



**Cheney School**

Think for yourself; act for others

## **LEADERSHIP UPDATE - 9 DECEMBER 2021**

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

[Watch our translations of the key messages in each week's leadership summary.](#)

**COVID:** Mass lateral flow tests will take place on INSET, Tuesday 4 January. Students will be expected to come in just for their test slot, can wear their own clothes and can go home straight afterwards. All students will need to register on the tennis courts in their tutor groups; students will only be in school for approximately 1 hour.

Timings for the day are:

**Year 13:** Arrive at 8.45am

**Year 12:** Arrive at 9.30am

**Year 11:** Arrive at 10.00am

**Year 7:** Arrive at 11.15am

**Year 8:** Arrive at 12.00pm

**Year 9:** Arrive at 1.15pm

**Year 10:** Arrive at 2.00pm

**Household Support Fund, support for families this winter:** Ahead of the Christmas holiday, families of eligible children and young people in Oxfordshire will once again receive support with the costs of food during the holiday period, funded by the Department of Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund. As you will be aware, in normal circumstances funding is not available for food support outside of term-time and we now expect this funding to cease after Easter 2022. Eligible children in schools are those entitled to a benefits related Free School Meal.

Previously we provided £15 per holiday week per child or young person. This has been increased to £25 per week for the Christmas holiday to reflect the additional pressures families are experiencing this winter. Therefore £50 per child is available for the two-week holiday period.

If eligible, we will provide the support to you in the form of a supermarket voucher or equivalent over two payments; 20th December you will receive £30, and on the 27th December you will receive £20, totalling £50 for the holiday period.

**Year 11 Parents Evening, 13 January 2021:** Our parent's evening will be online. We'll send an email to all parents and guardians of children in Year 11 with details of how to log onto the School Cloud and book appointments.

**Year 11 mock results day:** Year 11 students will receive their results in school at 10am on Friday 17th December, support and advice will be available from staff.

**Sixth Form Open Evening:** We welcomed nearly 200 prospective students and their families to the Open Evening last week. If you came to the Open Evening we would love to receive [your feedback](#). Thank you to all the Year 12 and 13 students who supported the evening. [Applications are now open.](#)

**Learning support homework club** : Learning support homework club will not be running for the last week of term.

**Crisp Packets:** Unfortunately we are no longer able to operate as a TerraCycle UK drop-off point for crisp-packet recycling. Oxfordshire County Council have now joined the scheme and have a collection point in their main reception at County Hall.

**Philosothon:** Magdalen College School are hosting a Philosothon, from 5.30 to 8.30pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, and have invited Cheney to bring a team.

A Philosothon is a competitive philosophical discussion – and crucially one in which collaboration is rewarded (not grandstanding or dominating!). It involves a series of discussions that follow a ‘community of inquiry’ model.

Each team will consist of 10 pupils, with 2 from each of years 9-13. There will be about 4 rounds of 20 minutes each. Each round is a discussion focused on some stimulus material that is sent round to schools beforehand.

If your child is interested in taking part, please [e-mail Mr Tarassenko](#), copying in [Mr Twycross](#).

This is a regional heat, and each school that enters must be prepared to come to Stowe School in Buckinghamshire on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for the National Final, should they happen to win.

**The Big Cheney Spelling Bee** was fiercely contested at lunch time this week following a series of heats in English lessons. 29 students made it through to the final to battle it out for first, second and third places. Students were required to spell some really tricky words including 'hierarchical', 'fluorescent' and 'nauseous'. First place was awarded to Mac Palazon from Turing house with an impressive score of 21 out of 24. Second place went to Ayla Dunne from Mandela house for another impressive score of 19 out of 24. Third place came down to a tense tie-breaker after Elsa Rea of Hawking House and Ibraheem Chaudry of Turing house both scored 17 out of 24. The deciding tie-breaker was a very cruel 'antidisestablishmentarianism' and Elsa just managed to take the lead with one incorrect letter from Ibraheem. A huge well done to all our finalists and a big thank you to Miss Young and Mrs Marsh who helped me speed mark the tests before P5!

#### [Rumble Museum Newsletter #22:](#)

[Christmas through the Ages Display:](#) For the month of December, Year Nine Museum Project students have curated a display in our front cabinet in the main reception. The students chose Christmas gifts through the ages as their theme, and items ranging from a set of Russian "nesting" dolls to a 1980s ZX Spectrum computer can be viewed in the cabinet. Other items featured are our music items (a Gershwin tape, U2 CD and i-Pod, as well as a vinyl), and a Princess Mary Tin, given to all serving British soldiers in 1914.

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