

Cheney Communications

17 June 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Year 12 Students

Year 11 prom and summer show cancellation: we are working now to see if we can run both these events before the end of term in July. I am making no promises, but all of us would like both events to run if at all possible. I hope to let you know the decision in a separate message tomorrow, or perhaps after the weekend. A few words of caution, however:

- This depends entirely on the removal of restrictions on July 19.
- We won't run either event if the local rate in Oxford is high, regardless of the national picture: I have absolutely no desire to host a super-spreader event.
- I'm afraid that the school can in no way pay parents for money spent on prom dresses or other things relating to the event.

Please accept our apologies for the uncertainty; I understand the importance that students attach to their prom, and I hope everyone who contacts staff at school will be able to remain courteous when raising the issue.

Covid vaccinations in school: there are rumours circulating about the roll-out of a vaccination programme in schools for children aged 12-18. We are unaware of any firm plans for this, although we know a programme of vaccinating children is underway in the USA. If it becomes government policy to do something similar in the UK, it will of course require parental consent. Schools will never carry out medical procedures without consent.

Rob Pavey

End of year Assessments: we will be holding low-key end of year assessments in lessons in the following weeks for years 7-10 to support our end of year reports.

In order that your child knows when they need to prepare for the assessments we have shown the week that assessments will take place. For KS3 students, we have not confirmed exact dates but subject teachers will let students know when to expect the assessment during their lessons. Year 10s have access to a [timetable](#) of when assessments will take place to support them within their revision and organisation skills.

Week beginning 21st June - Year 7 and 8 assessments

Week beginning 28th June and 5th July - Year 9 and 10 assessments

Some subjects have already started having their end of year assessments as it has been difficult to keep them all in one week. Please do support your child in bringing in the correct equipment for their assessments as this will help them run more smoothly.

Week beginning 21st June & 28th June - Year 12 Predictor exams

These exams inform the predicted grades for all references we write. Any student who does not pass these will be required to resit the exam on Monday 9th August and must show a strong grasp of Year 12 content before progressing into Year 13. We do not permit students to resit Year 12.

Lateral Flow Tests: new test kits have been sent home this week with students in line with the government guidelines to continue testing at home. Please do remember to send in your results to the school using the [online form](#) as well as uploading results to the [NHS](#).

Student Engagement Review: as part of our annual review, we have created [a form](#) to canvass your views on student engagement. You may wish to talk to your child first before answering these questions to help inform your answers.

Summer School for Y6 students 26-30 July: Summer School is going ahead! With mornings full of exciting activities, Summer School is a great way for your child to meet new friends and get to know Cheney. If you have a child who will be joining us in September, and you would like them to take part, please complete our simple [expression of interest form](#). Our flyer is attached.

Thank a teacher: Thank a Teacher day is on **23 June**. If you want to show your thanks to any member of staff (teaching or support), tomorrow is the deadline for sending any (twitter-length) messages of appreciation to SchoolImprovementTeam@Oxfordshire.gov.uk at Oxfordshire County Council. Some contributions will be shared online on #ThankATeacher.

If you prefer to send a message to a member of staff more directly, we have our own ["thank you"](#) form you can use.

Year 10 Football: on Tuesday, one of the hottest days this term, Y10s Hermione, Sara, Louisa, Kim (GK), Erin, Xana, Lola, Freya, Lily, Kiyana, Sarah, Sophie, and Juhaina represented Cheney in their first football match at the Oxford Academy. They smashed it, winning 5-0 (Xana x2, Hermione x1, Sophie x1, Juhaina x1)! Players of the match are Hermione, Sarah, and Sara for excellent effort and performance throughout, well done!

Miss Millard - Teacher of PE



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Basketball: massive thank you and congratulations for all the hard work put in both in the mornings and after school by the Year 7 and 8 Boys and Girls Basketball teams, the majority of whom are total beginners. We have played a lot of fixtures amongst ourselves but also three external fixtures. Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls who beat Cherwell 28-10. Also extremely well done to the Year 7 Boys who beat Cherwell School 72-21 and The Swan School 58-8; an amazing start!

Mr Harley - Teacher of PE

“Old girl” visit: earlier this week our Y9 Museum students stepped back in time with a visit from Cheney Grammar School "old girl", Lynn Ferris. Lynn attended Cheney Grammar School, as was, in the 1960's. As well as sharing her recollections, Lynn donated some of her old uniforms. Dr Robinson is planning a display to accompany the History of Cheney boards in the canteen: Discover Lynn's recollections: <http://ow.ly/PjcD50FbM6l>

#CleanAirDay: thank you to everyone who left the car at home and chose active travel today. We are pleased to announce the installation of a Friends of the Earth, Oxford particulate monitor on site - a first for an Oxford school! Thank you to Dr Janine Aron and Professor John Meullbauer of Friends of the Earth Oxford and INET Oxford, and to Purple Air for their pioneering work on particulates monitoring. Thank you also to Martin from Carbon Alternatives for the installation yesterday.

A massive congratulations to our 6th Form Climate Action students Hannah, Sahana and Lyle for making this happen - you can watch them on BBC South News this evening at 6.30pm!

There is a little bit of techy tweaking to do, but you'll soon see our monitor's data appearing on the [Purple Air website](#).

Parents' Evenings: thank you for all the responses to the parents' evening survey. We had 122 responses, and we will also be establishing a working party of parents from groups who tend to respond less to online surveys (we are hoping to use this model to increase parent participation in school decisions, alongside the governing body, if it proves productive).

In outline, only 10% of respondents would prefer a return to face-to-face meetings, and many parents commented on the increased time efficiency. It seems likely that we will continue with online meetings in the future, and we will think about whether a mixture of the two would be at all feasible. We will be investigating some software which makes the booking system much easier, improves reliability and also closes meetings after 5 minutes, so there is no chance of overrunning. The full results will be shared next week.



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[Student Newsletter #11](#): thanks to our wonderful editors and contributors for creating the student newsletter during these busiest of days. Enjoy striking art from Alice (Y9), Ella (Y13) and Marianne (Y10), plus thought-provoking poems by Julia (Y8) and an anonymous Y7 student.

[Rumble Museum Newsletter #11](#): this week's newsletter features the recent visit from "old girl" plus the upcoming African Artefacts Collection event!

Parents and Carers of Years 7-9

Y7 Museum Council invitation: please check your inboxes for Dr Robinson's invitation to Y7 students to get involved in the Museum Council from September. Dr Robinson would love to hear from students, who should email [her](#) a paragraph about why they would like to take part, by **9 July**.

Language choices for Y7 & 8: please check your inboxes for Ms Reynes' letters regarding [language choices in KS3 for Y7 students](#) and [language options for KS3 for Y8 students](#). In both letters there is a form for you to express a preference by **23 June**.

Y9 Latin GCSE: please check your inboxes for [Ms Reyne's letter](#) regarding Latin GCSE in September. If your child is interested, you will need to contact Dr Robinson: lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications