



**CHENEY SCHOOL**

*Think for yourself, act for others*

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

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## Rob Pavey, Headteacher

10 December 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

### Remote Working Update

Our **remote working** week is going to start **tomorrow (Friday 11 Dec)** rather than on Monday. This is because we now have over 35 staff absent, including a third of all teaching staff and some key pastoral staff. In addition, almost half of Year 11 and a quarter of Year 7 (year groups theoretically in school) are already joining their lessons via Google Classroom, either because of being asked to self-isolate, or because their parents are keeping them at home as a precaution.

We have also had a few more confirmed cases linked to the previously identified clusters. It therefore seems wise to remove the risk of further transmission immediately. Students who need to self-isolate and who were in school have already gone home, and a confirmatory email to all students affected, including those already at home, will be sent out this afternoon. Parents who do not hear anything can assume that there is no need for their son or daughter to self-isolate.

Students should join all their classes via Google Classroom from tomorrow, following the normal timetable, including tutor time. Students should either do the work posted on the Classroom, or join the class live via the Google Meet link. Our online lessons are now very much better than they were earlier in the term and in a whole different league to the first lockdown, which means that we can teach our full timetable right up to the end of term without any loss of learning time. This does not mean that the provision is perfect: both teachers and students are still having some technical difficulties, and we continue to ask parents to let teachers and year teams know if there are problems. We will also continue to monitor engagement, and contact home if a student is not joining their classes. Students who do not have a device they can use throughout the school day should contact their year team, and we will arrange for a loan laptop to be delivered.

School remains open to any student who needs it, whether because of connectivity difficulties, because parents have problems with childcare, or for any other reason. Year teams will also invite certain students in, if they believe it will help get work done. The canteen will remain open. Students who come into school may wear their own clothes, and should bring their own earphones with them. There are also a few planned events, which will go ahead: the **Food Technology GCSE practical**, and the **BTEC Sport exam** will take place as planned. Departments will be in touch separately, but I would emphasise that these are important, and form part of the actual GCSE.

A letter about Free School Meals provision over the two week holiday will be coming from the Finance team early next week. We would encourage families who have suffered a drop in income to consider applying: not only do students eat for free, but the school benefits from additional funding, and having had a Free School Meals entitlement can also lead to students getting preferential offers at university.



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Many thanks for your support, and I hope that everyone will watch the Christmas show when it goes live this afternoon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW76IPseqil>

Best wishes,

**Rob Pavey**

**Headteacher**