



CHENEY SCHOOL

Think for yourself, act for others

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

Cheney School
Cheney Lane
Headington
OX3 7QH

Tel: 01865 765 726

Email: office@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

Cheney Communications

28 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers (and staff),

We hope this message finds you well.

All Parents and Carers

Extended lunchtime and screen time. In response to feedback from staff and parents, we will be extending lunchtime to 45 minutes. Instead of lengthening the school day, we are **reducing period 3 to 45 minutes**, so **lunch for all year groups will now run from 12:15 to 13:00**. This will come into effect on Monday 1 February.

We hope that students are also getting the scheduled 5 minute break between all classes, and that parents are noticing the mix of live on-screen teaching, and independent work across the day, which does not require students to be staring at a screen.

Please also see the notice from the PE department below. For children who are coming to school, we are also making adjustments to period 5, where we are doing a PSHE or PE based activity to give them a break from screens and to boost their emotional and mental wellbeing. This is being coordinated by staff on site to ensure that students do not miss too many lessons of a given subject.

Please get in touch with your year team or fill in the [request form](#) if you think your child would benefit from some time in school. Please be aware that we need some warning so we can ensure we have the correct staffing in place, but school remains open for all children (and parents) who need it.

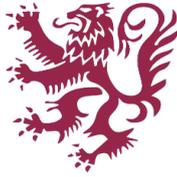
House competition. See Mrs Broom's letter (attached) to find out more about the 5 challenges in this term's online House competition.

Lateral Flow Testing. Staff testing continues twice weekly. The DfE appears to have paused all student testing, and the idea of using serial testing as an alternative to self-isolation seems to have been dropped. I imagine that student testing will return at some point, and we welcome anything practical that can help slow the spread of the virus. We have plans in place to test all students twice within the first week back and to run optional drop-ins thereafter; as soon as we know what is expected of us, we will let you know.

Environmental impact. At Cheney, we are aiming for net zero emissions. This is going to be difficult, and we do not yet know how we are going to achieve this, but I am pleased to say that we are further along than most schools (according to our environmental consultant).

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Below is our environmental impact (for the whole trust, not just Cheney, although we account for the large majority of it) over the last four years:



Environmental impact

Annual UK Energy Use

Source	FY	Annual Energy Consumption in kWh			
		Sep 16 - Aug 17	Sep 17 - Aug 18	Sep 18-Aug 19	Sep 19-Aug 20
Scope 1 Gas		1769609	2018274.4	1704272.2	1515867
Scope 1 Owned vehicles		0	0	0	0
Scope 2 Grid Electricity kWh		689658	616657	636258	613242
PV Generation kWh		71676	82972	84001	91660
Scope 3 Staff Mileage					3437
TOTAL kWh		2530943	2717903	2424531	2224206
Pupil numbers			1851	1857	1887

- Aim to be carbon neutral
- Energy efficiency
- Single use plastics
- Chadwick refurbishment
- Curriculum links
- Ongoing projects

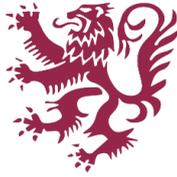
Associated Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Current and Historic

Source	FY	Carbon emissions in kgs of CO ₂ e			
		Sep 16 - Aug 17	Sep 17 - Aug 18	Sep 18-Aug 19	Sep 19-Aug 20
Scope 1 Gas		325891.2671	371281.7586	313330.444	278722.4653
Scope 1 Owned Vehicles		0	0	0	0
Scope 2 Grid Electricity		242456	174557	162628	142971
Scope 3 T&D - Voluntary reporting		22669	14880	13807	12295
Scope 3 Staff Mileage					863
Total kgs CO₂e		591016	560719	489765	434853
Total Tonnes CO₂e		591	561	490	435
Intensity Ratio - tonnes CO₂e per pupil			0.30	0.26	0.23

Here is what we are doing about it:

- Bid submitted for £2m refurbishment of Chadwick, which will hugely improve environmental performance (as well as stopping the building falling down).
- Environmental impact now forms part of all large procurement, services and tendering decisions.
- Ongoing work with an environmental consultant to identify areas for improvement (and cost savings).
- Work on greater integration of environmental topics into the curriculum is planned for later this term and next term.
- Engagement with Oxford transport planning (please be aware that restrictions on use of personal vehicles for drop-off and pick-up is likely in the next few years).
- Environmental projects in school, such as the [Tiny Forests project](#)

Exam consultation. The Ofqual consultation on this summer's exams closes tomorrow night. We have submitted both personal responses and an official school response, as well as discussing with other City schools on a joint approach. Please do take the time to get your voice heard if you haven't done so already: the more people who respond, the more likely government is to come up with a sensible plan: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>



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PE provision. Also in response to feedback from the parent survey, the PE department have taken steps to improve their remote lessons. In addition to the three available tasks to complete if you are isolating at home, working in school on a computer or able to exercise outside, from this week there will be a link to an exercise video where you can follow along with Mr Stacey's workout. We are also part of an exciting project with Oxford Brookes looking at the health and fitness levels of individuals. We are currently trialling a project with three year 7 PE classes which involves Brookes University staff delivering online lessons looking at exercise and its impact on heart rates. We hope to be able to open this to further classes throughout the academic year.

For more information about the OxSOCRATES project:

OxSOCRATES Mobile Number: 07423 474923

OxSOCRATES Email: oxsocrates@medsci.ox.ac.uk

OxSOCRATES Sign-Up: <https://bit.ly/3sw34pZ>

The Big Garden Birdwatch. Everyone can take part in this citizen science project and contribute to research for the RSPB. Just go and count what birds you see in your garden or from your balcony, for 1 hour this weekend. All the details including how to sign up, where to record what you see, and guides to common garden birds, are on the RSPB website here: www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

If you take any pictures of garden birds you see, please add them to the [Cheney School Big Garden Birdwatch padlet!](#)

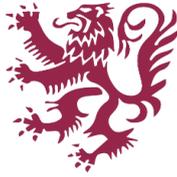
Destination: Space. The University of Oxford Physics Department have asked us to share an invitation for young people to join them on a journey into outer space with a [free online programme](#) of short talks and panel events. For more details, see the attached poster. As this is not an event run by Cheney School, parents/carers will need to take parental responsibility for their child's participation.

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

Rumble Museum Newsletter: [Rumble Newsletter #3 25.01.2021](#)

Cheney Student Newsletter: [Cheney Student Newsletter 5](#)

School Health Nurse Newsletter: [Secondary School Health Nurse Team Newsletter, Term 3, January](#)



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Years 7-10 Parents and Carers

Year 7 Top Reading. Many congratulations to tutor group 7c who have won the first inter tutor group competition of the term. Nearly 70% of the class achieved their AR reading targets for the first two terms, which is a fantastic achievement. Each student who achieved their reading target was awarded ten house points and as the winning class they also won another ten house points each, meaning that the 7c were awarded nearly 500 house points for Yousefzai House. Congratulations also to their English teachers, Ms Choudhury and Ms Hull.

The stats have now reset, and the next results will be announced at Easter. So please remind all Year 7s to get reading and quizzing and if any student needs help choosing a book, they can email [Mrs Fenton](mailto:m.fenton@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) for suggestions and guidance.

Years 8 and 9 Cheney Book Choice. Years 8 and 9 will be exploring new books in their reading lessons as part of the new Cheney Book Choice. Mrs Fenton has chosen a shortlist of six books which will be introduced to students over the next few weeks. We will then vote for our favourite. The chosen books represent the best in YA fiction and extra copies of each title have been bought for the library. Students are encouraged to borrow them and to form their own opinions.

This week's book is [Run, Rebel by Manjeet Mann](#). Here is a [short film](#) showing the author reading an excerpt of this fantastic novel which is written in verse (looks like a long book - but it's not!).

Years 7-10 Additional home learning tasks. In response to some support from the parent survey, we will be issuing a small selection of additional and optional home learning tasks for Years 7-10. These will be shared with students through Tutors and should be 'live' from next week. Tasks will make the most of existing online resources and additional materials prepared last year in order to support a healthy teacher workload. We are also thinking of ways to incorporate this into the House competition and to recognise students' exceptional efforts. The optional nature of these tasks should be made very clear to students. Students should prioritise completing class work before attempting any additional tasks; this is an optional extra, not an alternative.

Year 10 Head of Student Progress. Miss Pillay-Sayers has decided to step down from her position as Head of Student Progress for Year 10 with immediate effect, in order to get a rather healthier work-life balance at this difficult time. We are sure all parents of students in Year 10 will join us in thanking her for all her work and her care for her students over recent years. We are pleased to say that she is remaining at Cheney as a teacher of science, so we will not be losing her entirely. We have advertised for a replacement, and we will keep parents updated once we have made an appointment. In the meantime, please direct queries to Miss Yalci, who will be supported by Mrs Broom, whom many of you will know from her role as Assistant Headteacher.

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Year 11 Parents and Carers

Drama GCSE Devising Exam Update. Ms Gooch and Ms Ewles would like to make you aware that the deadline for all parts of the devising exam have been extended. We have listened to your feedback and are aware that there is a large workload for Year 11s currently. Therefore, the practical element of the exam (devising monologues) has been moved to the 11th and 12th of February. The final portfolio deadline has also been extended to the 5th of March. We are confident that this extension will allow pupils to create work that they are proud of. If there are any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to get in contact with your child's drama teacher. Thank you!

Cheney Sixth Form Q&A. Kate Hackett (Head of Sixth Form) and Sarah Warbrick (Sixth Form Pastoral Leader) are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 parents, carers and students this evening between 5:00 and 5:45pm for a virtual Q&A.

Please join via Google Meet at 5pm: <https://meet.google.com/jji-kuim-yir>

The team will show a brief welcome video, similar to one we would present at an Open Evening, and then answer questions.

Please look through the [FAQ section of our website](#), and submit any additional questions [here](#).

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications