



Parent Bulletin

March
2026

Key Dates

Monday 16th March – INSET DAY

Monday 23rd March – Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)

Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April – Easter Holiday



Headteacher's Message

February Reflections

February at Chosen Hill was a busy and enriching month, filled with a wide range of activities and important events for our students.

During the week beginning 2nd February, our Year 8 students visited SkillZONE as part of their Learning Mentor programme. This hands on experience helped students develop key life skills, including personal safety, decision making and awareness of real world risks, and they engaged very positively throughout the sessions.

Also on 2nd February, we held our Year 13 Parents' Evening, providing the final opportunity for parents, carers and students to meet with teachers before the summer exam season. The evening was well attended and offered valuable guidance and reassurance at this crucial stage.

In the same week, all students took part in a whole school "Taskmaster" House competition through the Learning Mentor programme. The challenges brought creativity, teamwork and a great sense of fun, with students showing fantastic enthusiasm across all Houses.

Our Year 9 students also completed their three minute FameLab presentations, demonstrating impressive confidence in communicating scientific ideas. 9 students will be attending the final at the Roses Theatre on 11th March - we wish them all the best of luck.

On 9th February, we welcomed students and parents/carers to the Year 9 Parents' Evening, an important opportunity to discuss progress as students prepare to make their GCSE option choices. This led into our Year 9 Options Evening on 26th February, where families explored GCSE and BTEC subjects and gathered information to support informed decision making.

Disney's Dare to Dream Jr production itself took place from 10th-12th February, and our talented cast and crew delivered an amazing and polished performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by audiences. Thank you to the cast, crew and of course the staff for dedicating so much time to rehearsals, promotion, set design, costumes and so much more.

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, students also explored apprenticeship pathways during their Learning Mentor sessions, gaining valuable insight into the many careers and qualifications available beyond school.

We ended the month with DofE Bronze Training on 28th February, supporting students as they continue their journey toward achieving this highly respected award.

Mr J Bardgett
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher's Message

March Forecast

As we head into Spring it is fantastic to welcome longer (drier?) days and even the odd sight of some much missed sunshine! March is shaping up to be an exciting month at Chosen Hill School, with a fantastic mix of learning, celebration and challenge across the school community.

Our Year 11s have been taking their mock exams, giving them a great opportunity to show the progress they've made and build confidence as they head towards the summer. We wish them, along with our Year 13 students well over the following months with their revision and completing coursework.

This week we recognised World Book Day, with a book in a day (Y7&8) and a chance to celebrate reading across the school. House spirit is in full swing too, with a very popular House Bake Off competition and we look forward to House Science Week taking place later in the term – two brilliant chances for students to get stuck in, show creativity, and enjoy some friendly competition.

Our sports teams continue to be busy with a full calendar of fixtures, giving plenty of opportunities for students to represent the school and shine on the pitch. We are pleased that the upturn in the weather has enabled the construction of the new 3G pitch to make good progress following some delays due to the rain in January and February. If you haven't already followed the link on the school webpage to help us with our fundraising for this facility we would be really grateful if you gave it your support.

Also in this slightly shorter, but very busy term, we are looking forward to Careers Week as well as Year 10 students mock interviews – great opportunities to help build confidence and develop the key communication skills needed for the future. To top it all off, we are excited to host the Year 8 You Are Awesome Fair, celebrating positivity, resilience and the power of a growth mindset.

March promises to be a vibrant and uplifting month, and we can't wait to see the students embrace everything on offer!

Mr M Pauling
Headteacher

House Bake Off Competition

The House Bake Off Final took place on Tuesday 3rd March. Twenty students took part and we had the pleasure of Noushien from The Village Cakery come in to school to judge.

The students were absolutely fantastic and did an amazing job of producing and presenting 6 Easter themed sugar cookies. They worked superbly, behaved impeccably and took it very seriously. Noushien was really impressed by all the children and came in to see them bake for the last 30 minutes.

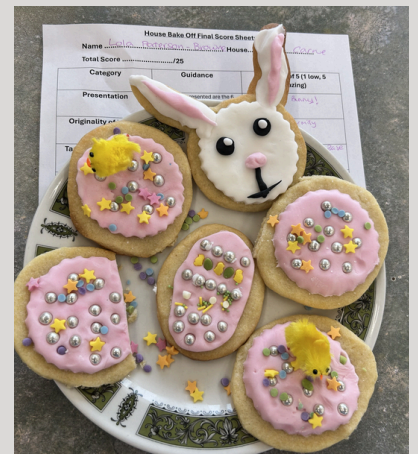
As always though there must be some winners and it was a close call –

1st Place: Zak Dominczak 8CS 25/25 (Scott)

2nd Place: Lola Paterson-Browne 7HC 23/25 (Carne)

Joint 3rd Place: Caian Rolfe 7HM and Amara Akadonye both Masefield with 22/25

Special mentions need to go to Olivia Richards in 8CW and Rory Workman in 8CW who both stepped in as reserves on the morning of the final having had no briefs beforehand at all. They did a super job.



Notices

Canteen Funds

We would like to remind parents and carers that canteen account top-ups require at least 24 hours to be processed and reflected on the school system. Payments made on the same day, or late the evening before, may not appear immediately at the canteen tills. To avoid any disruption for students at lunchtime, we kindly ask that you ensure funds are added with sufficient notice.

If your child is told at the till that there are no funds available despite a recent top-up, they should go to Student Services. Staff can check the live payment system and, where a payment has been received, will issue a slip to allow your child to receive their food that day. Thank you for your support in helping the system run smoothly.

Year 11 Prefect Dinner – Thursday 19th March 2026

The deadline to purchase your child's ticket to the Prefect Dinner at Bowden Hall Hotel is Sunday 22nd February, payable via the School Gateway.

Year 11 Prom – Thursday 2nd July 2026

The deadline to pay the deposit for your child's ticket to the Prom at Cheltenham Chase Hotel is Sunday 15th March, payable via the School Gateway.

Motorcycles and Mopeds at School

All students wishing to ride a motorcycle or moped to school must be issued with a permit before they will be able to do so.

Full details can be found in the protocol document on the school website.

If you have any further questions, please email studentservices@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk

Notices

Gloucestershire County Council is offering Bikeability courses during all 2026 school holidays. These courses are designed for children aged 9–14 and help build cycling confidence and safety skills in small groups with qualified instructors.

2026 Course Locations & Dates:

February Half-Term: Ashley Manor Prep School, Cheltenham

Easter Holidays: Bournside School, Cheltenham

May Half-Term: Kingshill School

Summer Holidays: Skillzone (2 sessions available)

October Half-Term: Pineholt Village Hall

Course Details:

Cost: £10 per course (2 x 2-hour sessions)

Bikes: Available subject to availability

Booking: <https://www.thinktravel.info/cycling/bikeability-training/holiday-courses/>

The Severn Valley Microlight club is holding 'An Introduction to Aviation' event on Saturday 18th April 2026.

We are aware that the next generation of pilots, engineers and other aviation personnel may lie within your ranks. We hope to make them aware of the opportunities aviation related careers may offer while having some fun!

The day will start at 11am and will be held at Over Farm just outside Gloucester where about twenty five aircraft are based.

If your child is interested in this event, a flyer and registration form has been uploaded onto classcharts.

Notices

Parent Guide to School Complaints

We would like to make you aware of a new national guide, developed collaboratively by the Department for Education (DfE), Ofsted, ParentKind, and other parent and school focused organisations. The guide provides a simple, step by step explanation of how to raise any concern you may have with the school, helping ensure issues can be resolved quickly, clearly and positively. Please see the link to this guide below. This guide is also available to view on the policies page of our website.

The guide explains the difference between feedback, a concern, and a formal complaint and outlines who you should speak to at each stage to achieve the best and quickest resolution. It also offers practical tips on how to raise issues constructively and explains what you can expect from the school at each step.

At Chosen Hill, we always aim to work closely with parents to resolve concerns as soon as they arise. In most cases, matters can be addressed informally through open communication with the staff who know your child best.

We hope you find this resource helpful in supporting positive, constructive communication between home and school.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/assets/parents-resources/Parent-Guide-to-School-Complaints.pdf>

Petition to improve the 97/98 bus service

Please follow the link below to sign a petition that has been created by local councillors to improve the 97/98 bus service.

<https://c.org/GkZPm5sGxY>

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/>

School Term Dates for 2026/27

The term dates for 2026/27 are now available on the website:

<https://www.chosenhillschool.co.uk/assets/Term-Dates/Calender-26.27-PARENT.pdf>

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@



Online **FREE** talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to PARENTS - Live Talks page

All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership

