

## Cheney Communications

25 November 2021

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

**COVID:** The Oxford Academy had to close to Years 7-9 for ten days earlier this week, and one of our main feeder primaries is currently in the middle of a significant outbreak; lots of siblings come to Cheney. I think it is very likely that we will see another outbreak here soon, probably next week. We are therefore going to insist on **masks indoors again from Monday**, as this will help mitigate the effects, and hopefully avoid any disruption to the Christmas holidays. We came very close to part-closure ourselves on several occasions before half term, due to staff sickness (5 full weeks with between 10 and 20 teachers off every single day). I very much hope that going back to full mask wearing will mean we do not need to do so in the last three weeks of term.

We have also been running some trials on ventilation, using the CO2 monitors provided by the DfE. I do not pretend that our data set will stand up to peer review, but the measurements we have taken tend to support evidence from elsewhere. CO2 levels fall broadly into the following order (from lowest to highest):

- Window and door open.
- Windows closed, door open, fan blowing out of the door.
- Door only open.
- Door closed.

Using CO2 levels as a proxy for the speed at which the air in a room is changed (and therefore the level of Covid), it is desirable to keep the windows and the door open. Unfortunately, this also leads to freezing children. The next best is to have a mechanical ventilation system, which allows for warm children and less Covid. Our classroom blocks fall into 3 broad categories:

- In-built mechanical ventilation system (Brighthouse, R Block, J Block: DT, science, maths, computing).
- Old buildings with unintentionally good ventilation (Wainwright and Chadwick: maths, art and English).
- Stuffy buildings which are a little too small (Lane - humanities and languages).

The problem comes in Lane, where the size of the rooms and the fact that the walls are intact, leads to poor air circulation. In these classrooms, we will be purchasing floor mounted fans to blow stale air into the corridor, and we will do some limited adaptations to the fire doors to allow air to exit through the stairwells. I don't pretend that this is perfect, but it is affordable and practical, and I think it will make some difference.



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Covid Vaccinations: Parents/guardians can now go online and check the [National Booking Service](#) to see if their local site has appointments to vaccinate young people in this age group. There are also walk-in options which you can find [on NHS online vaccine walk-in finder](#).

**Translations:** Every week, a group of our students will provide a summary of the most important notices in our leadership updates in a variety of languages. This week's translations in Arabic, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, Urdu and Pashto will be available by the end of the school day tomorrow on [our website](#)

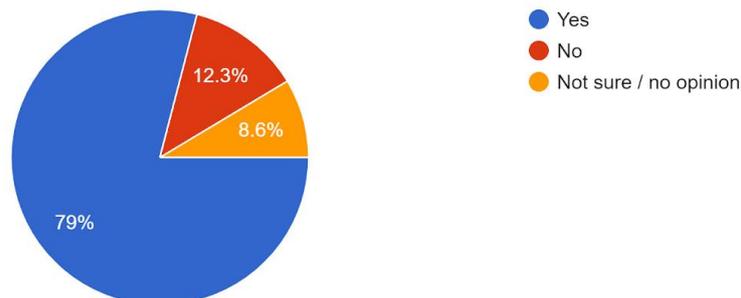
**Parent Governor:** A reminder that if you are interested in joining our team of dedicated Governors, please complete the application [form](#) by Deadline 29 November.

**6th Form Open Evening, Thursday 2 December:** We really hope Year 11 students and their guardians will join us for an introduction to Sixth Form life, opportunities and subjects. You can listen to a presentation by key staff and students starting at 6 or 7.30pm. We hope you will also enjoy meeting teachers and students in subject rooms from 6.15 to 7.45pm. Please use [this form to sign up](#); this will help us manage numbers on the night.

**RE as an optional subject:** we have been reviewing timetabling, and one of the things that will make timetabling easier and better balanced throughout the school is to make RE an optional subject taken in Year 11, like history or geography. Below is the result of a brief parental survey of Year 9 parents:

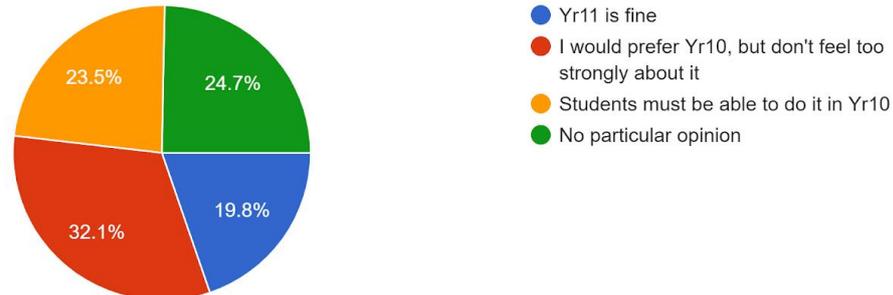
Do you agree that RE should become an optional subject?

81 responses



Should RE be done in Yr10 or Yr11?

81 responses



A student survey gave similar results (slightly more in favour of making it optional). Our current Year 10 students will therefore be the last cohort to do RE GCSE a year early, and it will join other subjects in the Year 9 options process. Unfortunately, it is not possible to run a mixed economy, so we will not be able to offer it as an early GCSE option in future. Making an optional subject does not mean that we will abandon our commitment to inclusivity, or respect for different faiths; a lot of that will come through a better structured PSHE timetable.

**School Closure Friday 3 December:** the school will be closed to students on Friday 3 December for well-being day. Unfortunately, Year 11 students with language exams will need to come in for those papers.

**New Student Newsletter:** Our fabulous Sixth Formers have put together a brand new newsletter for students; the Jalfrezi Wrap-up! With articles on the brilliant Marcus Rashford MBE, lab-made dairy, Tory Sleaze, #COP26 and our own canteen, as well as fun puzzles and a Get to Know a Member of Staff section. [Read it now](#)

**Buy books and support the school:** the latest Scholastic Book Club is now up and running! Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/cheney/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. Why not stock up for Christmas whilst earning rewards for the school? There are lots of great bargains. Please place your order online by **1 December 2021**.

**Christmas Show - An Evening of Yuletide Sparkles:** Christmas is coming to Cheney on **Thursday 9 December!** Doors will open at **6.00pm** for a **6.30pm** start; refreshments will be available to purchase before the show and during the interval. We will have a reduced live audience, with tickets released via a Google Form at **6pm on Monday 29 November**. Tickets will cost £5 and will be issued on a strictly first-come-first-served basis; further information on this can be found in [our video](#).



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You can access the [Google Form](#) for purchasing tickets from 6pm on Monday 29 November. **Please note, any Google Form responses completed before this time will not be counted.**

For those who do not wish to attend in person or are unsuccessful in obtaining tickets, we will also be livestreaming the event via a Google Meet. Tickets for this can be purchased via Parent Pay for a donation of £1; a link to the Google Meet will be emailed out the week of the performance.

Looking forward to seeing you there for some Christmas fun!

**Year Seven Debate Club:** We are launching Year Seven Debate Club starting Monday 10th January, 3 - 4.15pm and running every Monday in Term One. Everyone is welcome, but places need to be booked by [emailing Dr Robinson](#). You don't need to be experienced or confident to attend. You will pick up skills in exploring arguments and public speaking along the way!

### **Sports News:**

**Basketball:** congratulations to the **U19 Girls** for Tuesday's win 69:12 vs King Alfred's. This means they topped their group and are the first team through to the Basketball County Final!  
Y12: Marie C, Lia G, Zahide K, Jessica F, Eden H(Captain), Ella J, Martyna K  
Y11: Rianne R, Sara P, Sarah A

The **U16 Girls** game against Wood Green was a success with a score of 65:33 to Cheney. Wood Green put up a good fight during the game with some fabulous 3-point baskets scored; however, the fitness, tenacity and team work of Cheney was what resulted in a confident win. The team consisted of 6 Year 11s(Sarah, Meabh, Immy, Bella, Sara, Grace) and 3 Year 9s (Andrea, Isla and Thea). All 9 students played a well fought game and should be proud of their input into the final score.  
Well Done from Miss Falconer

**Football:** U16 Girls Football Match at Cheney vs King Alfred's on Thursday 11 November 2021. Winning 5-1, Hermione, Sara, Louisa (GK), Erin, Lola, Freya, Xana, Lily, Kiyana, Alice, Sarah, Sophie, and Juhaina represented Cheney School in the Oxfordshire FA Schools Cup and smashed it! The player of the match was given to Lola by King Alfred's School for their excellent effort and performance throughout the match - well done! Bring on the semi-final!



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## Rumble Museum

**Rumble Museum #20**: this week's Rumble Museum newsletter is all about the Year 8 Museum Council student's Greek Underworld Gallery for the Dante Late Night Opening at the Ashmolean Museum on 26 November (more below) - it sounds fantastic!

**Dante Late Night Opening with Year Eight Underworld Gallery, 26th November, 5 - 8pm:** The Year Eight Museum Council have designed some exciting activities and displays for the Ashmolean's Dante Late Night Opening this Friday 26th 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! They have also been preparing questions for a robot, Ai-da, who they will be in conversation with at the event, so you can find them with the robot between 5 and 5.35pm, and then running their own Underworld Gallery between 5.35 and 8pm.

You will find characters ranging from the well-known Hades, Medusa and Persephone to lesser known characters such as Melinoe and the Hundred handed monsters! You can make obols and underworld themed jewellery, explore stories, and play games in their gallery. If you want to explore this and more, as well as the wider event, book your free tickets [here](#).

**Living Museum Wall:** 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 object could be anything - previous examples have been photographs, paintings,



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a mask, a large model of a key, a board game, amongst others. 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**. To book places, please email [info@irisproject.org.uk](mailto:info@irisproject.org.uk).

#### **Rumble Museum's African Artefacts: Booklet and Videos**

The Rumble Museum has been working with Natty Mark Samuels on creating a range of new resources around our African collection. You can watch a series of short films about some of the objects, and read a digital booklet about the collection, with images, information text, and Natty's poems about each one on the webpage here: <http://rumblemuseum.org.uk/index.php/projects/541-african-artefacts-project>

#### **Community**

**Quickways Consultation:** the formal consultation has now opened. This will have an impact on cyclists and drivers using Morrell Avenue and Warneford Lane. Closes 10 December.

[Oxford - Quickway cycle routes | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)

**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](#). Leadership Update translations will be made available [here](#).

Kind regards

Cheney Communications