

## Cheney Communications

9 September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Year 12 and 13 Students

**Covid-19 update:** we have so far had only one case confirmed by PCR within the student body (from the first day of testing), so we will continue with in-person assemblies and the use of PE changing rooms for the minute.

**Lateral Flow Tests:** please continue to use lateral flow tests at home. We are awaiting a delivery of test kits, and we will distribute them as soon as we have them.

**Open Evening and Open Morning:** if you have younger children, we are offering a series of Open Mornings for students and their families on Tuesday 14 September, Thursday 16 September and Wednesday 22 September, 8.30am-10.00 am. Open Mornings are a great opportunity to see the school "in action", meet current students and have your questions answered by our Transition Team.

Our Open Evening for Year 4, 5 and 6 students and their families will be on the evening of Thursday 23 September, 5.30pm-8.00pm. This the perfect opportunity for families to explore the school, enjoy taster sessions, get to know staff and talk to current students. Mr Pavey and Mrs Hart, will be joined by other key staff and students to give two talks and address questions during the course of the evening. In order to prepare for these events, we are inviting prospective families to submit questions in advance using [our online form](#).

**School will close early on Thursday 23 September at 1.30 to allow us to prepare. The canteen will be closed to students on this day at lunchtime, so children with free school meals should eat at morning break.**

**Breakfast Club:** our canteen will be open for breakfast from Monday next week, 8am-8:30am. There will be pastries, fruit, yogurts, drinks and snacks available.

**Homework:** all classes will have a Google Classroom and all Homework will be set on Google Classroom this year. We will no longer be using Show My Homework. You can find more information about Google Classrooms and how homework is set by following [this link](#).

Please note that Year 7 homework and Google Classrooms do not start for a couple of weeks in order to give students time to settle and to have their first IT lessons.



**CHENEY SCHOOL**  
*Think for yourself, act for others*

Headteacher: Mr Rob Pavey

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**Arbor student portal:** we have activated the student portal for our school information management system. Students will now be able to log in and see their timetable, house points, behaviour points and reports. It unfortunately does not exist as an app, so is a little less convenient than it might be, but it will still save students from not knowing where they are supposed to be. Please note that Show My Homework will stop working shortly, as all homework is now going through Google Classroom.

**Use of mobile phones:** we try to be grown-up about the use of mobile phones in school. A quick check to see the time or the timetable is fine (very few teenagers wear watches these days anyway). Being glued to it, using it in lessons without permission, or videoing in school is not fine. Common sense applies.

**National Tutoring Programme:** our tutoring programme is going to start again very soon. This is individual or small group tutoring to help students catch-up after the last 18 months (as you know, I do not believe in learning loss at Cheney, but some students need an extra boost anyway). This is mainly in English, Maths and Science. We have invited some students we have identified, but if you are keen for your child to take part, please contact your year team.

**Combined Cadet Force:** we are partnering with Magdalen College School to give our students the opportunity to take part in the army cadets. This is starting shortly, and students involved will get an update soon.

**Term 3 start date change:** there has been a mistake with the term dates on the website, which has now been corrected. Monday 3 January is of course the New Year bank holiday, so our INSET day will be on Tuesday 4 January, and school will resume for all students on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

**Road Safety and drop-offs:** unless it is absolutely essential, please do not drop your children off by car. Access is difficult, and there is no parking available. Dropping children off near the school gates causes congestion and is dangerous to others coming into school. We insist that families who drive their children to school do not park on cycle lanes, pavements or double yellow lines around Cheney Lane, Warneford Lane and Gipsy Lane. We have already witnessed many incidents of cyclists, including our own students, being forced out into traffic by the poor driving behaviour of our own community.

Thank you to all our students and families who have chosen to walk, cycle and bus to school this week. It has been fantastic to see so many of our students embracing active travel. As the roads become busier, we want to remind our young cyclists to please wear a helmet and choose the safest routes possible.  
<https://www.cyclestreets.net/>



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This webpage is designed for parents cycling with children, but the basic safety advice is applicable to young people cycling alone:

<http://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/cycling-children>

We ask our students who walk to school to respect other pedestrians and to please use designated crossings where possible.

**Year 7 summer readers:** Mrs Fenton says thank you to everyone who sent in some [super photos](#) of some of our Year 7 students engaging with their books over the summer.

**Rumble newsletter # 15:** read the latest Rumble Museum newsletter to discover the marvellous new display cabinet in Reception - thank you Ashmolean Museum - and the veritable flutter of mosaic butterflies now gracing the wall of Chadwick!

**DofE:** Good luck to our Gold participants who will be completing their training this weekend. See [Mr Taberer's letter of 7 September](#) for details.

**Knitting Club - wool needed:** we have started our knitting club with some of our older students. If you have any unwanted wool, other knitting yarns (clean and in good condition) or matched needles, we would be happy to take them off your hands. Please bring to reception FAO Dr Spence.

**Plants and gardening equipment:** we have lots of work to do to improve our site and keep it working for wildlife. We are planning a student gardening club this autumn but need tools to be able to get it off the ground. If you have any unwanted gardening tools (particularly hand forks, trowels, grass clippers, large watering cans and secateurs) in good condition, we would be happy to take them off your hands. We also need gardening gloves, but these would have to be new.

We would also love to hear from you if you have any excess plants you would consider donating - they need to be toughies and good for pollinators! Please contact Jen Henderson - [jhn@cheney.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:jhn@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) to discuss.

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications