



Rupert Moreton - Head of School

Dear Parent/Carer,

April Parent Communication

We have now been closed for two full weeks of school and a further two weeks of Easter holidays. Even though we have only been closed for 10 school days, it feels much longer, and we are sure that an update and some further guidance would be welcomed.

Update on school closure

As you will have heard on the news, the government has instructed the country to continue with the lockdown for a further 3 weeks minimum. We will therefore continue to follow the government's advice: **"We have asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for children who are vulnerable and for those children of workers critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response who absolutely need to attend."**

Students are classified as vulnerable if they have a social worker, if they have been risk assessed by the LA or Cheney as 'vulnerable' or if they have an EHCP. Students of Key Workers 'who absolutely need to attend' means students who cannot be left alone at home (normally only Year 7 and possibly Year 8) and when there is not an adult or older sibling at home during the day to look after the student.

The school will be open as follows:

- School open 9.00am and work start at 9.30am
- The school will close at 2.45pm for students
- Please can students bring a packed lunch

Free School Meals

Cheney has signed up to the government's free school meals voucher scheme. All families of children entitled to FSM should have received an email with a voucher to spend in a supermarket for purchasing food. If you have not received this email please contact communications@cheney.oxon.sch.uk. If you are not entitled to FSMs or need additional support please use this link to Oxford City's help for vulnerable residents: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance>

Next steps for home learning

Our focus for the first two weeks of closure has been on setting work for all students, making sure our students with no internet access have access to work and liaising with the exam boards for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Our next batches of work are due to be set from 27th April.

Our next areas of focus are:



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- Increasing contact with home: asking Tutors to make calls to students in their Tutor groups - starting in Week 3 (Week beginning 20th April).
- Introducing more virtual and uploaded lessons. A further letter will be sent out with more details - starting in Week 4 (Week beginning 27th April).
- Making sure feedback to students is happening across all subject areas, subject to teachers being well.

Feedback from questionnaire

We received almost 300 responses to our parental questionnaire about provision for students over the first two weeks of full school closure. Many thanks to all our families who have provided us with useful and supportive feedback.

What families have told us	What we're doing
93% are happy or mostly happy with the quality and quantity of work provided so far. We also received many much appreciated messages of thanks.	We have passed on all the messages of thanks to our staff and are also very grateful for the work that our dedicated teachers and support staff have undertaken.
15% said that there has been too much work set and that their children have found some of the work overwhelming, particularly some of our younger students.	We have asked Heads of Faculty to use the words "Core" and "Extra" in the next batches of work to help to show students which pieces of work are most important and which are 'extra' for those who want more to do. If there are any doubts or questions, please contact the Heads of Faculty (details below).
15% said some of the instructions and deadlines were not always clear and that the use of different platforms (e.g. MyMaths, Educake, Googleclassrooms) was confusing some of our students.	<p>We have asked teachers to be very clear in their instructions for the next batch of work that is set. We also hope that, as we become more accustomed to this new way of working, the different platforms become easier to use. If you need any passwords or more guidance, please contact the relevant Head of Faculty.</p> <p>We have asked teachers to set the next deadlines on Show My Homework to the end of May and to include any 'ongoing' deadlines in their written instructions.</p> <p>If you are finding Show My Homework overwhelming or stressful, please use the Google Drive instead: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AEwYqUnaxMR-kwx_iksINh3ed4vGMPD</p> <p>The work is the same and organised into subject and year group folders. You will see the same work but without deadlines and due dates. Make sure students are signed into RM Unify to access it.</p>
A small number said there was not enough work.	We would ask you to please contact the relevant Heads of Faculty (details below).

Cheney School

Cheney Lane, Headington
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<p>70% said they would welcome having more online 'lessons'. The remainder did not want online lessons or had no opinion.</p>	<p>From 27th April we will begin some virtual lessons using Googlemeets, offering one or two 'lessons' or uploaded videos per day. These are optional. There may well be some 'teething problems' as staff and students get used to another new way of accessing work - we will all need to be prepared to be patient as we work out what works well.</p>
<p>10% said that setting work in 3 week batches was overwhelming and that daily or weekly setting would be preferable.</p>	<p>We are setting work in 3 week batches for these reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- It enables us to create and send printed packs of work home for students who have no or limited computer access. We need to do this in reasonable 'chunks' so that delivery/ post/ collection is possible.- We can ensure work is set even when teachers are unwell, work part time or have significant caring responsibilities at home.
<p>Some families said that children and parents alike were finding the closure hard and that managing home life, work life and school work was difficult.</p>	<p>Students, parents and teachers everywhere are feeling the same. Tutors will be calling all students over the next few weeks (we have 1,500 to work through!) and will be very keen to speak with any student who is finding things particularly tough. If you would like to be a priority for a call, please let the relevant Head of Year know. We are grateful to all of our families who are managing their own working from home with supporting our students - we know it is not easy. Please contact us if we can help or give any advice.</p>

Key contacts

Faculty Leaders: Please email faculty leaders if you have questions about your child's subject work during a closure.

English	Phoebe Mortimer	pmo@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Maths	Saima Hussain	shu@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Science	Ben Preston	bpr@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Humanities	David Twycross	dtw@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
PE	Emma Hart	eha@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Creative Arts	Alexa Cox	aco@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Languages	Sophie Reynes	sr@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Design Technology	Emma Garden	ega@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

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All staff contact details can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/staff-contact-details/>

Pastoral Teams

Year 7	Tom Haines and Becky Robson	thn@cheney.oxon.sch.uk rro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Year 8	Lee Fieldwick and Andrew Olubodun	lfi@cheney.oxon.sch.uk aol@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Year 9	Ann Blair and Manjula Pillay-Sayers	abl@cheney.oxon.sch.uk mps@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Year 10	Pauline O'Donnell and Andy Ransome	pod@cheney.oxon.sch.uk ara@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Year 11	Rachel Clear and Tom Stacey	rcl@cheney.oxon.sch.uk tst@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
Years 12 and 13	Sarah Warbrick and Kate Hackett	swr@cheney.oxon.sch.uk kh@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
SEND, Cheney Plus and Alternative Provision	Richard Coombs, Susie Lopez, Justin Heenan, Mark Blencowe	rco@cheney.oxon.sch.uk slo@cheney.oxon.sch.uk jhe@cheney.oxon.sch.uk mbn@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

Guidance for organisation at home (please also contact us if you would like additional support)

Suggestions for timetables and allocation of time during a day at home:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/home-learning-timetables-for-coronavirus-school-closures>

You can find a blank timetable here:

http://shared.confessionsofahomeschooler.com/calendar/DailyHomeschoolSchedule_Blank.pdf

Support and guidance for well-being (please also contact us if you would like additional support)

The Department for Education have published a list of recommended sources of support for well-being and mental health at this time:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education#mental-wellbeing>

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We would also suggest looking the Mindfulness resources from .b as we have been using some of these in school already: <https://mindfulnessinschools.org/teach-dot-b/dot-b-curriculum/>

Interesting links and websites

BBC Bitesize are offering online lessons and 'mythbusting' which may help you to answer some of the questions your children have about what is happening: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn9447h>

A huge amount of information and guidance on general organisation, local links and subject-specific materials can be found here at the University of Oxford's Department for Education (who have also trained many of Cheney's teachers!):

<http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/recommended-resources-for-teachers-and-parents-home-schooling-during-covid-19/>

Thank you for your continued support and please look after yourselves.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Moreton - Head of School