Year 7 Newsletter

Half-way through the academic year!

3 terms in… *say whaaaat?!*

Term 3 has been a relatively short term but in many ways has felt very much like a long term too! Yet again the weeks have whizzed by and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a week of rest, not least us! It's been a busy term and Year 7s have been involved in lots of school activities which is great to see – you continue to make us proud each and every day. It was fantastic to see so many of you taking part in Shrek – we hope you enjoyed it just as much as we did! Mrs Marsh, Deputy Head, has commented on how lovely it's been to see you all working so independently during your food technology lessons recently – well done! Please also remember to check out the extracurricular clubs and activities list on the school website; there's loads for you to be getting involved with and if you have any ideas for any clubs which don't currently run, please let us know. We hope you all have a wonderful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 24th February for Term 4!

Mrs Robson, Head of Student Progress & Mr Haines, Pastoral Leader

Back to Basics

After half-term, we will be having a real focus on **'Back to Basics'** and reminding the Year 7s of the basic expectations of what it means to be part of the Cheney Community; this includes excellent uniform, being punctual, treating everyone with respect, talking politely, following instructions first time and how to conduct themselves around the school site appropriately. We will go through everything in more detail in our first assembly back after half-term but we feel that as we begin Term 4, it's important we take the time to remind everyone of the basic expectations. Miss Hussain, Associate Assistant Headteacher, is our newly appointed SLT (Senior Leadership Team) Link for Year 7 and will be working closely with Mrs Robson and Mr Haines on the 'Back to Basics' initiative.

In the News…

Row, Row, Row Your Boat…

Noah achieved a silver medal in the J12 2-minute event at the South England Indoor Rowing Championships last Sunday – a huge well-done Noah!

Athletics Success

Massive congratulations are in order to our Year 7s who competed and WON an indoor athletics tournament against other city schools. They were an absolute credit to both themselves and the school; they were seen congratulating competitors from other schools and even waited for permission to enter into the sport shall before each race started! Mr Evans, Assistant Head of PE, said it was one of the nicest atmospheres at a fixture he has seen in his 7 years at Cheney! Those involved were: Jenaya, Isla, Natalie, Marianna, Imogen, Georgia, Harry, Steven, Jake, Nick and Ben – well done all!

Reminders & Notices

Parent Portal

At Cheney, we use Arbor as our school's online database system. As parents/carers, you have access to the 'Parent Portal', which provides you with access to your child's attendance, behaviour and reports. You can access the 'Parent Portal' here or by clicking on the link on the school website. If you have any issues with logging in please contact communications@cheney.oxon.sch.uk.

Say Thank You…

If someone in our community has really stood out for you and you would like to thank them, say well done or show your appreciation for their hard work and the impact they have on your/your child's life please let us know here or via the button on the school website.

Parents' Evening

On Thursday 12th March we have the Year 7 Parents' Evening, from 3.45pm onwards. This is a brilliant opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress and attitude to learning in each of their subjects and there will also be a talk from the Headteacher. Please keep an eye out for further communications about this in the next few weeks…

Reminders & Notices continued…

Attendance & Punctuality

As a Year group, we *still* have the best attendance in the school, currently standing at **95.1%** - please keep up the good work! (there's been a slight dip this half-term due to lots of illness). Remember, each day of absence from school results in 5 hours of learning lost.

Where possible all appointments should be made out of school hours however, we understand this is not always an option. If your child has an appointment during the school day please ensure you notify the Year 7 office well in advance, either by phone or email. Your child should then come to the Year 7 Office on the morning of the absence, so we can provide them with an 'Exit Note', allowing them to leave the school site. Students should sign out and back in at the Attendance Gate on Gipsy Lane.

To report an absence please contact Mr Haines in the Year 7 Office on ***each and every day of the absence***
Phone: 01865 755279
Email: thn@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

As a reminder, students who are off sick with vomiting and diarrhoea should stay away from school for 48 hours after their symptoms have gone, to avoid cross infection.

Uniform

The majority of Year 7 students are turning up to school looking smart and ready to learn but unfortunately there are a small number of students letting the side down! As a reminder, leggings, jeans, hoodies and coloured trainers are not allowed – the full uniform guidance can be found on the school website https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/uniform.

Dates for your diary…

Monday 24th February	Term 4 Begins
Friday 28th February	9am Start
Wednesday 4th March	Mental Health Workshop for Parents – 3.15pm
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Thursday 12th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 13th March	9am Start
Wednesday 25th March	Open Morning
Monday 30th March – Friday 3rd April	Year 7 Mock Exams Week
Friday 3rd April	Term 4 Ends
Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20th April	Term 5 Begins

Keep in Touch

Your child's tutor should be your **first point of contact** for all day to day queries and concerns but if you wish to contact the Year 7 Team, the contact details are as follows:

Mrs Robson – Head of Student Progress
RRO@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
01865 759283

Mr Haines – Pastoral Leader
THN@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
01865 755279

Please note the Year 7 office is open between 8am-4pm Monday to Thursday and 8am-3.30pm on Friday. We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible but please allow up to 3 working days for non-urgent queries.