

LEADERSHIP UPDATE - 31 March 2022

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

End of term arrangements: School will finish at 1.30 on Friday 8 April for the two week Easter break. All students are back in school on Monday 25 April. Please note that there is no INSET day at the start of term.

Ongoing disruption: Many thanks to all parents for their patience with the staff shortages, which have led to further partial closures (Years 8 and 9 this week). To give a sense of the scale of the problem, today we had 30 staff absent, and on Tuesday it was 28. This is for all reasons, including things which are long-term or planned, and therefore already accounted for, but there were about 20% of teaching staff needing cover. On Tuesday, there were 63 lessons (out of a total of 260) needing cover in Years 7-11, and today during period 5, there were 16 lessons necessary, but only 3 people available to cover them.

Unfortunately, it is likely that next week will be as bad, and we need to be prepared for other year groups to be learning at home, in rotation in the following order: Year 10, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 again.

SWS, Cheney Plus, Star and Up classes will not be affected by this, and any parents for whom this will be difficult will still be able to send their children to school, to be supervised doing their online lessons.

Bromcom update:

Students: all should have received a magic link for the Student app. Students have been going through the process in their tutor times to sign in.

[Link to student guidance on logging in](#)

Parents: You should have received a log-in for MCAS (My Child At School App). Please check your junk/spam folders as many of the invitations seem to have ended up there.

The app is going to make communication easier, as we will be using it to push notifications about your child, instead of SMS messages and emails. It is also important to check that the contact information we hold for you is accurate, which can be done via the app. [Link to guidance for logging into MCAS](#)

There have been some parents that still cannot find the invitation, even after checking spam and junk. If this is you, please let us know on this form, although please be aware that the data team will take a little time to reply: <https://forms.gle/sBnsoCxHRsReWycc9>

Household Support Funding: As per the funding agreement from December 2021, the final round of support will provide £25 per eligible child per holiday week for the two week Easter holiday (£50 in total per child). You will receive two vouchers of £25, each being released on the Monday of each new week.

Oak National Academy: if you have not yet discovered this, it is well worth exploring, especially for students revising for their GCSEs. It is a bank of pre-recorded lessons put together over the last two years, and which is now pretty comprehensive. Some departments (especially science) already use it in their 'in case of absence' folders on their Google Classrooms.

Post-COVID :

- PE Changing rooms will be coming back into use from the start of the summer term. This is so we are able to offer a fuller PE curriculum, not be hampered by the weather, and be more hygienic.
- We will revert to having just one main entrance and exit gate for years 7-11, which will be the main gate by the attendance office. For Year 11s, this will shorten their commute to their year area by a full minute.
- In-person assemblies will return, at least until the exam season starts. They will revert to being online when the assembly hall is in use for exams.

Year 9 Parents Evening: Year 9 parents' evening will be both in person (3.30-5pm) and online (5.30-7.30). The key question for this parents' evening will be suitability of GCSE choices, which you will be able to discuss with teachers. Further information about booking appointments will be sent next week.

Appeal for Blazers: We would be very grateful to receive any old blazers that your children have grown out of. As well as selling them during Cheney Friends fundraisers, we also try and have a stock in school available for children who need them. We are currently short of all sizes. Please bring donations to the main school office or children can bring them in and drop them off with Mrs Dawson or Mrs Heer.

Tdp/Men ACWY immunisations to all students in Year 9: [Please see letter](#) for further information, including a link to the consent form and contact details for the vaccination team in case of any queries.

Rumble Museum Newsletter #29: This week's Rumble Newsletter unveils an exciting secret project which has finally been launched with our Rumble robots, a trip for Year Nines to the Bate Collection, and more information about the Black Classicists Exhibition next month, and our Greek Myth-themed stalls and activities on 1st April!

Rumble Museum Dystopia Breakfast Talks for Year Eight and Nine: The Rumble Museum is running a fresh season of talks next term, open to anyone in Year Eight and Nine, themed on dystopias. The talks will take place on Thursdays at 8.30 to 9am in L14 (the classics centre) during April and May next term. Please [contact Dr Robinson](#) with any questions!

The following talks will be available and [students can sign up here](#):

Date	Speaker	Title
28th April	Dr Aidan Power, University of Exeter	Dystopias in film
5th May	Professor Matthew Beaumont, University College London	'Utopia, Dystopia and the City'
12th May	Dr Anna MacFarlane, University of Leeds	Feminism and dystopias
19th May IN PERSON	Dr Caroline Edwards Senior Lecturer in Modern & Contemporary Literature Birkbeck, University of London	Climate change and dystopian fiction
26th May	Dr Adam Stock, York St John University	Politics and dystopian fiction

Greek Underworld Comes to Cheney for Pick' n' Styx Launch on 1st April: Explore stories set in the ancient Greek Underworld in the Cheney School Library on Friday 1st April!

Our Year Eight Latinists at Cheney have been with artist Lydia Hall to create their own graphic novels: Primordial Soup, a selection of short stories imagining the primordial Greek gods, overthrown by the Olympians, and residing in modern day Oxford, and Pick 'n' Styx, set in the Underworld, where the Olympian gods have found themselves in a variety of funny situations.

Visitors from within and outside the school are warmly welcome to come to the Library to have a look at the stories, pick up a copy of the books, enjoy some Underworld and

Olympian-themed refreshments, and take part in activity stalls too. All ages are welcome!

Cheney students and staff can attend from 3.30pm onwards, with external visitors able to come from 3.45pm onwards. Email [Dr Robinson](mailto:Dr.Robinson) if you would like to attend.

Black Classicists Exhibition in the Iris Classics Centre at Cheney School, 1st - 8th

April: An exhibition celebrating the important role of African Americans in the field of Classics will be on display at the Iris Classics Centre at Cheney from 1st to 8th April. You can find out more about the exhibition here:

<https://chs.harvard.edu/permanent-collection/black-classicists/>

We will be arranging for students to come and visit during the school day. It will be available for anyone from the wider community to book to view on 2nd and 3rd April between 1 and 3pm, and from 4th to 8th April from 3pm to 5.30pm.

Please email lorna@irisproject.org.uk on to book a time and day to visit if you would like to come and take a look.

House News and Competitions

Cheney Sports News

Easter Netball Youth Camp: The camp is taking place on Wednesday 20th April 10am-3pm at Cheney School, Headington, OX3 7QH. This camp will be for 9-11 year old's.

Bookings are now open, please follow the steps below to book a place:

- You must log onto your child's ENgage account [ENgage \(englandnetball.co.uk\)](http://engage(englandnetball.co.uk))
- (If they don't have one, please create one for them)
- Once logged in, scroll to the bottom of the page and select Find a session
- Pop in your postcode and how far away you think Headington is (50 miles is probably more than sufficient)
- Find Netball Youth Camp – Cheney School on the list and click on it
- Book is on the top right-hand side of the page
- You can then checkout accordingly

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