitement. We had found our Jamie. Noah is making his professional debut in one of the biggest and most demanding roles in musical theatre. It needs a really good actor who can also sing and dance to the highest level. We never imagined we would be casting a 20 year old drama school student at the start of his career. Noah is going to be a fantastic Jamie and the possibilities for his future are boundless."

Born and raised in South London, Noah has loved theatre from a young age. He went to Chestnut Grove Academy then successfully auditioned for the Brit School at 14, and has been honing his acting, singing and dancing since then.

Noah Thomas, the new Jamie New, said: "What a whirlwind! Only two weeks ago I was studying at Mounview and had very little time to prepare for the audition, which I saw as a chance to gain some experience in the industry. I was asked back the next day, not expecting anything, and they asked me if I would like to play Jamie. I couldn't believe it."

"Nica told me to go outside the theatre and look up. It was then I realised that my face would be in lights on Shaftesbury Avenue. This is so surreal and I am so ready for whatever this experience holds."

**PUNCHY, FUNNY, FABULOUS!**

**JAMIE**

Following on my desire to showcase some of the students' extracurricular activities, I have received another email about Ruben Morris in 8 Turner.

Since Year 4, Ruben has played Cricket and participated in both school or borough competitions. In Year 5, he won a training scholarship at the Ken Barrington Indoor Centre at The Oval, and since then he regularly undertakes full term training programmes each weekend at The Oval with Surrey coaches.



In the summer, he trains, and plays with Dulwich Cricket Club, whom he's been a member for three years. Two years running he's undertaken trials and been selected to compete as part of the Lambeth team in the London Youth Games indoor cricket competition (U13's), and in January he was invited to trial for the coveted MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club - aka Lords) youth training programme (which provides a free training scholarship exclusively for state school kids) and secured a place meaning he trains each Sunday evening until Easter.



Being around the game he's been inspired by getting to meet some England 'greats' like Alec Stewart, holding the Cricket World Cup with Liam Plunkett, and taking part in a New Balance England kit advert where he played street cricket with Joe Root, Eion Morgan and Dawid Malan.

Ruben's commitment has been rewarded by some occasionally match changing displays - he bowls fast and hits big - and he's never happier than when stood on a sunny cricket wicket with a leather ball in hand.

Below are pictures of Ruben with Cricket World Cup (+Liam Plunkett & Dad), Lambeth's London Youth Games 2020 team, and training at The Oval.

Within school, Ruben is a Language Specialist and has maintained 100% attendance. He is working at either at Expected Progress or Above Expected Progress in all of his subjects. His tutor said in his recent report;

'Ruben is a charming and helpful member of the class who can always be relied upon to carry out any task conscientiously. He is always impeccably dressed and in the correct school uniform and shoes. He is well organised and always makes sure his homework is recorded and he has all the equipment needed for that day. He is making excellent to good progress in most subjects and is well on track to attain his targets. Ruben my target for you is that you maintain your current attitude towards school. Keep working hard and remain focused.'

Finally, I have included two pictures I recently took showing the very beautiful rainbow over the South Block in which I work.



If you need any help or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [kstriesow.212@lgflmail.org](mailto:kstriesow.212@lgflmail.org)

**Ms K Striesow**

*Raising Standards Leader Year 8*

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## YEAR 9

### Options

Thank you for your attendance at the Year 9 Parents' Evening. I hope the evening was useful in giving you an update on the progress of your child in all subjects and provided guidance for their options next year. The plan of events from now is as follows:

- We will collate the options selected and begin designing the timetable for next year.
- Ms Davies will shortly meet all students for 1 to 1 sessions to discuss their options and progress. These meetings are relaxed and constructive and nothing for students to worry about!
- Options will be confirmed.

If after giving in the options reply form your child is having second thoughts let us know as it is not too late to change at this stage.

### Diagnostic Text Week

As I hope you are aware, the diagnostic tests start next week from the 9th March for all of KS3. The diagnostic nature of these tests is to provide a bridge between the November and end of year assessments, allowing students to analyse their strengths and weaknesses with time to address them. Please support your child in revising for them so they can continue to grow their confidence and resilience.

Our plan as a Year 9 tutor team following these tests to prepare for the final exam in May is as follows:  
**25<sup>th</sup> March:** Tutor team to meet and discuss key groups for interventions and specific Easter break work

to support students who are below expected progress in multiple subjects. Wednesday morning to be dedicated revision time for tutor groups with resources provided.

**30<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 9 to be reminded of online revision resources, exam timetable and the importance of having the correct equipment.

**20<sup>th</sup> April:** Tutor team to deliver extended revision focused health lessons.

**5<sup>th</sup> May:** KS3 Core Exams (Science, English, Maths)

**11<sup>th</sup> May:** KS3 Foundation Exams (All other exams)

Feedback from the previous approach to exams from parents and students was positive with areas for improvement:

- Of the 12 students who had maths intervention following BEP scores in Year 8, 8 moved up to achieving EP and 2 achieved AEP. Feedback from two students describe the intervention as 'really helpful' and 'the reason I've done better this time'.
- Parents raised issues about the clarity and quality of revision resources on the website. Whilst this will always act as a supplement to the resources provided in individual subjects and lessons, Mr Cheesbrough and I have started work to improve this.
- Student voice has been positive about having an exam timetable and having dedicated revision time in the mornings.
- I personally found the meetings with many of the year group to discuss progress and next steps really positive and affirming of the level of support at home for these young people.

If you have any questions about the upcoming assessments, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor.

**Mr D O'Keeffe**

*Raising Standards Leader Year 9*

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## YEAR 10

### Year 10 mini pupilage

I was delighted to hear about the following event from Ms Robinson:

Over the half term break, a group of year 10 students completed a mini-pupilage at Charter Chambers, witnessing a high profile trial. They were commended on their maturity, professionalism and work ethic. They made us incredibly PROUD. A huge well done to: Savannah, Shania, Sienna, Anais, Meriem, Alice, Pandora, Sophia, Paige, Clarissa, Raiyah and Younes!

**Ms C Robinson**

### Work experience

The deadline for organising work experience placements passed on 14th February. If your son / daughter still hasn't organised their placement, please can you contact Mr O'Neill urgently to discuss this. Soon we will be allocating placements for students that haven't completed their applications so it is vital that all students and parents follow this up as soon as possible to ensure the students get a placement they will enjoy and will benefit from.

**Mr G Bedford**

*Raising Standards Leader Year 10*

# YEAR 11

## March Pre-public exams

Year 11 begun their pre-public exams on Monday with their first maths paper. A very promising start to the last round of mocks before the full GCSEs begin in May. Last week we ran a series of seminars to support Year 11 with their revision. A range of activities were delivered each morning reinforcing the beneficial use of flash cards, the significance of using a timetable and the theory behind why we revise and top tips! All students were given resources as gifts from Chestnut Grove to support their revision at home.

## Mock exam timetable

Period	Exam	Length	Room
<b>Week One</b>			
<b>Monday 2nd March</b>			
Health/Period 1	Maths - Non-Calculator Paper 1	1hr 30 mins	Classroom
<b>Tuesday 3rd March</b>			
<b>Wednesday 4th March</b>			
<b>Thursday 5th March</b>			
Period 2 - 4	Music - Recording Final Piece - Invite Only	3 hr	Classroom
Period 5	English Language Paper 1	1hr	Classroom
<b>Friday 6th March</b>			
Period 1	English Language Paper 1 Continued	45mins	Classroom
<b>Week Two</b>			
<b>Monday 9th March</b>			
Health/Period 1	Maths - Calculator Paper 2	1hr 30 mins	Classroom
Period 4	Design and Technology	1hr	Classroom
<b>Tuesday 10th March</b>			
<b>Wednesday 11th March</b>			
<b>Thursday 12th March</b>			
Period 2 - 4	Music - Recording Final Piece - Invite Only	3 hr	Classroom
Period 5	English Language Paper 2	1hr 5mins	Classroom
<b>Friday 13th March</b>			
Period 1	English Language Paper 2 Continued	1hr	Classroom
<b>Week Three</b>			
<b>Monday 16th March</b>			
<b>Tuesday 17th March</b>			
Period 1	Drama GCSE Exam rehearsal	ALL DAY	Theatre
Period 2	History - Germany (Ms Sweeny & Mr Sutton's Classes)	1hr	Classroom
Period 3	Film Studies - Key developments in US Film	1hr	Classroom
<b>Wednesday 18th March</b>			
<b>Period 1</b>	<b>Drama GCSE Exam- Component 2: Performing from a Text</b>	<b>3hr</b>	<b>Theatre</b>
Period 1	History - Germany (Ms Adam's & Mr Taylor's Classes)	1hr	Classroom
Period 1	Geography - Mr Reeves' and Ms Jackson's classes	1hr	Classroom
Period 1	Film Studies - Key developments in US Film Continued	30mins	Classroom
Period 2	History - Germany Continued (Ms Sweeny & Mr Sutton's Classes)	45 mins	Classroom
<b>Thursday 19th March</b>			
Period 1	Geography - Mr McCarthy's and Ms Robinson's classes	1hr	Classroom
Period 3	Geography - Mr McCarthy's and Ms Robinson's classes	1hr	Classroom

Friday 20th March			
Period 5	History - Germany Continued (Ms Adam's & Mr Taylor's Classes)	45 Mins	Classroom
Period 5	Geography - Mr Reeves' and Ms Jackson's classes	1 hr	Classroom
Period 5	GCSE Computer Science - Component 1	1hr 30m	Classroom
Week Four			
Monday 23rd March			
08:45	English Literature Paper 2 - Great Expectations and Poetry	2hr 15min	Sports Hall/S.2.28
14:30	Walking talking science mock	90 min	Sports Hall/S.2.28
Tuesday 24th March			
09:00	Maths - Non-Calculator Paper 3	90 min	Sports Hall/S.2.28
14:00	PBE Paper 1 Christianity and Islam	1hr 45min	Sports Hall/S.2.28
Wednesday 25th March			
09:00	Combined Science: Trilogy	90 min	Sports Hall/S.2.28
09:00	Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Biology	1hr 20 min	Sports Hall/S.2.28
15:05	Science higher tier option test	90min	N.2.10
Thursday 26th March			
		1hr	Classroom
Friday 27th March			
Period 5	Film Studies - Global Film	30mins	Classroom
Week Five			
Monday 30th March			
Tuesday 31st March			
9:00am	<b>GCSE Dance Practical Exam - Component 1A (45%)</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Theatre</b>
Period 3	Film Studies - Global Film continued	30mins	Classroom
Wednesday 1st April			
Period 2	Dance Component 2	1 hr	Classroom

## Revision Planning

This week's winner is Jamiee Hyacinth who uses snap chat to share posts of her revision notes with her friends and anyone in the year group who wants to access her updates. She does this purely to encourage participation among her peers which is exactly the kind of attitude to have and the sort of person you would want to be around in this last nine weeks of learning time before the exams. I think it is fair to say that whatever Jaimee does in life she will be a winner. Well done you!

Revision Planning – Show us what you are doing.

Nando's rewards for excellent revision based on excellent planning!



For the next five weeks, there will be a draw for a £10 Nando's voucher for anyone who can demonstrate high quality revision planning and impact.

All you have to do is share with your tutor some pictures of your revision plans in action at home (this can be in whatever format is working for you) and show them some evidence of the revision you have been doing.

They will then enter your name into the weekly draw.

Have some Chicken on us to say THANK YOU for planning and revising hard.

What's that I hear you say? I don't want to endorse unethical treatment of animals – no problem. I'll get you any gift card you would like.

## Leavers Hoodies

We are working with Fizz-Hoodies, the UK's premier supplier of Hoodies, and are eagerly anticipating what is sure to be a wonderful keepsake to celebrate their time at the school. If you would like to buy a hoodie please make sure you hand in the slip with full payment made via parent pay by Friday 20th March - I cannot stress this deadline enough, as we do not want anyone to be disappointed!

To purchase a Chestnut Grove Academy 2020 Leavers Hoodie, simply ask your child to take their order to their tutor, then ensure the payment has been made via Parent Pay. Your child can then give their preferences for style, size and colour with their tutor.

**Mr B McCarthy**

*Raising Standards Leader Year 11*

The Sixth Form has had a big Apprenticeship focus over the last few weeks and twelve Year 13 students benefited hugely from an Assessment Centre Workshop held at school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Assessment Centres form an increasingly important part of the selection criteria for apprenticeship providers and students from Chestnut Grove Sixth Form were treated to a real heads up about what to expect. Sarah Rolfe, a Business & HR professional and volunteer Enterprise Advisor through the Greater London Authority (GLA) led the session with support from Mr Tierney, our independent careers advisor at school.

Assessment Centres are used by companies looking to recruit degree apprentices and graduate entrants, where the emphasis is very much on seeing how applicants think, interact and respond to given scenarios which are purposely designed to tease out employability skills of teamwork, problem solving and leadership skills. In this way, employers and apprenticeship providers will target applicants who best evidence these desirable attributes.

The twelve Year 13 students then took part in a 'real' assessment task which gave them a practical business scenario to address and come forward with a solution. This was an incredibly useful experience and the students were told of the virtues praised and the vices condemned by assessors. The Year 13 students learned how best to set themselves up for success and picked up many handy tips to sell themselves and to shine while undergoing an assessment centre task.

Other key messages included:

- **Do your research** about the company before you arrive
- **Dress to impress** – look the part in smart professional attire
- **Be punctual** and in the right place at the right time (reliable)
- **Present your best self** – get involved, be proactive, contribute and listen carefully.
- **Show enthusiasm** throughout the task

All twelve Year 13 students involved received personal feedback on their overall performance in the group presentation which they had to contribute to. The best advice was to “be prepared to persevere”.

This is definitely a session we will want to replicate and run again in the future, encouraging every student to make the most of every opportunity to practice, practice and practice to improve both their 'soft' skills and their employability skills.

As with all things, with increased practice and familiarity comes increased confidence and self-assurance, allowing each applicant to thrive under pressure.

My thanks to Sarah Rolfe, to Mr Tierney and to Ms Lee for overseeing this invaluable experience.

**Mr J Taylor**  
**Deputy Head/Head of Sixth form**

