

Cheney Communications

1 July 2021

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

Covid-19 update: many thanks to all parents who have supported us with self-isolation requirements. There have been several more cases reported to us, but almost all of them have been in students who have been already self-isolating, so additional disruption to school has been limited. Please continue to do the Lateral Flow Tests, and please do book a PCR test if you have any suspicion at all that your children may have been infected. I am very pleased to say that our students in school have understood immediately why we have had to reintroduce mask wearing, and have been complying with it in a very sensible and mature manner.

I hope that the new school year will bring a different approach to controlling the virus in schools, and that we will no longer have this kind of disruption. That is a political decision, however, and we won't know what the new guidance will say until late August.

The most important single thing in preventing the spread of Covid is not to send children to school if they have symptoms. We have a [flowchart on the website](#) which may help you with this decision.

Free School Meals vouchers: we will once again provide vouchers over the summer holidays for families whose children are eligible. These will be set up to arrive weekly, at a rate of £15 per week for 6 weeks. I need to make it clear that the government has said that this is the last time these vouchers will be provided. I would of course support anything that helps our families who are struggling, but long term changes will need to come through universal credit, rather than through schools. We are currently also providing vouchers for children who are self-isolating. To allow us to do this, we either need to have sent your child home ourselves, or you need to tell us about a positive PCR result in your family.

Rob Pavey

Assessments for students self-isolating: with a few exceptions, assessments will continue as scheduled, as we do not have time to reschedule them before the end of term, and there is anyway a possibility that a different set of students will need to self-isolate later in term. In most cases, the same assessment, or an adapted version will be sat online at the same time as the rest of the class, and teachers will take this into account when marking the assessments. Departments will provide more detail, and will post instructions on their Google Classrooms.



CHENEY SCHOOL
Think for yourself, act for others

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

Cheney School
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Lateral Flow Tests: in the circumstances, doing regular LFT is very important. Please 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. This is a repeat from last week.

Uniform: in September we will be expecting every student to come to school wearing the correct uniform proudly. Please ensure that you refer to the uniform page on the school web site and the uniform guidelines in particular to ensure that any uniform you purchase is correct. We would like to stress that hoodies are not acceptable and students wearing hoodies on site will be challenged and expected to remove them. Persistent non-compliance will result in hoodies being confiscated. Also please pay particular attention to the PE uniform. Any PE kit with logos other than the school logo, or legwear that is any other colour than black is not acceptable. Please do not spend money on branded sportswear for school, as even small logos will not be acceptable.

- Uniform page on the Cheney School website <https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/uniform/>
- Specific uniform guidance <https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Update-Uniform-Guidelines-June20212.pdf>

Attendance: having high levels of attendance are really important. When students attend regularly, they are able to stay on top of their subjects and they learn well. The government guidance is that good levels of attendance are 95% or better. Our students have been attending really well this year and our attendance level is well above the national average. This is excellent, especially considering how disruptive the Covid pandemic has been. Next year we are looking forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that every student attends school as often as possible and we will be following up on absence swiftly.

If you know your child is going to be absent, please use one of the following methods to inform us:

- Complete the Cheney School Student Absence Google Form
- Call the attendance manager Mr Hawkswood on 01865 765726 - Option 1
- Email Mr Hawkswood rhw@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

If leaving a telephone or email message please include the following information:

- The name, form and year group of your child
- Your name and contact details



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- Reason for absence
- Expected date of return
- Please inform us for each day of absence

Punctuality: in September we are also going to have a punctuality drive to ensure that all students arrive to registration and lesson promptly. We would appreciate it if parents would discuss the importance of being on time with their children and help support them to arrive at school with plenty of time to get to registration. When students arrive on time, it helps support an orderly and timely start to lessons. Clearly there are occasions when students are late for legitimate reasons. When this is the case, please provide your child with a note explaining their reason for being late.

Summer Show (19 July): tickets for the Summer Show are available now, so please [sign-up](#). Ms Jackson is still on the lookout for Raffle prizes, so if you have a donation you want to make, please let her know; lja@cheney.oxon.sch.uk. If you have a gazebo you would be prepared to loan to for the event, she would also love to hear from you.

Combined Cadet Force: we are joining forces with Magdalen College School from September to allow our students access to the CCF. This is a real opportunity for students to push themselves, to experience new things, and to use the army's resources for adventure training. It has almost nothing to do with the army! Students should view it as Scouts, but with better resources. There is a particularly good link with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and it serves many of the same purposes.

Cheney Friends: please put a date in your diary to join us for the next online meeting of Cheney Friends on **Wednesday 7 July at 7.30pm**. We will share the codes to access the meeting early next week.

Boots2Africa: thank you for filling our @Boots2Africa collection bin to overflowing! We were overwhelmed with the quantity and quality of your donations. Thank you also to Stevensons School Uniforms for supporting this project and enabling us to get involved.

Moth Night, 10 July: the Rumble Museum is holding Cheney's first ever Moth Night on 10 July. We have a few places available for students who would like to book to attend. If you would like to attend, please email Dr Robinson on lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. All year groups are welcome. Flyer attached.

Classics Summer School: the seventh annual Classics Summer School will take place on the mornings of 23, 24 and 25 August, at the Iris Classics Centre at Cheney School. This year the summer school will be themed on ancient cities! For details see the [Classics Centre website](#).



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Rumble Museum Newsletter #13: in this week's Rumble Museum newsletter we join Museum Council students exploring moths and butterflies at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and discover a new project, putting names to the faces in a wonderful historic school photo.

BEAT: thank you to Ms Johnson for sharing this [link to BEAT](#), a charity that helps people overcome eating disorders. It has some fabulous resources, including a Zoom support group for parents and others who are worried about someone they love.

Insect investigators Summer School: as part of the HOPE for the Future project, Oxford University Museum of Natural History is running a **free Insect Investigator Summer School** for 10 to 14 year olds from **2 to 6 August 2021**, 10.00am – 3.00pm. Flyer attached.

Parents and Carers of Year 8 - 12 students

Frontline Living History Event, Monday 19 July: we are very excited that Frontline Living History are coming to Cheney to share their knowledge of medical treatment in the First World War on Monday 19 July. If you have not already done so, can families of **Year 9 and Year 10** History students please respond to Mr Gimson's letter? In order to run the event we need parents to respond.

Korean Club: we are hoping to run a beginners Korean Club for **Year 8 and up** next year, probably at 3-4pm on Tuesdays, from Tuesday 14 September for 12 weeks to Tuesday 7 December. If you are interested, please sign up [here](#). This won't commit you but will give Mr Gimson an idea of how much interest there is. Further information will follow at the start of next term.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessment: Year 11 students and their families should check their inboxes for Mr Lea/Mr Taberer's letter with details about the Silver Assessment, 16-18 July. Questions to dofe@cheney.oxon.sch.uk please.

Parents and Carers of Years 13 students

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Assessment: Year 13 students and their families should check their inboxes for Mr Lea/Mr Taberer's letter with details about the Gold Assessment, 16-20 July. Questions to dofe@cheney.oxon.sch.uk please.

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications