



Chislehurst School for Girls

Headteacher's weekly bulletin 23rd October 2020



I would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and restful holiday and would like to thank you for your support over the last half term, as we have worked through some of the biggest challenges that education has faced in decades.

The students have managed brilliantly and coped with their restrictions and year group bubbles. I would also like to honour our wonderful staff who have gone above and beyond to make sure that the school could run smoothly and that the teaching and learning for our students remained front and centre.

There is a real sense of industry during lessons and although the girls do not have the same array of extra-curricular clubs yet, some will be making a gradual and measured return to enrich the school day soon. I am also immensely grateful to the teachers who will be delivering live lessons via MS Teams to support our Year 11 and Year 13 during the half term. Thank you to Mrs Tipping for arranging these and circulating the details to parents. What a vital way to access your education at home in order to consolidate learning.

Year 11 have also been given their Way Ahead booklet and are ready to think about their Sixth Form choices. There are so many wonderful opportunities in our sixth form, under the expert and caring direction of Miss Davis, and we look forward to guiding our Year 11 onto the right pathways for them, with the thoughtful and personalised approach that characterises this school.

Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate Ms Robinson, who has been appointed as our Sixth Form Enhancement and More Able Co-ordinator. We are developing the opportunities for our sixth form and looking to raise the bar and lean into the Fair Access and Widening Participation Schemes that the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge offer

free of charge for comprehensive schools. We will take full advantage to prepare any of our young people who are aspirational for the more competitive courses and Russell Group Universities too.

I hope that you all manage to enjoy some rest and relaxation this half term and that you enjoy reading some of the articles that Mrs Howard in the front office puts together each week for this bulletin. With all good wishes, Mrs French.

Jack Petchey Achievement Award.



Staff and young people at Chislehurst School for Girls regularly select a young person to win a Jack Petchey Achievement Award. The award allows young people and staff to recognise the effort, endeavor, and achievement of a young person from Chislehurst School a practical and positive way. We are delighted to congratulate six students who will receive an award.

- **Georgia, Year 11**
- **Chloe, Year 9**
- **Danielle, Year 12**
- **Macy, Year 8**
- **Ruby, Year 8**
- **Millie, Year 9**

All six winners will receive a certificate as well as being able to decide how to spend £250 on a project of their choice within the organisation.

They and their guests will also be invited to attend an annual Jack Petchey Foundation Celebration Event. The evening is a fun night for all award winners to come together to celebrate their achievements by receiving their Achievement Award medallions in front of friends and VIP's.



Year 11 Stars.

Our Year 11 achievement board is proudly on display in school. Achievement points are awarded every half term to recognise effort, attitude, and achievement. Congratulations to our top four students this term for their dedication and hard work; Desiree, Julianne, Lisa and Kenya.



Headteacher's Commendation.

Congratulations to Brooke in Y8 and Issabella in Y7- who were this morning awarded a Headteacher's Commendation for their outstanding work and high number of achievement points.



Making Sweet Music.

Music clubs are back! We so pleased to be re-launching music clubs, preparing for a virtual Christmas Concert. We are hoping to run a mixture of choirs, school band, and steel pan bands. Some clubs will be virtual only, while others will be in-person. A virtual steel pan band would be particularly challenging! We are currently finalising the details. Please stay tuned for more information after the half term break.

GCSE Music.

Well done to the Year 11 Music class who took their performance exams earlier in the week. There was some truly excellent performances and a very promising indication of what is yet to come from them!

Aiming High with Chislehurst Cheer!



How proud we are of Isabelle in Year 9 who is now on a team who are competing for a bid to go to the World Cheerleading Championships in Florida, 2022. This is a massive achievement for Isabelle and she also has the opportunity, to try out for the Paracheer team to represent England in the Cheerleading World! We wish you and the team the best of luck Isabelle!

SMSC Citizenship Awards.

We are proud to recognise students for their excellent contribution to the year group. They have shown great leadership within their form and have been publicly recognised in their form and

assemblies this week. They are an asset to our school community!

- **Tanika Year 10, Amanah Year 10, Jada Year 11, Sophie G Year 11, Juliana Year 11** Behaviour for Learning Award
- **Phoebe Year 10 and Keshwika Year 11** PSHE and Citizenship Award
- **Ola Year 10** Wellbeing Award
- **Rihanna Year 10** Diversity and Behaviour for Learning Award
- **Erin Year 11** Resilience Award
- **Annietta Year 11** Leading Thought for the Week Award
- **Julianne Year 11** Careers and Behaviour for Learning Award

Reading for Pleasure.

At Chislehurst School for Girls, reading for pleasure is part of our whole-school ethos. We can see the benefits of reading time in lessons, the enjoyment when celebrating events such as World Book Day and the sense of community developed in our excellent library.

Why is reading for pleasure so important?

Here are some interesting facts shared by BookTrust:

- Reading for pleasure has many non-literacy benefits and can increase empathy, improve relationships with others, reduce the symptoms of depression and improve wellbeing throughout life (The Reading Agency 2015).
- Reading for pleasure has social benefits as well and can make people feel more connected to the wider community. Reading increases a person's understanding of their own identity, improves empathy and gives them an insight into the world view of others (The Reading Agency 2015).
- Students with more positive attitudes towards reading are more likely to read at or above the expected level for their age (Clark 2014).

- There is a strong association between the amount of reading for pleasure students say they do and their reading achievement (Twist 2007).
- Students who read for pleasure make significantly more progress in vocabulary, spelling and maths than children who read very little (Sullivan and Brown 2013).
- Teachers who encourage students to read books of their choice for pleasure is a major contribution towards students developing a positive attitude towards reading and a life-long interest in reading. (International Reading Association, 2014).

We hope you and your families get the opportunity to read for pleasure during the half term break.

You can find our recommended reading lists here:

<https://www.chislehurstschoolforgirls.co.uk/490/subjcts/subject/18/english>

Websites we recommend you visit for further inspiration:

- <https://readforgood.org/>
Read for Good motivate children to read for fun because they know that loving reading changes lives.
Each year, we launch a Readathon event through Read for Good and Chislehurst School for Girls are very proud to be an 'Outstanding Readathon School'.
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>
BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. Each year, they reach 3.9 million children across the UK with books, resources and support.
- <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
Right now, kids everywhere can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across eight different
www.chislehurstschoolforgirls.co.uk

languages, that will help them continue dreaming, learning, and just being kids. All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet.

Read of the Week.

‘Becoming Jo by Sophie Mckenzie’

Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy: four sisters whose stories are forever imprinted in our hearts. But what if their story was told now? A clever retelling of Little Women which transports the March sisters to the present day.



Becoming Jo proves just how timeless the characters and themes found within Little Women really are. Recommended for Year 7 and Year 8 students. Copies of this book are available in our school library.

Please remember to continue using our library by emailing library@chsfg.co.uk with your book requests. Pupils can access the library management system, called ECLIPSE, on their Office 365 home page.

Black History Month Poetry Competition.

The History Department would like to thank all the students from across Years 7-13 who have entered the Black History Month Poetry Competition so far! We have received some fabulous entries & we are feeling inspired by the research & creative writing. Certificates & achievement points are on their way to all those who have entered so far for their excellent effort.

Key stage 3 students marked Black History Month studying Luther King’s famous speech. If you are looking for a little inspiration, have a look at these



wonderful poems submitted by Piper, Year 10 and Sethumli Year 9. We hope you are as impressed as we are.

Black History Month is celebrated to thank those that fought,

*Memories that left us ashamed and distraught,
People forgotten and buried deep,
So many things that happen in our sleep,
Never let a child go hungry,
Not a single one in any country,
Marcus Rashford – the 2020 hero,
Where his tolerance is set at zero,*

*Mary Seacole – yes, the one and only,
Never ever let a British soldier go lonely,
Refused by the colour of her skin never let her down,
Had her head held high for her well-deserved crown,
Saved her money to fly out to war,
Never even closed her door,*

*Roaming the streets and following the law,
John Kent was the first black man to be a police officer where he saw,
A drowning boy who was frantically waving,
Indicating that he needed saving,*

*Queen Charlotte encouraged King George to pass Anti-slavery laws,
In my opinion this needed a round of applause,
A black woman who helped change the world,
A Queen who didn’t care if her hair wasn’t curled,*

*Significant individuals that got us here today,
Individuals that were able to show us the way,
Continue to fight for equality for every human being,
It’s what needs to be done for our world and I am sure everyone is agreeing.*

Written by Piper, Year 10

*At 17 my dreams were shattered to pieces,
Racism hit me harder than I ever expected,
Only ever so young at 45 my father decided to leave
and never look back,*

*My heart stopped beating for the longest amount of time,
Where I thought it would be best to give up,*

*Us people with black skin were underestimated,
“They’re not fit for this job” they would say,
“No need to talk brother behind the backs. Say it to my face please ...”
Let the words hit me like a bullet in my chest,
Let this world be blessed.
Tears swam through my face in memory of my father,
I never should have bothered,*

*1962 I passed my exams, with flying colours I might add,
I’m not proud brother, I’m just grateful,
Why do you need to be so hateful?*

*Shall I just shut my mouth up?
Like a lost runaway pup,
Whining at the edge of the road,
The road I was travelling was the beginning,
And the end of another lifetime I gave up,
‘I have to make my father proud’ I thought,
It was hard but I fought,*

*I am in no search of attention everyone,
Listen and realize that I am innocent,
Yes you’re correct I have black skin,
That doesn’t mean I’m represented as a bin,
That’ll be nothing and nothing but a sin,
What ended up being a revolutionary surprise?
Started out with racism blowing up in my face...*

*Let’s be the fine people we are,
That time is gone,
I’ve told my story,
Now I’m known as the First Black Train Driver.*

Written by Sethumli, Year 9

The deadline for entries is **Monday 9th November 2020**, please send any poems via email to hburbeck@chsfg.co.uk

Winners will be announced the first week back after half term. These poems will then go forward into the national English Heritage Black History

competition and winners may have a chance to have their poems published in an anthology alongside award winning poets such as Malika Booker & Jacob Sam-La Rose.

Historians.

The History department would like to congratulate the Year 13 historians for their fabulous effort on their NEAs (independent history research projects). These projects are one of our favourite parts of the A-level course. Students have total free choice on which historical topic they would like to investigate - it is a case of *your passion-your choice!*



This year we have had some really fascinating projects submitted ranging from investigations into the causes of 17th Century European witchcraft trials, to the role of technology in transforming 20th century medical treatments, Civil Rights Movements in the USA, the Russian Revolutions, the USA's developing superpower status, & the causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A huge well done to the Year 13 students for their fantastic effort on their projects - we are very proud of all of you! Year 12 historians, we cannot wait to see which topics you pick for your investigations later this year!

Mrs Burbeck, Ms Pryce, Ms Chappells & Mr Donald.

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards are underway!

This week we are delighted to enrol our new Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups, and to meet them for the first time. With a Bronze group of 48, and a Silver group of 18, students are undaunted by the tumultuous events of 2020 and are ready to push themselves forward into new experiences and new challenges. We cannot wait to see the amazing things that they achieve through taking part in the award. All students currently taking part in DofE awards, including the Year 11 Bronze group, are encouraged to log in to the eDofE

www.chislehurstschoolforgirls.co.uk

over half term and update their accounts with details of their planned activities, and/or with the evidence that they have collected so far. If you have any questions about eDofE and your activities, just email Miss Mackintosh, cmackintosh@chsfg.co.uk who is always happy to help.



Reward Breakfast.

Leila, Sydney, Abigail, Frankie, Elleonor and Lilly are our Year 7 students this week to enjoy a breakfast with Mrs French as a reward for their excellent behavior and work ethic. Congratulations girls keep it up!

Wellbeing.

At Chislehurst School for Girls we realise the importance of wellbeing for our students, staff and our whole school community. Our top ten self-care tips are listed below.

Make time for everyday wellbeing. It is the simple things that create habit changes; this could be going for a 10-minute walk after work or at lunchtime.

Eat well. Have breakfast and try to take a lunchbreak every day, no matter how short.

Connect with people. It is scientifically proven that spending time with others can increase our wellness.

Practice breathing activities. Slow and steady breathing can regulate the heart rate and slow down the amount of stress hormones being produced.

Spiritual wellbeing: take time out to meditate connect with nature or even start journaling.
Physical wellbeing: ensure you are getting enough sleep; this is vital in our jobs as educators.
Workplace wellbeing: set work boundaries and explore ways to support effective time management.

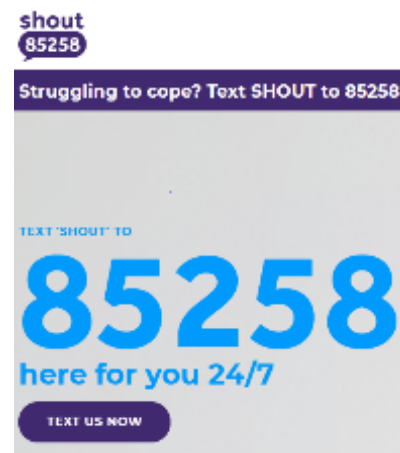
Space: The simple act of organising your workspace can help the mind feel a lot clearer and add green plants to your work environment.

We have also included some of the support available to access online, 'Kooth' and 'giveusashout'.

www.kooth.com



www.giveusashout.org



Meet the Team – A new weekly feature.

As you are all aware, the current social distancing rules prevent us from meeting each other in person. Therefore, each week we would like to introduce our teams who are working together to support your daughter/son with their successful educational journey at Chislehurst School for Girls. This week, we are proud to present our Senior Leadership Team.



From left to right: Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Hodgson, Miss Singer, Mrs. Forder, Mrs. French, Mr. Rutter, Mrs. Tipping, Miss Mensah, and Miss Nicholson.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our bumper edition this week! We are delighted to have so many successes to share with you and hope that you continue to enjoy receiving our weekly bulletin.

Please share your thoughts with us and any suggestions for news items by email to office@chsfg.co.uk for the attention of Mrs. Howard.

Finally, we would like to wish our whole school community a very restful half term.

All students and staff return to school Monday 9th November 2020.



Co-ordinated by Virginia Howard, Office Manager.