



Think for yourself, act for others

Mr Moreton - Head of School

09 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you and your families have had a restful break. We are looking forward to another excellent year in 2019.

Firstly, very good luck to all of our Sixth Form students who are taking their mock exams in the first 2 weeks of this term.

It was amazing to see the generosity of our community, both in contributions and in time given - thank you. The Cheney Open Kitchens on the 27th of December and 3rd of January were very well supported by students, parents and staff. The contributions the school received were fantastic (see pictures below) and have all been donated to a number of charities through the Oxford Foodbank. Going forward we would like to continue the Cheney community events during the long holidays with some ideas of disco, talent shows and sports events all with a meal for all parents, students and staff who can attend. We will start our planning for Easter and the summer holidays in the next couple of weeks so all suggestions and ideas are welcome.



Between the 21 and 25 January we will be welcoming some Chinese students to our school to experience life at Cheney. There will be 30 students split across Key Stage 3 and they will be joining lessons right across the curriculum. The aim is for Cheney students to learn from our visiting students, build up links across the world, learn about different cultures and countries as well as generate some income for the school. Additionally, we will be looking to set up exchange visits in the near future so our young people can gain a similar experience in other countries to those visiting us.

Over the Christmas holiday we moved to a new management information system (Arbor) to streamline some of our school processes and save time for our teaching staff. The new system also has benefits for our parent community including a parent portal which will allow you to log on and see your child's achievement/behaviour points, book parents' evening slots, give consent for trips and visits and see your child's timetable. We will share access to the new portal in the coming weeks. Because of this move, SLG (our old parent portal) is no longer showing live data. Whilst you will be able to log on, what you can see is not real time. Please bear with us whilst we prepare the new portal.

Some key dates for your diary for this half term:

- Year 11 have their Parents' Evening on Thursday 17 January. We will also have a Sixth Form subject road show during the evening so families can talk to sixth form students about the subjects on offer and get an idea of the kind of content covered.

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- On Thursday 24 January we will host a Year 8 Options Evening where you can hear about the options process and talk to teachers of each of the GCSE options on offer before making GCSE choices. We shared the Options Booklet this week, and [it can also be found here](#)
- On Wednesday 30 January we will have a parent information evening for KS4 and KS5 parents - this will focus on how to prepare students for exams.
- Thursday 7 February is Year 8 Parents' Evening - this is a great opportunity for families to talk to subject teachers about options subjects as well as hear about students general progress in all subjects.
- Wednesday 15 February is Year 7 celebration evening - a chance to hear about the successes in year 7 so far after a very positive start to secondary school life.
- On Friday 15 February our Year 11 prom committee are organising a year 7 disco with all funds going towards their end of year prom - we will share more information nearer the time.
- Friday 15 February - Applications close for Sixth Form Entry 2019. If you need support with applications please don't hesitate to contact the Sixth Form or Year 11 team. [The application form can be found here](#)
- School will finish for half term on Friday 15 February.
- Monday 25 February - Year 8 options submission are due.

As the exam season fast approaches, if you have a child taking exams, I ask you to be mindful of the pressures and stresses on our young people. If you need any support or guidance on how to help them cope, please do get in touch with your year team. We will also be posting support documents on our website over the coming months and organising a study skills session for parents/carers and students on 30 January - more information to follow.

Finally, the terms dates for 2019/2020 are now available [here](#).

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Best regards,

Mr Rupert Moreton
Head of School