



## Corfe Hills Connection

*Learning today for a better tomorrow*

**A word from James Sankey, Headteacher**

*February 2025*

The spring term has started positively, with students focused on upcoming exams and future plans. The start of term also saw the introduction of several changes to our rewards, behaviour and detention systems to support students to make positive choices so that they maximise time in lessons. Feedback from students, parents and staff has been overwhelmingly positive and we are incredibly grateful to parents who have taken the time to provide feedback during our recent parent focus groups. You will also be aware of the work we have been doing on attendance through recent surveys as part of an ImpactEd project. We are incredibly grateful for the engagement of parents and students in this project, and we look forward to sharing the feedback from this next half term. Alongside these changes and all the regular spring term activities we have also been managing the transition to Arbor, our new management information system. We are looking forward to introducing more features to continue to improve communication between home and school in the coming weeks. We are incredibly grateful for the strong partnership between home and school as we work together to support our students to thrive in all they do.

Looking back over the half term, Year 13 have completed their mock exams and are using teacher feedback to maximize their learning before the final exams whilst Year 11 are mid-way through second set of mocks. Year 10 are finalising plans for their work experience placements which take place in the final two weeks before Easter.



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Following a well-attended GCSE options evening earlier this month, Year 9 students are now finalising their GCSE subjects. We are proud to offer a wide range of academic and vocational subjects to support students' interests and ambitions. The spring term is proving to be a busy and productive one, and we look forward to seeing the students' hard work pay off in the coming months.

There has also been a huge amount going on outside the classroom with a particular highlight being the excellent performance by our students in the annual Dance Live competition which took place at the end of January in Portsmouth. Congratulations to all involved for securing the best concept award. The PE department have also enjoyed a successful few weeks. Our boys' badminton team achieved a commendable 2nd place finish in the Dorset competition, while the girls' team secured a respectable 4th place at the Dorset netball qualifiers. In football, both the Year 10 and Year 11 boys' teams have demonstrated their skills and teamwork, progressing to the semi-finals of the PEDDSA Cup.

We look forward to seeing all students after the half term break on Monday 24 February 2024. In the meantime, I hope you are able to enjoy some family time over the half term break.

# Dance Live



Dance Live took place at Portsmouth Guildhall on Monday 27 January. A group of students attended from Corfe Hills, lead by Hayley in Year 11. The group were amazing and were placed third. We have not been in the top 3 in many years and the students were elated. They also won best concept.



Congratulations to all those involved on an incredible achievement.

# Poetry Live

Students in Years 9, 10, and 11 joined us for *Poetry Live!* and were excited to see performances from Imtiaz Dhaker, Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, and most notably, John Agard, to name a few. They enjoyed poetry readings from both their GCSE collection and wider and sometimes more personal poetic choices from the hosts. John Agard's *Stoics of the Kitchen* was a particular highlight, and many students commented on how impressed they were by the passion effused by the speakers on the day.



[Home page](#) | [About the events](#) | [Bookings](#) | [Our Founder](#) | [Contact](#) | [Competition](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

## EVENTS 2024/2025

LONDON: 22.1.24

**BOURNEMOUTH: 20.1.25**

BIRMINGHAM: 21.1.25

IPSWICH: 22.1.25

NOTTINGHAM: 23.1.25

NORTHAMPTON: 28.1.25

MANCHESTER: 29.1.25

LONDON: 30.1.25

HARROGATE: 31.1.25

BRIGHTON: 3.2.25

BATH: 5.2.25

PETERBOROUGH: 6.2.25

BRADFORD: 7.2.25

OXFORD: 10.2.25

BRISTOL: 12.2.25

BASINGSTOKE: 26.2.25

LONDON: 27.2.25

## Bournemouth: 20.1.25

Monday 20th January 2025

10.45am to 3.00pm

**Pavilion**

Examiner:

Tony Childs, or Peter Buckroyd

[Book now](#)

### The Poets appearing on the day



Simon Armitage



John Agard



Carol Ann Duffy



Imtiaz Dharker



Daljit Nagra



Owen Sheers

# An Inspector Calls

Year 11 students joined the English Department to see *An Inspector Calls* on Wednesday at The Mayflower in Southampton. We could not be prouder of their representation of Corfe Hills School and wish them all the best of luck in their upcoming mock examination on this play.

Thank you to all the staff who accompanied students on the trip and enabled the English Literature curriculum to come to life.

**Mayflower**



**An Inspector Calls**

## Stationery

Please don't forget to check your child's ParentPay account and pay any outstanding 'Learning to the Max' stationery charges.

Thank you

# Sixth Form



45 Sixth Form students will brave the cold in March and sleep outside to raise money and awareness for the YMCA Sleep Easy Homeless charity. We are raising money for people homeless in and around our local area. This is the second year we have participated in this and we are really looking forward to another very successful event!

**YMCA**

Here for young people  
Here for communities  
Here for you

# Badminton – Key Stage 4

Following on from the success of the boys team winning the Poole and East Dorset Badminton competition, they went onto play in the County Championships. The team did extremely well, coming second and narrowly missing out on the regional championships against a tough Sherborne team.

We are so proud of Jude, Noah, Luca and Ed. A special mention to Ed, who is still undefeated. Well done!

The organisers from England Badminton were so impressed they are exploring opportunities to come and support our students here at Corfe Hills... watch this space!



# Netball



The Year 10 netball A team battled it out in the State School County Championships. They did amazingly well, playing some very tough opponents. They came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the county! Well done girls.



The Year 9 teams played one of their final games of the season this year against Blandford. The girls have really enjoyed making new friends, learning new skills and being part of our netball community. Well done to all who have taken part this year, showing dedication and commitment to the club. We are proud of you and can't wait for next season. Bring it on!

# Product Design – Year 9



## Year 9 Students Light Up Design Technology with Innovative Projects

The Design Technology department has been buzzing with creativity as more of our Year 9 students completed their Lighting Cube projects, showcasing an impressive blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern manufacturing techniques.

Working with precision and care, students first developed their design concepts using computer-aided design (CAD) software, learning valuable digital skills that are essential in modern manufacturing. These designs were then brought to life using our department's laser cutter, where students watched their intricate patterns take shape in plywood panels. The project particularly came alive in the workshop, where students demonstrated excellent hand skills in measuring, marking out, and constructing their cube frames.

The completed lighting cubes now proudly illuminate our Design Technology display area, demonstrating the impressive capabilities of our Year 9 students as they prepare for their GCSE options.

# Product Design – Year 10



## Year 10 Students Excel in Desk Tidy Design Project

Our Year 10 GCSE Product Design students have recently completed an impressive project that perfectly demonstrates their growing mastery of both traditional workshop skills and modern computer-aided design (CAD). The challenge to design and manufacture functional desk tidies has allowed students to experience the complete design journey, from initial concept through to final product.

The finished products showcase an impressive range of skills, with students utilizing industry-standard CAD software before bringing their designs to life in the workshop. These pieces, which were displayed at the Year 9 options evening, serve as excellent examples of how GCSE Product Design combines creativity, technical skill, and practical problem-solving in preparing students for future careers in design and engineering.

# Product Design – Year 11

## Hands-On Innovation: Students Bring Design Dreams to Life

In the bustling workshops of our Design & Technology department, Year 11 students are transforming their NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) projects from mere concepts to tangible realities. This year's cohort is demonstrating an impressive blend of digital innovation and traditional craftsmanship that brings their design visions to life.

The workshop buzzes with activity as students rotate through various stations:

- Precision cutting on the laser cutter
- Intricate woodworking techniques
- Metal forming and shaping
- 3D printing prototypes
- Advanced material finishing processes

## More Than Just a Project

This NEA is more than just an academic exercise. It's a transformative experience that combines technical skill, creative thinking, and problem-solving. Each student is developing a unique project that reflects their individual design philosophy while meeting the rigorous AQA Design & Technology specification requirements.

As the project progresses, these Year 11 students are proving that Design & Technology is where creativity meets technical excellence.



# Author Visit - Joanna Quinn



Corfe Hills welcomed Joanna Quinn, bestselling author of *The Whalebone Theatre*.

It was our pleasure this week to welcome Joanna Quinn, who came in to talk to students about her creative writing process and the success of her debut novel *The Whalebone Theatre*. As a Dorset based writer, students were keen to ask Joanna about how the Dorset setting of her novel influenced the story and were delighted to hear that our local landscape is now becoming famous as her book is being sold in multiple countries worldwide.

She shared how her choice of A'levels and her jobs at the Bournemouth Echo and the RNLI helped to shape her as a writer. Joanna's warm personality was evident and she was very modest about her book being chosen for Queen Camilla's book club 'The Reading Room' and Jenna Bush Hagers's influential book club in America. We don't get many guests in the LRC who have appeared on the Today Show!

We would like to thank Joanna for giving up her time so willingly and for her encouraging support to all our creative writers and avid readers. Imogen, Student Literacy Officer commented, 'It was an amazing opportunity to meet and speak to an award winning author. It was really helpful, informative and truly inspirational for me to meet Joanna.'



# Books We Love

We've added a pop of colour this month to the LRC to share some of the books we love.

Don't worry these aren't all traditional romance novels, they cover a wide range of genres and themes.

Following recent National Literacy Trust research that

shows a decline in young people reading for pleasure we would love to highlight the many benefits of enjoying a good book.

It's a fun, cost free activity and can improve a young person's confidence, empathy and mental health wellbeing. Dedicating 10 minutes a day to reading a book you enjoy can make a huge difference! For book recommendations head to the LRC.

## Year 11 – Go Karting

A group of year 11s had a great time go-karting after school this half term. Lots of them have already asked me to arrange another trip, so I'm sorry to any parents who are likely to be nagged for money to go again in the future!



# Short Story Competition

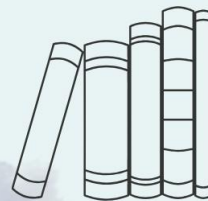
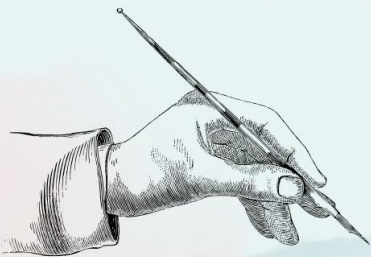
## Student Short Story Competition!

To celebrate World Book Day and our love  
for words at Corfe Hills School...

**Free entry to all year groups**

**Judged by a panel of students and staff**

**Share your creative stories with us -  
PRIZES for the best entries!!!**



**Please submit your short story to  
[slynch@corfehills.net](mailto:slynch@corfehills.net) or hand it  
into the LRC by Friday 14th March**

**GOOD LUCK!**



# Social Media



@CorfeHillsSchool

@CorfeHillsSchool



@CorfeHills



**Keep in the loop of what is going on at Corfe Hills School!**

Spread the great work CHS students and staff do by sharing CHS posts on social media or/and letting friends and family know of our school events!



## Corfe Hills School

High Expectations | Exceptional Individuals

### Friends of Corfe Hills – PTA Second-hand uniform to buy



Blazer	£10.00
Hoodie	£7.00
Jumper	£5.00
Trousers	£2.00
Skirt	£2.00
Sports shorts*	£5.00
Sports tops *	£5.00
<u>Girls</u> leggings*	£5.00
<u>Boys</u> tracksuit bottoms*	£5.00
White shirts	Free
Socks	Free



For enquiries, please email [pta@corfehills.net](mailto:pta@corfehills.net)

#### Uniform Donations

If you have outgrown uniform items, please recycle them by donating these to **The Friends of Corfe Hills - PTA**  
(Please ensure it is washed beforehand)

**Money raised will be put to good use by the PTA!**

Uniform will be sold via social media, email and second-hand uniform sales at school.

**\*Please note that only current Year 10 and 11's can continue with the existing PE kit.**

If you would like to enquire about second-hand uniform, that the PTA already has, please email [pta@corfehills.net](mailto:pta@corfehills.net)