

CHELLASTON ACADEMY

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7th March 2025

Dear members of the Chellaston Academy community,

We want to start off our weekly communications by saying what a brilliant week it has been!! Although we have been busy with a plethora of external (and internal) events and visitors, every single one of them have provided wonderful memorable experiences for our community. In addition, the climate for learning across our academy has been of the highest quality including Integrity, Care and Excellence. Please enjoy our newsletter which celebrates a few of these wonderful things.

Employee Appreciation Week

This week our Trust have been recognising all employees through employee appreciation week. This included a breakfast for staff, a sweet treat and the opportunity for colleagues to praise and commend fellow work colleagues. As an addition, we conducted a staff 'spin the wheel' with some prizes/awards that have been donated and the event was a huge success.



Baggy Shanker MP for South Derbyshire visit

Today we were honoured to receive some very special visitors into school. **Baggy Shanker MP for South Derbyshire** and **Councillor Hezelgrave the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills** met with our student council and talked about the best things about our academy, the biggest worries young people have for the future and what life as an MP can look like. Pupils grilled the visitors with amazing and thought provoking questions about the environment, school funding and the housing crisis and another visit has been promised to us soon. We are so proud of our students and their passion and curiosity for politics and the world around them.





World Book Day

We were delighted to have **Steve Skidmore** back in school with us on **Monday 3rd March**. As a visiting author, he captivated the whole of Year 7 through engaging assemblies where he invited students to use their imaginations through role play and making choices for endings in his books. Steve discussed the importance of reading and having fun with it and created much laughter and fun in the process of doing so. He then spent an hour with 30 students in Year 9 where he engaged them through his graphic novel of Macbeth; the students were lucky enough to have a pre-teach of the plot as they will be studying this for their GCSE next year. Some of the students were then lucky enough to have their names put into a draw for signed copies of his text. Finally, Steve stayed for lunch in the library with the library ambassadors - we discussed all things reading for pleasure where it was an absolute joy.



For World Book Day, we had an incredible turn-out of staff who took the challenge and dressed up for the occasion! All staff involved looked amazing and brought many a smile and buzz to the school. Mrs Lloyla did a wonderful job of turning the library into an escape room for the week; some of our students became so involved with this that time ran away from them and all for the love of reading! In addition to this, we've had form time quizzes, discussions around our favourite books, lessons on books from the Carnegie Award and so much more! We also had a baking competition where staff and students alike were challenged to make something edible with a link to reading. We were beyond blessed with how many cakes and sweet treats we got so the bake sale ended up running into two days.



Bake Sale

Our bake sale was phenomnal! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the with the bakes. Each baker will receive **500 ICE points**. A huge congratulations goes to Sean H. (Year 7)as the overall student winner. He will receive **1000 ICE points** and a vending machine book. We are pleased to announce we raised **£313.07 for the charity Book Aid International**.







Staff Reading Club

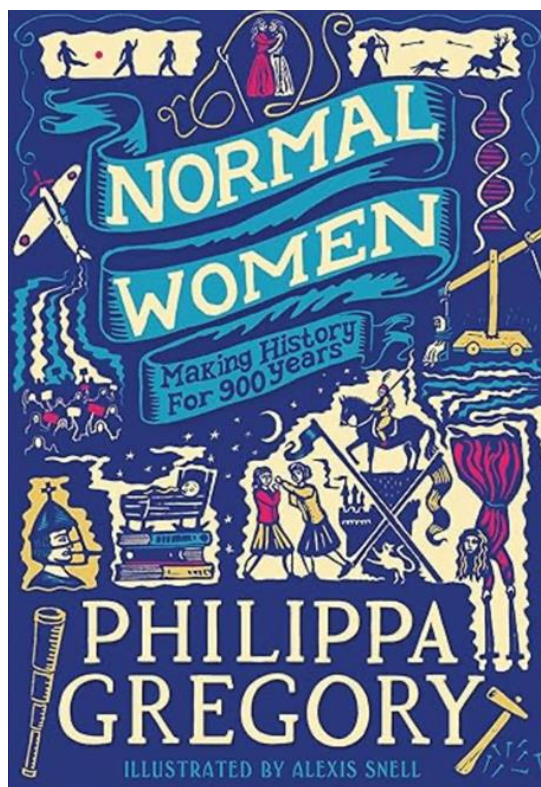
On Wednesday 5th March, Mrs Lloyla launched our first staff reading club. We met in the library after school where we were given our first book: Anthony Doerr's 'All the Light we Cannot See'. We are excited to get reading and we look forward to our next meeting at the end of this half term.

We loved making our own fun for World Book Day and loved seeing and feeling the integrity, care, and excellence from our students and staff as they flourished in the beauty of all things reading.



International Women's day

As part of Chellaston's Sponsored Read programme Read for Good and to commemorate International Women's Day, pupils from all years were invited to attend an online talk in the library from Best Selling Authors **Philippa Gregory, Emma Carroll and Geri Horner** aka Ginger Spice! The talk was to give our budding women writers advice and ideas for their own writing and to hear reading from Philippa Gregory's new book *Normal Women: Making history for 900 years*. Our students were incredible and found the event engaging and inspiring (and we even had our question answered at the end!) Don't forget to ask your child about Read for Good and get them reading to raise money for great causes.



Year 11 Mock Interviews

The Year 11 Mock Interviews held yesterday provided students with a valuable opportunity to practice their interview skills in a realistic setting. Organised with the support of volunteers from the business community, the event aimed to prepare students for future college, job or apprenticeship interviews.

Each student participated in a one-on-one interview, receiving personalised feedback on their interview. The volunteers, representing a range of industries and professions, shared their expertise and insights, enhancing the relevance of the experience.

The event was highly beneficial in building students' confidence, sharpening their interpersonal skills, and offering a glimpse into real-world expectations, contributing to their readiness for their next steps.



Rewards Day - 3rd April

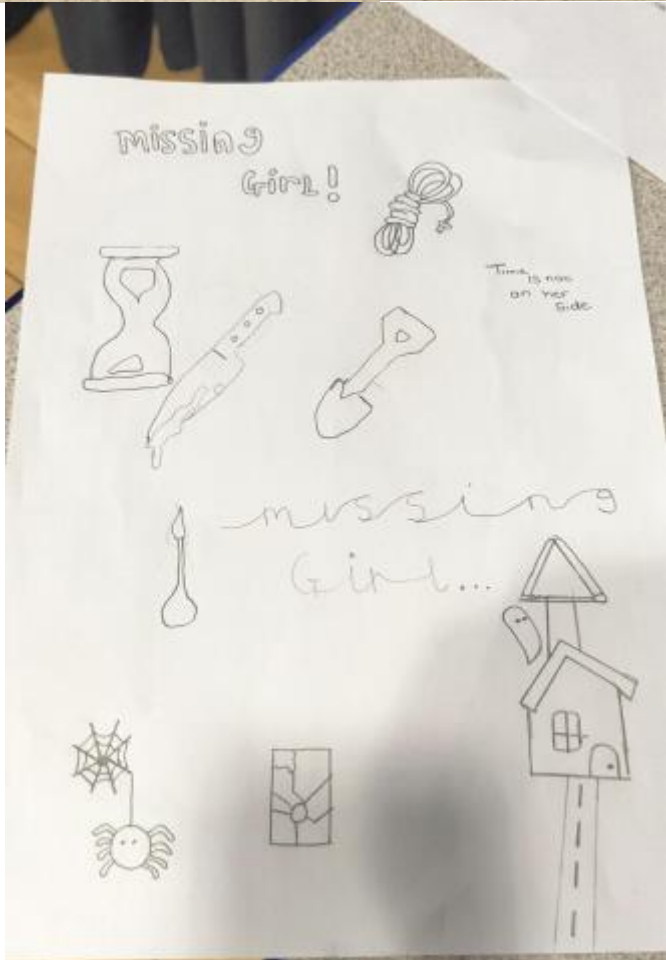
Please make sure you have booked your student on to our next rewards day on 3rd April, even if you don't think they qualify as there may be wild cards and you will get a full refund if they don't qualify. There are lots of trips to choose from for a variety of prices and all can be accessed by parentpay. Please contact contactus@chellaston.derby.sch.uk if you have any queries.



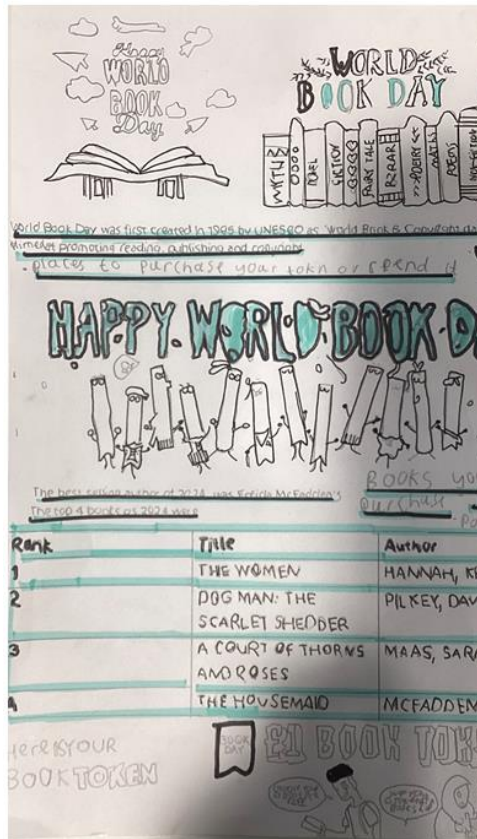
Presentation Pride Award (s)

Year 9 Drama students **Josie W, Millie S, Alice C and Grace H** have been looking at skills in the industry in drama lessons and as part of an assessment task the girls have completed their set for a new show with some

promotional material. This was all done out of paper, so Mrs Owusu was super impressed with the level of detail and effort the girls have shown towards their learning.



We'd also like to celebrate **Lillian T** in Year 8 for this brilliant contribution to World Book Day - Well done Lillian!



Sport Fixtures

Year 7 Derby City Girl's Football Leagues

Chellaston Academy Year 7A team **WON** the Challenge Cup at the Racecourse on Wednesday 5th March. We qualified as we finished in the top two of the John Port league with Littleover School and were joined by Ecclesbourne A and Noel Baker who finished in the top two at Lees Brook in the finals.

We started with a 2-1 win over Littleover before drawing 0-0 with Ecclesbourne. We then finished with a 1-0 win over Noel Baker and were crowned champions as we finished top of the mini-league format.

Congratulations to **Evie A, Madison W, Isla R-T, Freya D, Hannah J, Arianna A, Zoe T, Mary A, Poppy H and Emily B.**



Go Lead - Football Ambassadors

Our Chellaston Academy football ambassadors have done a marvellous job with planning and leading the primary '**Biggest Ever Football**' festival at the Racecourse on **Friday 7th March**.

They have taught a range of skills to **over 100 year 5 and 6 students** from a variety of primary schools. Our girls lead with confidence and displayed excellent leadership skills throughout the day.

Our leaders were **Fliss H, Yumi K, Lucy T, Beth I, Lola C, Chiara P, Mara L, Evie H, Nevaeh S, Leah M, Emily K and Ffion D**. Well done girls!



Dates for your diary

17th March - Year 13 mocks all week
3rd April - Rewards Day
4th April - Break up for Easter
22nd April - Return to school
24th April - Year 10 Parents Evening

Kind regards

Phil Smith
Proud Headteacher
Chellaston Academy

"Inspiring each other to realise our potential through Integrity, Care and Excellence"