



**Head**

Rupert Moreton, BA, MA, M.Ed

*Think for yourself, act for others*

## Ms Hackett, Head of Sixth Form

23 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### Year 13 - Term 1 Update

It's been a long first term but we are almost there! Highlights from the first term include:

- Year 12s and 13s impressing prospective new parents and Year 7 students at the Open Evening, and hearing some great feedback about them
- Senior Student Leadership Team compering the Open Evening event in the Assembly Hall
- Assemblies by Chris Cullen (Oxfordshire Mindfulness Centre), Brookes Engage, National Citizenship Service, Clare Cory (Ashmolean) and Anwar Akhtar
- 20 UCAS applications already sent off including 12 Medicine and 9 Oxbridge applications

### Reports

Your son/daughter will be bringing home their report this week. Please contact your child's form tutor if they do not bring this report home.

We are also very excited to let you know that you can now see their report on our new Parent Portal by [logging in](#), clicking on your son/daughter's student profile, and then 'reports' on the left hand side. If you need your log on details re-sent, please email [communications@cheney.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:communications@cheney.oxon.sch.uk).

We very much hope this report will provide you with a useful snapshot to discuss at home.

Please note the colour coding for target grades below and what the colours mean:

Significantly Below Target
Below Target
On Target
Above Target

The report provides information on the following:

- a GCSE '**Minimum Target Grade**' which is generated by Fisher Family Trust, an explanation of which can be found below.
- a '**Projected Grade**'. You may see changes between teachers' grades since your child's last report. This is because we have asked all teachers to be very clear that the grades they give reflect the student's current level of work, attitude to learning, attendance and homework and that they are not being too harsh or too generous. If you have any questions about changing grades, please speak with your child's teacher at Parents' Evening or using the [contact details](#) on the school website.
- a teacher assessment of learner characteristics, definitions are on our website - [here](#).
- a record of number of Cheney attributes (achievement points) and incidents (negative events).

**What is an FFT20 Target (Minimum Target Grade)?**



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Fischer Family Trust (FFT) is an organisation which provides schools with data relating to examination performance including estimates of GCE grades based on their prior attainment. (GCSE results). FFT estimates are widely used and similar to the measures used by OFSTED. FFT provide estimates with varying degrees of challenge, and we use FFT 20 as the basis of our Minimum Target Grades; these use the level of progress seen in the best 20% of schools to calculate estimates.

The target is statistically generated and is not specific to your child but it does give a statistical indicator of what good progress should look like from the end of Year 11 to the end of Year 13. The minimum target grades generated using FFT20 are based on national data. Because the national data has been updated since last year to include the 2019 GCSE results, you may see a change in the grades for some of your child's subjects.

### **How can you support your child in their learning?**

- discuss this report with them.
- talk to your child about their learner characteristic scores and how they could improve their grading.
- ensure your child has a quiet place to study away from things such as gaming, social media and other distractions.
- your child is set homework using the Show My Homework website and we would ask parents and carers to support and encourage their children to complete their homework in good time, working on tasks every day and not leaving it until the last minute.
- encourage your child to read. There is a direct correlation between literacy and achievement – and as a school we recommend 30 minutes reading every day.

The first report of the year is an important check point where we make sure that students are progressing well, and if there are any issues, making sure that we are putting in interventions that will secure success. If students are not meeting the expected level of learning behaviours, including attendance, then they may benefit from having a bit more support and structure to their day, in which case we will set up some supervised study slots on their timetables. They will be expected to register for these slots, as with any lesson, and will get some 1-1 support from the member of staff supervising the session. We are also able to offer 1-1 mentoring for some students, to help them achieve their potential. All students will be reviewed in the first week after half term.

### **Year Thirteen UCAS Update**

We would strongly encourage all Year Thirteens planning to apply through UCAS this year to pay and send their forms by Monday 4th November. Paying and sending gets the form to Cheney, not to UCAS or individual universities. Once the school receives the form, supertutors finalise student references and pass them to Mr Gimson or Dr Robinson (who has recently taken up a role supporting UCAS) who will check the forms and send them on to UCAS. Students should not feel that their form has to be perfect when they pay and send - they can still make changes, and probably will do so, right up to the moment when it is actually forwarded to UCAS. It normally takes about ten working days for the school to finalise a form. Students should e-mail Mr Gimson ([DGI@cheney.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:DGI@cheney.oxon.sch.uk)) if they are planning to submit their forms after 4th November. Mr Gimson and I will be working in L2 during the holiday on the afternoon of Friday 1st November from 2-5pm to support any students who want to drop in to discuss their forms.

### **Over the holidays**

We will be having a big push on organisation and study skills after half term, so would like to encourage you to help your son/daughter by getting their folders organised over the holidays. Make sure they have a folder per subject and that they are using dividers to separate units of work. There are some hot tips for students on **Show My Homework** - check that they can login and find this, as well as the homework that they have been set for the break.

If your son/daughter is claiming they have nothing to do and everything is tickety boo, please encourage them to look at the [Independent Study Guide](#) which gives lots more ideas for further work and research, which will get them ahead for the new term.

**Head**  
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Some students have university entrance exams over the holidays - we wish them luck.

### Key events next term

We are looking forward to a whole Sixth Form team building/fitness event with the Marines on 18/19 November. At the beginning of the year all Year 12s were buddied with Year 13 students, and the team building event will be a great way to get to know each other even better. We will be sharing the timetable for the sessions on Show My Homework, and students are expected to wear gym clothes and ensure they have eaten and hydrated well in preparation.

Volunteering starts in earnest next term. All Year 13 students are expected to do 2 hours per fortnight. All students have been given a volunteering card, which has to be initialled by their supervisor for every session. There has already been some amazing work around school and it's lovely to see Sixth Formers enjoying working in lower-school lessons and supporting younger students.

### Exams

A heads-up that our Year 13 mock exams begin on 13 January 2020.

### Winter Ball

Joe Georgekutty and the SSLT have a provisional booking for the Sixth Form Winter Ball at Oxford Spires Hotel on the Abingdon Road on 17 December. Subject to selling enough tickets, the event will start at 7.00pm, with a three-course dinner and disco. There will be veggie, vegan and halal food available. Cheney staff will be there to strut their stuff and show them how it's done (and keep an eye on everyone, of course). Tickets are £25 and are now for sale on ParentPay (Sixth Form Winter Ball 2019). **Please pay by 8 November - if we don't sell enough tickets, the event will not be able to go ahead.**

All other key dates are listed in the online ['Welcome to Cheney Sixth Form'](#) booklet.

Thank you for your continuing support with dress code, punctuality and attendance. I hope you have a good break, if you are managing to take one during the half-term holiday.

With very best wishes

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