



With less than a week to go until the end of term I would like to congratulate all of our students for their resilience and for keeping their eyes fixed on their studies. I think that it will only be in retrospect that we will be able to fully reflect on how well these young people have coped with the uncertainties and unpredictability of life and with their adaptability to switch to remote learning, responding to their teacher on a screen, having their usual rites of passage further curtailed, but still smiling and supporting each other.

One of the highlights of my week is a brief visit to my study from a small number of students to congratulate them on their achievements, positivity and resilience. The few that I have been able to meet this week from Years 10 and 11 have spoken about their hopes for future careers, their love of sports, music, concerts, the theatre, travel, dinner with friends, the freedom to socialise and visits to grandparents.

The girls also share their concerns about the uncertainty over public examinations and what their futures will look like. Our job has been to offer that certainty and continuity whilst all other things around them have changed.

Mr Patrick Hutchinson's words of inspiration to our Year 12 and Year 13 students were a gift this week. He spoke with such warmth about humanity, equality, eradicating racism, self-control, healthy mind and healthy body, motivation for the future, being ambitious and caring for each other.

He also spoke with humility about his conversation with Prince Harry, and the many accolades that he has received. He is an inspirational role model for our young people, and we are grateful to Miss Singer and Miss Davis for facilitating this powerful conversation.

Our weekly bulletin will come out on Thursday of next week, as we close our doors for the Christmas break. At the risk of sounding repetitive, we have a most superb staff here, who are keeping going despite everything!

We congratulate all of our support staff,

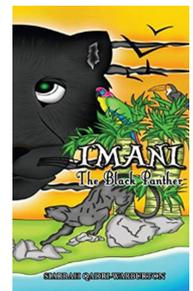
teachers and students for powering through what has been the most extraordinary of years. We also honour our Governors, who have given up their time so freely this year to support the work of the School - they are an extraordinary group of people who have a real heart for the future of our young people- you can read about them on our website.

Next year, I hope to establish a Parents' and Friends Association of Chislehurst School for Girls, to help us at events and for crucial fundraising, something to ponder over the holidays, if you have a little bit of time to spare. I will share my future plans and hopes for our school with you in the New Year and we remain optimistic that small groups of parents may be able to come in, socially distanced, and visit so that I may meet some of you face to face.

Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards received thus far, it is good to feel connected at this time.

A Budding Author.

We are so proud of Siarrah Qadri-Warburton 8C whose book entitled: Imani: The Black Panther has just been published and is available to buy now!



Siarrah explained to me that her story is about the battle for equality and the wisdom of elders and the power of coming together to defeat a greater evil than the differences that separate her characters. Siarrah spoke about the inspiration for her characters and described nanna as 'a wise old sage'.

Miss Young's Art project in Year 7 is also cited in the preface as a key inspiration for this story and we congratulate Miss Young for being inspirational too.



A Christmas Carol.

Many of our Year 9 students are looking forward to watching a live streamed performance of Charles Dickens' classic story, 'A Christmas Carol', performed by The Globe Players.



We are delighted that we will be able to share a link to the performance for seven days afterwards. This will be made accessible to all next week, so the performance can be watched at home by students and their families as they prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Reward Breakfast.

Congratulations to Akirti, Amanah, Charlotte, Cheyanne, Grace, Halle, Hannah, Jana, Keyanna, Madison, Nikita, Oheema, Sia-Rhianna, Sophie and Vivian in Year 10 who have all demonstrated an excellent positive attitude to learning.



Pictured below:
Akirti, Vivian, Sophie, Halle and Amanah



Christmas Jumper Day!

Students and staff got into the Christmas spirit today enjoying the opportunity to sparkle and shine in their festive jumpers!



Sadie, Year 9



Cerys, Maria, Amelia, Sofia, Abigail, Katie and Tamzin, Year 8



Tiffany, Lucia, Alyse, Libby and Shaneia and Schekina, Year 8

And our very own Christmas Elf, Mrs Burke!



Meet the Team.



Our IT Team have become one of the most ‘in demand’ teams around our school of late. Teachers have been learning how to teach on Teams and remote youngsters in from home, when they have to self-isolate. We are grateful for the work of this great trio of gentleman who try to keep us all online and calm, as we rely on our IT more and more.

Preparing for Mock Examinations.

“Year 13 students have been preparing and studying for mock examinations. The dreaded M-word. However, if anything is to come out of last summer’s challenges it would be just how important these exams are.

Mocks help prepare you for the real exams in summer and help highlight areas of weakness that can be improved. Additionally, going through the motion of mocks as if they are the real deal helps you gain valuable experience in what is the best way for you to revise and how to cope with exam pressures and stress.

It’s been a peculiar time for many students, with the looming uncertainty of exams and unpredictable isolations for some.

Students undertook various revision methods to help prepare for their exams, including active recall of notes, past papers and practise questions. Whilst preparing for mocks and dealing with homework and revision on top (and coursework for some!) it is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle to manage the pressure, which helps to improve overall performance.

Whilst exams are still going ahead in 2021, we

must be prepared for any eventuality and situation because of the unprecedented circumstance which highlights just how important mock exams are.”

Isabella, Year 13

Year 12 & Year 13 Presentation.

Humanitarian Patrick Hutchinson talks to future generations about equality, diversity and inclusion and his interview with Prince Harry, the BBC and his vision for young people and his optimism for the future.

Patrick Hutchinson, parent of a Year 7 student, this week spoke with our Year 12 and 13 students and answered their questions about humanitarianism, equality, diversity, mental health, and the benefits of physical health.

Mr Hutchinson captured the true Christmas spirit by explaining to youngsters that it is through small acts of kindness that they can make a difference to the world and set an example of inclusion and acceptance. Chislehurst School for girls recognizes the precious narratives of every student and the importance of representing these positively.

The school is engaged in a range of activities throughout the year to reach out to the diverse school community.

Lydia, Year 13 said *‘I am so pleased that Mr Hutchinson has been able to shine a light on the unconscious bias that so many young people still feel in the UK. I really feel empowered to change society for the better’.*



Sunny 10U!

Miss Kehoe has been working with 10U as their tutor. As part of her pastoral care of the students she made them all a sun made of clay. The students have all put their names and dates of birth on them with some Christmas lights. 10U would like to wish the whole community a Happy and Healthy Christmas.



Halle and Nkem, Year 10

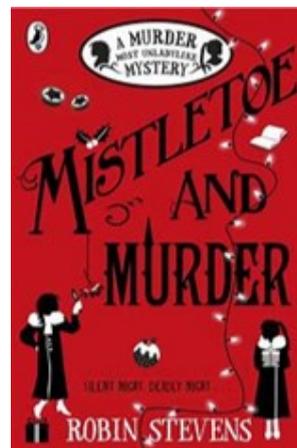
Book of the Week.

This festive fifth Murder Most Unladylike mystery from the award-winning Robin Stevens is fun and full of mystery. Recommended for Y7 and Y8, copies of this book and others in the series are available in our school library.

‘These attacks are not merely pranks or accidents,’ said Daisy gravely. ‘They are intended- and I believe something truly terrible will happen before Christmas Day.’

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are spending the festive period in Cambridge and the snow is falling. Hazel has high hopes of relaxing amongst its beautiful libraries and inviting tea-rooms, but there is danger lurking in the dark stairwells of Maudlin College. Two days before Christmas, a gruesome accident takes place, but the Detective Society suspect murder and set about solving

the case. Faced with fierce competition from a rival agency, they must use all their cunning and courage to find the killer (in time for Christmas Day, of course).



All donations are gratefully received for the hygiene bank to help those less fortunate. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, please keep them coming.

