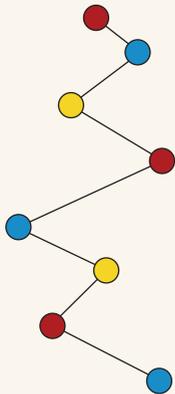


# HIGHER ATTAINMENT AT CHENEY SCHOOL

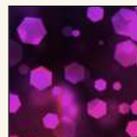


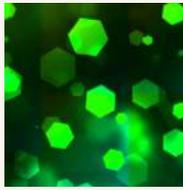
# HIGHER ATTAINMENT AT CHENEY SCHOOL

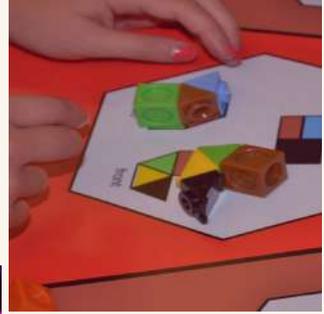
As a comprehensive, Cheney is committed to developing the talents of all its students. We believe in recognising the widest breadth of student achievement. We know that different students develop different gifts at different times in their education. We offer a curriculum which fosters creativity, academic rigour and independent thought, to help students discover their talents as they move through the school. If you have any questions about Higher Attainment, please feel very welcome to contact our Higher Attainers' Co-ordinator, Mr David Gimson at [dgi@cheney.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:dgi@cheney.oxon.sch.uk)

## TOP UNIVERSITY SUCCESS

Thirty-two Cheney students have won places at Oxbridge in the last six years. Around 40% of our students who choose university courses go to Russell Group universities. We provide a specialised programme of support for students aiming for the most competitive universities and for professions such as Medicine, Law, and Architecture.







## MATHS

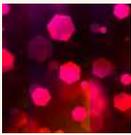
In 2017, Cheney School had one of the highest sets of GCSE results in the city of Oxford. A significantly higher percentage than nationally achieved the highest grade, 9, as well as grades 7-9. The new GCSE Mathematics curriculum is designed to be much more challenging than previous curricula, giving Higher tier students the opportunity both to study a number of topics that were previously taught at A Level and to apply mathematics to more difficult problems.

In recent years, the Mathematics faculty has been involved in a range of extra-curricular enrichment activities, in and out of school. High achieving students from all years are given the opportunity to enter a national Maths Challenge competition. We have also run trips for high attaining Mathematics students, including very recently a visit to the University of Oxford for A Level Further Mathematics students for an afternoon about complex numbers.

## SCIENCE

Whether taking part in the Year 7 or 9 Science Fair, attending Year 8 science club, visiting the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, completing exciting work experience placements in cutting edge labs, competing in Olympiads and Royal Society challenges, listening to visiting lecturers or joining staff at Oxford University lectures and open days, students at Cheney School are challenged to extend and develop their curiosity and scientific thinking. All higher attaining Year 10 and 11 students also study Separate Sciences, broadening their experience of STEM subjects and encouraging them to study sciences Post-16.



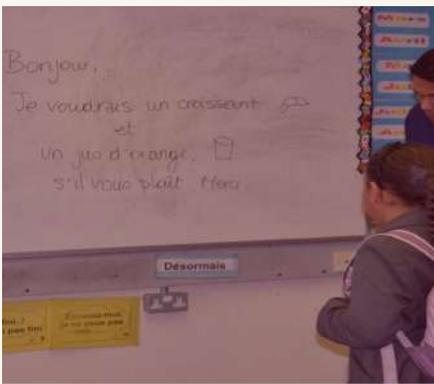


## ENGLISH

The new English curriculums for both GCSE and A Level are designed to be more challenging and offer greater scope for engagement with texts from the literary canon, including strong emphasis on 19th century English literature at Key Stage 4. To help prepare students, particularly the more able students, for this more rigorous academic environment, we have completely re-modelled our English curriculum at all Key Stages, creating a far greater emphasis on students crafting a critical response to texts and maintaining a more detached, academic writing style. In addition to this, we will continue to offer a range of enrichment opportunities, building on previous visits and workshops with well-known authors, such as Philip Pullman, Helen Cross, Malorie Blackman and Julia Golding.

## LANGUAGES

Cheney prides itself on its range of international events, and the sixty-three languages spoken within the school. Students can study two languages (from French, German, Latin and Spanish) to GCSE – and there are currently forty students pursuing Languages at A Level. Linguists can take part in numerous languages events, such as theatre and cinema trips, exchanges and residential visits abroad (France, Germany and Spain). Our students also take part in Literature Master Class lessons organised by Oxford University.





## HUMANITIES

The Humanities department offers a wide variety of opportunities. At A Level, students attend lectures from a range of experts eg Philosophy lectures by Oxford University professors and talks by world experts about the crusades and Magna Carta. Residential field trips have run regularly including to Morocco and Sicily for Geographers and World Developers. Our sixth form have attended various live recordings at the Oxford Union for Al Jazeera's 'Head to Head' and recently hosted an interesting panel talk about differing opinions in the Middle East. At GCSE, students are also offered enriching opportunities such as being mentored by Oxford University undergraduates, or participating in a residential fieldtrip to Exmoor. At KS3 we offer a variety of trips and visits eg exploring our local religious institutions and venturing further afield to Lulworth Cove and the National Gallery as well as the chance to take part in the city-wide 'Worldwise' quiz.

## MUSIC

We were recently treated to a night of musical excellence at the CheneyVision Summer Show. Performances ranged from the orchestra, youth choir, instrumental solos and duets to vocal soloists and students who had written their own songs. The night culminated in an Awards ceremony with students being awarded for their musical excellence along with the presentation of our prefect badges for the department. Cheney School boasts both a fifty strong orchestra and choir with students from all year groups. They perform regularly at music concerts and all school events, and will also be heading off on tour next year to Europe. Alongside this, Music continues to be an exciting and growing area of school life with a large choir, music technology facilities, a recording studio and numerous opportunities for students to perform. Exam results are excellent and we are able to offer both Music and Music Technology courses. Recent exam results saw the 2016 A Level cohort achieving 100% A\* - B grades and the 2017 GCSE cohort achieving more than 30% A\* - A grades. The Music department is led by Miss Lucy Jackson along with Mr Jonathan Barquilla. We also have a host of visiting per teachers covering all instruments for private lessons through the Oxfordshire County Music Service and private tutors.





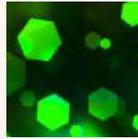
## CLASSICS

Cheney offers Latin and Classical Civilisation to GCSE and A Level. It also offers Greek GCSE as a lunch time club. It is unique in hosting the Iris Community Classics Centre, which offers a wide range of story-telling, language-learning and ancient world discovery events and festivals for Cheney students and local people. TV historian Professor Mary Beard, Scientist Professor Robert Winston and poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy have all performed recently at festivals, and themed days on Mythology, Roman Medicine and Ancient Astronomy have been run in recent years. The Centre also offers projects ranging from mosaics, Roman textiles and sundial carving to ancient cookery, and regular trips to places such as Bath and Hadrian's Wall. On February 9 2018 our annual community festival will take place, the Festival of Imagined Worlds, exploring how ancient myths have inspired fantasy fiction. The school will be themed on authors such as JRR Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and J.K. Rowling, and nine different novelists will speak to students and community audiences. Each year, Cheney students are actively involved in designing and running activities for these events, and they provide great opportunity for leadership, creativity and engagement with the wider community.

## COMPETITIVE DEBATING

Cheney is one of the strongest schools in the country in competitive debating. In 2015, Lydia Day and Sarah Vickers won the English Speaking Union Debating Mace coming first out of 350 schools in England. Holly Napier and Anne Kimunguyi built on this achievement in 2016 by winning the South-East region in this competition. Leonard Cowee and Barnaby Evans won the MCS Oxfordshire Debating competition in 2016. Cheney won the Oxfordshire Mock Magistrates' Competition in 2015 and reached the National Finals in 2017. There are very active student-led debating groups across the school, supported by Oxford Union coaches.





## SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Cheney School has county successes in a wide range of sports including basketball, football, rowing and cross-country. Each year we see students represent the South of England in basketball and rugby, and take part in national swimming and rowing competitions. During the summer we had students go to Loughborough University, to take part in rugby national talent identification programmes. The school embraces the need to work in partnership with other sporting organisations and currently we are a designated water sports hub, working closely with Falcon Rowing and Kayaking club. Students in Core PE have a fantastic array of facilities and equipment available to them, including an Astro Turf, badminton courts, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a spinning room, fitness suite, dance studio, squash courts and climbing wall (shared with Oxford Brookes). The school runs the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and offers a variety of competitive and recreational clubs, including pilates and strength and conditioning workshops. In April 2017 the department ran a ski trip where students continued to broaden their experiences.

## DT & COMPUTING

In DT & Computing we have a range of After School clubs aimed at students who would like to extend their skills beyond what the curriculum requires. There is a Textiles Club run by one of our Textile teachers and a Robotics club run jointly with the Science department, and a KS3 After School club in Computing. Computing also invites specialist speakers every year, from Oxford University and industry, to come and deliver talks to all students.

The annual trip to Cardiff's Innovations Award Show will take place in October, with our GCSE and A Level students, as well as a trip to the Design Museum open to Year 8s and A Level students. This year we are adding a local designer/maker to our guest speakers, to come and talk to our students about his journey as a designer.



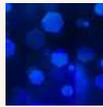


## RUMBLE MUSEUM

The Rumble Museum at Cheney is a unique partnership between an educational charity and a school. The Iris Project, a charity which promotes learning about the ancient world, is working with Cheney School to grow a museum within a school. We are working within the Arts Council Museum Accreditation Scheme. The Museum is named after Jamie Rumble, a young man who devoted his life to improving the lives of young people. The Museum is spread across various areas of the school, and features original and replica artefacts from a range of eras. Our original artefacts form our official collection, and these are mostly found in the Library. Students can view artefacts dating to the mesolithic era, such as arrow heads and scraper tools. We have a large collection of Greek and Roman objects, including pottery, glass and coins. We have 19th century medical items such as a syringe and a beautiful apothecary cabinet. We also have a number of World War One and Two items.

We run a wide range of projects, events, workshops and exhibitions, both for Cheney students and the wider community. You can find out more about these by exploring the website at [www.rumblemuseum.org.uk](http://www.rumblemuseum.org.uk)





## ART

Cheney's Art Department continues to be one of the most beautiful areas of the school, but the relaxing atmosphere belies the hard work and creative energy which goes into the brilliant GCSE and A Level Art exhibitions, community events like the Winter Lights, and collaborations with Modern Art Oxford, OVADA and Magdalen Arts Festival. We put a lot of emphasis on the development of studio practice and personal development of ideas and offer many opportunities to make links with artists and galleries.

## INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

Visitors are very welcome to our Extended Projects Presentation evening in December – there will be talks on the value of space exploration, rewilding the British countryside, the use of viruses in vaccines, the reasons why the Egyptian Revolution failed, the pros and cons of introducing a Universal Basic Income, and other topics which students have spent 100 hours researching independently.



