

2024

# Cherwell Gazette

THE BEAUTY OF THE YEAR

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# Football

BY ADAM BRADLEY

In late March, Cherwell College hosted a football tournament at Oxford City Football Club. Teams from all over the country participated, including our own squad. On a chilly Thursday morning, the players made their way to the ground in their new kits: excited for the day! With 6 fixtures scheduled throughout the morning and early afternoon, the boys began their warm-up.

Fixtures announced and it looked like they would have some tough games against established football academies. Despite little time together to practice, the players gave a good account of themselves but didn't progress from the group stage. It was a great experience for all involved and something to look forward to again next year!

# Badminton

At Cherwell College, the Badminton Club has become a vital part of our extracurricular activities, enriching students' time with the development of essential hand-eye coordination and unique badminton skills. Throughout the year, students have embarked on a journey to master the techniques and strategies of this fast-paced sport, under the guidance of our dedicated coaches.

Participation in the Badminton Club has not only improved our students' physical fitness but also taught them the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline.



The club offers a valuable opportunity for exercise, promoting a healthy lifestyle and well-being among our students.

As students perfect their serves and smashes, they gain confidence and a sense of achievement. The Badminton Club fosters camaraderie and a competitive spirit, making it a highlight of our extracurricular program at Cherwell College.

# PSHE

## A JOURNEY TO GROWTH

At the beginning of the year, none of us knew what PSHE was—the weekly session we had every Thursday with our mentor, Esteban Hubner. Gradually, the Personal, Social, and Health Education classes became the most anticipated hour for us.



In these sessions, we discussed, learned, and debated various intriguing topics such as Career Path, Mental Health, Citizenship, Crime Prevention, British Values, Discrimination, Bullying, Cyber Security, and UK Etiquette. Each class featured different activities, including watching short videos, listening to guest speakers, taking quizzes, and group discussions.

Delivered with charisma, these practical and immediate lessons have greatly benefited us. We are convinced that they have helped us become better individuals.



# RSE

BY :TOM SINGHGOLDEN

Throughout the 2023/2024 academic year, the students at Cherwell College participated in Relationship and Sex Education sessions in the form of discussion groups. These seminar-style sessions provided the students with a space to discuss both controversial and common topics, allowing each individual to share their personal experience, and also learn and discuss the alternative perspectives that existed amongst their peers. The following topics were covered:



- Respectful relationships (characteristics of positive relationships, stereotypes within society, equality vs equity, homophobia and racism).
- Internet safety and harms (how to stay safe online, bullying).
- Online and media (expectations online vs in-person, digital footprint, online dating).
- Families (status and legality of different relationships, roles of parents, manipulation).
- Healthy eating (understanding calories, principles of a healthy meal, characteristics of a poor diet).

- Self-care (Importance of rest, friends, family, effects of isolation, hygiene).  
Conducting sessions in seminar format provided the opportunity to experience a university-style approach to learning, which aims to challenge students to provide evidence behind their reasoning. Further, the enthusiasm with which the students participated also highlighted their willingness to share their thoughts and experiences, showing a level of maturity in the way that they conducted themselves.



# DEBATE CLUB



## OXFORD UNION

The Cherwell College Debate Club has been a cornerstone of intellectual engagement and growth throughout the year. Organized into various groups, students were presented with challenging motions and tasked with debating them. We are privileged to be associated with the world-renowned Oxford Union, which provided us with one of its officials to train our students before the final debate held in the Oxford Union's main chamber.



Under the expert guidance of History and Politics tutor, BBC presenter Sean Murphy. The debates were marked by outstanding performances from all participating students. The debates covered a diverse range of topics, from global politics to social issues, showcasing our students' exceptional critical thinking and public speaking skills.

## THE COMMUNITY PROVIDED

The Debate Club not only provided a platform for rigorous academic discourse but also fostered a sense of teamwork among its members. As we reflect on the year, we are proud of the dedication and achievements of our debaters, and we look forward to another successful year ahead.



This year, our Art Club has been a journey of discovery for many students, some with no prior art experience. Under the patient guidance of Dorothy Megaw, art tutor and artist, we explored the basics of drawing, from mastering simple lines to capturing facial proportions—sometimes with playful disregard for convention. Experimentation was key; we ventured into uncharted territories like charcoal and lesser-known mediums, expanding our creative horizons.

The culmination of our efforts resulted in our first collection of expressive drawings. These artworks mark a significant step forward from our artistic infancy, reflecting our growth and newfound passion for self-expression through art. The Art Club has not only taught us technical skills but also the confidence to explore our creativity and imagination. As we look forward, we are excited about continuing our journey and seeing where our newfound talents will take us next.

