

## CIFE Football Tournament

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On 24<sup>th</sup> April, all Cherwell College students went to St George's Park in Staffordshire to support our team in the CIFE 7-a-side football tournament.

It is a privilege for our students to play in this tournament; not only did it allow us to compete with teams from across the country, but St George's Park is the English Football Association's national football centre and the home of English national football teams.



Our team overcame many obstacles to secure an excellent 8<sup>th</sup> place out of 14 teams, narrowly missing out on a place in the play-offs. At Cherwell, we are very proud of this score – given that most schools' squads were much larger than ours, and we had no substitutes at all.

Our students should be proud of what they achieved – both the team and supporters alike; they displayed true Cherwell spirit!



### Student's Report...

Monday the 24th we all trudged out of bed before 7am to brace the freezing cold wind and rain of Staffordshire. Despite the setting being far more appropriate for a British murder mystery our team went full force with true Cherwell spirit. The team, captained by Herschel, warmed up as other teams filed in. As the Cherwell branded supporters established their side-line positions, cradling cups of hot chocolate and coffee, the games began. The CIFE colleges' football tournament commenced and before we knew it, our handpicked players, Basim, Herschel, Mark, Denis, Joseph, Chris and Joey, had taken to the field. A disappointing first match was followed by rallying support from the side-lines. The newly motivated team went on to impressive draws and a win with Joey saving a penalty kick and a spectacular goal from Denis. In the face of large colleges with sponsors and football academies our team came a few goals short of the finals, leaving a celebratory drive home.

By Nina Palko