

LEADERSHIP UPDATE - 26 May 2022

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

Student safety: families may well have heard rumours at home about two students in Year 7 who are being expelled from Cheney. Last Thursday, there was an incident after school in South Park involving a number of Year 7 students, one of whom had arranged a fight with a pupil from St Gregory the Great. The argument originated over comments posted on social media. One of the boys concerned had brought a kitchen knife into school that morning, and the second one used it to threaten others. Fortunately, the boy from St Gregory did not turn up, so no serious harm was done.

The incident has been reported to the police and social services, our school liaison officer has spoken to the group of boys present in the park, two expulsions are in progress (the final decision rests with the governing body), serious consequences have been put in place for other students involved, and we have spoken to the families of everyone concerned.

A horrible tragedy was narrowly averted. This could easily have led to murder or serious injury, and we are very thankful that nobody was hurt. You may have read in the news about a similar case in Liverpool: [Ava White: Boy guilty of murdering girl, 12, in Snapchat row - BBC News](#)

We cannot emphasise strongly enough that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated at Cheney. Bringing a weapon into school is almost certain to lead to expulsion, and will result in a police investigation. Secondly, arranging fights is not acceptable, and will certainly lead to serious disciplinary action; in the past, this may have been viewed as part of the way things were done, and there may be a folk memory of this from older siblings or parents. It is not part of Cheney's current culture, and will not become so; those who think this is acceptable do not have a place in our diverse and tolerant school.

At home, parents, carers and older siblings can help by reinforcing the message around weapons: someone who carries a knife is much more likely to get stabbed themselves, or ruin their own life, and the life of others around them. Much more likely, for the huge majority of our families, the message is to walk away from public confrontations; there is no loss of face in de-escalation. In fact, this shows more courage.

Cheney basketball success: [Read a full report on the success of the Cheney Basketball teams.](#)

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.

Year 8 OxSOCRATES study: The school is taking part in a new fitness and health screening programme that is being run by the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University, as part of a British Heart Foundation funded research study. All the children in your child's year will have the opportunity to participate during their usual P.E. sessions and will be asked to wear an activity watch for a week. The sessions will include a range of physical activities that explore many aspects of your child's agility and fitness. You can read more about the programme, including information on how to opt-out on the attached letter.

Household Support Fund : A reminder that 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 go **live on Monday 30th May 2022.**

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.

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](#): **Rewilding Breakfast Talks in June**: Next term's Rumble Museum breakfast talks will be exploring rewilding, and are open to anyone in **Years Seven and Eight**. The talks are as follows (we are hoping to add one more at the beginning of June or beginning of July):

16th June, 8.30 - 9am	Pupak Haghighi, Founder of Trees for Hope	Rewilding in the Middle East
23rd June, 8.30 - 9am	Dr Paul Jepson, University of Oxford	Rewilding and the media
30th June, 8.30 - 9am	Dr Keith Kirby, University of Oxford	Can we have a wilder countryside?

Please [sign up using this form](#) if you would like to attend:

Working with local author, Chris Beckett, on Utopian and Dystopian Fiction - 12th July:
On Tuesday 12th July, the Rumble Museum is organising a Dystopia Day to round up its season exploring utopian and dystopian ideas. There will be stalls, activities and talks throughout the day.

There will also be a special opportunity for students in Year Nine to work with local author Chris Beckett on creating ideas for dystopian and utopian stories. Students involved will be off timetable all day to work in groups with Chris on how to develop a story idea in this genre. The ideas will be turned into display boards for a forthcoming event at the Weston Library on 10th September.

If you are in Year Nine, and would like to take part in this all day workshop with Chris Beckett, please [fill in this form](#).

Please [email Dr Lorna Robinson](#) if you have any questions about either of these two Rumble Museum opportunities.

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](#).

[House News and Competitions](#)

[Cheney Sports News](#)

[Women's Tour of Britain 2022](#) : On 11th June 2022 Oxford's famous St Giles is hosting the finish of the Women's Tour of Britain 2022. This is a really exciting and high profile event for Oxford and hopefully it will help to inspire more people to lead active lifestyles in our Cycling City. There will be a variety of community cycle-based stalls in the finish area between 11.30am-2pm with the race leaders expected to arrive in St Giles at approx. 2.20pm.

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 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