



Mr D Gimson, UCAS, Higher Attainers and Museum Lead

15 July 2020

Dear Parents of Year Thirteens and Year Thirteen students

This letter contains a large amount of significant information – please read it thoroughly to the end, even if some sections do not affect you personally.

This year has been particularly complicated and difficult for Year Thirteens. However, I am very confident that the very great majority of students will get good outcomes this summer. Given the problems which universities are facing, I think that they are likely to be more flexible than usual if you don't have the expected grades – they will want to fill their courses. If you have planned to take a Gap Year, you may want to consider a late application to UCAS for September 2020. Your Gap Year plans may be disrupted because jobs will be in short supply, and travel may be more complicated. It is likely that there will be some very good courses available in Clearing, whereas in September 2021, it is possible that there will be a squeeze on places as overseas students return in large numbers along with students who have deferred from September 2020. My strong sense is that during the disruption caused by Covid-19, the best place to be will be in full-time study or training, even if universities cannot provide you with quite the usual university experience from September.

Please do take care of yourselves as results approach. Helpful advice on looking after your well-being can be found at <https://www.cwmt.org.uk/clearing>.

Results Day Thursday 13 August from 10.30am and post-results support

We are happy to say that students can come into school to collect their results on 13 August. We will be handing out results in envelopes and students will be able to meet with staff, with a carefully planned route around the school buildings and appropriate distancing built in. It is very helpful for students and staff to be able to talk on results day, but you can also make arrangements for alternative collection of results <https://forms.gle/bZ63QNSLKJnXPcoDA>

We will be in school to hand out results as normal, available in the Library from 10.30am on Thursday 13 August. Please arrive by 1pm at the very latest.

However you receive your results, staff will be available to help and support you with your ongoing plans, on the day we will have an appointment based system to support with social distancing.

The plan for the day will be as follows:

- Register in at reception from 10.30am
- Walk through to the Library to collect your results
- Head out into Wainwright playground to meet with friends and staff
- Leave via the Attendance gate
- Should you wish to speak to a member of staff about your results:
 - A member of staff at the exit gate will support you to make an appointment to meet a member of the sixth form team/careers team/subject teachers.



- Appointments will need to be booked and we appreciate your support and patience with ensuring that social distancing is in place at all times.
- You may be given the opportunity to have a meeting at that time or come back for a meeting at a later part in the day. (You will be required to sign in again at Reception.)
- Parents are welcome to attend the school with you but we would ask that they wait in the car park to support with social distancing in the school.

Appeals and Autumn Exams

This year has been unprecedented in the way in which grades are awarded. There will not be a normal review of results procedure this summer. Should you have any concerns about your grades, please do speak to a member of staff and we will support you in your next steps. All students, should they not be happy with their grades, will have the opportunity to sit formal A Level exams in Autumn 2020 in the subjects they received grades for. More information on how to enter for these exams and timetables will be issued in August on Results Day.

UCAS Support

The great majority of students get into their First or Insurance choices of university. However, if results are disappointing, **it is very important to talk to staff as soon as possible - please book a meeting in reception on Results Day.** Even if you are feeling upset, it is best to tackle the situation straight away. Lots of subject staff with specific knowledge of your work and skills will be available on the morning of 13 August, but after lunchtime it will be harder to contact them.

Most problems on Results Day are rapidly resolved through Clearing. The Sixth Form team will be available in school and online to support you and provide advice all day on Thursday 13, but will not be in school again until Thursday 20. I will be available by e-mail, which I will be checking regularly between Friday 14 and Thursday 20, and will be very happy to talk on the phone.

Clearing

If you are worried that you may not get the grades you need for your Firm or Insurance choices, it will be well worth investigating the clearing vacancies, which have been on the UCAS website since Monday 6 July. We strongly recommend that you have considered alternative universities **before** you receive your results, so that you are prepared on Results Day. It can be very stressful if you are trying to find a suitable course and university on Results Day.

You cannot enter Clearing until you know that you have been rejected by your Firm and Insurance choices – you should be able to check on Track if you have your place or not from 8am on 13 August, before coming in to collect your actual results.

If you do need to enter Clearing then getting on the phone as soon as possible after you have your results is essential. Staff will be on hand to help you, and parents are very welcome to join you at school, but the calls are best made by you personally, with staff on hand to give a telephone reference if needed. A very clear description of how the clearing process works can be found at: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

From this year, UCAS are providing a new service, called Clearing Plus: this will give you a list of courses which may be suitable for you, and you will be able to indicate to universities that you are interested in them on Track. The universities may then contact you directly. However, you will still be able to search for courses on Clearing, and to contact universities yourself.

Cheney School

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Think for yourself, act for others

If you decide that you no longer want your Firm or Insurance offers, you can decline them both and self-release into Clearing at any time.

Many universities provide guidance on how best to use Clearing - a local example can be found here: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/clearing/?dm_i=BBQ,6WRRY,EAR3JX,RRMZO,1.

Adjustment

If you have done better than expected, you are in a strong position to consider switching to a more competitive university. Information about 'adjustment' can be found at:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-if-youve-done-better-expected>

Scholarships

As soon as you have a definite offer, it is worth investigating whether there are any scholarships which you could apply for at your university. Please check your university website or go to <https://www.thescholarshipub.org.uk/> for a sense of the kinds of bursaries and scholarships available. There are hundreds of scholarships which go unclaimed every year so you are in with a strong chance of receiving one, if you apply.

Applications to UCAS in Year Fourteen

A reminder that if you are planning to apply through UCAS after your results, you must meet the final Cheney deadline of **Monday 12 October**. We very strongly recommend that you use the period after 13 August to finalise your choices and personal statement and submit your UCAS form as soon as possible after 1 September. The deadline for early applicants (Oxbridge, Medicine etc.) is **Friday 11 September**.

Careers Advice

If you are pursuing alternatives to university, please contact Mr. Davis, the school's careers adviser (jda@cheney.oxon.sch.uk). We recommend that you arrange to talk to him, and/or to the Sixth Form team, as soon as possible.

Publicity

The school normally prepares a Press Release mentioning the results of particularly successful students. If you would prefer not to be mentioned, please let Ms Warbrick (swr@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) know in advance of Wednesday 12 August.

Textbook return

Please return all library books, textbooks and any other books that have been lent to you asap. **These resources will be needed by next year's students and it is crucial that they are returned by the end of term (17th July) at the very latest.** Please do not give Cheney staff extra work chasing you to return your books!

If you want to keep your books to work from over the summer then you need to [contact Mrs Fenton](#) by the same deadline if you haven't already done so. There is a box in school reception for book returns.

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Parent Pay

Some students may have some credit on their school lunch account. Please check your ParentPay account and email Ms Beesley (JBY@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) **BY FRIDAY 17 JULY** if you would like this credit to be transferred to a sibling or refunded. If you request a refund, this will be transferred to your parents/carers' ParentPay account. You will then need to request a refund from ParentPay directly.

Leavers' Yearbook

Edith is working really hard to design and produce a Yearbook as a lovely souvenir for all our Year 13s. But she needs content and the students' permission to use photos. Please check your Show My Homework for instructions - repeated here for your information:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L1iXlsl3-g1dS2GxE4GiKhTZ7oPZGLmx9G5p5weYzlc/edit?usp=sharing>

The Yearbook will cost £10.99. Please bring a cheque for £10.99 made payable to Cheney School into school on A Level Results Day. We really hope that we get enough orders to proceed with the project.

Back to Cheney

We would like to invite all leavers to attend the **Back to Cheney** event from 9.30 to 1pm on Friday 18 December, and the Back to Cheney Leavers Reunion which will run from 1pm. Please use the link below if you are able to attend, and leave your contact details if you are happy for us to have and use them. **Please also use it to let us know if you are unable to pick up your results in person.**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflPOhq3Y4LUNljBb8sNIhVF0sT92eE53ft8VvYGEEcirG4ag/viewform?usp=sf_link

(You will be able to ask us to remove your details/unsubscribe from mailings at any time, in line with your rights under the General Data Protection Act).

Don't hesitate to contact me with any UCAS specific questions or the wider Sixth Form team on any other matters.

We look forward to seeing you on Results Day and wish you all the best of luck.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Gimson'.

David Gimson
UCAS, Higher Attainers and Museum Lead
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