



Parent Bulletin

January
2026

Key Dates

Thursday 15th January – Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 19th January – Year 11 Parents Evening (online)

Friday 23rd January – Inset day

Monday 2nd February – Year 13 Parents Evening (online)

Monday 9th February – Year 9 Parents Evening (online)

10th – 12th February – School Production

16th – 20th February – Half Term

Thursday 26th February – Year 9 Options Evening



Headteacher's Message

December Reflections

December at Chosen Hill was a month filled with celebration, creativity and community spirit as we brought Term 2 to a close. Our House Christmas Tree Decoration Competition added festive cheer throughout the school, with each House showcasing their imagination and teamwork. Alongside this, our commitment to supporting the local charity Hungry No More was evident through generous contributions to our House Food Bank initiative. It was heartwarming to see students and families come together to help those in need across Churchdown, Innsworth, Longlevens and Longford. Thank you also to parents who donated via community baskets at Tesco Churchdown, GL3 Hub, Churchdown Community Centre, Churchdown Club and Brickhampton Golf Clubhouse.

On 4th December, An Evening of Dance wowed audiences with an incredible showcase of talent and dedication from our students. Later in the month, Year 7 led the way with their "You Are Awesome" Christmas charity fundraiser on 9th December—a wonderful example of kindness and generosity in action.

The final week of term was packed with festive traditions: Christmas dinners, our formal Carol Service, and "Come As You Like Day", where students arrived in fantastic fancy dress to raise money for charity. These events created a joyful atmosphere and were a fitting way to celebrate achievements and end the year together as a school community.

January Forecast

As we begin the new year, January at Chosen Hill is set to be a month of ambition, opportunity and celebration.

We start the term by recognising the achievements of last year's students at our Celebration of Success Awards Evening on 7th January, honouring the hard work and dedication of Year 11 and Year 13.

On 15th January, we welcome prospective students and families to our Sixth Form Open Evening—an important event for those considering the next stage of their education.

For current students, Parents' Evenings play a key role this month. Year 11's evening on 19th January and Year 13 on 2nd February are particularly important as students prepare for their final exams. Year 9 will also meet with teachers as they begin planning for GCSE options.

January also includes our Holocaust Memorial Day Assemblies, providing all year groups with a powerful opportunity to reflect on history and its lessons for today.

A reminder that Friday 23rd January is an INSET day, giving staff valuable time for professional development.

Finally, we look ahead with excitement to our school production, Disney's "Dare to Dream Jr", running from 10th–12th February. This promises to be a spectacular show, and we encourage families to buy tickets and support our talented performers.

Mr J Bardgett

Acting Headteacher

Cheltenham Young Artist Competition

Before Christmas our Art Department launched the Cheltenham Young Artist 2026 competition in school where students were required to produce an A4 piece of artwork within the theme 'My Favourite Things'.

We submitted 50 Chosen Hill School entries to the competition headquarters who told us they had received 450 entries from students in schools all around our local area. The judging happened last week and we have been notified that 7 of our fabulous student work has been chosen for exhibition. We are so proud of these students and all students who took the time to create!

The exhibition will be at the Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SW over the weekend of Saturday January 17th and Sunday January 18th, daily 10am to 2.30pm. Entry is free.

The café will be open – so perfect for a stroll with a coffee and some pretty artwork along the way!

There will be a public vote during the exhibition and the students with the most votes will win prizes presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. Very exciting!

Please do come and see their wonderful work in the exhibition and vote for your favourite piece.

Our 7 Art Exhibitors!



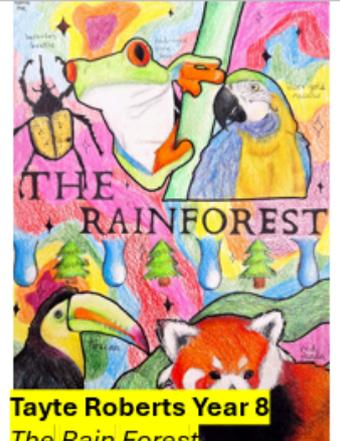
Lizzy Walker Yr 12
Childhood Nostalgia



Daisy McAvoy Year 7
Reminds Me Of Happiness



Alfie Lawson Year 10
My Dog



Tayte Roberts Year 8
The Rain Forest



Jamie Jones-McCullough Y10
Clarence - My Cat



Harriet Hadley Year 8
My Favourite Milkshakes in one



Harmoni Ashmeade Y10
My Dream Holiday Sunset

Gloucestershire Business School Challenge 2025

Winners of the 'Most Innovative Business Idea'



Chosen Hill School's team celebrate at the University of Gloucestershire's Oxstalls Campus

On Wednesday 10th December 2025 a team of our Year 13 A-Level Business students took part in the final of the University of Gloucestershire Business School Challenge. Competing against teams from a range of Gloucestershire Schools, they finished winners in the 'Most Innovative Business Idea' Category.

The competition was launched on Thursday 6th November 2025. Giving the teams just 5 weeks, working mostly in their own time, to research and then prepare a business plan pitch on what they consider to be a new, sustainable and truly viable business idea for Gloucestershire. Teams had to meet a brief across 3 specific categories: Sustainability, validity of the concept backed by data and the viability of the business idea. They were supported in this challenge by Matthew Prior, Senior Business Lecturer of Marketing, University of Gloucestershire and Steven Piper, Senior Lecturer In Business Management/Employability also from the University of Gloucestershire. They also had to win an internal competition with another Year 13 team, who had come up with a personalisation of school launch app.

Gloucestershire Business School Challenge 2025

Winners of the 'Most Innovative Business Idea'



Students prepare for the internal heats with Matthew Prior

The final was hosted in the main lecture theatre of the University of Gloucestershire Business School's Oxstalls Campus and teams were asked to present their ideas to a panel of judges of management consultants, the HR Director of BT and senior Business lecturers from the University.

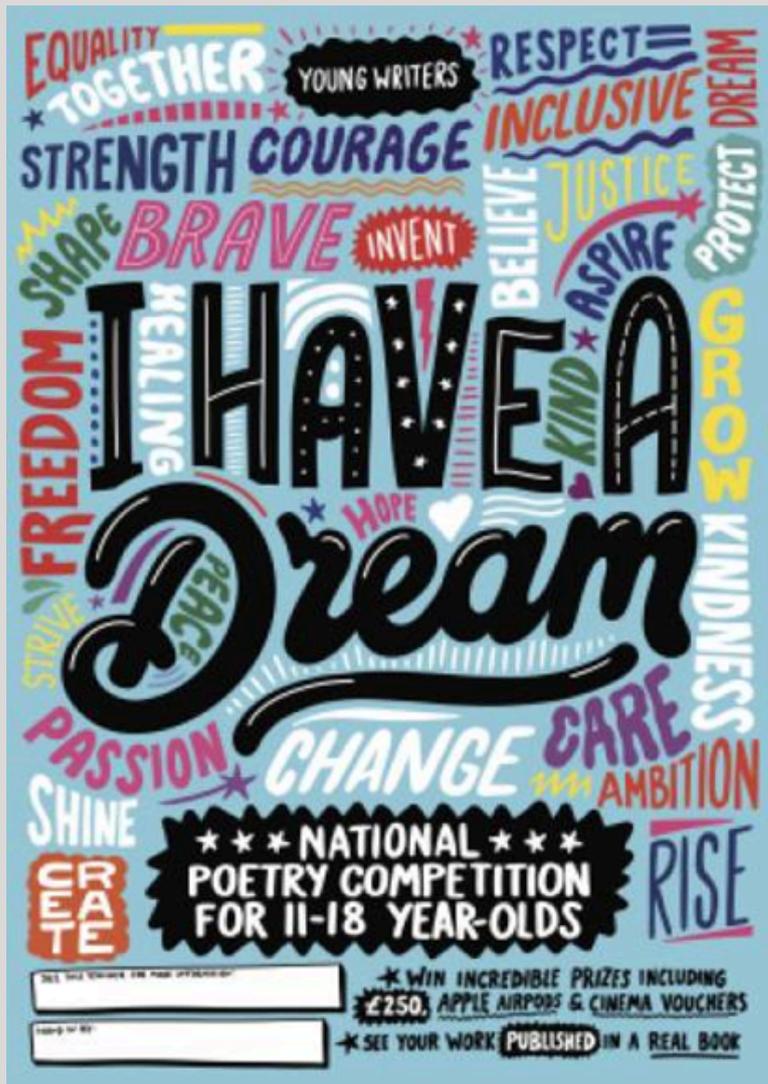
On the day, teams presented a wide range of innovative business ideas, and the standard was incredibly high. Our Team, 'Reflux,' presented a business concept based on a website that collates student achievements in a database, with an assigned user ID for each to allow employers to check an individual's validity character; massively speeding up the recruitment of students on to apprenticeships and university undergraduate courses. This is a segment of the market pretty-much ignored by the major recruitment agencies currently operating around the UK.

It was obvious that all teams had worked extremely hard outside of their respective classrooms to research their business ideas and rehearse their presentations – clearly demonstrating a growth mind-set and real 'grit' and determination to win. As a result, the resulting competition was intense, making it very difficult for the judging panel to decide the overall winners in each category.

This is a continuation of our close working relationship with Gloucestershire University's Business School, one that helps us to provide stretch and challenge to our A level Business students; and one that goes from strength to strength.

Mr I Bird

Young Writers Competition



What do you dream of?

- ✨ Performing on a stage
- 🌱 A kinder, greener world
- ✈️ Exploring new places
- 😌 Fewer worries
- 🎥 Following your passion

I Have A Dream invites students to write a poem inspired by hope, ambition and imagination. Their dream might be personal or world-wide, realistic or nearly impossible – what matters is they have the opportunity to think positively and creatively. It's a joyful way to encourage reflection, optimism and self-belief through poetry.

With no limits on style or theme, students are free to express themselves in a way that suits them, creating original work that reflects their own voice and outlook.

There are also exciting prizes to motivate writers further, including £250, Apple AirPods and cinema vouchers.

If your child is interested in entering they should speak to Mrs Selwyn in G14.

Entries need to be handed into Mrs Selwyn by Thursday 12th Feb 2026

Disney's Dare to Dream Junior 2026

Chosen Hill School are proud to present their 2026 production: Disney's Dare to Dream Junior!

This spectacular production features students from across the school, coming together to perform beloved Disney songs and thrilling dance routines. From heartwarming classics to high-energy numbers, this show celebrates courage, friendship and imagination. Bring the whole family and experience the magic of Disney like never before.

The show runs from 10th to 12th February 2026, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

Tickets are on sale @ £7.50 each.

Don't miss your chance to support our young stars and enjoy a truly enchanting performance!

You can buy the tickets at:

<https://buytickets.at/chosenhillschool/1884716>



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

CHOSEN HILL SCHOOL
PRODUCTION OF
DARE TO DREAM JR.
A Disney MUSICAL REVUE

FEB 10 – 12
7:30PM

Buy tickets:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/chosenhillschool/1884716>



Notices

Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exam

The Catering exams will take place Monday 26th January – Friday 30th January.

Students will be told which day their exam is by Mr Differ.



Dame Rachel de Souza (Children's Commissioner) has recently published a new guide and we would like to share it with you:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](#)

House Bake Off Competition

Following the success of last year, Bake Off will return on the 4th Feb

Part One: Students can bake a cake/cupcakes/cookies/traybake.

Theme of bakes is house colours.

Entries will be judged by House leads and the best 5 from each house will be put through into the bake off technical challenge final.

All bakes will be sold at break and lunchtime on the 4th Feb in the USH and the money made will be for the House Charity Maggie's.

Part Two: Technical Challenge

For the 20 bakers that make it to the final, they will be released from timetable for two lessons and be asked to bake and decorate some biscuits.

These will then be judged by our expert judge.

Important Information

School drop off and pick ups.

If you drop your child at school, please do not drop them in the entrance areas with the gates. These are no dropping or turning areas to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. There have been a number of near misses this term with people pulling in to drop their children off and other people turning to come into the school.

If you are reminded by a member of staff that the areas are not for dropping off or turning, please can you be respectful in your communication with them. Staff are doing their best to keep these areas clear so that it is safer for your children to arrive and leave school.

Please can we remind you that school is open for students from 8am and that students should not be arriving before that time as there is no staff supervision until then.

School Term Dates for 2025/26

Please note the term dates and the INSET days when students will not be in school. It is really important that students are in school every day - absence due to holiday taken during term time is not authorised and may lead to penalty fines being issued.

Please click the link to see the term dates for 2025/2026.

<https://www.chosenhillschool.co.uk/home/parents-and-students/term-dates/>

Online Talks for Parents by FACE

 January 2026 Timetable	
All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long	
£24 each or FREE with School Membership	
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)	
Autism - Improving Communication	5 Jan 10am
Improving Family Communication	5 Jan 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	6 Jan 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	6 Jan 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	12 Jan 10am
Understanding Anger	12 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	13 Jan 10am
Facing Defiance	13 Jan 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	19 Jan 10am
Anxiety Explained	19 Jan 7pm
Introduction to OCD	20 Jan 10am
What Is ACT	20 Jan 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	22 Jan 7-8pm
Raising Self-Esteem	26 Jan 10am
Decreasing Depression	26 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	27 Jan 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	27 Jan 7pm

Would you like some support with any of the above issues?

FACE aims to support regular parents with commonly faced issues. In this age of long waiting lists and over-loaded services, FACE is offering you practical and accessible advice and information.

Each talk includes easy to apply interventions and the opportunity to ask questions. The sessions are delivered online via zoom by Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE 7pm - 8:30pm £24 each

<https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk/supportforparents>

Duke of Edinburgh Dates

Please make a note of the following dates if your child is taking part in DofE at Chosen Hill this year

Bronze

Session 1- Saturday 27th September 10-12

Session 2- Saturday 29th November 10-12

Session 3- Saturday 31st January 10-12 (First Aid)

Session 4- Saturday 28th February 10-12

Session 5- Saturday 21st March 10-12

Bronze Training Weekend Friday 8th May 6pm-Saturday 9th May

Session 6- Saturday 13th June 10-12

Bronze Assessed Expedition Friday 26th June 8am- Saturday 27th June

Any questions please contact Mr Bird ib@

Silver

Saturday 17th January 9-3.30pm (First Aid training)

Wednesday 11th March 1-5pm Navigation Afternoon

Silver Practise expedition Thursday 16th April 10am- Saturday 18th April

Silver Assessed Expedition Thursday 14th May 8am- Saturday 16th May

Any questions please contact Miss Wheeler ewh@

Gold

Saturday 17th January 9-3.30pm (First Aid training)

Sunday 1st March Initial Training Walk 8am-6pm

Wednesday 11th March 1-5pm Navigation Afternoon (provisional)

Introduction to wild Country Friday 28th March 8am- Saturday 29th March

Gold Practise Expedition Wednesday 22nd April 8am- Saturday 25th April

Gold Assessed Expedition 6th- 10th July (enrichment week)

Any questions please contact Mr Bird ib@