

Cheney Communications

20 May 2021

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

All Parents and Carers

Environmental action at Cheney

At Cheney, we are trying very hard to minimise our environmental impact, and to get to net zero emissions (and we have recently signed up to the Let's Go Zero campaign: <https://letsgozero.org/schools/>). Here is a brief summary what we have been doing to reduce our carbon footprint and our environmental impact:

- Solar panels on the roof of 3 buildings (hopefully more once refurbishment has been carried out).
- Monitoring and smart metering to reduce electricity consumption.
- Engagement with environmental consultants to help us reduce our impact further.
- Large bid to refurbish Chadwick, and therefore make the building significantly more energy efficient: we will know if we have been successful in June.
- Reduction (to almost zero) of single use plastics in school: there is a little more work to do here.
- Waste contracts to save money and enhance recycling.
- Carbon footprint is now a factor in all procurement decisions, and in our energy contracts.
- Tree planting and changes to grounds management contracts to remove chemicals and encourage habitats for pollinators (some of the grass around site is being allowed to grow - this is deliberate, and we hope will turn into beautiful wildflower meadows, not bramble patches).
- Curriculum audit currently underway to make links to environmental issues in our lessons.

There is more we need to do, and we need to engage our students and the wider school community, because we do not know how a school can genuinely become carbon neutral. Here are some things that are on the agenda:

- Recycling: we are getting students back into the habit of putting things in the correct bin.
- Environmental working groups, both staff and student, are coming back to life and will have new ideas for implementation.
- Tutor time activities: next week has an environmental theme, and there will be an ongoing series of short inputs in tutor time over the coming terms: putting

things in the correct bin makes much more sense if students know what happens to the rubbish afterwards, for example.

- **Travel to school:** we want to encourage walking or cycling as much as possible, and discourage car journeys (we understand that some are necessary). To this end, we are aiming to expand the current bike sheds, and also make them more secure, and we are getting quotes to carry out this work at the minute.

Travel to school leads on to a few other linked issues:

- **Road safety:** unfortunately, one of our students was hit by a car and broke his leg recently while crossing Gypsy Lane. Please reinforce basic road safety messages with your children. We are continuing to talk to the council about improved safety measures along Gypsy Lane, but there are complications because it is an ambulance route, and I do not have any sense of a time scale yet.
- **Driving to school:** both for environmental reasons and because of road safety, please do not park on the double yellow lines on Gypsy Lane or on Warneford Lane if you do need to drop your children at school. If there are reasons you need to drop your children, please get in touch with your year teams and we will look at allowing you through the barrier to drop off by reception.
- **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods:** if you are not already aware of the proposals for Headington and East Oxford, the following may be of interest: <https://oxlivsts.org.uk/> The Council is also looking at ways to reduce emissions and improve safety outside schools: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/school-streets-to-begin/> As a school, our interest in this is that our students are safe coming to and from school, and that emissions reduce. Whether a Low Traffic Neighbourhood is the right thing is a matter for the residents affected, and we do not have a formal view on it.

LTF update: new test kits will have been issued today during P5. Please do remember to complete the tests each week and to continue to send in the results on our [Google Form](#) and the [Test & Trace](#) website.

PE changing rooms: we will be bringing the PE changing rooms back into use after the half term break, assuming the most recent relaxation of restrictions does not go into reverse. As always, we will keep guidance from the national governing body for PE, guidance from the DfE and the local infection rate in mind, and we will revert to how we currently operate if necessary. This means that **students will need to come every day in normal school uniform**, rather than in a tracksuit.

Intimate and Sexual Relationship Lessons: from Monday 7 June, all students in Years 7 to 10 will be taking part in weekly tutor time lessons which will focus on the intimate and sexual relationships topics of the relationships and sex education (RSE) programme. Please see our accompanying letter for more information.



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Think for yourself, act for others

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U12s Girls Football Tournament, Oxford Academy, 18 May: what started as a washout with rain turned into a glorious summer afternoon for football. Roberta, Lara, Amy, Chloe (Captain), Lotti, Siri, Hana and Catie represented Cheney School in the first football tournament of the year and smashed it! Securing 3rd place winning most of their matches with lots of goals and smiles on their faces. The focus on the tournament was playing with honesty, which all demonstrated throughout with kindness and respect for themselves and the other teams. Players of the match are Siri and Catie due to their excellent efforts and honesty throughout the tournament, well done! Miss Millard - Teacher of PE (team photo attached).

PE Extra-curricular update:

'Sport for All Club': Year 7 on Monday, Year 8 on Tuesday. Students should come along with a group of friends with a sporting activity in mind that they would like to try and one of the PE staff will assist with coaching, skill refinement and fun! Students will need to be in PE kit, and should wear this for the entire day should they intend to come along. Sports taken up recently included rowing, football, tennis and basketball.

Female Rugby Taster Sessions: following the successful taster sessions in April and early May, students should speak to Mr Evans if they are interested in the school arranging further sessions.

Year 8 River Rowing: on a Wednesday after school, the students who have completed the capsized drill and have signed up to Cheney Falcons Rowing Club are rowing from Donnington Bridge. For further information students should speak to Mrs Hart.

