



CHENEY SCHOOL

Think for yourself, act for others

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

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Rob Pavey, Headteacher

2 November 2020

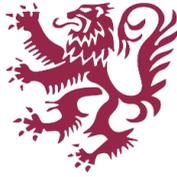
Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have managed to have a good break over the half term holiday, and that any plans you had were not too badly disrupted. You will all be aware of the changes at both a local and national level: this is a brief update on our response as a school. I have also included an update from Mr Nelson, our Deputy Head, on expectations around attendance, uniform and mobile phones.

In keeping with government priorities, school will be open as normal, and we will continue to deliver the full curriculum. I have to be honest with staff, students and parents that it is not possible to create a risk-free environment, and that cases of Covid are likely, given the increasing background rate of infection in the community. Although there are limits on what we can do beyond what is already in place, while still delivering a full education to our students, we are bringing in the following measures:

- **Masks** will be compulsory in buildings, other than in lessons. We will treat masks in the same way as uniform or classroom equipment initially: part of morning tutor checks, part of the end-of-lesson routine, lots of reminders, but no immediate sanction (unmanageable to set detentions for a first offence, I think), then sanctions eventually for repeat offenders. We need parental support with this: it is necessary for all students to have a mask with them at all times, and for the message to be reinforced at home as well as in school.
- **Ventilation:** wherever possible, doors and windows will be kept open. I acknowledge the limitations as it gets colder, but some fresh air at the start and end of lessons at least should be possible. Students will have to be allowed to wear coats in class.
- Re-affirmation of the **no physical contact** rule: this has worked well, but it was understandably starting to fray just before the break.
- Reinforcement of the **cleaning** regime: this includes the regular use of hand sanitiser and desk sanitising when students change work space. Since teachers are having to move between classrooms, we rely on students to take responsibility for this as well, and we ask parents to reinforce this message at home.

There is likely to be an increasing number of students who have to self-isolate. Our live-streaming is going to become increasingly important, and we expect all students to join lessons via Google Meet if they are not in school, and all teachers to set up the live-stream whenever there is an absence on the register. If you know that your son or daughter is going to have to be away from school, it would be helpful to email teachers directly, in addition to letting the attendance team know. This is because



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there are a lot of different things to do at the start of a lesson, especially given that staff have to move across the site for almost every lesson, and it is very easy to overlook this additional step.

Having said this, I must repeat that school is not optional. It isn't the case that students can opt to do online lessons rather than coming to school. The status of people who were previously shielding is not currently clear (clarification was promised for today, but has not come out at the time of writing). We understand the concerns of families with members who are clinically extremely vulnerable, and we do not wish to penalise those who fall into this group. We are therefore asking anyone in this category to get medical advice, and then to let us know what that advice is. If it applies to a student, please share the updated doctor's note with us.

Attendance

Our attendance figures for September and October are really pleasing, in the last few weeks our average attendance has been just over 94%. This is excellent and is far higher than the reported national average, which stood at 87% before the break. As we approach the colder and darker mornings I encourage all students to keep this up and to avoid taking odd days off. However, I would like to remind you that if you suspect that a member of your family or your child might have Covid that you self-isolate and arrange to take a test. Of course, live-streamed lessons mean that no student needs to miss their learning, even if they are at home: we will be able to mark students who have joined via Google Meet as present, but educated off-site.

If you need to report an absence please use one of the following methods

- Complete the [Cheney School Student Absence](#) Google Form
- Call the attendance manager Mr Hawkswood on 01865 765726 - Option 1
- Email Mr Hawkswood rhw@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

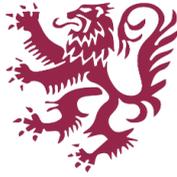
If leaving a telephone or email message please include the following information:

- The name, form and year group of your child
- Your name and contact details
- Reason for absence
- Expected date of return
- Please inform us for each day of absence

Please note that we are no longer asking you to contact year teams. Please 'favourite' the google form on your web browser or mobile phone and take a note of Mr Hawkswood's contact details. We think the Google Form will be the easiest way for parents to report absence.

Uniform

As the winter months set in and temperatures drop it is easy for uniform standards to slip. I would like to remind you that we expect all students to wear the correct uniform.



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During the last few weeks in October we have seen a number of students wearing non- school jumpers and hoodies. These are not acceptable. If students are cold they should be wearing a school jumper or a proper coat in addition to their blazer.

In order to limit the chance of spreading Covid we have asked that students come to school in PE kit on days that they have PE. A number of students have been testing the boundaries with regard to PE kit. Therefore I would like to remind you that on PE days students should still be wearing their blazer and they should be wearing the correct PE kit. Our PE kit is as follows:

- **Black/navy blue** and **dark grey** tracksuit bottoms/ shorts of sports leggings
- **Red t- shirt** (school logo or plain)
- PE sweatshirt (available from Stevenson's via the school website) or alternatively a plain black/navy or dark grey sweatshirt with no hood.
- Trainers.

Light grey or coloured joggers, hoodies, jumpers and sweatshirts with large logos and football shirts are not acceptable.

From Monday 9 November we will be having a strong focus on uniform expectations. We will be confiscating items such as hoodies and coloured sweatshirts which can be collected after a three day period of quarantine.

If you are uncertain of our uniform requirements, these can be found on our [uniform page](#) on our school website, specific details are available on the [associated PDF](#).

Mobile Phones

We are seeing an increasing number of students using their mobile phones on site, especially during break and lunchtime. Students should only use their mobile phones when they have been directed to by a member of staff or if they have been given permission. It is not acceptable for students to take photographs or video footage of staff or other students under any circumstances. Students using mobile phones are at risk of having these confiscated. Although we understand many parents want their children to have phones so they can be contacted, particularly when travelling to and from school, I would like to remind you that when in school there is no need to have contact with your son or daughter via phone call or text. Should you need to speak to them this can be done by calling the school reception or the year office.

Kind regards

Rob Pavey, Headteacher