



Think for yourself, act for others

Rupert Moreton - Head of School

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were very proud to see that Cheney School was in the **top 500 schools** in the UK based on our 2019 results. This is a significant achievement, well done to everyone involved! Our current Year 11s have just completed their Mock Exams in preparation for May 2020 and we have every faith that their results will be just as fantastic.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share the date of the Sixth Form Open Evening on **Wednesday 29 January 5.30-7.45pm**. This is a good opportunity to find out about the A-Level and Level 3 BTEC choices offered in Cheney's Sixth Form. Please spread the word within your communities and encourage external applicants to come along. [Full information can be found here](#). The Sixth Form application process will open early in the new year and will close on Sunday 9 February.

Staffing Changes:

Steve Palmer will also be stepping down from the Senior Leadership Team from January to pursue other interests. He will stay with us as a part time Maths Teacher and Ms Saima Hussain has been appointed as Head of Maths.

We say goodbye to Mrs Tellal, Dr Rayment and Ms Cerioni and wish them every luck in their new ventures. In addition, we welcome Mr Jones into Humanities and Ms Wignall and Ms Hussain into Maths who will be starting with us in the New Year.

Departments with staff changes have taken time to review timetables. This means there may well be some changes to your child's classroom teacher in January as we try to reduce split classes. Thank you for bearing with us and if you have any concerns when your child receives their new timetable please do not hesitate to contact the school.

School highlights this term include:

- Our Sixth Form had a visit from The Marines for developing team building and life skills.
- Members of our school community planted 420 saplings along the perimeter of the school that faces onto Gypsy Lane - watch the hedge as it grows over the months and years! Thank you to Ms Henderson for organising and the Woodland Trust for the donation of saplings.
- The annual Year 7 'Are You Curious?' exhibition in the Art Department was a great success!
- Another amazing Music Show put on by our Creative Arts Department - it got us well and truly in the Festive Spirit.
- Year 8 students have once again put their culinary skills to the test with their German Biscuit making competition: they made and decorated their own biscuits and the Year 8 team had the tough decision of deciding which was the winner.

Cheney School

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- The Italian Club went out for a meal in Oxford to practise their Italian conversation in a restaurant.
- The Rumble Museum has been running an exciting Future Season of events for Year 7 and 8 students, which included Future Medicine, Future Cities, Science Fiction and Robotics Days
- The newly formed Rumble Student Museum Council ran their own gallery at the Ashmolean for Late Opening on 25 October and wowed visitors with their Pompeian displays and activities
- The Classics Centre invited local primary students to a Feast of the Gods, where they sampled ambrosia and were entertained by a Roman lyre
- Election fever took over school on Wednesday 11 December - Sixth Form students canvassed and the whole school had the opportunity to vote. This is a great student led initiative to help our community understand politics and democracy.
- Our choir spread their festive cheer singing at the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe - a wonderful community focussed event.
- Year 9 girls have created a netball team for the first time this year and played their first fixture as a team.
- Year 8 came second in the City Schools Rugby tournament at Banbury Rugby Club.
- Year 10 girls football team are down to the last 16 in the National Cup and are in the semi finals of the County Cup.
- U13 and U14 Boys Basketball teams are through to County Semi Final.
- U14 Girls Basketball team through to County Final.
- We were nominated for Active School of the year and one of our students was nominated for Young Sports Person of the Year - these are both a great testament to our hard working and dedicated PE Department.
- All our year 11 geographers took part in fieldwork at The Oracle in Reading
- Our SEND students took part in the Parability Day. The day was action-packed and students experienced a whole range of sport: their engagement and enthusiasm was great to see.
- Students from across KS3 and KS4 have submitted incredibly impressive essays for the English Faculty Essay writing competition, discussing the pros and cons of comprehensive education
- A number of Year 9 students travelled to the Museum of Natural History for their Christmas Lectures, Year 12 biologists visited the advanced microscope facilities at Oxford Brookes, and the Y13 Double Applied Science students analysed their own DNA using Oxford University's facilities, also at the Museum of Natural History.

On the **25 March 3.10-6pm**, we have our annual Festival organised by Dr Lorna Robinson - this year around the theme of the Future and Artificial Intelligence. The keynote speaker is Professor Robert Winston and you can book tickets at his event and [see more about the event here](#).

None of the above events could happen without the commitment from our staff and students. If you would like to say a special thank you to anyone in the school community [you can do so here](#).

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We are pleased to be able to offer our Cheney Community another parenting course on the 27 January 2020 8-9.30pm. The course is all about **young people and the challenges of the online world**. The cost is £2.50 per adult and if you would like to book please email: cheneyparentalk@gmail.com.

Maxi, our school dog, is growing into her role and is a supportive companion to many of us. She has her own timetable, which includes a lot of time with the Sixth Form. Students have the opportunity to spend time with Maxi, either playing outside, chilling in her room or contributing to her puppy training. She has a calming effect on students and they are enjoying having the opportunity to spend time with her. Maxi is now beginning to read with lower school students as well as spend time with students who find daily life at school more challenging and is enjoying being a member of the school community.

Finally, I would like to share the good news that the school will have a multi-faith room from January 2020. The room is upstairs in BR block (BR30) and will be available for students to use during break and lunch every day. The project is being led by a member of our sixth form team, and she will be working with our communications team to create a list of expectations for those who wish to use it.

Other key dates next term:

- Monday 6 January - INSET day - school closed to students
- Weeks commencing 7 and 13 January - Sixth Form Mock Exams
- Thursday 23 January - Y11 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 29 January - Sixth Form Open Evening for Y10 and Y11 students
- Thursday 6 February - Y8 Options Evening
- 12 and 13 February - Whole School Production of Shrek
- 17-21 February - Half Term

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Rupert Moreton
Head of School