

## Cheney Communications

11 November 2021

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

**Remembrance:** the entire school came together on the playground for a moment of quiet and reflection just before 11am this morning, including the act of remembrance, a 2 minute silence and the Last Post. A particular thank you to our trumpeters Eddie Lee-Allen in Year 11 and Will Healey in Year 12; it is not easy playing the Last Post live to a remembrance ceremony.

**Cheney Friends meeting:** many thanks to our PTA for organising the second hand uniform sale and the Friends AGM on Wednesday night (a little more on this below). It is very heartening to have the support of our parent body, and to hear so many good ideas. You will hear more from the Cheney Friends in future updates, including a trial of Class List, as a way for parents to communicate among themselves; there have been previous suggestions for using WhatsApp or other platforms, but we think that this will be a workable solution. More information will come soon.

**Community translators:** one excellent suggestion from the meeting was to produce video versions of this email, including in languages other than English. We are going to use some of the linguistic talent among our students to record the highlights of this weekly update in the main home languages of our community. We are very proud of our diversity, with over 70 languages spoken, with the following being the most frequent:

- Arabic (62)
- Bengali (48)
- Urdu (47)
- Punjabi (46)
- Malayalam (34)
- Portuguese (33)
- Polish (27)
- Albanian (26)
- Spanish (23),
- Italian (21)
- Tagalog/Filipino (19)
- Pashto (18)

If this works, we may develop a non-English page on the website, and it could even prove a way for parents to discuss their children's progress with teachers, where

English proficiency is a barrier. And of course all this volunteering will count for the Duke of Edinburgh award, and look good on UCAS forms! First version next week, Insha'Allah.

**Promoting Equality and Tackling Identity-Based Bullying:** we want to make sure that our school is a safe space where young people and families feel safe, welcome and able to achieve their best. In order to help us to do this, we really welcome your thoughts about how well the school is doing in promoting equality and tackling identity-based bullying.

[Our questionnaire](#) should take about 5 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous and confidential. **Closes Friday 12 November.**

**Road Safety:** next week is Road Safety Week: please don't park on the double yellows!

**Lateral Flow Tests:** the next batch of LTFs are coming home with students this week.

**Cheney Friends: Diversity at Cheney - Wednesday 10 November:** Cheney Friends (Cheney's Parent Teacher Association) held a meeting yesterday which was attended by over 30 parents. The meeting began with a sale of second hand uniform and then moved on to a presentation about diversity at Cheney. Rob Bown (languages teacher) and Mr Pavey spoke about the many sociocultural groups that are represented at Cheney and their pride in the positive way these groups interact. We heard the views of a group of Year 7 students and watched a video of Year 11 students talking about their experiences of diversity at Cheney. We also heard from two Sixth Form students, Sufyahn Naveed and Hayat Sirageldin Elamin, who spoke thoughtfully about the multi faith room and Ramadan. The presentation was followed by the Cheney Friends' Annual General Meeting which featured a report on last year's impressive fund-raising.

**Late Start Friday 12 November:** following Year 8 Parents' Evening this evening, there will be a slightly later start to lessons tomorrow, **Friday 12 November.** Lessons start at 9.00 am but the school gates and canteen will be open from 8.00 am.

**School Closure Friday 3 December:** the school will be closed to students on **Friday 3 December** for well-being day.

**Extra-curricular listing:** our [clubs and activities listing](#) has been updated for Term 2.

**Curriculum PE:** further to our message of 16 September, hockey and rugby continue to feature in the PE curriculum map for this term. For health and safety reasons if your



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son or daughter is participating in these sports, we recommend that they bring shin pads and a gum-shield. We will also be introducing football after Christmas.

**Lingua Cuisine Competition results:** thank you to all of the students who entered our MFL Lingua Cuisine competition last term. Our winners were: 1st place, Harry, with 999 House Points for Turing; 2nd place, Theo, with 800 House Points for Hawking and 3rd place Magda, with 600 House Points for Seacole. We had over 125 entries and the MFL team thoroughly enjoyed the judging!

We had over 125 entries from Yrs 7 to 11, from starters, mains to desserts.

So please get some inspiration from these photos and keep up the cooking .....



In 1st place Harry with 999 House Points for Turing



In 2nd place Theo With 800 House points for Hawking



In 3rd place Magda with 600 House Points For Seacole



**Iris Classics Centre Banner Competition:** thank you to all of the students who entered the Iris Classics Centre Banner Competition last term and to Professor Mary Beard for judging the entries! Our winners and two runners up were Peter G-J (Y10), Lucas F (Y7) and Helena K (Y11). Find out more and all our fabulous entries on the [Classics Centre website](#).



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Winner: Peter G-J (Y10)



Runner-up: Lucas F (Y7)



Runner-up: Helena K (Y11)



Very well done indeed to our winner and two runner-ups! A local artist will work with us on these designs to create a final banner ready to display later next year!

**Senior Maths Challenge:** well done and best of luck to the 40+ students from Years 12 and 13 who sat the UK Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge on Wednesday.

**Basketball:** the **U19 Girls** Basketball team won their 1st game 50-2 vs Bicester. Well done to:

Year 12: Lia G, Zahide K, Jessica F, Eden H, Martyna K, Ella J

Year 11: Rianne R, Sara P, Sarah A, Kim M

Year 9: Isla A, Livvy B, Andrea R

And referee Meabh, who completed and passed her Level 1 Refereeing Qualification!

In another massive win, the **U16 Girls** Basketball team beat Cherwell School 58-6 on Tuesday, with Sara scoring 26, Meabh 12, Rianne 8, and Kim 6. Congratulations to the team:

Year 11: Meabh W-D, Rianne R, Sara P, Sarah A, Isabella H, Imogen H, Kim M

Year 9: Isla A, Andrea R

Congratulations also to Sara P (Y11) who joined the team from Oxford Brookes this week for a "friendly" basketball fixture against Witney Women (a team with ex-National league players).

**Football:** winning 7-3, Gwen, Julianna, Poppy (GK), Olamide, Keyana, Jess, Amelia, Olivia, Izzy, Ruby, Annabelle, and Pippa represented **Cheney U12s** on Tuesday in their debut match of the Oxfordshire FA Schools Cup, and smashed it! Player of the match was given to Ruby by The Swan School for their excellent effort and performance throughout the match, well done!



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(Miss Millard - Teacher of PE)



**COP26:** we couldn't be prouder of our three Sixth Form COP26 delegates and of all our students who have participated enthusiastically in our themed activities and lessons in school. We'll be providing a round-up soon, but in the meantime, you can see Nor in action on a panel with Education Secretary Nadhmi Zahawi MP: <https://youtu.be/AfncYuLrWUU>

It's great when our students make their voices heard. Year 10 Jack is part of VOXY, the voice of Oxford Youth council; this week he joined local COP event 'The Billion Tonne Drop – how Oxfordshire leads the global charge to address the climate emergency'. More about VOXY here: <http://ow.ly/QH2o50GJ5xs>

**Dante Late Night Opening with Year Eight Underworld Gallery, 26 November:** the Year 8 Museum Council have been working hard designing activities and displays for the Ashmolean's Dante Late Night Opening on **Friday 26 November, 5 - 8pm**. They are running their own Greek Underworld themed gallery, with a range of games, displays and activity stalls, as well as showcasing some of our Rumble Museum artefacts! If you want to explore their gallery, as well as the wider event, find out more [here](#).

**Living Museum Wall:** a number of years ago, the Rumble Museum set up a "Living Museum" Wall in L1 for objects loaned by members of the school community (students, parents and staff) which tell a story about some aspect of their lives or communities. The object could be anything - previous examples have been photographs, paintings, a mask, a large model of a key, a board game, amongst



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others. Each object is displayed for a temporary or permanent period with a label with a QR code leading to a webpage about the item, with a few lines from the lender about the object and what it means to them.

We are very keen to get the Living Museum wall going again, and we are welcoming both loans and permanent donations of any items you might like to be on display. The aim ultimately is to have a wall of objects and stories that represents the great diversity of the Cheney community!

Please let Dr Robinson - [lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) - know if you would be happy to loan an object and say a few lines about it for us to put online. Let her know if you have any questions!

**African Artefacts, Poetry & Drumming:** come and explore our beautiful African artefact collection, enjoy artefact handling and refreshments, and listen to African poems and drumming from 3.30pm on **Friday 10 December**.

We are delighted that Natty Mark Samuels, founder of the African School in Blackbird Leys, will be giving a reading of his poetry inspired by artefacts in our African collection between 4 and 5pm. This event will launch our new booklet about the artefacts with Natty's poems. Visitors will be able to listen to some of his beautiful poems as well as view the artefacts in our collection, get a copy of our new booklet, and enjoy some refreshments. To book places, please email [info@irisproject.org.uk](mailto:info@irisproject.org.uk).

### Year 11 families

**Sixth Form Open Evening:** our Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 2 December**, so please save the date. Further details and a registration form coming soon...

### Year 11, 12 and 13 families

#### **Open Evening, City of Oxford College**

When: 17 November 2021

What time: 4pm - 7pm

Where: City of Oxford College, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1SA

Where: Blackbird Leys Campus, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford, OX4 6HN (for Brickwork, Carpentry, Computing, Electrical, Engineering, Motor Vehicle and Plumbing)

What will I learn: Come along to discover our range of courses, meet our subject specialist tutors, have a look around our facilities and ask as many questions as you like!

#### **Open Evening, Abingdon and Witney College**

When: 17 November 2021



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What time: 3:30pm - 7pm

Where: Abingdon College

When: 24 November 2021

Where: Witney College

What will I learn: This is an opportunity to explore the campus, talk to the tutors and find out more about the courses you are interested in.

### **Year 12 families**

#### **Oxford Brookes Autumn Undergraduate Open Day - Saturday 13 November:**

- Find out about the course(s) by joining subject-specific sessions.
- Chat to our amazing staff and students and ask any questions
- Attend talks run by our admissions, accommodation, finance and wellbeing teams.

Book now to reserve your place and start exploring Oxford Brookes.

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/open-days/13-11-2021/undergraduate-open-day-1/>

### **Community**

**“Robin Hood” area Story Collection Morning:** on **Saturday 13 November** between 10am and 12.30pm, the Rumble Museum is running a joint Story Collection Morning at St Alban's Church. We are inviting people to bring any stories or items that are connected to the history of the "Robin Hood" area. The Robin Hood area is said to have stretched between Magdalen Road and Howard Street. For those who would like to share their stories and items (these could be anything from photographs, diaries, letters, to any other sort of item or object), volunteers will record these and make them available for others to listen to or view through an online archive gallery.

There will be refreshments and an activity trail for younger children, and also a range of archive material and artefacts on display - you don't have to have a story to share in order to drop in! Visitors will be able to explore the historic building of St Alban's Church, and have hot and cold drinks and cakes. All ages are warmly welcome to come along, and there is no need to book to attend. If you are unable to attend, but would like to share a story or item by email, you can do so by emailing [lorna@irisproject.org.uk](mailto:lorna@irisproject.org.uk).

**Bodleian Library Lates:** you are invited to an interactive exploration of mind and matter, inspired by the current Bodleian exhibition [Melancholy: A New Anatomy](#). The exhibition celebrates the 400th anniversary of Robert Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy. First published in 1621 the text is an innovative encyclopaedia of mental and emotional disorder, as understood in the late Renaissance. 400 years later we are still exploring the different ways to treat mental health. On **Friday 12 November, 7-**



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**9.30pm**, come and explore our common experiences and connections over time through a variety of activities designed to uplift the mood and invigorate the mind. Get creative with origami for wellbeing and myriorama making. Try laughter yoga to boost your mood or test your knowledge with brain jenga. Borrow Oxford researchers for a chat in the Living Library and enter the world of sleep. Wake up with music for the brain and print a Burton keepsake to remember his instruction 'Be not solitary, be not idle'. [Book here](#)

**Oxfordshire Junior Chess Championship:** a chess tournament for U13 / U15 / U18 age groups is taking place at Cumnor School over the weekend of Sat 8 and Sun 9 Jan 2022. There are cash prizes, and county junior titles to be won. Keen chess players are invited to enter. The online entry form and further details can be found at: <https://forms.gle/3yqzvbS9wfYfevWv5>.

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

Kind regards

Cheney Communications