

LEADERSHIP UPDATE -10 February 2022

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

Year 7 partial closure: we had hoped that we were over the worst, but today has been difficult in school, with absence in key pastoral roles as well as teaching staff. Unfortunately, Year 7 will need to work at home tomorrow on Google Classroom. It is not a day off for Year 7; work will be set on Google Classrooms, with something to submit at the end of each lesson to show that students have engaged with the work. School will be open for any student where it will be difficult to be at home, for whatever reason.

Oddly, everything looks much better for Monday, so we aim to have every year group in school for the whole of next week. If we get a lot of sickness over the weekend, we will send a message on Sunday afternoon, but please assume that everything is as normal on Monday unless you hear otherwise.

Exam Board Advanced Information: exam boards released some more information on what will be contained in the summer exams earlier this week, in order to help target revision and teaching for the last few months of the course. In many subjects, the adjustments are small, but in a few they are substantial. We are putting together a summary of the changes and we will make it available early next week. It is already available on each exam board's website, if you would like to search for the information in advance.

This information was released too late for us to change the A Level mocks, which are already underway, but we will review the GCSE short mocks in March to see if the papers we have prepared are still suitable. Parents and students should be aware that the majority of the adjustment for the disruption of the pandemic will be made through the grade boundaries. Ofqual has been consistent in saying that this year's grades will be pegged to a midpoint between 2019 and 2021. This means that grades will be awarded more leniently than would be normal, which seems a reasonable approach to take.

COVID Vaccinations: You can book a COVID vaccine online for the following groups:

- 1st and 2nd doses for people aged 12 years old and over
- Boosters for people aged 16 years old and over

- 3rd doses and boosters (4th doses) for people with a severely weakened immune system aged 16 years old and over

Visit the [NHS website](#) to find your nearest vaccination site and to book an appointment. There are also a number of walk-in sites, including at the Kassam Stadium. [Find a walk-in site.](#)

[Cheney Special Branch](#): We're still keen to hear from members of the Cheney communication who are willing to share their knowledge in the environmental sector, relating to all aspects of sustainability.

[Find out more](#)

[Get involved](#)

Tom Palmer virtual visit: We are excited about welcoming the author Tom Palmer (virtually) to Cheney on Monday - Year 7 students have all been working on questions to ask him during the session. A reminder that parents are very welcome to order his books at a discounted price via this [link](#); the charge will then be put onto Parent Pay and the order will be placed once payment is received.

Please note that if you have already placed an order, due to an error, this has not been downloaded so please can you place the order again via the updated link (above). Many apologies for any inconvenience.

Korean Club: The Korean Club is going to re-start in L34 on Tuesdays from 3.10 to 4.10 from Tuesday 1st March. It will involve a mixture of Korean Language and Culture by the new teacher, Ms Maria Won. If you are interested in taking part, please sign up [here](#) by Monday 14th February. Further information will follow for interested students next week.

Philosophy Club: Interested in finding out more about Philosophy and philosophising? If you are in Year 9 to 13, come along to the Philosophy Club in L21, Tuesdays 1:30-2:00pm.

[Philosothon](#): On Thursday 27th January, three Year 9 and three Year 13 Cheney students attended a 'Philosothon' - a competitive Philosophising event - at Magdalen College School (MCS). [Read more...](#)

Year 9 Maths - a message from Ms Rigby: I am tremendously impressed with two individuals in my year 9 class. Binamra has been researching various pieces of exciting maths in his spare time and showing me what he's learned. He has delved into A Level maths and has practised Differentiation and Integration. Elsa has also been researching higher-level mathematics; she has been trying to figure out the rules for "up notation," more commonly found in further maths A level or STEP exams.

In addition to their regular maths work, both students have held some fascinating discussions and had some great questions! They should be very proud of themselves and their achievements- I can't wait to see what the next few years bring!

Recycling Clothes House Competition: Remember to bring in clean, reusable 2nd hand clothes (and shoes/bags/jewellery) **this Wednesday 16th February** and help your house to win this contest!

These donations will be collected by Rags2Riches4Schools the next day and will be distributed to people in need of affordable clothing abroad. Recycling clothes in this way is also great for the environment, keeping them out of landfill and in the "circular economy". And it's a fundraiser: Cheney gets 40p per kilo, and there is no maximum amount! So please declutter generously!

The company will NOT take stained or torn clothes or uniform/school sports kit BUT... Cheney IS in need of 2nd hand uniform. So, while decluttering, please do send any donations of old uniform into Cheney (in a separate bag to the Rags2Riches clothes please).

Greening Cheney: Cheney School is raising funds to transform the dull inner courtyards of our school into lively green spaces, designed to encourage friendship, wildlife and well-being. We aim to provide comfortable seating to meet friends, eat, chat and soak up nature. Cheney Friends is leading the campaign which will involve parents, students and staff. To find out more about the project, how you can get involved and to donate please [visit our web page](#).

Sports News

Athletics : Huge congratulations to the Year 7 indoor athletics squad who recently competed. Some great performances from both the boys and girls teams. The girls won the competition with events to spare and now progress through to the county finals! Well done to Gwen C, Ruby R, Lily B, Olivia M, Jess L, Keyana P, Ollie W, James R, Oz W, Alec K, Abdallah A and Laurie PH

House News and Competitions

Rumble Newsletter #26: This week's bumper Rumble newsletter features a Sixth Form assembly introducing Ai-Da the world's first ultra-realistic robot, a trip to the Ashmolean to explore the Aegean World, a Year Nine workshop on the history of humans through skull replicas, and the launch of a new graphic novel about the Greek gods by Year Eight Cheney Latinists, "Pick 'n' Styx", which you can also [read online here](#).

Year 8 football players wanted

Hinksey Park FC Boys U13's Scorpions is a friendly and ambitious squad seeking enthusiastic new players who are currently in Year 8 at school. Training is Thursdays 6-7pm with matches Sunday mornings at Brasenose College Sports Ground. Please

contact Stuart Corbin if you are interested in joining, or would like more information:
hinkseyparkscorpions@hotmail.com

Oxfordshire CAMHS Survey: [Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum](#) and [Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust](#) want to understand your most recent experiences of CAMHS to help inform, shape and further develop services.

[Fill in the survey](#)

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

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

You can also now follow the Mrs Fenton's new [Cheney library twitter account](#)

Kind regards

Cheney Communications