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." — Edgar Degas





Throughout the year, the Cherwell College Dance Club turned the SGM cafeteria into a lively dance floor. Krystell Venegas wowed us all with her vibrant salsa and flamenco moves, while showing off her cha-cha-cha and Argentine tango skills. It was a feast for the eyes! And who could forget James Hamilton? His enthusiastic, if somewhat outdated, salsa moves were loud and proud, much to everyone's amusement and appreciation. Even if his style was a bit "vintage," James definitely brought the fun to the dance floor.

From salsa to flamenco and everything in between, the Dance Club was a celebration of rhythm, laughter, and maybe a few missteps. It's safe to say the SGM cafeteria will never be the same again. Here's to another year of fabulous moves and unforgettable moments!



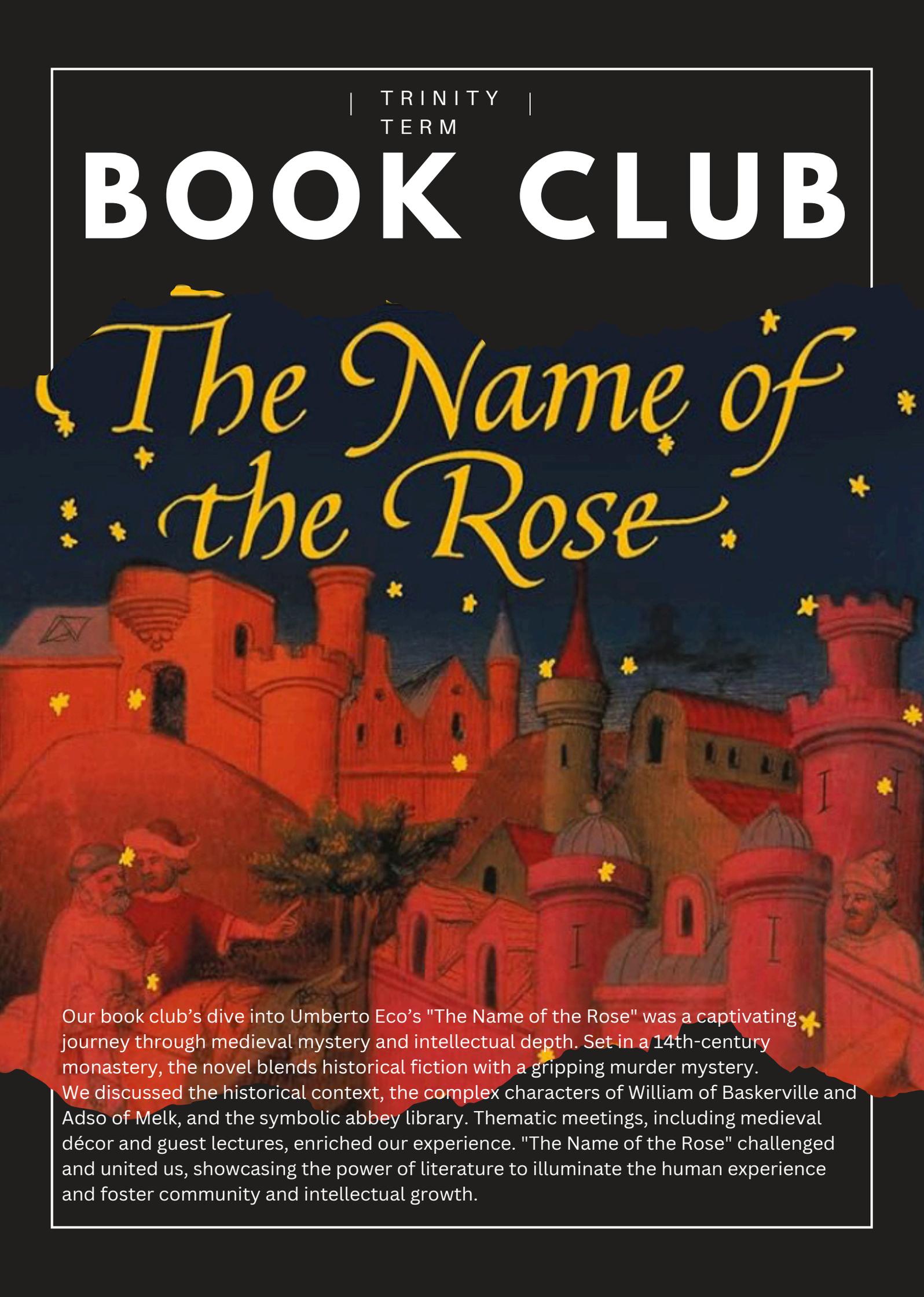
# DANCE CLUB



| TRINITY |  
TERM

# BOOK CLUB

## *The Name of the Rose*



Our book club's dive into Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose" was a captivating journey through medieval mystery and intellectual depth. Set in a 14th-century monastery, the novel blends historical fiction with a gripping murder mystery. We discussed the historical context, the complex characters of William of Baskerville and Adso of Melk, and the symbolic abbey library. Thematic meetings, including medieval décor and guest lectures, enriched our experience. "The Name of the Rose" challenged and united us, showcasing the power of literature to illuminate the human experience and foster community and intellectual growth.

MICHAELMAS  
TERM

HILARY  
TERM

TRINITY  
TERM

# MOVIE CLUB

NORDIC NOIR MOVIES



The movie club dedicated to Nordic Noir films has become a haven for enthusiasts of the genre, immersing members in the moody, atmospheric, and often darkly realistic storytelling that defines these works. Meeting monthly, the club explores seminal pieces from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, delving into the unique cultural and social contexts that shape the genre's distinctive aesthetic. Films like "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," "The Bridge," and "Trapped" are dissected for their intricate plots, complex characters, and bleak yet beautiful cinematography. Discussions often extend beyond the films themselves, touching on broader themes of morality, crime, and the human condition, providing a rich, engaging experience for all members.

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## CHERWELL COLLEGE CHRISTMAS DINNER EXTRAVAGANZA!

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### **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

As Michaelmas term drew to a close, Cherwell College hosted the most spectacular Christmas dinner, one that even Santa would envy. Chef Florian outdid himself with exquisite delicacies that left us loosening our belts and savoring every bite.

Our Vice principal, Helen Clarke, orchestrated the evening with her trademark enthusiasm and elegance, making sure even the Grinch would have had a good time. Carol singing filled the air, with some enthusiastic (and hilariously off-key) performances that had us all in stitches.

### **HO HO HO!**

In true Cherwell fashion, our celebration was a multicultural extravaganza, with students of all faiths coming together to enjoy an evening of friendship and camaraderie. It was a night of festive cheer, where even the mistletoe blushed at the fun we had. Here's to many more magical nights at Cherwell!



# Cherwell Gazette

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## CHERWELL COLLEGE GALA DINNER: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

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In the middle of June, amidst the stress of exams, Cherwell College hosted a magnificent Gala Dinner to bid farewell to our Year 13 students. It was a full house as both students and staff came together for an evening of relaxation, laughter, and camaraderie. Our superb Chef Ashton Solomon treated us to a delightful outdoor BBQ. Meat lovers and vegetarians alike savored the spectacular dishes, complemented by refreshing Pimms, mango lassi, and a variety of delectable desserts. Everyone dressed to impress, creating a glamorous atmosphere. The evening was filled with performances led by the incredibly talented Leo Sagor, whose enchanting voice captivated our ears. Tutors John Clare, Sean Murphy, Julian Fox, and Dominique, along with our students, delivered stellar acts. Laura's insightful poems touched our hearts, while Lorraine and Zuha's gifted voices entertained us all. Our Vice principal presented heartfelt farewell cards to the Year 13 leavers. Though the event was a joyous celebration, it left us with a bittersweet taste as we prepared to part ways with cherished members of our Cherwell family. The Gala Dinner was a memorable highlight, marking the end of an era and the beginning of new adventures for our graduates.



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# ART EXHIBITION

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Imagine an art exhibition where Graham Cole's evocative landscapes meet Dorothy Megaw's bold abstractions. The atmosphere is enhanced by witty poetry, blending humor and insight. A standout moment is Cole's comedic statement about his girlfriend's nose, described as "a delicate masterpiece, perfectly sculpted by nature's mischievous hand." This playful touch, along with the poetry interspersed throughout, creates a dynamic, engaging experience that is both visually and intellectually stimulating.

# DofE

BY: ROSE



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a globally recognized program that encourages young people to develop skills, engage in physical activities, volunteer, and embark on adventurous expeditions. Open to participants aged 14 to 24, the program is divided into Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, each requiring a commitment to personal development and community service. My experience with DofE was profoundly rewarding, especially during the expedition phase. Trekking through picturesque landscapes with my team, we navigated challenges together, from pitching tents under the stars to cooking meals over campfires. The camaraderie and sense of accomplishment we felt upon completing our journey were unparalleled, leaving me with lasting friendships and a deepened appreciation for nature and teamwork.

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## CHERWELL COLLEGE'S VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS: A DAY OF PRESTIGE AND ACHIEVEMENT

BY:YORDAN



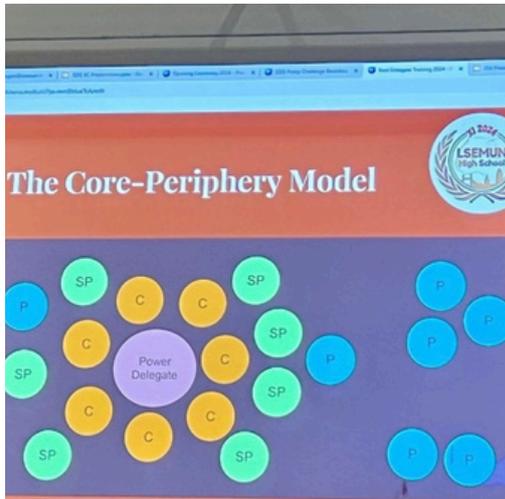
Cherwell College recently had the honor of visiting the British Parliament, an experience made possible by the gracious opening of its doors. Led by our Vice Principal, Helen Clarke, and accompanied by History and Politics tutor John Clare and student Yordan Vlaykov. The visit held a special significance as Yordan received the CIFE Award for his outstanding participation in the History of Western Europe. The highlight of the day was a visit to the House of Lords, where we were captivated by its grandeur and historical beauty. A memorable moment occurred during an engaging conversation with Lord Lexden, who generously shared insights into the responsibilities and privileges of peerage, and awarded Yordan with the prestigious accolade.



This visit not only provided a rare glimpse into the heart of British democracy but also served as a source of immense pride for the Cherwell community. Yordan's achievement will undoubtedly inspire future generations of Cherwellians. Cherwell College recently had the honor of visiting the British Parliament, an experience made possible by the gracious opening of its doors. Led by our Vice Principal, Helen Clarke, and accompanied by History Politics tutor John Clare and student Yordan Vlaykov, the visit held a special significance as Yordan received the CIFE Award for his outstanding participation in the History of Western Europe.

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS: A DIPLOMATIC JOURNEY

BY:LORRAINE



During Hilary term, London School of Economics hosted an exhilarating Model United Nations (MUN) event, bringing together students organized into various country delegations and parliamentary groups. This immersive experience allowed our student Lorraine to be a budding diplomats 2024 to step into the shoes of world leaders, showcasing friendly competition and honing their public speaking and negotiation skills.

Throughout the event, students passionately presented their views and opinions on global issues, demonstrating a deep understanding of international relations. The articulate manner in which they expressed their perspectives was truly impressive, reflecting their potential as future leaders - especially with the improvisation of Lorraine's character Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. This allowed our debating cherwellian Lorraine to experience competition with various schools like Eton College and other Colleges.



Each session was filled with lively debates, resolutions, and compromises, as delegates worked tirelessly to achieve consensus on pressing global matters. The atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm and intellectual rigor, highlighting the dedication and preparation of all participants.

The MUN event culminated in an amazing gala, a fitting end to days of intense debate and collaboration. The evening was a celebration of the students' hard work, featuring delicious food, music, and camaraderie. It was a chance for everyone to unwind and reflect on their achievements.

London School of Economics's MUN was not only an educational experience but also an inspiring journey that fostered a sense of global citizenship and mutual respect among students. We eagerly anticipate next year's event!

# UKRAINE GUEST

## CHERWELL COLLEGE WELCOMES UKRAINIAN VISITORS

Cherwell College recently had the honor of hosting a group of 11 young learners from Ukraine, aged 11-16, for a week-long visit. This annual event has become a cherished tradition, particularly meaningful given the current challenges faced by Ukraine due to ongoing conflicts.

During their stay, Cherwell students took their Ukrainian guests on tours around Oxford, visited museums, and shared meals, all while helping them practice English. These activities aimed to provide a distraction from the difficulties of their daily lives back home.

It was a heartwarming experience for the Cherwell community to be part of this cultural exchange, led by our Principal, Stephen Clarke, whose generosity in opening our doors to these students exemplifies our school's values of compassion and global citizenship.

The visit not only enriched the lives of our Ukrainian guests but also left a lasting impact on our own students, fostering friendships and understanding across borders.



THEY WERE LOVELY, LIVELY GUEST



## SUNNY SUNDAY PUNTING: A CHERWELL COLLEGE ADVENTURE

On a gloriously sunny Sunday, Cherwell College students set off for a punting trip that promised laughter and leisure. The day kicked off with an unexpected delight: ice cream from our Vice principal, Helen Clarke, whose sweet treat set the stage for an unforgettable outing.

Armed with cones and creamy smiles, we meandered to the river, ready to tackle the punts. Navigating the serene waters, we quickly discovered that steering a punt is an art form—one that many of us had yet to master. There were plenty of near-collisions and some hilariously questionable steering techniques, but that only added to the fun.

Laughter echoed over the water as students took turns attempting to propel the punts, often with more enthusiasm than skill. The picturesque surroundings and the company of good friends made it a perfect day.

Our punting escapade was a delightful mix of sunshine, friendship, and a few unintentional splashdowns.

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## CHERWELL COLLEGE'S ADVENTURE AT OXFORD CASTLE AND PRISON

Recently, Cherwell College students embarked on a journey to the historic Oxford Castle and Prison, a site not widely known outside the university. Once a castle and later a prison, it now operates as a 5-star hotel where former cells have been transformed into guest rooms—some with a more notorious past than others! During our visit, we climbed to the top of the motte-and-bailey castle for a spectacular view. A motte-and-bailey castle is a European fortification featuring a raised mound (motte) and enclosed courtyard (bailey). The view from the top was breathtaking, though some of us couldn't help but wonder what it would have been like to spend a night in one of the old prison cells.

Our tour guide, with a cheeky sense of humor, jokingly mentioned that a few of our tutors might have enjoyed sending us to the punishment room, and we could sense Steve Snyder's excitement at the idea of visiting the torture chamber. Despite the dark history, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip and left with a newfound appreciation for Oxford's rich and sometimes quirky history.

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# CINEMA

Visiting the cinema to watch the Bob Marley movie was an unforgettable experience that combined the magic of film with the enduring legacy of a musical icon. The movie delved deep into Marley's life, showcasing his journey from humble beginnings to becoming a global reggae legend. The theater was filled with fans, and the collective energy was palpable as we watched his story unfold on the big screen. The powerful soundtrack, featuring Marley's timeless hits, resonated through the cinema, creating an immersive atmosphere. The film not only celebrated his music but also highlighted his activism and the cultural impact he had worldwide. Leaving the theater, we felt inspired and moved, having gained a deeper understanding of Bob Marley's life and legacy.

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# CHERWELL GAZETTE

## *Topics*

*Winchester University: Opening day*

*Winchester Cathedral*



## **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

On June 11, 2024, we experienced a day of heritage and learning in Winchester, starting with the historic Winchester Cathedral and ending with the vibrant opening day at Winchester University.

Winchester Cathedral, one of Europe's largest, has stood for over a millennium. Founded in 642 AD, it evolved into the grand Gothic structure seen today. The cathedral boasts the longest nave in Europe, medieval carvings, and beautiful stained glass windows. Inside, we explored the crypt, admired the Great Screen, and visited the resting places of historical figures like Jane Austen.

# WINCHESTER UNIVERSITY

Next, we attended Winchester University's opening day. The campus buzzed with excitement, offering tours of state-of-the-art facilities, including modern lecture halls and eco-friendly buildings. Sample lectures showcased diverse courses, from digital media to social sciences. Faculty and students shared their passion, highlighting the university's commitment to a well-rounded, future-focused education. Our visit to Winchester Cathedral and Winchester University offered a blend of history and modernity. The cathedral connected us to the past, while the university's dynamic environment emphasised the importance of education in shaping the future. Both landmarks reflect Winchester's rich cultural and educational heritage.



# OXFORD BROOKES

NEW

OPEN DAY

14TH JUNE, 2024

UNIVERSITY



As the term drew to a close, we had the opportunity to visit Oxford Brookes University, just a stone's throw away from the prestigious Oxford University. Mr. Hubner led us on a tour of this remarkable institution, accompanied by our former student Kamil Khayrov, who warmly guided us through the vibrant campus. We explored various faculties, dormitories, and the impressive sports center.

## OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY



Oxford Brookes, renowned for its excellence in business education and ranked as the best UK university in 2006 for this field, boasts a diverse and multicultural student body. The university offers a wide range of courses and facilities, fostering a dynamic learning environment. It's clear why Oxford Brookes is such an attractive choice for students seeking higher education. Our visit left a lasting impression, inspiring us as we look ahead to our own educational journeys.



# Trip to Blenheim



One of Britain's Greatest Palaces opened its gates to Cherwellians last week. Browsing through the breathtaking rooms, experiencing the unforgettable maze, and spending time with the Blenheim butterflies was a day to remember.



# Harwell Diamond Light



Boulby underground laboratory, Dark Matter, beamline scientists - Cherwell students visited Harwell School and discovered everything and more about our Universe and future career choices - it was a success!