



*Think for yourself, act for others*

## Rupert Moreton - Head of School

Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again, I start my letter with more hugely positive news about our 2019 results. The 2019 league tables, comparing Sixth Form results, have been published and they show Cheney School has one of the highest Progress 8 scores in the city - acknowledging the excellent outcomes our students obtain. We had a very successful Sixth Form Open Evening at the end of January and have been overwhelmed by the interest we had in our Sixth Form Applications, particularly from external students. This is a great testament to the work the Sixth Form team have been doing to improve the provision for our A-Level and BTEC students. We look forward to welcoming many students in September 2020.

In addition, Cheney School has come **11th out of 36 schools** in Oxfordshire in the confirmed GCSE league tables in relation to 'Progress 8'. Progress 8 is the score which shows how much progress pupils make at a school between the end of key stage 2 and end of key stage 4. We are now placed above most of the other city schools in the league table, especially those with similar demographics to Cheney. You can [see the full list here](#). Thank you to all who make these results so impressive.

Our focus on attendance continues, as the school works hard to improve attendance through all year groups. Good or excellent attendance leads to higher levels of academic attainment and contributes to general wellbeing. Also if children are at school they are safe and less at risk from safeguarding issues. The nationally recognised figure for good attendance is **95% or greater**. To put this into context, a student with 90% attendance would miss one day of school every two weeks and a student with 80% attendance would miss one day of school every week. In 2013/14 the Government published students outcomes with an attendance of 95% achieving 69.1 points at GCSE on average whereas a student with an attendance of 80% would achieve 25.2 points. Therefore you can see that good attendance really does have a positive effect on academic outcomes. We are currently writing to families with students whose attendance is a concern. However, we would like to congratulate all those students who are attending school regularly.

We had our whole school production, Shrek, this week. As always, I was blown away by the talent within our staff and student body, in everything from the music, acting and set design to costumes and sound/lighting. There is an incredible amount of hard work that goes into these productions and it really does pay off. Well done all, and please look out for pictures in the next newsletter if you missed the show.

### Other school highlights this term include:

- World class author Tade Thompson visited Cheney to talk to GCSE and A-Level students about his work and what inspires him in his writing.
- Our Yr 9 Top Linguists had a great visit for the Modern Languages Open Day at Queen's College - a wonderful opportunity to see Languages beyond GCSE.



- Our Yr 12 French, German and Spanish students were very lucky to be invited to a Masterclass in Literature at the Oxford University to look at the novels they are studying for their A Levels.
- Dr Robinson has run a series of extremely successful breakfast talks for our Year 7 and Year 8 students covering a range of topics about The Future in advance of the Festival of the Future on 25 March.
- Our U14 Girls are now County Basketball champions - a huge well done for their commitment and hard work.
- Year 9 and 11 students had a visit from 'Positively Mad' - an organisation who leads workshops on learning skills and memory techniques. Our Year 11 students, we hope, are feeling much more prepared for their upcoming exams.
- Our Year 12 media students had a great experience in Birmingham at the BBC - did you see them sitting on the BBC News sofas, or as the Strictly Come Dancing judges in our newsletter?
- In history Year 12 and 13 students visited the Middle East Centre for a question and answer session with Professor Eugene Rogan. Year 12 also went to Magdalen College to hear Hannah Lewis MBE describe how she and her father survived the Holocaust
- Students and Staff from across the school voted on their chosen book for their year group for the Cheney Book Canon - it was great to see so much enthusiasm across the school for reading and people being able to have their say.

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 for his talk 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](#).

#### Other key dates next term:

- Monday 24 February - Year 8 and Year 9 'Under my Skin' performance
- Tuesday 25 February - School Photography Y8-Y10
- Wednesday 26 February - Duke of Edinburgh parent launch evening 6.30
- Friday 28 February - Y9 HPV vaccination
- Tuesday 3 March - Careers Convention Y11-Y13
- Wednesday 4 March - Sixth Form Conference
- Thursday 5 March - World Book Day and announcement of the results of the Cheney Book Canon vote
- Friday 6 March - Y8 Options Deadline
- Week Commencing 9 March - Y10 and Y11 mock exams
- Thursday 12 March - Year 7 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 25 March - Festival of the Future 3.30-6pm
- Week commencing 30 March - Y7-Y9 mock exams

**Head**  
Rupert Moreton, BA, MA, M.Ed

## Cheney School

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Finally, as many of you may already be aware, Mrs Broom goes on maternity leave in March. We wish Mrs Broom, and her husband, good luck as they welcome their bundle of joy into the world. Mrs Broom has already been in touch with the parents/carers of the classes she teaches, but if you have requests/questions which would ordinarily have been directed to Mrs Broom, please contact any other member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be available to help you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Rupert Moreton  
Head of School