

Cheney Communications

23 September 2021

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

Covid-19 update: you will be aware that we have had an outbreak of Covid in school, mainly in Year 9, but with a fair number of cases also in Year 10. In accordance with our contingency plan, and after speaking to Public Health England, we have brought in the following adaptations:

- PE changing rooms are closed.
- Assemblies are online.
- Masks are compulsory indoors.
- Years 9 and 10 did a further Lateral Flow Test in school on Tuesday.
- Emails have been sent asking students to get a PCR test if they have been in class with a confirmed case.

All other measures remain in place; ventilation is at the top of the control measures, but is an issue because of the age and design of the buildings. We are waiting for the CO2 monitors from the DfE, at which point we will test the air quality, and try fans in doorways to change the air in the classroom. This has practical problems associated with it, and may or may not be either helpful or practical.

Uniform remains generally good, and we have far less wearing of random assorted casual wear than last year: thank you for supporting us with this. It has slipped a little, with the closure of the PE changing rooms, and in case of doubt, here is a link to the uniform page on the [website](#).

Lateral Flow Tests: additional kits for home testing are coming home today. Please be aware that these are slightly different to the kits used last year in that they are **nasal only**. Please report results here: <http://ow.ly/FgwY50E2tit> and here: <http://ow.ly/T6fp50E2tis>

Road safety: I have been telling parents off for parking badly this week; thank you to all those who have been so nice about it. It is still a problem, however, and doing drop-offs or pick-ups on the double yellow lines causes difficulty for other drivers, and is dangerous both for cyclists and for our children. The only reason we do not have more accidents is that the congestion caused by illegal parking means the average traffic speed is very low.

I admit that parking is very difficult, but there is nothing we can do about it. There is no parking available on site. The best solution is for students to walk, cycle or take public transport to school. If they must be dropped, please find a legal parking space, which



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may well be some distance away. In a very few instances, for example if a student has a disability, it may be possible to allow parents through the barrier to drop their children by reception. I must emphasise that this can only be in exceptional circumstances; if this is the case, please contact the SEND team or the year team to discuss it.

U16 Girls Football, 22 September: on one of the hottest days this term, Hermione, Sara, Kim (GK), Erin, Lola, Freya, Lily, Kiyana, Alice, Sophie, and Juhania represented Cheney School in their first football match of the year and smashed it - winning 6-2 (Hermione x2, Kiyana x1, Sophie x1, Alice x2). The players of the match given by the Oxford Spires Academy team are Hermione and Alice for their excellent effort and performance throughout the match, well done! (Miss Millard - Teacher of PE).

Climate Strike 24 September: if parents are happy for their children to take part in the Climate Strike, please make arrangements with the year team to collect them from reception at 12.30 on Friday. We approve of protecting the climate, but we don't approve of disrupting lessons, so any demonstrations need to happen off site, under parental responsibility.

Late start 15 October: following Year 10 Parents' Evening on Thursday 14 October, there will be a slightly later start to lessons on Friday 15 October. Lessons start at 9.00 am but the school gates and canteen will be open from 8.00 am.

Extra-curricular activities (clubs): our [extra-curricular listing for Term 1](#) is now available on the website.

D&T materials contribution: if you have a child in Years 7-9, please check your inbox for Mrs Garden's Monday letter about contributions for D&T materials: [Contribution for materials letter 2021-22 -EGA -20.09.2021](#).

School dog: if you have a child in Year 7 or in any other year who joined us since October 2020, please check your inbox for Mrs Marsh's letter about the Maxi, our School Dog: [School Dog- LMA - 22.09.2021](#).

School Health Nurse: we are pleased to welcome Tikki Harrold (she/her) as our temporary School Health Nurse for the next few weeks, in school 2 days a week. Students who want to see Tikki should email or text her to arrange, or drop in to the new room in Wainwright and see if she is there.

Text: 07785 303941 or email tikki.harrold@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk.

If Tikki is unavailable, please contact the school nurse office on **01865 904225** or email Shn.oxfordshire@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk,

The School Nurses Student Newsletter was sent to students in Years 7-11 earlier this week, please encourage your child to check their school email inboxes.



The Oxfordshire NHS School Nurses September Newsletter attached is essential back to school reading, with info for young people on Covid vaccinations, a flu vaccine update and lots of useful information about services for young people.

Lingua Cuisine House Competition: our MFL department is celebrating European Day of Languages (26 September) with their Lingua Cuisine House Competition (see attached poster). Please encourage your child to get involved - there are House Points to be won and delicious food to be eaten. Deadline: Friday 15 October.

Classics Centre Banner Design House Competition: we are launching a school wide competition to design a new banner for the Classics Centre. The winning design will feature as our new banner, with prizes awarded to the winner and two -runner-up designs. All designs will be displayed on the Classics Centre website and around school, with House Points awarded to all students who enter. Deadline Friday 22nd October. [More information on the Classics Centre website.](#)

Rumble Museum Breakfast talks: during October, the Rumble Museum is running a series of Breakfast Talks in L14 during tutor times on Fridays, aimed at Year 12s and 13s exploring aspects of Black History. The programme is as below - please email iro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk to sign up.

Date	Speaker	Title
1 October, 8.30 - 9am	Dr Heike Schmidt, Reading University	History of African anticolonial nationalism
8 October, 8.30 - 9am	Warren Stanislaus, University of Oxford and Rikkyo University	UK Grime Music and Japanese Pop Culture
15 October, 8.30 - 9am	Dr Seraphin Kamdem, SOAS	African languages

[Rumble Museum Newsletter #16:](#) this week's Rumble Museum newsletter looks ahead to Black History Month with a series of exhibitions and events, starting with Natty Mark Samuels' reading this afternoon. And we celebrate our Y9 Museum Project students' trip to the History of Science Museum.

Natty Mark Samuels Community Poetry Reading, 24 September: on Friday 24 September, Natty Mark Samuels, poet and founder of the African School, will deliver a community poetry reading in the Library from 4 until 5pm - more details [here](#). All ages welcome, and refreshments and activities included.



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Gardening club: thank you for the generous donations we have received. We still need more unwanted gardening hand tools in good condition (particularly hand forks, trowels, grass clippers, large watering cans and secateurs), and more new gardening gloves. We would also still 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 to discuss.

Quiet board games wanted: Mrs Fenton is still on the look-out for "quiet" board games (chess, draughts etc) that can be used by students in the library during break times. If you have any spare sets or pieces, then please contact her at jfe@cheney.oxon.sch.uk.

Community

Barton Bash: Barton Bash is back this Saturday 12-4.30 pm on Saturday at Barton Neighbourhood Centre. See attachments.

IF Oxford: the Science and Ideas Festival returns in October with 100 in-person and digital events for all ages. With a wide range of topics, ranging from the chemistry of cooking or coding your own lantern, to careers in medical research, there is something for everyone. All events are listed at www.if-oxford.com (poster attached).

Rumble Cafe: the Rumble Museum is restarting its weekly community cafe at St Alban's Church this Saturday. The cafe provides an opportunity for people to explore a beautiful historic building and local history, and have a cup of tea. We are in the process of gathering stories and artefacts about the "Robin Hood" area as well as the building itself, so please feel welcome to come just to explore. Also, if you have a story you want to share, we would be delighted to record it. This year, the Rumble Museum's theme is sharing stories and oral history, and the cafe forms part of many events connected to this in the coming months (poster attached).

Bushcraft Training: our friends at Hill End are offering Beginners Bushcraft training for adults, with a focus on practical bushcraft skills to enable enthusiastic beginners to develop the skills and confidence to go out and enjoy themselves safely and responsibly in nature. <https://hill-end.org/activities/cpd/>.

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications