

CHENEY
STUDENT
NEWSLETTER
24TH NOV

WELCOME

Hello everyone, here's your quick fortnightly update from SSLT! We would like to thank the Sixth Form for responding on our Instagram page about some of the issues they'd like to see us tackling; we have raised many of these topics, including uniform and use of the courts, with SLT already. Whilst changes on these fronts will not be immediate, we promise that we are doing our best to make your opinions heard!

A quick update on Pam's Diner: please keep buying! Unfortunately, if we don't improve sales in L1, the diner will have to shut down. Committees would still love to see more Year 12s at Monday morning meetings, as would the newly formed Diversity Group which will be meeting on Tuesday lunchtimes on the bottom floor of L Block.

Heads of Year and tutors are currently preparing to start elections to the Student Council, so get ready to start pitching!

Finally, we would like to emphasise the importance of wearing masks in corridors; as it is likely that we will be returning to specialist rooms very soon, it is especially key that we limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission as much as we can! As usual, if you have any queries or concerns please email us at sslt@cheney.oxon.sch.uk or one of the specific email addresses, we'd love to hear whatever is on your mind!

Isaac Y13, Y10 Link for SSLT



Sweet Gum Tree at Cheney
Y8 Museum Council

TALK ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

Cheney was very happy to welcome Neil Parkinson to speak to the Sixth Form about his work surrounding homelessness in Assembly on Friday 13th November.

Mr Parkinson is a Senior Caseworker at the charity Glass Doors, where he has had a fascinating and varied career helping to tackle the issue of homelessness.

The Sixth Form heard from him on many interesting issues, from the types of homelessness that he deals with to the demographics it affects.

We were very grateful to be able to learn more about this complex and important problem!

Glass Door Homeless Charity coordinates the UK's largest open-access network of emergency winter shelters and support services for people affected by homelessness.

You can find out more about its work at <https://www.glassdoor.org.uk/>



CHENEY AND CORONAVIRUS: A Student's View

by Patrick, Y13

The coronavirus pandemic has been one of the most difficult times for us as a community at Cheney, and it has been a true test of students' social responsibility. It has not gone unnoticed the effort that the staff have been putting in to make the school environment safer for us and to teach us, making sure we don't miss more valuable learning time. Their efforts have been proven effective, as the school recently reached 95% attendance, and with 1,500 students and the hundreds of staff there have only been a small number of cases across the site.

However, this doesn't mean there are no issues that we have come across as a Sixth Form. Following various surveys and polls on social media and student news, many concerns have been brought to light. One of the main issues was the frequent mixing of year group bubbles, throughout lesson changeovers and after school where year groups, despite separate exits, would congregate together.

The most common mixing of social bubbles is the location of the Sixth Form toilets, not located in the toilets directly next to the Sixth Form area, resulting in the constant mixing of bubbles between Year Eights needing to use the toilets and Sixth Form. Upon bringing up this issue with Mr Pavey for the second time, he has subsequently decided to move the Year Eights toilets away from the Sixth Form area. In the next couple of weeks, harsher consequences for not wearing face masks will be introduced, and one-way systems in buildings to control movement across the site. We are hopeful that these two things will limit the transmission of Covid-19 and reduce the amount of time each year group is in contact with each other.

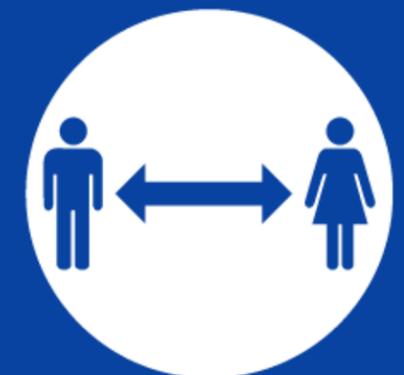
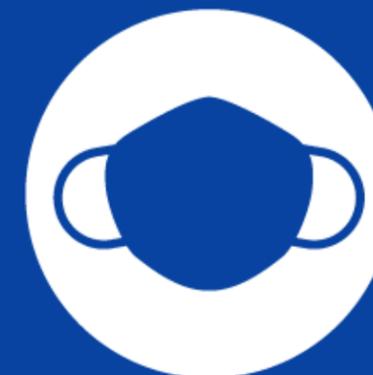
The majority of students that answered the survey believed that staff either did listen to our concerns and acted accordingly, or only sometimes did, with only a small minority believing that the staff did not listen.

After talking further with Mr Pavey and a few members of the student leadership team, it has become clear that the staff have been taking our concerns into consideration once properly brought up. Appropriate changes are being made by Mr Pavey in response to this within the next couple of weeks, emphasising the importance of raising your concerns with the staff and not just your friends. Expressing your concerns will influence the next steps that the community takes to accommodate everyone's worries, so please do continue to express your opinions.

