



CHENEY SCHOOL

Think for yourself, act for others

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

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Cheney Communications

21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers (and staff),

We hope this message finds you and your families well.

All Parents and Carers

Results of the parent survey on online learning. Many thanks for over 200 responses to last week's survey, and for the many kind comments; the full results are on the website, and we have passed on comments to the staff concerned. As a leadership team, we are working through the areas where you have indicated that improvements could be made. There are a few clear trends, which we will be discussing, with adjustments announced next week:

- Although most people are coping pretty well, a day's remote learning is more tiring than a day in school (our staff can sympathise).
- The balance of live to independent work and both the quantity and difficulty of work is more or less right, but there is a minority of students who are not being adequately challenged. We will look at introducing optional projects or homework to address this (I stress optional; 90% would not welcome any more work!) and we will consider ways of linking this to the house system as well.
- Insufficient movement / too much screen time: we agree, and we will discuss this, although I do not have an obvious solution which will please everyone. 5 minute breaks between lessons receive high levels of support, and we will remind staff of this.
- Cameras on / cameras off: having microphones muted is essential, but there are mixed views on cameras. We will discuss, and clarify next week, having canvassed staff opinion as well. I'm afraid we won't please everyone on this topic!
- The length of time it takes to do registers.

Please also see the website for the document from Mrs Marsh that provides our teachers with ideas and information about best practice for online learning. It is aimed at the adults in our school community and you will see that a lot of the comments that have come from parents are also reflected in what we are developing in school.

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Free School Meals. We have handed out food parcels this week as we have been busy getting the voucher scheme up and running. From next week, entitled families should receive an email from Edenred on Tuesday with instructions on how to access their voucher. A user guide and FAQ guide are on the website. These should cover any issues which may arise, but if there are any issues or questions which are not answered by these, please do speak to your year teams in the first instance.

Plans for Lateral Flow Tests. You may have seen media reports that the DfE have paused plans for the use of repeated Lateral Flow Tests instead of self-isolation. This is a good thing, in our view, until there is more evidence. We are still planning on doing two tests for all students on return, but we will wait to see if the guidance changes on this as well. We will share plans for this once the return to school date has been confirmed, which is not likely to be until the week before half term.

Safeguarding. Our Safeguarding team have produced [their first newsletter](#) of the year with great tips and advice about looking after our mental wellbeing.

Exams. For parents, carers and students in exam years, there are two important Government consultations on the awarding of grades this summer. Both close 29 January. Have your say here: [GCSE, AS & A-Levels, VTECs & other general qualifications](#). The documents are long but the surveys themselves are short.

Late Start Friday 22 January. Following Year 11 Parents' Evening this Thursday, there will be a slightly later start to virtual and in-school lessons for all students on Friday. School will be open from 8 am for key worker and vulnerable students as usual, but **students need to be in school/on-line by 9 am rather than 8.30am.**

INSET Monday 22 February. The school will be closed to all students, unless invited in for lateral flow testing or specific interventions, on Monday 22 February for INSET.

Launch of *Journey with Natty Mark*. Ms Patel would like to invite you to come along to an exciting virtual launch event! *Journey with Natty Mark* is a series of short videos exploring black history; facilitated by Oxfordshire Virtual School to encourage

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conversation and develop curiosity within the home. The launch will include live performance by Natty Mark Samuels, founder of African School and a panel discussion with Amare St. Hilaire (Postgrad student), Courtney (Year 11 Student), Zaiba Patel (History Teacher,) Roger Guiste (Family support worker), Natty Mark Samuels, (Writer, educator). You can get (free) tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-journey-with-natty-mark-tickets-137317683889>

Rumble Museum Newsletter: [Rumble Newsletter #2 17.01.2021](#)

Year 11 Parents and Carers

A final reminder that Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place this evening. The codes for each class is in [this document](#). You are also invited to join one of the Q&A sessions with Mr Pavey and Mr Ransome here: <https://meet.google.com/dxu-jyth-suz> at one of the following times: 3:45 pm – 4:05 pm, 5:00 pm – 5:20 pm and 6:40 pm – 7:00 pm. Please see yesterday's letter and/or the website for full details.

If your child is interested in applying to Cheney Sixth Form, we encourage them to look at the information now on this [website](#). The application and welcome information are all in place as well as our detailed Subject Guide all our faculty videos. We have started uploading the subject videos produced by our specialist teaching staff and featuring Year 12 and 13 students, and we will continue to add to these over the coming days.

You will find all our letters and notices on the [website](#) and/or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Kind regards

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