

# NEWSLETTER

*"Wretched excess is an unfortunate human trait that turns a perfectly good idea such as Christmas into a frenzy of last-minute shopping."*

*Jon Anderson, singer-songwriter*

Week 13 2023-24

## CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN



# BERLIN CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Over the final weekend of November 28 of our students went to explore Christmas German style!

We headed off to Berlin to explore the various Christmas markets on offer, we explored local history and culture including a walking tour to see the Berlin cathedral, Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag Building, the Brandenburg Gate, and the Berlin Wall.

We had a stop in Brussels for an afternoon where students had the chance to explore the city for a few hours, and a massive well done to all students for dealing so well with the hiccups on the way home.



Interesting seasonal fact: some of Germany's existing Christmas markets trace their origins as far back as the 15th and 16th centuries. Dresden's market first opened for one day on Christmas Eve in 1434.

# MASTERMIND FINAL

CATS Cambridge held the final round of its Annual Mastermind Competition last week, with staff and students facing off from each other in a fast-paced question and answer game.

Ably hosted by Phil Bond, and organized by Jody, the competition saw the entire student body sitting and standing in the hub to watch the game unfold.

All contestants showed spirit but there can only be one winner. Well done Manuela, coming in 1<sup>st</sup> place with an outstanding 13 points on her chosen subject of “Harry Styles – The man going in One Direction”.



# CIFE CHRISTMAS COLLEGE CHALLENGE

On Saturday 8 students were selected to go to St Mary's University in London to put their general knowledge to the test against 14 other school teams.

It was an intense day with approximately 4 hours of quizzing. Both teams did well but came just short of the top 3 places. We will be practicing from early on in the year to bring the trophy back to CATS Cambridge!



# cife

## UPCOMING MAJOR PUBLIC LECTURES IN CAMBRIDGE

Commencing January 2024, the Major Public Lectures in Cambridge begins, inviting anyone who wishes to attend and expand their knowledge on their range of subject talks.

Scheduled for the evenings, so any student can attend, they are offering insightful lectures on Genetics, History, Politics, Philosophy, Neuroscience, Art, Medicine and more.

This will be a great opportunity for CATS Cambridge students to widen their curriculum knowledge and gain an understanding of the research that is taking place at Cambridge University. The entire series of lectures is listed on the KPP board in the Hub, and you can access the list on their website at:

<https://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/5462>





# WICKED

On Wednesday students headed to the Apollo Victoria theatre in London to watch Wicked the Musical.

This musical show is a loose adaptation of the 1995 Gregory Maguire novel "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West", which is based on L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." It is told from the perspective of two witches of the Land of Oz and We are currently looking into what shows will be on offer for students to go and watch in the new year so stay tuned..

Interesting fact: Wicked is the 11th longest running show in West End history, seen by 11 million people in London alone.



## Yet to Come

**Phil Harwood,  
Vice Principal**

As we approach the Christmas holidays, festivities and looking forward to a well-deserved break preoccupy us. For many, looming exams in the spring term can cast a shadow over this time of year.

In "A Christmas Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a journey guided by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. We can embark on our own journey of self-discovery during the Christmas holidays, using the time wisely to both unwind and prepare for upcoming exams.

The Ghost of Christmas Past reminds us to reflect on the term gone by. Take a moment to review your study habits and identify areas for improvement. Did procrastination get the better of you? Use this holiday season to break free from old habits and establish a more effective study routine.

The Ghost of Christmas Present highlights the importance of living in the moment. So, whilst enjoying your time off, make a conscious effort to relax and recharge. Engage in activities that bring joy and peace, whether it's spending time with family, playing sports, chilling with Netflix and a bubble tea. A rested mind is a mind better equipped to tackle challenges of the coming term.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come encourages us to plan for the future. Create a realistic study schedule for the holiday break, allocating dedicated time for exam preparation. Break down topics into manageable chunks, making it easier to absorb and retain information. Connect Dickens' themes of redemption and generosity with your own journey and consider organising study groups to share knowledge and support each other, embodying the spirit of giving and collaboration.

By heeding the lessons from "A Christmas Carol," you can strike a balance between enjoying your holiday and academic readiness. Embrace the joy of the season, reflect on the past, live in the present, and plan for a successful future.

**Interesting seasonal fact:** according to YouGov, the most watched Christmas movie of all time is "Home Alone". "Die Hard" doesn't count apparently.