



Create, Aspire and Excel  
to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)



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## Message from the Acting Principal

It was a cold December week last week and as we are now into December it is such a warm feeling to arrive in school each day and see our two Christmas trees shining brightly in the Atrium. This week we have shared an Advent Thought for CHA which the students will view and discuss during form time over the next two weeks. The Leadership assemblies for all year groups this week will focus on the Christmas message of Joy, Hope, Peace and Love. This ties in with the Christian ethos of the school and the seven values that we hold so closely and try to live by.

As part of the Christmas celebrations that we are holding at the school we have our annual Christmas dinner for all those students who have booked on 13 December 2023. I also remind you that we will have our Christmas jumper day on Friday 15 December. This is an opportunity for students to wear a Christmas jumper on top of their shirt and tie. If students are wearing a Christmas jumper, they do not need to wear their blazer. Students will be asked to donate £1.00 for a charity that we will be deciding on this week. Can I also remind you that we have our annual Christmas concert at St Mary's Church on Monday 18 December at 6.30pm. You are welcome to attend this event if you wish. We will also be taking all students down to St. Mary's Church during the day on Monday 18 December to take part in a Chiltern Hills Christmas service. This is the first time that we have ever done this and it should be a memorable experience for all our students.

It is important for you to be aware that we have road works on Chartridge Lane and some of the side roads close to the school. In some places along these roads the pavements are closed for access and this can create an issue for students who are walking along these paths on the way to and from school. Can I please ask you to discuss this with your child and ask them to be extra careful on the roads around these areas. I would be very grateful if you could do this.

Tonight - Thursday 7 December we have our Sixth Form Open Evening led by our Heads of Key Stage 5 - Mrs Mellish and Mrs Hemsworth. The event starts at 6.00pm in the hall and we will have a wide range of subjects on offer for students and parents/carers to look at and discuss options with teachers, staff and students so that they can make the right choices for their future. We have an excellent Sixth Form which offers a superb set of Level 3 courses and some Level 2 courses too. Our results are consistently improving and we have a lot of students achieving places at university and apprenticeships. Please do contact us if you would like to know more about our Sixth Form and the options that we offer.

Once again, thank you for all your support as we continue our journey to provide the best education for our students at Chiltern Hills Academy. Please can you email me if you have any questions, issues or concerns and I will be only too happy to respond and support. You can contact me at: [office@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chacademy.co.uk)

Mr T Dobbs

## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
11 December	Y7-Y11 Flu vaccinations
13 December	CHA Student Christmas dinner served at lunchtime
14 December	Y12/Y13 Parents' Evening, 4.00 to 7.00pm
15 December	UCAS deadline
15 December	Christmas Jumper day
18 December	CHA Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church, 6.30pm
19 December	Last day of Autumn term 2 school closes at 1.00pm
5 January	INSET DAY (Staff attending)
8 January	First day of Spring term 1 school starts at 8.40am

## PTA News

Thank you to the parents who have so kindly offered to help us support the Rotary Club in a few weeks' time as we assist Santa around Chesham on his sleigh. We need 12 helpers in total, so please contact us if you can help, as we do still need a few more helpers. We have been given the date of Thursday 21 December and our route is Old Chesham – so hopefully quite compact and not too challenging! It's an early start (around 5.30) but the collection always ends by 9.00pm. Please let us know if you'd be able to help on the evening.

### PTA Dates

Thursday 21 December Santa's Sleigh - Helping Santa on his journey around Chesham  
Sunday March 3 Spring Fayre (bookings open January 1st)

Mrs S Webb

Chair [chapta@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:chapta@chacademy.co.uk)

## Safeguarding

We are delighted to welcome Pembe Tokluhan back to Chiltern Hills. Pembe last visited the Academy as part of the Safer School Partnership with TVP in 2019 where she talked about her life experiences. On Thursday this week she delivered talks to students in Y9 to Y13 covering her challenges as a child growing up in London last decade. She experienced exploitation and was drawn into a drug gang for a number of years. Pembe took the decision, as a young person to change the course of her life and, with support, was able to break free from a criminal existence and become dedicated to music and directing. Her story resonated strongly with our young people. They listened to her attentively and were then able to ask questions in a session after the talk. More to follow in next week's newsletter....

Mrs J Conway

Vice Principal

Executive Designated Safeguarding Lead

# Consultation to Admission Arrangements

## **STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Statutory Consultation on proposed changes to the Admissions Arrangements for Chiltern Hills Academy to take effect from the beginning of the academic year 2025-26**

Each year the admission authority for all schools and academies are required to review their admission arrangements. The admission authority must consult on proposed changes to the admission arrangements and conduct a consultation on the policy every 7 years.

The admission authority for Chiltern Hills Academy is its Governing Body. The Governing Body has decided to consult on proposed changes to the school's admission arrangements which would take effect from the beginning of the academic year 2025-26.

The main change proposed are :

4 'Children of members of staff'

This has been moved above the rule for 'Children living in the catchment area of the school'.

This means that the over-subscription criteria in the event that there are more applicants than places available would be applied in the following order:

- 1 Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside England, but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.
- 2 Families who have exceptional medical or social needs that make it essential that their child attends Chiltern Hills Academy rather than any other. These needs must be fully supported by written evidence from the appropriate professional person involved with the family. (See Note 3)
- 3 Children with a normal home address in the catchment area and with a sibling on roll at the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.
- 4 Children of members of staff
- 5 Children with a normal home address in the catchment area
- 6 Children with a normal home address outside the catchment area and with a sibling on roll at the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.
- 7 Other children.

The full admissions criteria including changes to catchment are available in the document on our website [www.chilternacademy.co.uk/admissions](http://www.chilternacademy.co.uk/admissions).

The consultation period for this policy will run from **Friday 1 December 2023 for 6 weeks until Friday 26 January 2024**.

The Governing Body welcomes any comments on the proposed change. Please email your comments to [office@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chacademy.co.uk) or send via post to the school clearly marked 'Admissions Policy 2025 Consultation'.

Please note below other schools who have also published consultations on their admissions policy. Please do look out for other schools' admission policy consultancies in the area on their websites.

#### **Chesham Grammar School**

The admission authority for Chesham Grammar School is Red Kite Schools Trust and the Trustees are

consulting on proposed amendments to Chesham Grammar School's admissions policy. The changes would take effect for admission to Chesham Grammar School from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

The statutory consultation period is 6 weeks and this will run from Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

If you have any comments on the policy, please send them to this email address [office@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@ags.bucks.sch.uk) and use 'Admissions Policy 2025' as the subject so that these can be passed on to the Chair of Trustees.

The policy being consulted on can be accessed on the school's website here: [Policies - Chesham Grammar School](#)

### **Aylesbury UTC**

Consultation on a proposal to admit Year 9 to Aylesbury UTC for the first time in September 2025 as well as amendments to Admission Policy

We want to hear your views on this proposal. The views of parents, pupils and the wider community will be considered by our Governing Board and Buckinghamshire County Council – when determining whether to publish a Statutory Notice to admit year 9 pupils to the UTC.

Please submit your feedback by completing the questions below or at the following link by Friday 26 January 2024 at 4.00pm. <https://forms.office.com/e/CNxa66wQhD>

### **Wycombe High School Admission Policy 2025**

In accordance with the School Admission Code, Wycombe High School Admissions Policy for 2025 is now available for public consultation. The policy is available on the school website here: [2025-Admissions-Policy-Wycombe-High-School.pdf \(whs.bucks.sch.uk\)](#)

The consultation period is from Wednesday 6 December 2023 to Wednesday 17 January 2024. The Trust Board welcomes any comments on the updated policy. Please email your comments to the Admissions Team at [admissions@whs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@whs.bucks.sch.uk) any comments must be returned by Wednesday 17 January 2024.

Please find below information relating to the consultation for our Admissions Policy for entry in September 2025.

### **John Hampden Grammar School**

The Governing Body wish to consult on the proposed changes that will take effect from September 2025. The consultation opens now and will run for six weeks until 23.59 pm on 20 December 2023. The proposed policy can be found here: <https://www.jhgs.bucks.sch.uk/>

The proposed changes are in section 4 Sixth Form Key Stage 5 (for 2025 entry), point 4.

The Governing Body welcomes any comments on the proposed policy. Comments should be made by email to [consultations@jhgs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:consultations@jhgs.bucks.sch.uk) and addressed to the Chair of Governors, Mr Maskell or by post to: Chair of Governors, c/o Admissions Officer, John Hampden Grammar School, Marlow Hill, High Wycombe, HP11 1SZ

## **7-9 Drama Club**

I will be launching, '7 - 9 Club', offered to pupils who want to improve their exam technique in hopes of achieving a 7 – 9 in their Year 11 exams. This will happen once every two weeks and will have a specific focus leading up to the written exam. This is dedicated time for studious and diligent students.



The following sessions are available:

Tuesday 16 January	The Acting Question - How to enhance your response (15 Marks)
Tuesday 30 January	The Design Question - How to embed a practitioner within your response (15 Marks)
Tuesday 13 February	Section A - An Inspector Calls - 2, 4 and 6 markers. Rehearsal techniques, costume, relationships, social class.
Tuesday 27 February	Section B - How to structure your response (15 Marks)

There will be more sessions announced in the new year. Additionally, I will upload all the materials for these sessions to YouTube.

Ms P Leathers  
Curriculum Leader for Drama

## Pinewood Futures Festival - Media Careers

Last week our Sixth Form Media students attended Pinewood's Future Festival – the UK's biggest screen industry careers event.

Our students had the chance to meet employers and industry professionals and take part in workshops across the various departments of film and television production; art, costume, props, lighting, construction, camera, script writing, special effects and so much more.

They attended a fascinating talk with Chris Corbould, Academy Award winning Special Effects Supervisor and Director, who has worked on 15 James Bond films, XMen & Star Wars. Students also heard from Sonja Klaus, a leading Film and Television designer who has worked on Oscar winning epic Gladiator, American Gangster, Prometheus, Robin Hood, and Tomb Raider.

*"The visit to Pinewood Studios proved to be a great experience as it provided valuable insights into the media industry. Observing and interacting with professionals facilitated an understanding of potential career pathways, we even got the chance to appear in movies as extras which made the experience even better. Overall, this trip was brilliant as it provided crucial information about the media industry and an enjoyable experience."* Jordan

*"The trip to Pinewood was a great insight into the media industry for everyone. As we got to see the media visually, it was great to understand different roles that are involved in various careers- to consider for my future. It was a pleasure to interact with many workers from the industry and got to receive invites to begin work in media. Generally, it made me realise how many careers there are in the media industry, the possibilities are endless."* Anissa

Mrs E Mellish and Mrs A Hemsworth  
Year Leaders for Sixth Form

## Footpath Reconstruction Works

A reminder that Footway Reconstruction works along Chartridge Lane and Park Road between Berkley Avenue and St Mary's Way are still ongoing until the 22 December 2023 and then from the 8 January to 27 January 2024.

Mrs T Dell  
Executive Assistant to the Acting Principal

## Library Update

Christmas is well and truly here in the library! There is a lovely selection of Christmas stories that the children can borrow and as always, if there are any titles the children would like me to get, please let me know.

On Wednesday we had our Poetry Evening of Excellence in the library, there will be a full report in next week's newsletter.

We are now on Instagram, please give the library a follow: @libraryatcha



The library was closed for a short time due to staff illness so that now means many books are overdue. If your child has a book they haven't been able to renew or return due to this, please do ask them to pop down and see me as soon as possible.

If you are able to buy the library a book for Christmas, please do have a look at our Amazon Wishlist.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2SA7D39VE70IR?type=shopping&filter=all&sort=default&viewType=list>

### Christmas Spirit by Kelly Roper

The smell of pine boughs fills the air,  
Pretty silver bells tinkle everywhere.  
Sparkling snow covers the ground,  
Christmas spirit is all around.

Mrs K Davenport  
Librarian



## Talent Show

We are looking for a host of different talents to compete in our CHA talent show. We are looking for a variety of acts: gymnasts, musicians, comedians, actors, singers, artists, impersonations, mime, slapstick, juggling, beat boxing, lip syncing, martial arts, poetry or any other talent you would like to share!

If you would like to be involved, please come to the drama studio at lunchtime on the following days to register:

- 8 January Y7, Y8
- 9 January Y9, Y10
- 10 January Y11, Y12, Y13
- 11 January ANY YEARS

There will be prizes awarded for the best acts! This show will take place on Thursday 1 February at 6.00pm in the hall. Tickets will be available for £5.00 via ParentPay closer to the date. Students go free!

Performing Arts Department

## Careers Team – Parent Volunteers needed

As part of the preparation for their Next Steps, all Sixth Form students have a series of mock interviews. For Y13 the interviews took place in October with a follow-up planned in March; and for Y12 we are arranging mock interviews on Tuesday 23 and Friday 26 January between 9.00-11.00am

We would like to invite any parents with interviewing experience to volunteer to help us with this process. Please contact [ahemsworth@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:ahemsworth@chacademy.co.uk) for more details.

Mrs A Hemsworth  
Careers Leader

## School Car Parks

When dropping off students for school and using the top or bottom car park, please can you park in a parking bay in the school car park. We are finding that some parents are dropping off students covering parking bays or blocking access to parking and this is causing issues for staff. Please be considerate to staff who are arriving at school trying to park. Thank you for your consideration and co-operation in this matter.

Mrs T Dell  
EA to Principal

Acting Principal:  
Tim Dobbs BA (Hons), NPQH  
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