

Cheney Communications

29 April 2021

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

All Parents and Carers

Bank Holiday reminder: Monday 3 May is a Bank Holiday and the school will be closed to all students.

Marking and moderation day Thursday 13 May (Eid): please remember that school will be closed to students for a marking and moderation day on Thursday 13 May. We will ask who needs their children to come to school on that day in this email on 6 May.

Assessments due on that day will either run as planned in school, or will be rescheduled. Departments will confirm separately what the case will be.

Lateral Flow Tests: many thanks to the many parents who are registering the results of the lateral flow tests via our website. Fresh batches of Lateral Flow Tests for students are being handed out in tutor time today and tomorrow, with Year Teams taking care of any students who are absent. If your child is absent and does not receive theirs, they should contact their year team. This resupply of home testing kits will take us up to 17 May; we do not yet know what the expectations are beyond this date, but we will let you know as soon as we have more information. We are also attaching a letter from Kevin Gordon, Oxfordshire County Council's Director of Children's Services, about lateral flow testing in the community.

Transition update: the recording from the March welcome evening is now available on our [Transition webpage](#) for those of you who were unable to attend.

Rumble Museum African artefacts project: in December, the Rumble Museum was gifted a large and wide-ranging collection of African artefacts, which includes a very interesting mixture of everyday, musical, and natural history items. We would like to create displays, information boards and educational resources for this collection, and are looking for people to help us build a clearer picture of how these objects were used, and what their wider context is. Please see Dr Robinson's letter sent this morning (and also attached) for more information.

Tree Trail live event: we are delighted to announce that our Year 8 Rumble Museum Council are hosting a live Tree Trail event at Cheney School on Saturday 22 May, 9.30 - 12.00 (poster attached). Visitors will be able to explore Cheney's beautiful and varied trees, alongside a range of child-friendly activities, as well as snack and drink stalls.

Our Year 8 Museum Council students have been working hard to identify, map and photograph all of Cheney's beautiful trees. Initially, they worked on creating a virtual tree trail. They themed each section and recruited a range of staff to be the voices of the trees. As well as many fascinating and informative staff tree voice-overs, there are some celebrity trees hidden in each section - why not explore the virtual [tree trail](#) to see if you can recognise their voices as they tell you about their tree.

When you visit, you can explore the Tree Trail using the virtual Tree Trail on your phone, or you can simply explore using our signs and with our student guides!

There is no need to book for this event. Just turn up to Cheney main reception and there will be people there to welcome you and show you how to follow the trail. We hope to see you there!

Big Ask: we have been talking to students this week about the Big Ask consultation. Don't forget that parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited to share their views:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

Chromebooks: we are starting to get the Chromebooks out to families this week and next. If you have expressed an interest in a Chromebook, please check your inboxes for Monday's message from Ms Shepherd.

Break and Lunchtimes: in order to achieve a little fairness, Year 9 are now going to lunch 10 minutes early, instead of Year 10. There is otherwise no change to the canteen arrangements.

Scholastic Book Club: for every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. There are some brilliant new titles on offer so do take a look: <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/cheney/digital-book-club>.

Student Newsletter #9: last week's [student newsletter](#) features two great poems, one by an anonymous Y7 student and one you may know by Amelie (Y7). We've got beautiful and challenging art by Lucy and Chelsea (Y10), Siri (Y7) and an anonymous Y7 student. And Imaan in Y9 has made something delicious!

School Health Nurse Newsletter: the [April newsletter](#) includes tips for students facing exams/assessments, how to keep your child safe when playing Minecraft, plus MMR info and useful links and health resources.

Exam certificates: for families of students who have left Cheney, exam certificates are available for collection from school. See the [website](#) for full details.

Parents and Carers of Years 9

Y9 immunisation reminder: Tdp/Men ACWY immunisations for Y9 students will take place on 18 May. If you have not already consented, you can find full details and the link to the consent form in [last term's letter](#).

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: the next DofE expedition is due to take place on 8 and 9 May. We are working hard to ensure that we can camp, and that this is compliant with the regulations (this is not quite as obvious as it should be). A letter with details and confirmation will come separately just as soon as we have the necessary clarity.

Parents and Carers of Years 10-13

Library loans: all library loans for Year 11 and 13 students should now be returned immediately. For textbook loans, please can students return their books after their final assessment for that subject? All textbooks and library books should be returned directly to the library (see attachment).

Year 11 and Year 13 last day of school: the last day of compulsory school for Year 11 and Year 13 is at the start of half term. There is no study leave before that date.

Further details of what will happen, and plans for celebrations and final lessons will be coming from the Sixth Form and Year 11 teams in due course.

For the two weeks after half term, we will run final catch-up assessments for students with significant gaps in their evidence: this will be in small numbers and by invitation, and we will be in touch individually with students who need to do this. In the last two weeks of June, we will be doing transition activities. We expect full engagement in our 'ready for Sixth Form' course from students who are staying with us into Year 12, and we will facilitate other transition activities for those who are moving on to College, although the details of this depend on the Colleges.

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications