

LEADERSHIP UPDATE - 19 May 2022

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

Walk to work week: this week is 'walk to work week', and we are doing a series of activities in tutor time to encourage use of public transport, walking or cycling. There are health, environmental and educational benefits to leaving the car behind, especially since the new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Quickways are about to make driving to school a lot harder. We are also exploring 'walk to school' buddies in tutor groups to help support students who are more anxious about getting here on their own. We also hope to be running some cycling proficiency training in the near future for students who are less confident on bikes. Staff will be handing out some information leaflets to parents who are using their cars over the next week; a copy of this leaflet is attached.

RLT parent survey: the link to the RLT annual parent survey is below, and a letter from Paul James, the RLT chief executive is attached. The survey is open until May 23; We currently have the second best parents in RLT in terms of responses!

<https://forms.gle/X6oS7mD8hsTd4UHc9>

Cheney basketball success: many congratulations to our basketball teams; we have now won 7 out of 9 County finals. The last ones were after school on Wednesday at Brookes, with a good crowd of student supporters. A fuller report will be on the Sports News page soon.

Building refurbishment: we have just heard that we have been successful in two bids to refurbish Chadwick and Wainwright through CIF (Condition Improvement Fund). This is a total of just over £1.2m, topped up by our own reserves to a total of about £1.45m. This means the following good things:

- Less asbestos.
- Much smaller carbon footprint.
- Windows you need to open in order to have a conversation through them.
- Windows that both open and close, as appropriate.
- Roofs that keep out rain.
- Walls that don't threaten to drop bits of themselves onto passersby.
- Walls.
- Warmth.

The disadvantage, of course, is that I don't think we will manage to do all that is necessary during the holidays.

Study Leave Dates: we expect students in both Year 11 and Year 13 to be in all lessons when they do not have an exam until the start of summer half term on Friday May 27. After this, lessons will continue on a drop-in basis until the last exam has been sat in that subject. Some students will be told they need to attend lessons, or be invited to specific revision sessions; departments will communicate directly with families concerned. Please note that all students are expected to be in uniform whenever they come into school.

There are leavers' assemblies planned for both Year 11 and Year 13 on Friday 27 May. Year teams will be in touch with details separately.

Household Support Fund

The Department of Work and Pensions has announced an extension to the Household Support Fund (HSF), aimed at supporting those in most economic need with the costs of food, utilities and other essentials. The County Council will fund the provision of free school meal equivalent support during the May 2022 half term at the revised rate of **£15** per child or young person, with details to follow for the summer holidays. Vouchers will become **live on Monday 30th May 2022**.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results

The end of April saw 140 of our year 7s and year 8s tackling the UKMTs annual Junior Maths Challenge. The results are just in and we are delighted to be celebrating an incredibly impressive 21 gold awards, 16 silver awards, and 48 bronze awards - outstanding!

As if this wasn't enough, we also have 8 students who have qualified for the next stage of the challenge, the Junior Kangaroo, and 1 student who did so well they have made it to the coveted Junior Olympiad! A huge well done to everyone who participated and good luck to our Kangaroos: David Campbell, Joe Healey, Ammar Kashif, Joshua Lamb, Johnny Magill, Luca Pizzari, Emma Powell, Fiona Suabedissen; and to our Olympian: Cas Krznic.

Year 7 Language choices for Year 8: Year 7 students will soon be asked to select a second language to start in Year 8. The options are German, Latin or Spanish. A google form will be sent out in due course and there will be taster lessons of the language options after half term.

Lego and Board Games wanted: If you have any Lego at home that your children have grown out of, we would be very happy to find it a new home with our Year Teams. The Library is also always happy to accept donations of Board Games for children to use during break/lunch or in the weekly Board Games Club.

Bromcom update: Should you still have any issues with access to Bromcom please add your name to the link below, and as a last resort, do [contact the Communications Team](#).

Form to let us know that it *still* isn't working: <https://forms.gle/PPFU67uDanwdiACv6>

Return of year 11 and 13 library and text books: All students in year 11 and year 13 now need to return their library books. Year 13 textbooks should be returned on the day of the student's last exam as the books will be needed for revision.

Parents and carers, any help you can offer in facilitating the safe return of these books would be greatly appreciated. If any student is not sure which books they have on loan, they can either check their library account via the library app or [contact Mrs Fenton](#).

[Rumble Museum](#) :

Call for Middle East objects: The Rumble Museum is in the process of developing a new display area for its Middle East artefacts, we are very keen to include a broad range of items in the new display. If you have any objects of any kind connected to the Middle East which you would be happy to loan or donate to our new display area, please [get in touch with Dr Lorna Robinson](#).

Year Eight Dionysia 2022: 27th May, 9.30 - 11.30am: We are delighted to announce our seventh annual Dionysia Festival! This year's festival will take place on Friday 27th May, 9.30 –11.30am, at the auditorium at Corpus Christi College.

The Year Eight Latinists have been working very hard to adapt four well-known ancient Greek comedies to the modern day. The Year Eights will each perform a scene from one of Birds, Clouds, Peace and Frogs, as well as a trailer for each play. [You can see some of their posters and trailers here](#)

If you'd like to attend, please [email Dr Lorna Robinson](#)

Year Nine Museum Project Presentation Evening, 24th June, 5 - 7pm: Year Nines will be presenting their research projects on different aspects of museums on 24th June, 5 until 7pm. Each student has spent the past few months on a topic of their choice, and this event will involve an informal opportunity to see their presentation boards, and hear them talk about what they have discovered. Topics range from the controversy over the Benin Bronzes to whether dinosaurs are presented accurately in museums, and from how museums display fungi and gemstones, to how they might display social media in the future.

Staff, students and parents, as well as younger siblings, are warmly welcome to attend, There will be refreshments and you can drop in at any time,

Students considering doing the Year Nine Museum project next year are particularly encouraged to attend.

If you would like to book places, please [email Dr Lorna Robinson](#)

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The Year Eight Latinists have been working very hard to adapt four well-known ancient Greek comedies to the modern day. Aristophanes was an ancient Athenian playwright, and he was renowned for lampooning the politicians, customs and context of his fifth century Athens in his plays. His plays were written during the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta, a time of great upheaval and uncertainty for the Athenian people. Many of the plays directly explore these themes.

Each year, the students choose a particular topical theme to weave into their adaptations. This year, the Year Eights have chosen "Partygate" as their overarching theme, and they have come up with lots of inventive ways to incorporate this very apt theme into their plays.

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[House News and Competitions](#)

[Cheney Sports News](#)

British Rowing's World Class Start centre, Reading: The World Class Start Programme is the Talent Identification and Development programme for the British Rowing team, aims to find young people with great athletic ability who may not have had the opportunity to try rowing.

They will be running some hour-long on-water taster sessions over half term for Year 9 and above with a view to recruiting onto the Start programme, though absolutely no commitment is required at this stage. They will run in the mornings during the week (Monday 30th May to Wednesday 1st June between 10am and 1pm) at Reading Rowing Club boathouse off Richfield Avenue. No prior rowing experience is required. The sessions will be free of charge.

Any student who may be interested, and who fit the height criteria of 176cm/5'9 for girls and 188cm/6'2 for boys (They can drop slightly below that for those who are very athletic or young and still growing). If any student is interested, they can contact ben.reed@britishrowing.org

If there are any students who are interested in rowing but who are not tall enough, they can still get touch and will be put in contact with their local rowing club. Most will be running learn-to-row courses over the summer holidays.

Volunteers needed for Oxfordshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge: A local library is a great place for young people to start volunteering! It is a creative, relaxed and safe space which offers valuable training opportunities and work experience.

Oxfordshire Libraries are offering volunteering opportunities for young people aged 13+ to help make this year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Gadgeteers" a success. The Challenge is a national scheme produced by The Reading Agency which encourages children to read during the summer holidays.

Volunteers will have opportunities to:

- Sign children up to the Challenge and administer rewards
- Listen to children talk about their books and engage in discussion
- Promote "Gadgeteers" and the website to families and children in the library
- Help children to find and choose books
- Create book displays
- Help plan and carry out themed activities, such as craft sessions or story times

Full training will be given. Poster attached.

We now have an online [Community Noticeboard](#) with regular updates from members and groups in the local community.

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

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

And follow the [Cheney Library on TikTok](#) for book recommendations, news and more!

Kind regards

Cheney Communications