

## Contents

	Page
Message from the Acting Principal	1-2
Message from Governors	2
Dates for the Diary	2
Tuesday School Day	2
PTA News	3
Safeguarding	3-4
Consultation - Admissions	4-6
Christmas Workshop	5-6
Festive Baking	6
Library News	7
Bucks New Uni Visit	7
CHA Panto visit	8
Interact Club	8-9
Christmas Craft cooking	10
Youth night	11



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



## Message from the Acting Principal

It has been a brilliant term here at the Chiltern Hills Academy and I want to thank you for all the support that you have given us over the last 4 months. The vision of the school is the students being at the centre of everything that we do and from this we want our students to be successful and achieve their potential. Our students are working so hard this term and taken part in so many activities to support their journey.

We had a very successful Sixth Form Open Evening last Thursday with students, parents and carers from the school and other schools taking part in an evening informing them about our Sixth Form and the courses that we offer. It was inspirational to listen to three of our current Sixth Formers talk about their experiences. Thank you to Sydney, Maxim and Ruby for giving these speeches for us.

As we approach the festive season it was great to hear how much the Year 7s enjoyed the Pantomime yesterday at the Elgiva in Chesham. It is a school tradition to take our Year 7s to this and by all accounts they truly entered into the spirit of it. We had the Chiltern Hills Christmas Dinner on Wednesday and our annual Christmas jumper day on Friday. This is an opportunity for students and staff to wear a Christmas jumper over their uniform. They do not need to wear their blazer if they take part in this. On Monday we are all travelling down to St. Mary's Church during the day to take part in a Christmas service. Mr Griffiths is coordinating the logistics of this event and Mr Upton has organised the service. The Christmas Carol Concert will start at 6.30pm on Monday evening and all are welcome. On Tuesday 19 December we will have three end of term assemblies during the morning, along with lessons and form time. Students will be registered for the afternoon at 12.55pm and will leave school at 1.00pm.

On Tuesday we say goodbye to three staff. Mr Kahn has been the Business and Finance Manager at the school for 2 years and has supported the school brilliantly during this time. Miss Kernick has been an outstanding Learning Support Assistant and worked so well with many of our students. Ms Chaudri has worked at the school for 13 years as a fantastic science teacher. We thank all three of them for their hard work and commitment and wish them well with their future careers.

I was also very pleased to hold our second Parent Forum of the term last Wednesday evening. It was well attended and Mrs Anning and I had some very valuable discussions which we will feedback to you all after the Christmas break. If

you wish to contact me at the school, please feel free to email me at: [office@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chacademy.co.uk)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a wonderful holiday season. We start back to school as normal on Monday 8 January 2024. Please also remember that Tuesdays are now in line with all other weekdays, so the start time for Tuesday will now be 8.35am.

Mr T Dobbs

## Message from Governors

It has been an extremely busy and productive Autumn Term at CHA and the Governor team have really enjoyed being in the Academy, seeing the students working productively, meeting staff members and experiencing the Chiltern Hills buzz that brings the school to life each day.

The school community has really come together this term and we would like to extend special thanks to Mr Dobbs and the whole staff team at CHA, the amazing PTA, our students and of course parents/carers, for all their hard work and support this term.

Wishing you all a restful Christmas break and Happy New Year

CHA Governors

## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
15 December	UCAS deadline
15 December	Christmas Jumper day
18 December	CHA Christmas service 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
9 January	CHA-PTA meeting, 7.00 to 8.00pm
11 January	Y8 Parents' Evening, 4.00 to 7.00pm

## Tuesday School Day from January 2024

I sent a letter out last week confirming the changes of the school day on a Tuesday ONLY. Students return on Monday 8 January 2024, please ensure that your child attends school on time and that they are outside their form rooms no later than 8.40am ready for a prompt registration. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful break.

School hours from 8 January 2024 Monday to Friday:

- School start time 8.35am (registration at 8.40am)
- End of day 3.10pm for Y7, 9, Sixth Form
- End of day 3.15pm for Y8, 10 and 11

Mr A Griffiths  
Vice Principal

## PTA News

Thank you to the parents who have so kindly offered to help us support the Rotary Club in next week 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 3 March            Spring Fayre (bookings open January 1st)

Mrs S Webb

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

## Safeguarding

In last week's newsletter I briefly mentioned our external speaker, Pembe Tokluhan, who visited the academy to talk to our young people. It is challenging sometimes to find high quality speakers to visit schools as successfully connecting with teenagers is no easy task!



We were delighted to welcome back Pembe, founder of Petok Productions and public speaker to CHA on Thursday 7 December. Her previous visit to CHA was over four years ago.

Pembe delivered talks to students in Y9 to Y13 speaking candidly about her experiences as a young person growing up in London. Her openness and honesty helped our students' understanding of resilience, overcoming adversity and achieving goals and ambitions. Pembe's engaging delivery motivated our young people to see things differently and inspired them to aim high and believe in themselves. A Q & A session at the end gave students the opportunity to find out more and they responded with thoughtful and insightful questions about her life and chosen career. Her talks had a profound impact on our school community with so many students queuing up afterwards wanting to talk to her. A truly inspirational experience for our students!

Here are some quotes from our students:

*'Pembe has come a long way in her life. Her story was inspiring and she's a role model for young people. She had a hard upbringing and her faith has always been a part of who she is. I really enjoyed listening to her'*  
**Amaan, Y10**

*'I thought Pembe's speech was encouraging because it is teaching young people that no matter how troubled you are, you can always turn your life around for the better'* **Jenna Y9**

*'As someone who grew up in the boroughs of London it was quite difficult to have a normal childhood and having met someone who has experienced similar things made me realise I'm not the only one. Having the talk with Pembe and listening to her share her life made me look at things differently and how I can change my ways to do better and not follow in the footsteps of other people. One thing she said that really inspired me is that 'you can't be what you can't see' I took this to mean positive role models are really important to believe in yourself'*  
**Lewis, Y11**

*'Pembe was very relatable because of the way she told us her story. She explained how she changed her life around and has helped others from not falling into the same environment. Pembe respectfully explained how she made difficult choices in relation to her faith, we learnt such a lot from her'* **Rayhan & Anees, Y12**

*'Pembe's presentation was very helpful and inspirational towards following your dreams no matter how your past was. Although Pembe had a terrible background she still made her dreams come true. This helped me think*

about not giving up no matter how hard things are' **Layla, Y9**

*'I think the talk was very mindful for all young people around the world and for us at Chiltern Hills Academy. It was very helpful to me and probably many other people as it was inspiring towards fulfilling your dreams'* **Ava-Veya, Y9**

A huge thank you to Pembe for finding time to visit our school and share her experience and wisdom with us.

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 policies 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 18 October to Monday 4 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.

### **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

## **Christmas Cake Workshop 2023**

Over the three consecutive nights (Monday 4, Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7) 36 learners came and created beautifully festive Christmas cakes! Over the three nights everyone worked passionately and were proud to take their finished cakes home at the end of Wednesday's session! Well done to all who participated. If anyone left without a recipe booklet please see Miss Rowan, who has lots of spares available.

Also, a huge thank you to our Year 11 Food Leaders who supported across these sessions: Dylan, Yan, Cameron, Lily and Emily!





After the success of this year's Christmas Cake Club, the food technology department set up a Termly Cooking Champions Club, which will run for 9 weeks each term on Wednesdays in 0C8. Cooking Champions Club will explore the fun and magic of food with both sweet and savoury dishes, which are not currently covered within the Year 7 and 8 food curriculum. For more information, please see the poster at the end of the newsletter or speak to Miss Rowan.

**Miss L Rowan**

Curriculum Leader Food Technology

## Festive Baking Competition 2023 Results

The results are in, over 30 staff sent in their votes for their favourite festive bakes, which have been counted and verified! All participants should be extremely proud of their entries.

First place awarded to Isobelle 9POL

Second place awarded to Kayley 9BRC

Third place awarded to Amy 7EBA

Special Mention for the most creative entry goes to Alice 7JEK for her glittered savoury brie and pigs in blankets tower.

Prizes for all students mentioned are available to collect from Miss Rowan in 0C8 on Friday 15 December 2023. Congratulations to all the winners!



Miss L Rowan

Curriculum Leader Food Technology

[Cooking Champions Club Poster](#)

## Library News

The Chiltern Hills Academy Poetry Evening of Excellence was a very successful evening with the library full of families. We were joined on the night by Mark Jackson-Hancock, the Manager of Chapter Two Bookshop in Chesham, and together with Mrs Putman, they had the difficult job of judging all the entries.

First place went to Rae in Year 8, Congratulations!

Second place went to Aashish in Year 7

Third place was jointly given to Seb in Year 10 and Victor in Year 8.

All the children performed their poems, and everyone enjoyed a mince pie or two.



Mark Hancock-Jackson said, "Thanks for asking me to help judge the competition. The overall standard of entries was very high, and I was struck by the freshness and versatility of the poems – all the poems were great reads, and it was hard to choose the winners. Your students' writing showed a kaleidoscope of creativity and there was as heady mix of exuberance and reflection. The four winning poems were outstanding; each one different but all showing a love of language and displaying a great deal of artistry."

The library is as busy as ever and more loyalty cards have been filled in, congratulations to Maanya in Year 7 for completing her 3rd card, Ali in Year 7 for completing his 2nd card and Sophie in Year 9 for completing her first.

A few more books off the Amazon wish list arrived which was a lovely surprise, thank you so much. If you would like to contribute to the library and buy us a Christmas gift, please click below:



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

Don't forget to follow the library on Instagram @libraryatcha

Mrs K Davenport  
Librarian

## Bucks New University Visit

Some of our students from Year 9 visited Bucks New University last week. The aim of the visit was to raise awareness of higher education and offer students first-hand experience of university life. Students took part in fun and interactive activities to learn about the university facilities and the different courses on offer. They learnt about budgeting, how to pick the right course and explored key areas of the campus, meeting current university students who gave help and guidance.

Here's what one of our Year 9 had to say about the trip:

“When I first heard I was going on the Bucks trip, I was sceptical. I thought it was just going to be another trip to another place I was soon going to forget. What at first seemed like a quaint little university in Buckinghamshire ended up being a clean, advanced and welcoming centre for education. The trip itself was far from dull, as our group was led by a charismatic student ambassador, who cheered us on every step of the way. The school had a friendly atmosphere due to a noticeable lack of rushed or stressed pupils and staff. In terms of facilities, Bucks scored an A+! All in all, the Bucks trip was a marvellous introduction to a university.” Felix Y9



Mrs A Hemsworth  
Careers Leader

## CHA goes to the Panto!

Over half of Year 7 and a select group of Year 9 and Year 10 students had the pleasure of visiting the Chesham pantomime on Tuesday. The production features a few of our own Chiltern Hills Academy students and we were all very vocal at all the appropriate moments:

"Oh no we weren't..." "Oh yes we were..."

Students represented the school marvellously and were impeccable behaved whilst throwing toilet rolls back onto stage during the traditional 'Twelve days of Christmas' song. Four of our students were invited up onto the stage to perform and sang Sweet Caroline with gusto as we all chanted along.

Caitlin said, "I thought the panto was an interesting performance. I would love to go again! The dancers showed there was a lot for us to learn from." Maanya said, "It was amazing, it felt like I was in the show as it was so interactive!" Henry said, "It was very good, funny and we were able to relax and enjoy the show whilst being with our friends."

Thank you to the form tutors, LSAs and other staff for supervising and a special thank you to Mr Humphrey and Miss Finch for organising such a brilliant and fun trip for our students.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays everyone.

Mr S Driscoll  
Year Leader - Year 7

## Interact Club

The Interact Club have been busy this term with a mixture of activities in Chesham Town centre supporting the Rotary Club events (blood pressure awareness drive, Santa's collection by the war memorial) and we have also completed the winter coat collection in partnership with WrapUp.

With the change in the school day on Tuesdays, the club timings are changing. Our first meeting after Christmas will be Thursday 18 January 2024 and we will be meeting every Thursday after this date. The club will relocate to a computer room to be announced in the New Year.





Any student in CHA is welcome to join and we are looking forward to continuing our work in supporting the enhancement of the school and local community in 2024. Remember that joining the Interact Club and attending weekly counts towards the volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Any questions, speak to Mr Driscoll in OD2 or via email [sdriscoll@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:sdriscoll@chacademy.co.uk)

Happy holidays and a Happy New Year,

Mr S Driscoll  
CHA Interact Club

Acting Principal:  
Tim Dobbs BA (Hons), NPQH  
Chiltern Hills Academy  
Chartridge Lane, Chesham  
Buckinghamshire HP5 2RG

Registered in England & Wales  
No 07718351

Telephone 01494 782066  
[office@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chacademy.co.uk)  
[www.chilternhillsacademy.co.uk](http://www.chilternhillsacademy.co.uk)

Registered Office Diocesan Church House Oxford,  
Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxfordshire. OX5 1GF



A Church of England Academy





# Christmas Craft & Cooking

*Booking now*

20th 22nd & 28th December 2023

11-2.30pm - Ages 11-14

@Amersham Youth. Amersham. HP6 5AR

[www.communityyouthventures.com](http://www.communityyouthventures.com)

**FREE**

**FOR AGES 11-14**  
**5-7PM MONDAYS**



# YOUTH NITE

**YAAAAAS**



**COMMUNITYYOUTHVENTURES.COM**

Amersham Youth, Amersham HP6 5AR  
Next to Lifestyle Centre

