

Cheney Communications

8 July 2021

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

Covid-19 update: it now seems very likely that restrictions will end on July 19, although we will only have confirmation next Monday. In practical terms, this will change very little in school, as we only have 3 days of term left. The real change will come in September, when school will be very much back to normal, assuming that nothing goes wrong. The main difference we will feel before the holidays is that school will no longer be carrying out contact tracing, and will no longer be telling students to self-isolate in large numbers. This will pass to 'official' Track and Trace, who will follow up close contacts; currently we do not believe they will be using school information or systems at all.

We are very grateful to all parents and carers who have supported us with self-isolation requirements, and have put up with the additional disruption. We are very pleased to say that almost all students and members of staff are back in school now, and we hope we can avoid sending any more classes home.

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](#). Please do book a PCR test if you have any suspicion at all that your children may have been infected: it is better to err on the side of caution with rates currently so high in Oxford.

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.

End of term arrangements: term ends at **lunchtime on Wednesday 21 July**, which is also sports day. More details will be shared next week, but in outline, students will have an end of year celebration in an extended tutor time first thing, then move onto the field for sports day. The track events will then take place (field events are being done over the previous days). This will take around two hours, or a little longer, we will carry out a final roll call and students will then be dismissed from the field at around 12:30.



CHENEY SCHOOL
Think for yourself, act for others

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Summer Art Exhibition: for safety reasons, we have decided to cancel our live Summer Art Exhibition, which would have been an indoor event. However, our ever-resourceful Art Department staff are even now working on a new VIRTUAL gallery for you to enjoy. It looks incredible - we can't wait to invite you in!

Summer Show (19 July): the Summer Show, A Night in the Cheney Bubble, is nearly here! **Tickets are FREE** and there are still some available. However, numbers are limited, so please [sign-up as soon as possible!](#)

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.

Baking for Palestine: we are filled with admiration for Zaynab in Year 9 who, by baking and selling cakes, has single-handedly raised £1250 for the international relief and development charity Ummah Welfare Trust! This is a phenomenal achievement and a stand-out example of the Cheney motto "think for yourself, act for others". Well done Zaynab, we couldn't be prouder!

Summer Reads: thank you to Mrs Fenton for putting together suggested summer reading lists for each year group, including for Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. If you have a child in Year 6, the list is [already available](#) and we will be sharing the others before the end of term.

Insect investigators Summer School: a reminder that the 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.

Parents and Carers of Year 7 students

Year 7 Debate Day, Monday 12 July: we are running a **Year 7 Debate Day** on Monday 12 July, all day. If your child would like to take part, but you haven't yet signed them up, please email Dr Robinson at lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk to book a place. The day will run all day from 8.30 until 3pm, with break and lunch at the usual times. Students will be working with Sixth Form coaches to practise debating skills and will take part in debates on a range of issues throughout the day.

Parents and Carers of Year 8 -12 students

Frontline Living History Event, 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 about the Frontline Living History event planned for Monday 19 July. We need

parents to respond in order to run the event, which will focus on medical treatment in the First World War.

Korean Club: we are still collecting expressions of interest in our proposed beginners Korean Club for Year 8 and up. It is likely that this will take place after school on Tuesdays during Terms 1 and 2. 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.

Rumble Museum Breakfast Talks: if your child was unable to take part in the fantastic Rumble Museum Year 8 breakfast talks this term, and wants to stretch their brain, 3 out of 4 recordings are [now online](#). Thank you to Year 8s who took part; the lecturers were very impressed by you.

Year 8 Museum Studies Presentations: congratulations to our Year 8 Museum Studies students who have been presenting their museum projects findings this week. You can read all about their work and see the gallery of presentation boards on the [Museum Studies blog](#).

Year 8 Latin Students' Greek Plays: thank you to all the Year 8 Latinists who took part in the postponed Dionysia Greek Plays Festival on Tuesday. There were some wonderful performances; congratulations to "Peace" for winning best overall play, and well done to everyone for their creativity and resilience, keeping the show on the road despite self-isolations causing venue and day changes, and challenges to rehearsing! The performances were filmed and will be available soon! In the meantime, you can watch some of the trailers made for the plays [here](#)!

Free Drama Club: the Oxford School of Drama, in partnership with Wychwood School in North Oxford, have asked us to share a new opportunity for students interested in Drama. Starting next academic year, [The National Saturday Club](#) is for students aged 13-16 (**Years 8-11**) and is free!

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

Kind regards

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