



The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Emily Prentis-Hart

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

Theatre Critic: Alice Fuller



The Watch Word Competition Finalists

by Alice Fuller: Lead Journalist

As you may have read or seen around the school, we recently ran a competition to recruit the next generation of W.A.T.C.H. Word journalists. We had many applicants and struggled to select the journalists that would become our new additions to The W.A.T.C.H. Word.

So, this month, we decided to do something a little different and give you the opportunity to read our finalists' articles. We asked you to write us an article about an aspect of Chosen Hill that you are passionate about. As you will undoubtedly see, the competition finalists have a range of styles, techniques and voices. Whilst the top three will blow you away, we thought it only fitting - it being Christmas and all - to offer our readers an early present and show you all six of our fantastic finalists. Enjoy!

First Place: Amelie White (11HW)



Sport. That's the thing I am passionate about at Chosen Hill, but not just the playing aspect. Having the unique opportunity to be able to play as a goalkeeper, coach, and referee football. All of which brings so much joy and curiosity.

Over the years I've had opportunities to develop my leadership skills through coaching and refereeing. I am also able to build a reputation with both staff and students. My aim throughout Chosen is to inspire the next years of students and give my knowledge and understanding of the game to influence new oncoming athletes.

Why do I love it so much? I don't know, but playing sports, whether it be football, netball or rounders, is something I can escape to, and have a chance to escape from my mind, putting me in a good mood, even after a bad day. Last week, I felt terrified for mocks, but when I start playing football and those feelings drift away.



Coaching and refereeing different age groups showed me what challenges each year face and taught me how to find solutions, even if it is the Year 8s trying to test my patience. This has been enhancing my skill set which I can then put to the test in other activities in school, leading to me to be even more ingrained in the school system, not just in sports.

The bond I've built with the PE staff is rare, and the experiences and the connections they've given me have made me fall in the love with it all over again.



The W.A.T.C.H. Word



Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Emily Prentis-Hart
Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum
Theatre Critic: Alice Fuller



187,888
Points



185,888
Points



188,440
Points



201,799
Points

House Points Standings

Whittle are holding on to their lead, but there are house competitions a plenty coming your way in the new year.

Can they hold on to their lead?

2nd Place: Oscar Vaughan (7HC)



Year 7 Voices: Reviews on their first term

The school community's newest addition to the school have now officially completed their first term and here is what they have to say about being at "Big School"

After a long summer break, the last step of the transition to Year 7 had finally arrived. Taking their first steps as a proper student at Chosen Hill. The initial apprehension that they had felt when they woke up for school that morning, had soon disappeared as the first lessons of the day swung round. This was now over a month ago, but here are some students who were able to tell us about their honest reviews on Term 1.

"I love the food as there is so much choice"

-Maddy Jones, 7HC

"I love drama because we do lots of fun activities"

-Max Baker, 7HW

"All the teachers are supportive in every subject"

-Leo Cottrell, 7CC

The new Year 7s are now finally settled in, and the 2nd term is already speeding by. No more anxiety, but expensive totals on their lunch account and a feeling of familiarity as they have explored their new school. After recently receiving their first Curriculum Monitoring, they have started building independence in managing stressful routines and securing their newly learnt knowledge.

The original tension, mentioned by Maddy, Max, and Leo has evolved into a confident sense of place within Chosen Hill. This readiness shows that they are now fully integrated and prepared to tackle the rest of the year with enthusiasm and support from peers and staff, making the most of the opportunities and the calm and exciting environment that surrounds them.





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart



A-LEVEL SCIENTISTS EXPLORE LONDON

We sent our VI Form Correspondent along with the Science Team to London for their Museums trip. Here's how they got on.



On the 26th of November, the rest of the CHS A –Level science students and I took a trip to London. There, the biologists were taken to the Natural History Museum, whilst the physicists and chemists ventured into the Science Museum. Being a student of both biology and chemistry, I was able to choose which museum I wanted to go to, and I chose the science museum.

It took a while to get to the centre of London as the busy city traffic was holding us up, but it was a nice journey to see around London. We were dropped off at the natural history museum, where we split from the biologists. There was a short walk to the museum, which was very busy even for a weekday.

When in the museum, my group headed to the space section first, where we saw space suits and parts of spaceships. After a quick pit stop for lunch, we head to the rest of the museum, which had exhibits on engineering, maths and medicine through time (my personal favourite). At this exhibition, we saw the original model of DNA, a model of insulin, and a dissection table. We also stepped into a Victorian pharmacy, where we were treated to talk from one of the museum volunteers.

From the natural history museum, I hear they saw a dinosaur that was dressed up for Christmas, and statues of caveman.

On the bus home, some friends and I played *Word Imposter*, which we roped Mrs Williams and Dr Walji into playing. We soon found out that Dr Walji might need a bit more practice at his imposter skills.

This was a very fun trip and if you are thinking of taking science at A-level it is definitely something to look forward to!





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart



THE VI FORM FORUM

WINTER TERM: WRAPPED UP

Don't think it's just the lower school that get to have all the fun on Come as You Like day! Sophie takes a moment to reflect on how they up the anti in Sixth Form.



The winter term at Chosen Hill is always greatly anticipated by its students, its conclusion even more so. As it was my first year in Christmas in Sixth Form I was very excited to see how the activities would differ from the main school. Well, it was one of the best Come as You Like Days I have seen.

One thing everyone in Sixth Form looks forward to is the fashion show that is put on every year for the costumes on Come as You Like Day. This year, the standard was incredible. A couple of my favourite costumes were the labubus, the entire cast of *Shrek* and a shepherd with his flock of sheep (who, during the fashion show, come in on their hands on their knees which everyone loved).

We also participated in a quiz which was organised by the head students (Alfie and Harrison) which included some trivia about students in sixth form which was my personal favourite and most interesting part of the quiz.

And finally, before everyone left, the Sixth Formers gathered on stage in the main school hall singing with Year 7, 8 and 9. I, personally, really enjoyed this, as it was a way to feel connected to the rest of the school as a Sixth Former.

The term ahead focuses on Year 13 Mocks and I wish everyone good luck as they can be extremely overwhelming. I can't wait to see what 2026 will bring us!





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart

3rd Place: Joshua Saunders (10HM)



Heroic History!

The History Department at Chosen Hill School is an active and engaging part of the school. It offers a curriculum that combines knowledge, critical thinking, and memorable learning experiences. Starting in Year 7, students learn about various topics that explore how societies have developed over time. This helps them understand change, continuity, and cause and effect in society.

By Year 9, students tackle difficult and important topics like the Holocaust. They look at the historical context, personal stories, and moral questions related to one of history's most significant events.

At GCSE, the department allows students to dive deeper into history through courses like "medicine through time", "Nazi Germany", and other key subjects. These units encourage students to examine sources, evaluate evidence, and build strong arguments. This prepares them for exams and broader historical thinking.

One of the best aspects of History at Chosen Hill is how approachable and enjoyable it is. Lessons are lively and often funny. Teachers make complex topics engaging and easy to understand.

Students are encouraged to discuss, debate, and reflect, which makes the subject feel vibrant instead of just a list of dates and facts. Many students, including me, find it easy to become totally absorbed in the lessons because they blend interesting stories, critical thinking, and even fun activities.

Overall, the History Department at Chosen Hill is not just about learning the past. It's about understanding it in a meaningful, enjoyable, fun, and thought-provoking way, making it a highlight of the school experience. Thank You



January Announcements

- Watch out video-game lovers, 12th of January marks House Gaming week! Get your nimble fingers ready for some competitive fun!
- The Sixth Form have their open evening on the **15th January**, a perfect opportunity for Year 11's wondering where to go next year!
- Year 11 Parent's Evening is on the **19th January**.
- Chosen Hill host it's annual Career's Fare. Be sure to come loaded with lots of questions for potential career paths!





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart

Honourable Mentions

Lacey Cross (10 HM)

The best bit about chosen hill is English, due to my fascination with English Literature and my desire towards wanting to write a book.

At Chosen Hill there are a lot of things that try to reach out to the students. I think the literature part of English is a very important thing to learn due to the important messages most books tend to have. Incredible books like: An Inspector Calls, Animal Farm, Noughts and Crosses, and An Invisible Man. I believe some of the messages from these books are things people don't understand until they're properly exposed to it.

I'm glad we're allowed to work on some of these books in English so we don't grow up thinking issues like capitalism, racism and corruption in power are normal. I think hiding these messages in books with "cute animals" or just straight up monsters is quite smart because it's comparing us to the animal food chain and monsters makes us seem dehumanised for doing those things.

Switching the roles around really makes us feel how the situation would actually affect us if it was happening to us because it's a very common thing people have to deal with everyday and we think it's normal and it's okay because we don't know how it feels to be treated that way.



Sophie Prentis-Hart (8HS)

Something that I am passionate about at Chosen School is sports. I attend one of Chosen's many sports clubs - the girls' football club. I go with one of my friends and it has become my favourite weekly school activity.

Attending a sports club is a brilliant way to get involved with the school spirit and make new friends that share the same interests as you. The girls' football is available for years 7 and 8 and is after school Wednesdays. I really enjoy playing matches with my friends. I attended the football club last year and over time it's helped me grow more confident and improve my skills. Every Wednesday I look forward to it. My favourite position is midfield because I like helping both attack and defence.

Other than doing football I also enjoy our PE lessons, where we get to do many sports such as Dance, netball, badminton and basketball. I enjoy learning how to do new sports and sharing what I already know with others. I enjoy working as a team because it helps improve communication trust and perseverance.

For me, I find that other than a sports club teaching you about friendship, teamwork and skills, it also teaches you confidence and helps you find the courage to try new things.



The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart

Sophia Rowe (9HM)

While there are so many things that I value and am passionate about at Chosen-Hill School, I am particularly passionate about our school community. The sense of belonging is astounding!

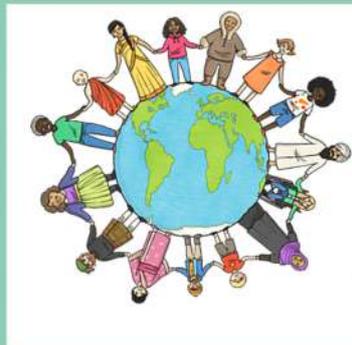
Our school opened in 1959 and became an Academy Trust in 2011. There are close to 1400 students in our school, meaning that there is an astonishing number of 1400 students who are a part of our community!

Chosen-Hill school is a joyful school, where students, staff and parents work closely in partnership.

“There is an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. “ Mr Pauling, Chosen Hill School’s headteacher. Our school shows pride when taking part in activities/key events that bring our community closer together for eg: sports day, fundraisers, school fairs etc.

Our sense of belonging is even shown through simple things like working together as a team during a lesson or after school in sports clubs like netball, football and rugby .

Our students , teachers and people around us may all be different, but that's the beauty of our community , its OURS a different fun and exiting community, one that anyone would be proud to be apart of.



So what did we think?

Alice Fuller reviews the 2025 WATCH Word Writing Competition

As you may have read, we recently ran an article competition. Our competition task was to write an article about an area of Chosen Hill School that you are passionate about. All articles were amazing. Picking our winners was anything but an easy task after much consideration we selected our three journalists who placed.

In third we had Joshua Saunders in Year 10; chosen for his clear passion about the history department his description of the curriculum and level of detail he went into about the department really drew us to his submission.

In second place we had Oscar Vaughan in Year 7 for his clear interest and efforts he went to about his article with the topic of joining Year 7. One thing that drew us towards this entry in particular was the use of quotes he got from his peers to enhance his article. Nice work Oscar!

But is it really a competition if we don't have a winner? In first place was ... Amelie White in Year 11. Her article really hit it out the park. Her article outlined her enthusiasm and passion for Chosen Hill sport and the opportunities she'd developed through her time at Chosen. Her love for sports really came across through the article and made her the clear winner in our hearts.

However, with the calibre of finalists being so high, how could we just accept three into the paper? An additional three have been invited, expanding our team of five to eleven.

Remember even if you submitted your entry but didn't make it on the paper recruitment drives will come around again. So don't feel disheartened, and please do apply again next time. You could make it on the paper. Good luck and congratulations to all of our new recruits!





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Editor: Philia Sanoj

Sports Correspondent: Alice Fuller

Media Correspondent: Joe Cox

VI Form Correspondent: Sophie Sysum

Theatre Critic: Emily Prentis-Hart

CHOSEN HILL SPORTS PAGE

Chosen Hill Sports

By Emily Prentis-Hart

We finished off November with an exciting Year 7 rugby match, where the team secured a close 7–6 win. It was a tense game, but their teamwork helped the win!

As we moved into December, our U15 rugby team put in a dominant performance, winning their match and moving forwards into the next round of the National Bowl. The whole group played with confidence and intensity from start to finish, earning a well deserved place in to the next round.

As well as this, there were several afternoons of football throughout the month. The players showed great energy and excitement, making the most of their time on the field and continuing to develop their skills in each game.

We're looking forward to an explosive new year with new afterschool sports clubs ready and raring to go so please do make sure that you ask your tutors about the new, exciting opportunities for you in January 2026!



Come as you like day: 2025

By Emily Prentis-Hart

The last day of term at Chosen Hill is definitely one to remember. Thanks to Come As You Like Day, the school transforms into a lavish wonderland of colour, costume and general shenanigans! and the House Christmas Tree Decoration Competition. For once, uniforms were left at home and students turned up in all kinds of outfits, from comfy and casual clothes to full-on costumes and outfits. It's always great seeing people express themselves

Even better to seeing some of the different departments join in with themed outfits. Maths betrayed all they knew by coming in as *The Traitors* and Tic-Tacs from the Safeguarding team freshened up our lives. PE showed some excellent teamwork as a rugby squad and Science asked 'Where's Wally?'. History even took to the airlines! Its brilliant to see that both staff and students can get on board and have fun before the Christmas Holidays!

And just to prove it, here are some of the photos of the truly awesome event!





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Elizabeth Bird: CHS Events Editor

Sophie Sysum: Journalism Editor

Rosie Guy: Media Editor

Alice Fuller: Rugby Correspondent
Philia Sanoj: Sports Correspondent

Maddie Underwood: Lead Journalist
Vera Vitiello: Journalist

Joe Cox: Media Correspondent
Emily Prentis-Hart: Book Critic



Media Corner



Curtain Call Reviews: Back to the Future

By Alice Fuller: Theatre Critic

This Movie Musical caught audiences' hearts with the power of love when it graced our stages world-wide in February 2020 – with a west end transfer in 2021, and Broadway debut in 2023.

The musical follows the story of Marty McFly and his adventures through time after protecting Doc. Brown in a fight then getting stuck in the past he needs to get “Back to the Future”.



The musical still has its classic songs from the movie score like “Power of Love” and “Earth Angel” but adds new songs like my personal favourite “Something About that Boy” which is enriched by the backing vocals of the ensemble and it doesn't matter who is in the role of Lorraine (Marty's mum) they bring so much soul and passion through the song however in my instance Lorraine was played by Maddie Grace Jepson on the west end in the Adelphi theatre.

As the movie celebrated its 40th anniversary this year the musical on the west end celebrated in style. With a nostalgic Marty reunion. 3 Marty's on-stage AT ONCE! This included the current star Caden Brauch, Original star Olly Dobson and, seasoned veteran Ben Joyce. They all came together and gave a night that will go down in musical theatre history. This concept is very original and drew even more attention to the show than before which is excellent as this musical is deserving of all the praise it receives

With its concept coming from the cult classic 1985 movie but it grew and became its own thing. This is one of my favourite musicals of all time and would recommend it to anybody looking for a show to catch on a whim.

Unfortunately, this marvel of a show is due to close in the west end on April 1st although this isn't unfortunate as its closing to go on a UK and Ireland Tour later in 2026. I truly hope to see this show again on its tour as seeing it was one of the greatest experiences I have been through. For this reason, I give it a whole five stars. You couldn't ruin this show with all your might.

5 *****





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Elizabeth Bird: CHS Events Editor

Sophie Sysum: Journalism Editor

Rosie Guy: Media Editor

Alice Fuller: Rugby Correspondent
Philia Sanoj: Sports Correspondent

Maddie Underwood: Lead Journalist
Vera Vitiello: Journalist

Joe Cox: Media Correspondent
Emily Prentis-Hart: Book Critic



Ask the Department



We asked the Maths department on simple question. You'll never believe their answers!



"A mobile phone"
- Mr Genge



"I wanted a cabbage patch doll with blond hair blue eyes and a white dress. My dad ended up saving a lady's life when he went to get it!"
- Mrs Balkwill



"A bookcase that was actually a secret door, so I could disappear and no one would know where I'd gone!"
- Mr Day

This month we asked:

"As a child, what was something you desperately wanted for Christmas?"

"A red Jeep for my Cindy Doll. My sister broke it before I was able to play with it though!"
- Mrs Stratton

"Mr Frosty ice maker - never got it 😞"
- Mrs Whiting

"I desperately wanted a hand held Pacman device. I got it but no batteries - had to wait until the 27th Dec to get some... worst Christmas ever..."
- Mr Herring



"A pink Care bear that lit up and talked"
- Mrs Woodman





The W.A.T.C.H. Word

Elizabeth Bird: CHS Events Editor

Sophie Sysum: Journalism Editor

Rosie Guy: Media Editor

Alice Fuller: Rugby Correspondent
Philia Sanoj: Sports Correspondent

Maddie Underwood: Lead Journalist
Vera Vitiello: Journalist

Joe Cox: Media Correspondent
Emily Prentis-Hart: Book Critic

Meet the Teacher

1. What is your role in school?

Assistant Director of Sixth Form

2. What do you enjoy doing at the weekends?

I often visit friends or family who are not local at the weekend. If I am at home, I like to cook.

3. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Peru. I was supposed to go before Covid meant that the World Challenge trip was cancelled. Peru appeals to me because it has coastline, mountains and rainforest... a bit of everything!

4. If you didn't work in a school, what job would you want to do outside of your subject and why?

I would either be a writer or I would do something with animals. I always loved writing when I was at school and I love reading fiction and columns, so a job as a writer appeals to me.

5. If you could ask any celebrity to dinner, who would it be and why?

Claudia Winkleman. Whenever I hear her on the radio or on a podcast, she always makes me laugh so I think having dinner with her would be fun. And I love The Traitors!

6. What item on your bucket list are you most looking forward to doing and why?

I've always wanted to go to Asia and I am going to Thailand this year. I'm looking forward to eating real Thai food and being somewhere hot in the winter!

7. If you were stuck on a desert island, what book, film, song and food would you want to be stuck with and why?

Book: The Night Circus by Ern Morgenstern because it's such an imaginative and absorbing book that I would totally forget to panic that I was stuck on a desert island! **Film:** Black Beauty or 101 Dalmatians because these were my childhood favourites

Song: This is a very difficult question! I think it would have to be something by the Spice Girls though! **Food:** Tapas so I have some variation

8. If you were a kid again for a day what would you do and why?

Spend the day at my grandparents' house.

9. Did you do any other jobs before becoming a teacher, if so what was it?

The best job I had was as a nanny. I would go to different countries with families who wanted childcare on their holidays.

10. What is your favourite thing about teaching and why?

Getting to know people. Being in Sixth Form means that I get to know students very well in quite a short amount of time. This means that my job is more than 'just a job'.



Miss Clark