



## Head

Rupert Moreton, BA, MA, M.Ed

*Think for yourself, act for others*

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a year we have had where, once again, our school and students have continued to shine in our local community and beyond. The achievements, events and projects that our young people are given the opportunity to take part in, or organise, are building them as confident individuals ready to take on their next steps - whether that's their next school year, sixth form, college, university or a gap year. It makes me proud each day to say I lead such an inspiring school.

The positive reputation of Cheney continues to grow locally, and this is down to our young people who are a testament to the school and the staff who work so hard on a daily basis. Evidence of this is the fact that we are significantly oversubscribed and have over 60 on the waiting list for Year 7. Some of the key highlights this year include:

- In Modern Foreign Languages, there was a very successful French exchange to Grenoble, the start of a long and positive relationship between the two schools, and also a fantastic Creative Translation Workshop run by Oxford University.
- Humanities highlights of the year include the Year 8 independent History project and Geography posters and our Year 10 Geographers experiencing some rigorous fieldwork at Milford-on-Sea!
- In English, some of our Year 8 students took part in an 'Extreme Reading Adventure' with The Story Museum which included workshops with published rapper and poet Karl Nova, comic book artist Zak Simmons and an exciting trip to the Pitt Rivers Museum. We were also extremely proud of a number of our students whose poems were selected to go on display in Headington Hill Park earlier this year as part of a 'Poems in the Park' project.
- Maths highlights include a recent trip to the Museum of Science in which Year 7 and 8 students learned about how geometry was used in the past to solve problems in navigation. We also saw a number of individual successes in the UKMT Maths Challenge.
- The Creative Arts highlights were the drama performances in *Are You Afraid of the Dark*, the *City as Studio* Film Project with Modern Art Oxford (with screenings at the Ultimate Picture Palace and Modern Art Oxford) and the music team's *A Night at Glastonbury* - we can only apologise for the staff act - if you missed it [you can see it here](#).
- In Design and Technology, four industrious Year 7 students, along with Miss Allison and Mr Williams, attended the 'Race for the Line' National final at the Imperial War Museum Duxford, Cambridge where 'THE JETS' competed with 59 other schools from across the country. The aerodynamic shape of the car and laser cut, lightweight wheels went through a rigorous quality assurance process and passed with flying colours! The cars were raced with rocket motors and our car reached an astonishing speed of 87.04mph and was placed 10th out of 60 cars. We also had a visit from a group of Architecture Ambassadors as part of the RIBA Architecture Schools Programme. The team worked with our Year 9 Product Design students, who produced highly creative tree houses in a very exciting workshop.
- Science has had a busy year and in March many students had an out-of-this-world experience when they had the chance to see some samples of lunar material collected by Apollo astronauts in the 1970s, while handling and investigating real meteorites, thanks to the "Borrow The Moon" scheme. Then in June our Year 12 Physics students travelled to Switzerland to visit the largest machine that humans have ever built - the Large Hadron Collider at CERN - to learn about how particle physics is done and the many ways it has changed our world.
- In PE we were proud to have the highest number of County Champion titles: nine across Football and Basketball. We also enjoyed running Active leaders, Swim leaders and Football leaders, hosting primary festivals for all the primary feeder schools.
- From the Rumble Museum and the Classics Centre came the Natural History Festival, the Dionysia Festival, Women's Suffrage events, World War One and Alumni Collection Afternoons, the Dystopia

# Cheney School

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Competition and Evening and the Dragonfly Public Art Project Installation, all of which have enriched and engaged our community.

- Lucky Year 10s were also invited to an exciting Sixth Form Taster Day to help them understand their options after GCSEs a little more and then went off on their Work Experience visits all across the city and beyond.
- Finally, we had two touching Leavers' Assemblies, saying goodbye to our Year 11s and Year 13s and enjoying looking back on the memories of their time here at Cheney.

We have had a large number of students take exams over the past few months. This is a very high pressured time for the students and we have been humbled by their behaviour, commitment and attitude during this time. They have taken on the exams in a mature way, giving them the dedication they require, and I have no doubt that this will shine through on results day. I would like to wish all students every success on their results days in August - and look forward to celebrating with many of them. However, it is important to remember that exam results are not "the be all and end all". We will support all of our students to plan for an appropriate pathway post results.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that full contact details of each year group's new pastoral team are now live on our website, following the letter which we sent out earlier this year - [you can see it here](#). From September, the staff listed in this letter, and on the relevant year page on the website, will be your main points of contact for your child(ren)'s year group.

From September, the cost of a hot meal from the canteen will increase from £1.80 to £2.00. This price increase is as a result of rising prices from our suppliers - we have held off rising prices for 7 years.

Finally, Cheney wouldn't be the place it is without our dedicated staff community. With over 250 staff members, there are always leavers. I would like to say thank you, and good luck to all those who are leaving us this July and wish them every success with their next steps. If you would like to say a special thanks to any particular member of our staff community, [you can do so here](#).

I look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back in September. Year 7 and 12 students will be starting on Monday 2 September at 8.30am and we welcome the rest of our students on Tuesday 3 September at 8.30am.

Thank you, once again. None of this would be possible without the dedication of you as parents/carers.

Wishing you a safe and restful summer break. If you have any concerns over the break, you can [use this leaflet](#) as a guide about what actions you should take.

Kind regards

Mr Moreton  
Head of School