

Cheney Communications

1 April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Sixth Form Students

All Parents and Carers

Testing update: we conducted 4,099 lateral flow tests in school in the first 8 days of being back, with no positive cases. Our staff have been testing themselves twice a week, and there have been no positive tests since January, when we had 4 or 5 among the staff. There have been 2 positive cases among students, both from transmission at home, and we have also had a handful of staff who have had to self-isolate because of contacts, but none who have themselves developed symptoms.

Lateral Flow Testing at home: please continue to do Lateral Flow Tests over the two weeks of the Easter holiday. Students will get another pack before the close of day today.

The guidance on whether to do a PCR test after a positive Lateral Flow Test has been confusing; it now says that a positive test, whether at school or at home should be confirmed with a PCR test. Therefore, actions on a positive Lateral Flow Test at home should be:

- Student and the rest of the family should self-isolate.
- Inform school of the result.
- Book a PCR test.
- Continue self-isolating until the result comes back.
- If the PCR is negative, inform school and come back to class.
- If it is positive, continue to self-isolate.

End of term: please remember that Friday 2 April is a public holiday, and school will be closed. Term 5 starts on Monday 19 April.

Free School Meal Vouchers over Half Term: following guidance from the government, Free School meal vouchers will be issued over the half term holiday using Wonde. You will receive a single payment of £30 to cover the two week break. You will receive an email/text from Wonde to say you have been issued with a voucher on Monday 5 April 2021.

Uniform: Cheney Friends have let us know that they currently have some second-hand uniform stock, and are happy to be contacted by families looking to purchase specific items of uniform over the Easter holidays: cheney.friends@yahoo.com.



CHENEY SCHOOL
Think for yourself, act for others

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Please use the Easter break to make sure that uniform is correct, and contact your year team if you are having difficulty. We have deliberately not made a big deal of exact uniform requirements since the end of lockdown, but normality is returning, and we will once again be requiring our students to wear our uniform correctly.

IT equipment donation: we would like to thank the Divinity Road Residents Association for donating a cornucopia of second hand IT equipment! The screens, mice, keyboards, cables and devices are very gratefully received.

Cheney2050: the brilliant talks by expert speakers Kate Raworth and Lord Robert Winston are now online for everyone to explore. Workshop recordings are also gradually being made available: those by Earthwatch Europe, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Roman Krznaric and Bill Finnegan are already online: <https://www.cheney2050.org.uk/time-table/>

Transition from Year 6 to Year 7: for families of Year 6 students joining us in September, thank you to those of you who attended our virtual Welcome Information Evening yesterday. The [Year 6 Transition to Year 7](#) page of the website is now live and includes team videos, virtual tours, FAQs, letters, key dates etc. If you were unable to attend the Welcome Information Evening, a recording of the event, the presentation and a form for any new questions will be posted to this webpage the first week back after the Easter break.

Library Newsletter: Mrs Fenton has produced her first library newsletter (attached). It's a wonderful insight into reading at Cheney and is packed with library news, including some fabulous new and suggested read recommendations.

Sustainability: we have recently been talking to students about relaunching effective recycling in school when we return after the Easter break. To find out what we have achieved so far, take a look at the [sustainability page](#) on the website. Could we also take this opportunity to remind all families that we consider a reusable water bottle to be essential equipment: single use plastics will shortly not be available in the canteen.

Jenner Institute study: if you are healthy, have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccination and are between 18-40 years old, you may be eligible to participate in the Jenner Institute study to determine the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of intranasal administration of the COVID vaccine ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 in healthy UK adults.

The finding of this study will help us learn if the Oxford Vaccine is safe and effective when administered intranasally and could assist with rapid deployment of the Oxford Vaccine. For more information, please visit: <http://ow.ly/Ed1O50Ec0Yq>



Carers and Parents of Year 7 students

Rumble Museum Breakfast Talks: the Rumble Museum is running a fascinating series of breakfast talks starting at the end of April. These will run during Tutor Time on Friday mornings and are open to all Year 7 students, on a first come, first served basis. See [today's letter](#) from Dr Robinson for more information, and please encourage your children to sign up [here](#).

Breakfast Talk Series: April - May 2021: What If?

Date	Topic
30th April	"What if everyone in the world jumped at the same time?", Prof Rhett Allain, Southeastern Louisiana University
7th May	"What if there were no moon?", Prof Robert Matthews, Aston University
14th May	"What if dinosaurs hadn't been destroyed by an asteroid?", Dr Michael Pittman, Vertebrate Palaeontology Laboratory, University of Hong Kong
21st May	"What if there were no pandemics?", Prof Van Westhuizen, University of Oxford
28th May	"What if insects were served in the school canteen?", Sarah Lloyd, Natural History Museum, Oxford

Parents and Carers of Years 9-13

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: please see the [letter from Mr Lea and Mr Taberer](#), sent earlier today, for information about the Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions, advice on skills, timings of the after school drop-in sessions and a heads-up on a planned virtual conference for parents w/c 19 April (exact date to be confirmed).

Please contact the DofE team directly if you have any urgent questions that need to be addressed before the conference: DofE@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

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

Kind regards

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