

Cheney Communications

13 May 2021

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

All Parents and Carers

Eid Mubarak! Cheney staff wish peace and happiness to all our students, staff and families celebrating Eid.

Wearing masks in school: in line with the recent government guidance, masks will no longer be compulsory for students in school from Monday. This applies in class and in corridors. If students feel more comfortable (and some will) wearing a mask, that is of course fine.

Adults will continue to wear masks inside where social distancing is difficult.

All other Covid security measures remain in place, including ventilation, cleaning, split break and lunch times and separate entrances and exits. There are no changes planned to the canteen yet, and we anticipate PE changing rooms coming back into use after half term, depending on advice from the relevant national governing bodies.

The full 8 page document is [here](#) if you are interested (including an explanation of what a mask is and how to take one off, in case you are struggling).

Parents' Evenings: we are asking your feedback on the online parents' evenings that we ran this year to find out if they should be a permanent feature of our offer. Please fill out our questionnaire to share your views: [Online Parents' Evening Questionnaire](#)

Relationship and Sex Education: thank you to all the parents who responded to the survey on relationships lessons in tutor time PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education). Rob Bown (PSHE senior link) and Eleanor Kavanagh (PSHE lead) read through parent feedback with great care and adapted many lessons. They have recorded a video to explain these changes which can be found on the PSHE page of the Cheney website: <https://cheney.wpengine.com/pshe/>. Other related documents on the Cheney website are the Relationships and Sex Education policy (<https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/policies/>) and the slides from this term's relationships lessons which are at the bottom of the PSHE page. We have made these available so that parents can continue conversations about relationships at home if they wish to.



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Think for yourself, act for others

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

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OX3 7QH

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Photography equipment needed: our fabulous Creative Arts department is asking you to rummage in your attics and kitchen drawers for any unwanted photography equipment you may be happy to donate. We particularly need:

- speedlight/ speedlite/ external flash
- any equipment that works with Nikon DSLR like lenses, filters, gels etc.
- batteries or memory cards

If anyone has any of these items or similar that they don't use or want any more we would be very grateful. Drop off at reception, FAO Ms Tonner.

Tree Trail live event: a reminder 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. 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.

Rumble Newsletter #10: this week's [Rumble Museum newsletter](#) reports on the Museum Council's trip to the fabulous Wytham Woods to learn about nesting birds with Sam and Keith from the Edward Grey Institute team, plus an update on the African collection and working with Natty Mark Samuels.

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

Cheney Parents Talking Group: the Cheney Parents Talking Group started in January 2021 during lockdown to support parents finding family life a challenge. We are continuing to meet this term every Friday at 1.30pm on Zoom. Here is what parents have said about the group:

This group has been a wonderful source of help, support and parenting ideas as well as a not insignificant amount of good humour and laughter. It has really helped me through the last few months which have been a very difficult time for our family. (Parent of child in Year 11)

I've found it really useful to have a baseline of 'normal' for teenage behaviour/relationships with family. It's really good to think about what's happening for my kids with other parents and unpick why they may be doing/being/saying what they are, in a non-judgemental and kind group. It has helped me with my expectations of both them and myself and helped me respond productively as opposed to reactively in stressful moments. (Parent of child in year 8)

I have found the group invaluable. It provides a connection with other parents who one maybe wouldn't normally meet and I have felt supported talking about issues with my children and myself. (Parent of child in year 9)



If you would like to join the group, it costs £5/session but is free if this is a stretch for you financially. In order to provide stability to the Group, you would ideally commit to join us each week until the end of the summer term in July.

For further information and to register your interest, please email annie.pesskin@gmail.com.

Annie Pesskin is a registered psychodynamic psychotherapist in private practice and the NHS. She is an accredited member of the British Psychoanalytic Council. You can find out more about her from her blog, www.psychanalysisinotherstories.com

Parents and Carers of Year 8

Rumble Museum Breakfast Talks: the Rumble Museum is running a series of Breakfast Talks for Year 8 students delivered by scientists from around the globe on different aspects of the human brain, as well as a talk on living on a planet with no sun by an award-winning science fiction author. These talks will take place in the Classics Centre (L14) on the following dates during tutor times next term:

Date	Topic
Friday 11 June, 8.30 - 9am	“Living on a Planet with No Sun”, Chris Beckett, award-winning science fiction writer
Friday 18 June, 8.30 - 9am	“Introducing the Brain”, Professor Tim Denison, University of Oxford Neuroscience
Friday 25 June, 8.30 - 9am	“What Music does to the Brain”, Dr. Artur C. Jaschke, Professor of Music-based Therapies and Interventions, Department of Clinical Neuropsychology, Amsterdam
Friday 2 July, 8.30 - 9am	“What Happens in the Brain when we Disagree”, Dr Andreas Kappas, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, City University, London

Students can sign up for the talks using a google form [here](#). They will be contacted at the start of next term with further details on talks they have signed up for. We hope to see lots of students there! Students can email Dr Robinson on Iro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk or come and find her in school with any questions about these talks.



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Parents and Carers of Years 9

Y9 immunisation reminder: Tdp/Men ACWY immunisations for Y9 students will take place on 18 May.

Parents and Carers of Years 10-13

Ofqual Student Guide: this guide for students from Ofqual outlines the arrangements in place for awarding grades in summer 2021, and where you can go for additional information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PpXVko2Fx7PxGPv5ySbExyr8IIHuezl2/view>

Library loans: a reminder that all library loans for Year 11 and 13 students should be returned immediately. For textbook loans, students should return their books after their final assessment for that subject. All textbooks and library books should be returned directly to the library. The last day for all returns is 24 May.

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

Kind regards

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