
Mr Andy Ransome – Head of Student Progress, Year 7

3 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we conclude our first two days back in school, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you to ensure both you and your child are secure with the information that has been given this week. I can report on behalf of staff at Cheney that we are extremely pleased with the positivity shown by our new Year 7 cohort, and I want to ensure this is a lasting first impression.

During tutor time this week, students have familiarised themselves with their surroundings and yesterday they toured the school with their tutors. Students have been given workbooks and timetables of their lessons and I'm hopeful they will quickly get to grips with both. You can support their learning by checking their workbooks, asking questions about the lessons they have participated in or by using the birds-eye-view map of the school (in the workbook) and pointing at various parts of the school to ask what subject takes place there. If your child has been absent and you are worried about them missing key information, please ask them to identify themselves at the school gate in the morning when they return to school. Ms Allsworth and I will always be welcoming students at the gate and we can ensure they are updated with the appropriate information, or we can pair them with a student to shadow until they are secure.

One of the most daunting factors for starting secondary school is the prospect of making new friendships. This can take time for some of our students and we want you to be aware that the pastoral team at Cheney are ready to support with anxieties or issues that arise. You know your child best and if you spot changes in behaviour please do let Ms Allsworth or myself know so that we can respond swiftly. Once confidence in their surroundings increases, we are sure that your child's learning experiences at Cheney will be fantastic.

There are a couple of important pieces of information we need you to be aware of. We have all become accustomed to being hyper-vigilant surrounding Covid symptoms. Under the current Government guidelines for schools there might be the assumption that tackling this virus is not as important as it has been previously. However, we do have a couple student's in Y7 whose Auto-Immune system is low and therefore very susceptible to airborne viruses. **If your child is kept off**

school due to a respiratory related illness, please do inform the school of their absence using the school website. We appreciate your cooperation on this matter:

<https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/attendance-and-punctuality/>

Finally, your child has hopefully reported positively about the catering at school, following two trial days of canteen food. Our Y7 students details have been added to the parent pay portal and this should now allow you to access your account to add money. All food will then be purchasable from next week using our contactless system.

Have a great weekend and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday morning.

Best Wishes

Mr Andy Ransome
Head of Student Progress, Year 7
AR@cheney.oxon.sch.uk