



CHARLES READ  
ACADEMY  
Broadening Horizons



## Newsletter Spring 2019

### Welcome to the Charles Read Spring 2019 Newsletter

It has been a very busy term at Charles Read Academy with many exciting opportunities being offered to the students. These include sporting activities at lunchtime and after school, opportunities that the Table Tennis Scholars have taken up, the inter-school sporting fixtures and in-school House Activities. In addition to this many of our Drama students visited the Theatre and some students have taken up the opportunity to work with practitioners from Nevil Holt Opera on a performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. We have run some singing assemblies with Year 7 and are going to perform in the DRET Secondary Music Festival.

The Rotary Young Chef competition saw one of our students competing in the regional finals. In addition, we celebrate many sporting activities including the wonderful achievement by Dylan who played for the GB squad, find out more on page 8.



In this edition we have included information about how you can support your child's learning throughout their schooling at Charles Read Academy and information regarding the March Mock exam series for Year 11.

There is some Curriculum information regarding our new Science intervention program Tassomi, the forthcoming Drop Down Day and using quizzing for homework. Supporting our drive for greater aspiration for our students we were fortunate to be able welcome Christian MBA to the Academy who delivered a motivational speech to students in Years 10 and 11 and shared information about university and Leicester University in particular

We are tightening up on uniform and have included information on the new Boot Room and the use of mobile phones after Easter.

*We look forward to greeting you at an event at the Academy in the near future.*

## Students Compete in ISF World Championship.



Charles Read Academy's Table Tennis team travelled to Malta to represent England in the prestigious 2018 International School Sport Federation (ISF) World Schools' Table Tennis Championships.

Four students from Charles Read Academy joined 185 young table tennis players from across the world, where they competed against teams from different countries including China, Chinese Taipei, India, UAE, Italy, Germany, Poland, France, Turkey and Czech Republic.

As part of the table tennis tournament, which was organised by the International School Sport Federation, the team from Charles Read Academy celebrated a number of victories, most notably against opponents from Germany and Israel in the team event.

During their time in Malta, young players also had the chance to learn more about local culture whilst exploring the sights of Valletta.

The players also took part in a Cultural Festival, where all 20 participating countries presented an array of traditional food, drinks and gifts. As part of the Cultural Festival, students from Charles Read Academy shared Grantham Gingerbread, sticks of rock and a selection of fudge with players from across the world.

“This was an amazing experience for the girls to compete against teams from around the world and develop their skills on an international level.

“We are extremely proud of Danielle, Darcie, Karrie and Mollie. Being invited to an international competition and representing England is a huge achievement in itself and is a real testament to their hard work and commitment.

Charles Read Academy's Table Tennis Performance Centre, which works in partnership with the Grantham College Table Tennis Academy, is one of the many incredible sporting opportunities available to students as part of the David Ross Education Trust's pioneering enrichment programme.

By providing an array of outstanding opportunities, the Trust supports talented athletes by encouraging them to excel at the highest of levels. Students across the Trust have participated in high profile sporting events in front of Olympic greats such as Sir Steve Redgrave and Rebecca Adlington, and have also benefitted from high-quality fixtures, sports tours in Europe, funded trips to major tournaments and sports bursaries and scholarships.

Shane Ward, Sports Enrichment Manager at the David Ross Education Trust, said: “The Charles Read Table Tennis Performance Centre provides the perfect opportunity for our students to enhance their incredible sporting talents whilst continuing to excel academically.

## Charles Read Academy Crowned National Table Tennis Champions

A team of four table tennis players from Corby Glen's [Charles Read Academy](#), part of the [David Ross Education Trust](#), have been crowned the Under-16 Girls champions at the Butterfly School Team National Finals.

Mollie Patterson, Darcie Proud, Danielle Kelly and Karrie Rogers, who have since gone on to represent England at the International Sport Federation (ISF) World Schools' Table Tennis Championships in Malta, took the title after competing against the regional champions from across England.

The competition got off to a great start as the girls celebrated a 7-1 victory over Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, and a 6-2 win against Dane Court Grammar School.

The team from Charles Read Academy went on to secure the coveted title after they sealed a 5-3 victory during their final match against Okehampton Community College.

Danielle Kelly said: "Going into the game, we were quite confident we could do it. Being picked for Malta put pressure on us to prove ourselves, but we worked well together as a team."



Charles Read Academy currently have seven scholars at Charles Read Academy's Table Tennis Performance Centre, where each scholar can train with elite coaches for up to 25 hours a week during school time.

## CRA Drama

Drama is thriving at CRA and in January Ms Kimberley-Pope took a number of students and a Governor to the theatre. It was a great trip enjoyed by all. Please read an account of the experience below by one of our Governors Revd. Stephen Buckman.

## Theatre Trip to Stratford East



It was a great joy to accompany almost forty Charles Read students on their trip to the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. The play we saw was an uncompromising drama that challenged us to think about those who travelled away from their home communities to engage in conflict. The particular message in the title of the play, *The Unreturning*, was that nobody comes back the same person after such traumatic experiences.

This notion was explored through the eyes of three men – one who served in the First World War, one who had returned from the recent conflicts in the Middle East, and (possibly the most disturbing of all) one whose story was set in the not too distant future. The play moved between the stories of the three men seamlessly with challenging dialogue and effective use of physical movement. The play was followed by a thirty-minute question and answer session with the actors and associate director.

The Charles Read students from Years 9, 10 and 11 were challenged and inspired by the play. The complex issues and the wide range of theatrical techniques gave them much to think about as they prepare to use this live performance in the context of their GCSE Drama syllabus.

On a personal note, I would like to say that it was a real delight to spend the day with students and staff. I very much look forward to having the opportunity to join in such a day again.

Revd. Stephen Buckman - DRET Governor

## Music

Singing Assemblies for Year 7 began in February and we are hoping to participate in the DRET Music competition on March 8<sup>th</sup>. There are some great vocalists at CRA. We look forward to sharing these talents with you at future events.

## Year 10 Rotary Young Chef Success at Charles Read Academy

The year 10 Food Technology students at Charles Read Academy were invited to take part in the preliminary round of the Rotary Young Chef competition back in November. The winner of that round, Harry Barker then went on to take part in the regional final based at Nene Park Academy on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Harry had to use a range of skills to produce a healthy three course meal prepared and cooked within two hours. He also had to present the food neatly on a dressed table, complete with time plan and costing for his meal.

It was a very intense morning, with 10 other competitors all working away in the Food Technology kitchen to produce their food. There was an amazing array of foods produced, from traditional Indian foods, Asian cuisine and traditional British foods such as rabbit pie. Harry worked extremely well, and produced a splendid display of foods on his table. He cooked a twice baked soufflé, followed by poached haddock and he completed his meal with a superb banoffee pie.

Harry did extremely well to reach this stage and we are very proud of him and his efforts.



## Parents' Corner

On-going supporting for your Child.

We want to encourage you to get directly involved with your child's learning and revision by supporting them with recall and retrieval practice.

Your child learns a great deal of information during the course of their school day, week and year. The very best way to support them with that learning is to help them to recall that information regularly. Research has shown that asking them to explain what they covered in English, maths or science for example on a particular day and following this up a week later and then a month later and testing it will help to strengthen understanding and the ability to call upon that knowledge at a much later date. If your child has a revision guide, knowledge organiser or homework sheet with information, quizzing them on that subject matter will be of great benefit to your child's understanding and will support the work they undertake in their lessons.

Your role in supporting your child with factual recall is key.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Rehearsals have started for an abridged performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Students from CRA and two of our feeder schools, Ingoldsby Primary and The National Junior School, are working alongside members of the Neville Holt Opera Company. The visiting practitioners have also worked extensively with the Royal Shakespeare Company. The students are taking part in a variety of acting, movement and music opportunities.

The final performance will involve students from all three schools at Charles Read Academy on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, to which you are all invited.



## The Boot Room



## The Boot Room

Uniform is consistently very good at Charles Read Academy but to ensure it is excellent all the time we have introduced The Boot Room.

Students who arrive in incorrect uniform will be asked to change into spare uniform we have in the Boot Room at the school or will be isolated until such time they have the correct uniform.

Below is a reminder for parents/carers of the key points of our uniform policy as these are some of the common problems that occur when students return from a half-term break:

- A wristwatch may be worn.
- No more than one small stud in the lobe of an ear may be worn.
- No ear stretchers are acceptable. Putting 'spacers' in or plasters over piercing is not acceptable. If you have a piercing – nose, eyebrow, lip etc. the stud must be removed.
- No more than two small finger rings are allowed.
- No other jewellery is permitted.
- Hairstyles should be sensible. This means no 'pattern cuts', shaved, or excessively coloured hair. No inappropriate styles allowed.
- Black smart shoes natural or synthetic leather. Shoes should not be canvas and must be worn around the Academy at all times unless the child is playing sport
- Socks must be black and plain
- Make-up is light/subtle to give a natural look
- No nail varnish and or nail extensions
- No fake eyes lashes
- No PE uniform to be worn on the way home.



## Show My Homework

The new Homework policy will soon be available and we will inform you once it is published via MyEd. In the meantime, one of the pieces of homework that staff will be setting will be a quiz on Show My Homework. These assessments are a great way to test knowledge recall, make students use notes and revision guides applying what they are re-reading to answer questions. Multiple choice questions will also encourage the students to think through possible answers thereby reflecting on the distractors in the questions and interrogating their own possible misconceptions.

To confirm these quizzes are not just a test of memory students will be able to and are encouraged to use notes to help them answer the quizzes. You can further support your child by retesting them on this information the following day, and following this up a week later and then a month later as articulated above.

## Phones not to be seen after Easter

A critical focus for us as a school is to ensure the safeguarding of our students and to ensure the best climate for learning. To support this, we have made the decision to further restrict the use of mobile phones and electronic devices (including iWatches) **when on the school site**. This includes their use as a music player; headphones use is also restricted.

This decision has not been taken lightly. A very high proportion of our safeguarding and behaviour incidents are either about mobile phones themselves or involve the use of a mobile phone. Students are sometimes putting themselves, and others, at risk through inappropriate use of apps, pictures and video. Phones can also be a distraction from learning during lessons.

Students will be informed about arrangements after half-term in assemblies and the policy will be fully implemented from the beginning of the summer term, **Term 5** Monday 20 April 2020 to Friday 22 May 2020

Some key points are found below:

1. We will operate a 'See it, Hear it, Take it' policy. This will mean that the phone will be confiscated if it is seen or heard in school grounds.
2. Phones that are confiscated will only be returned to parents/carers. A text will be sent to the parent to notify them. The phone will be stored in a secure place until it is collected.
3. The restriction is in place at all times while students are in the grounds of the school, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be put away before students enter the school gates and not accessed **until they have left the site**.
4. Students will be able to contact home by approaching Pastoral Managers or reception in emergencies if they require to speak with you.
5. We will ensure that any important messages are relayed to your child through the day if you leave a message at reception
6. Students who refuse to hand the phone over to a member of staff will be placed in Internal Exclusion (IE) for the day and the phone will still be confiscated until parent/carer collects.

If you would like to view the government statutory guidance on searching and confiscation, please see here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/674416/Searching\\_screening\\_and\\_confiscation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf)

We would ask that you further discuss this with your child over the next few days and we require your trust and support to make this a successful transition. If you have any questions regarding this update in policy, please contact the school.

We are giving students half a term's notice of this policy so they can be well prepared to comply with it when they return for Term 5.

**To be clear:** we are not banning phones completely and students can still have their phones as they travel to and from school. There may also be a clear educational use for devices in some lessons. Where this is the case their use will be carefully planned and monitored by the classroom teacher. However, we anticipate this to be a rare event. We have plenty of computers and portable devices which we can issue if students need this facility. The use of phones as calculators in lessons will be strictly prohibited.

## **GCSE Mock Exam information for Year 11 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

In just over two months' time the actual GCSE exams will be taking place. The outcome of these exams will play a large part in determining what the students are able to do in the next stage of their education, training or employment.

The new GCSE courses are very demanding qualifications. Coursework and controlled assessments have been removed from most subjects which has resulted in 100% of marks available, being awarded for performance in the May/June examinations. Mock exams are now more important than ever. Your child needs to prepare for the mock exams as if they were the real thing so that they can get an accurate picture of how they are performing. They will also provide teachers with an accurate indication of how your children are performing so that they can support them with effective intervention.

### **Arrangement for the mocks:**

For the reasons outline above, the mocks are crucial preparation for the GCSEs in May. We have therefore organised them in the following way to replicate the GCSE exam conditions as closely as possible:

- The mock exams will run from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**.
- Exams will take place in the sports hall unless students are entitled to a reader, scribe or additional time.
- Real 'Exam Conditions' will be enforced. Students who break exam rules on talking, mobile phones etc. may not be entered for exams in the summer.
- Students must arrive promptly to all exams and line up quietly outside the exam room.
- When the exam has finished. Students will be dismissed from the exam room and will return to their normal timetabled lesson.
- All equipment will be provided.

## **Drop down day**

On 25th March, CRA students and staff will embark on their second citizenship/PSHE drop down day.

Year 11 will be doing a Maths and Science revision carousel with support of DRET Lead for Maths and Head of Science.

Year 10 will be based at the Academy doing a multi-agency day including workshops in Anti-Social Behaviour, alcohol and drugs, internet safety and fire safety run by LCC.

Year 9 will be polishing their shoes and ironing their uniform in anticipation of their visit to the Houses of Parliament.

Year 8 are off to broaden their horizons in Hull on their visit to The Deep.

Year 7 are having an aspirational day out at Nottingham University, learning about further education.

## **Tassomai**

This year our science department has organised for Y10 and Y11 GCSE exam students to have access to Tassomai for a period of 5 weeks, in preparation for examinations.

Tassomai is an online learning programme which uses the educational principles of spacing, interleaving and targeted repetition to help students improve their grades. It works by spreading their learning into bite-sized chunks over as long a period of time as possible. As students answer questions the site begins to learn where their strengths and weaknesses are, allowing the site to target specific gaps in their knowledge - but also making it easier for our teachers to see where your child might need some extra help.

Students can use Tassomai on any internet enabled device, and there's an app which is completely free to download from both the Appstore and the Playstore.

To find out more about Tassomai we'd recommend watching this video. You can also visit their website [www.tassomai.com](http://www.tassomai.com) or get in touch with them by emailing [admin@tassomai.com](mailto:admin@tassomai.com) or calling 020 3380 7968.

Please can you support and encourage your son/daughter to engage with the software and complete the assigned units.

## Table Tennis Scholar at Charles Read Academy to Represent the GB Para Team



**8th FEBRUARY 2019:** Table tennis scholar, Dylan Tynan, from Charles Read Academy in Corby Glen, has been selected to represent Great Britain as part of the Para Team at the Spanish Open in Costa Brava in March. Dylan, a Year 10 pupil at the school, which is part of the David Ross Education Trust, has been involved in the British Para Table Tennis setup for over two years but this is his first International cap.

Dylan has Myotonia Congenita which restricts the movement of his skeletal muscles which causes him to experience severe muscular tension which can lead to limited movement patterns. This can affect him in his everyday life and becomes even more challenging when he trains and competes.

On receiving his selection letter Dylan said: "Joining the Table Tennis Performance Centre at Charles Read Academy has meant I have been able to access more regular, elite training at school. It has developed my game to the next level, allowing me to now compete on an international stage."

Shane Ward, Head of Sports Enrichment for the David Ross Education Trust, added: "It is great to see our performance programme having the desired outcome and allowing our students to reach their full potential, alongside their academic studies. This is the third year the programme has been running and Dylan's success and progression is another highlight for us. The hard work of the school, coaches and most importantly Dylan are clear for all to see."

## I Am Making Moves!

We were fortunate to be able welcome Christian Mba to the Academy who is responsible for an outreach programme for Leicester University. He also delivered a motivational speech to students in Years 10 and 11 about taking responsibility for yourself and 'making moves' - in other words always 'be up to something' and shaping your future positively. Students were enthused by his motivational speech and many said that his key messages had really resonated with them.