As staff are striving to do their best to prevent an outbreak of coronavirus at Cheney, it is also important that we identify our actions that significantly impact the safety of the school environment. Keeping everyone safe is a team effort and without working together with the staff we can expect cases in the community to increase dramatically.

We are simply asking everyone to be more vigilant and act responsibly, especially since cases in Oxford are still increasing; just because Cheney is in a better position than other schools in Oxfordshire doesn't mean we are in the clear. From the very start of joining Cheney, we have been told to: "Think for yourself, act for others" and this is a prime example of where this needs to be acted upon. It is our social responsibility as Sixth Form students to protect each other as there are people in the community who are trying to shield their families from the virus.

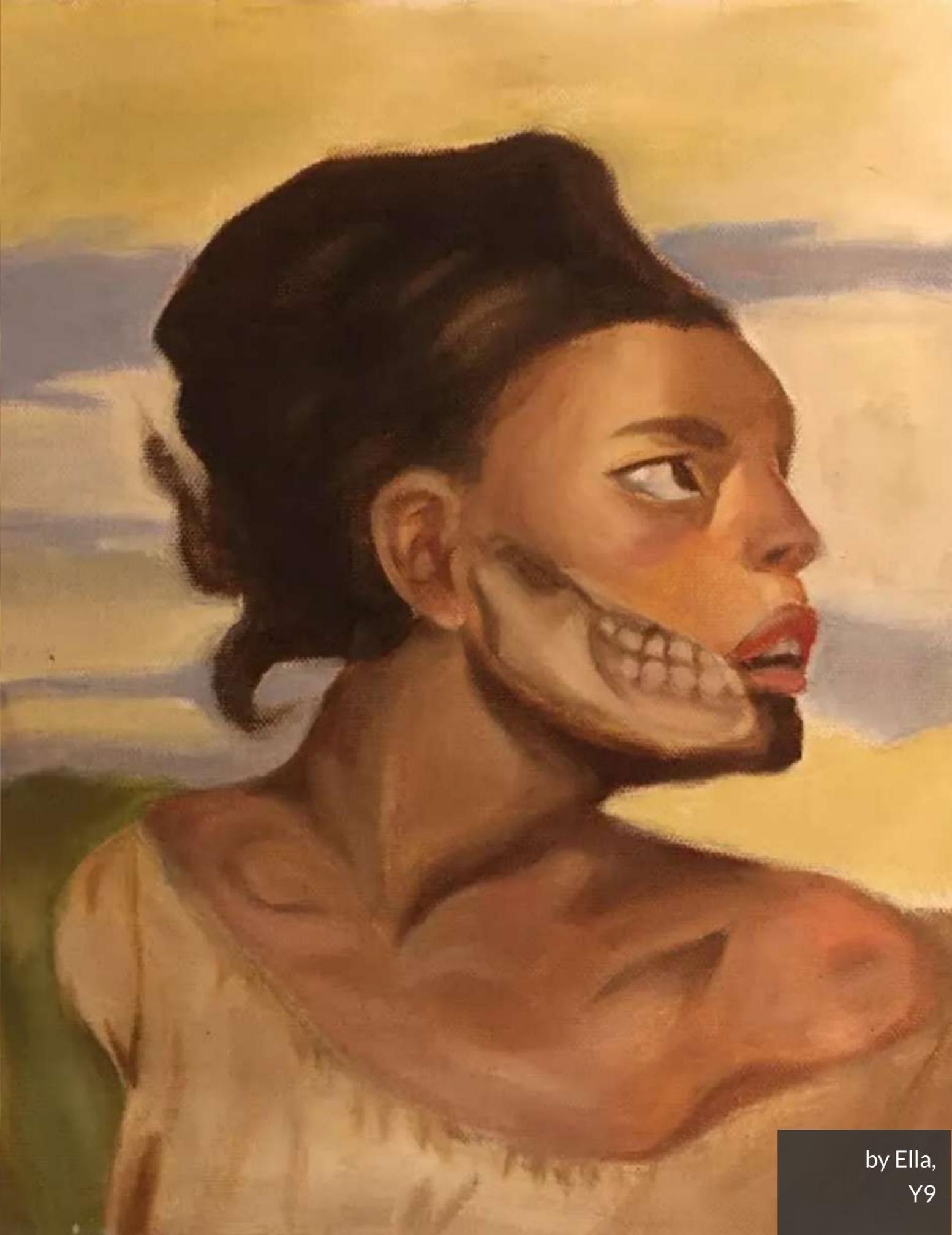
So continue to wear masks in communal areas, attempt to keep distance when possible, and continue to take part in proper hygiene. If we do all of these things we can keep each other safe.



PIZZA



by Becky,
Y8



by Ella,
Y9

PRETZELS



by David,
Y8



by Anna,
Y13



by Vivian
Y8