Fitness Suite/Gym: the fitness suite is open for students on Tuesdays after school 15:10-16:10, students need only come along. Students should speak to Mr Evans if they have any questions.

Sixth form Badminton: Sixth Form badminton takes place each Friday in the sports hall 15:10-16:10. Sixth Form students should speak to Alavey, the Sixth Form student running this. Spaces are limited.

Team Basketball: training for team basketball has started. This is for those students that attended and were selected from the April trials. Students should speak to Mr Harley if they have any questions.

Gaelic Football: Youth Gaelic Football training is starting again on Saturdays at the GAA grounds in Horspath. Ages 5-16 welcome. Please see the attachment and if you have any questions ask Miss Robinson (Science teacher)

brn@cheney.oxon.sch.uk or email: secretary.eireog.hertfordshire@gaa.ie

Call for Uniform Donations: Cheney Friends always welcomes donations of good quality, clean, uniform items for its second-hand uniform sales. Please drop off any uniform donations to the main School Reception during opening hours. Many thanks in advance!



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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. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the below questionnaire to share your views: [Online Parents' Evening Questionnaire](#)

Tree Trail live event: it's finally here! What better way to spend Saturday morning than at the Y8 Rumble Museum Council live Tree Trail event? Come and discover Cheney's beautiful and varied trees and enjoy child-friendly activities, snack and drink stalls. No booking required.

Transition: families of Year 6 applicants, please check your inboxes for Mrs Hart's letter sent on Monday. We are asking you to complete our data collection form and to express your interest in our Y6 summer school and the introduction of Mandarin! The links in the letter are now working. The letter, plus information from Stevenson's about uniform shopping and fitting appointments, is on the [website](#).

Library: the National Book Tokens [big prize draw](#) is back, giving you the chance to win £5,000 of National Book Tokens for the library simply by nominating us! If your entry is picked, you'll also get £100 of National Book Tokens for yourself! <http://ow.ly/VxHY50EQ8h9>

Hay Festival (26 May - 6 June). For the second year running, the Hay Festival is going online and there are some really fantastic authors talking about their books, including:

- Manjeet Mann (Run Rebel)
- Liz Hyder (Bearmouth)
- Robert Muchamore (The Cherub series and the new Robin Hood series)
- Phil Earle (Demolition Dad, The Bubble Wrap Boy)
- Patrick Ness (The Knife of Never Letting Go, A Monster Calls)

Whilst some of the talks take place during school time, you can watch the presentations on catch up via the [Hay Player](#) and each talk takes about 30 minutes. You can also watch talks from previous years via this link.

More details [here](#). I've already signed up to watch all of the above! Mrs Fenton.

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. The talks will take place in the Classics



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Centre (L14) during tutor times next term and students can sign up using a google form [here](#). We will be in contact 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 lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk or come and find her in school with any questions about these talks.

Parents and Carers of Years 9 and 10

Y9 immunisations: well done to our fabulous Year 9s for their maturity and patience during the TDP/Men ACWY immunisations on Tuesday.

Year 9 students who have completed the consent form, but who missed the session on Tuesday, will be invited to a catch up session on 11 July. If you would like your Year 9 child to receive these immunisations but have not yet completed the consent form, please do so here:

[To access the consent form please click on the following link.](#)

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/DTP>

The unique code for your child's school is:- OX139146

Please submit your form at least two working days before the date of the session to ensure your child receives their vaccination. Late consents will not be accepted.

You will need your child's NHS No. to complete the form. This is available from your GP Practice or can be found on child's Red Book.

DofE Bronze: Cheney D of E team would like to say a big thank you to parents and students for accommodating our last-minute change of camping location for the bronze assessment. We are also hugely grateful to Rob Pavey, Ben Hegedus and the governors for finding a camping solution and Bryony McCraw, Dylan Davies, Fatmir Lika for offering and facilitating the use of Barton Park Primary School.

Students showed excellent resilience and teamwork over the weekend, walking a considerable distance in harsh conditions. Ben and I were particularly impressed by some of the excellent cuisine produced by students using basic stoves on Saturday evening.



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Now that students have been equipped with the skills, confidence and kit to complete achievements like the bronze award, we hope they may plan expeditions of their own in the future (ideally when the weather is a little brighter).

It is worth remembering that most students fail to complete their D of E award, not because they fail the expedition, but because they do not complete or log their skill, volunteering and physical activity sections. L25 is open after school every Tuesday between now and the end of the year to help students with this. Mr Lea.

Parents and Carers of Years 11-13

DofE Silver: if your child is participating in DofE training expedition, 29-31 May, please check your inboxes for Mr Lea and Mr Taberer's letter, sent earlier this week. Contact dofe@cheney.oxon.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Year 11 end of year celebration: plans for the Year 11 end of year celebration are under way. See Monday's [letter](#) from the team for details.

Year 12 end of T5 update: in case you missed Ms Hackett's update for Year 12 students, it's on the [website](#).

Year 13 end of T5 update: Ms Hackett's update for Year 13 students is also on the [website](#).

Library loans: a final reminder that all library loans for Year 11 and 13 students need to be returned directly to the library, so that they are available for future students. 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

Cheney Communications