



# Chenderit School

## A VISUAL ARTS COLLEGE

Headteacher: Jane Cartwright BA (Hons), MA, NPQH



July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We have achieved a tremendous amount again this year, as a result of our remarkably committed community of students, families, staff and governors. In particular, it is my greatest pleasure to work each day with such diligent and dedicated young people as well as with such conscientious and caring staff. Chenderit is a very special place to be - thank you all!

### Curriculum Update

Students in year 11 and year 13 have now completed their exams, with almost all public examinations we take in school based on new, more rigorous specifications. We have been delighted with the mature approach students have shown in their attitude to the exams themselves, and in their approach to revision and organising their work.

To help students consolidate their learning, build exam skills and prepare for the challenges of more rigorous external exams, we have formalised our end-of-year assessments, and it has been a pleasure to see so many students showing good revision habits. This year we have given students more guidance and support in their preparation and developing revision skills. Research and guidance from experts suggests that regular recall of what we have learned is a vital part of the process of learning, and staff are building short tests and challenges into their schemes of work.

This year we introduced a BTEC PE course to run alongside our GCSE PE course. The knowledge and skills students learn in the two courses are similar, but the focus of BTEC is more practical, and suits some students more than the revised GCSE specification. A small number of students in years 10 and 11 have been following a Vocational Certificate, or VCERT course and have been very successful this year. Once again, this involves a slightly different means of assessment.

Of course, success in reading is the foundation of success in school and in many aspects of modern life. Schools are constantly looking at ways of supporting those students who are not as secure as their peers in the fundamentals of reading. This year we took part in a project with other schools in the SWAN partnership, using new materials and the training provided to run a programme known as ReadWriteInc. We are delighted with the results of this project and will continue it next year.

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One of the topics of our whole-staff training this year was supporting reading across the curriculum. The training reinforced the importance of regular reading to student progress in all their subjects, and we ask that parents and carers continue to encourage their children of all ages to read at home on a daily basis. If you would like some suggestions about the kind of books students in each year group should be reading visit:

<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/literacy.asp>

### **Computer Science Update**

Our two adverts in the TES (i.e. nationally) as well as in other media, failed to recruit a suitable computer studies teacher for this September. This is a shortage subject so whilst we were unsurprised by this, we were still disappointed.

Our plans for September are now that Y10 (current Y9) and Y11 (current Y10) will continue with computer science GCSE next year and will be taught by Mr Marchington. Mr Marchington is an experienced physicist and a former computing teacher, and has been taking the lead on ensuring KS4 Computer Science is delivered to a high standard this term. From September, and for the duration of the GCSE computing course, he will continue to teach and provide relevant and appropriate work for the Y10 and Y11 students. Mr Marchington has a history of producing excellent results at A Level Physics and, in the past, has taught computing to A Level standard too. He has extensive experience of computer networks and data representation, and has even written a book about this! Sadly, Mr Marchington does not have the space on his timetable to teach a Y9 group too, therefore computer science is not being run as a GCSE for the current Y8.

### **Pastoral Update**

Each year we are delighted that our students' parents and carers engage so positively with school, in support of their children and their futures. This year we held several information evenings including our 'helping your child to succeed' events, our parent/teacher consultation evenings and information evenings given by various external groups or agencies and we thank you for attending these.

Our assembly programme this year has been full, with some of the most notable assemblies tackling topics such as wellbeing and gang and knife crime:

1. In April 2019, AlterEgo presented a fantastic theatrical performance to students on the dangers of knife and gang culture, highlighting to our young people in years 8, 9 and 10 the seriousness of child exploitation through criminal gangs operating 'County Lines'. Students, staff and many parents have commented on how powerful and useful these presentations have been, particularly as they have often led to the discussion about such important issues at home.
2. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, the inclusion team facilitated a mental health awareness evening, focusing on signs, symptoms, strategies and exam anxiety. This was delivered by the school counsellor and the Banbury Young Homelessness Project (BYHP). Parents found the evening very informative, and were appreciative that they had been provided with: positive ways to support their children, useful tips on what to say and what not to say, and a greater understanding of how the teenage brain develops.
3. Last month, CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence) came into school with an ex-gang member to speak to students in years 7, 8 and 9 regarding the impact of a growing gang culture on young people. This was a very informative and powerful presentation that was followed up with a series of in-house workshops and a parents' evening.

If you have any concerns or questions that you would like to raise regarding your child's welfare and/or potential exploitation or gang/criminal activity, please do not hesitate to raise this at school with our Inclusion and/or Guidance teams  
(<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/safeguarding.asp>)

We want all young people to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, the law is such that all secondary age children will be taught Relationships, Sex and Health Education. These subjects are designed to equip your child with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated. Our PSHE team have redesigned their curriculum so that the content is appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and so that it is relevant for your child. For more information go to [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/812594/RSE\\_secondary\\_schools\\_guide\\_for\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812594/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf) or contact Mr A Vickers on [avickers@chenderit.northants.sch.uk](mailto:avickers@chenderit.northants.sch.uk)

Recently, we have subscribed to a careers and destination software platform called Unifrog. This is now available to students in key stages 3 and 4 as well as for our post 16 students. Updated every 24hrs, Unifrog can be used to find the best apprenticeships, technical and vocational courses nationally as well as within the local area. Unifrog also allows students to explore every university course, apprenticeship and college course in the UK plus other opportunities around the world, such as European and US undergraduate courses. Unifrog is available to parents and provides information about next steps after school, particularly for those who may not be familiar with how university applications or jobs opportunities are made available for young people today. Students will be provided with regular, structured time to access and use Unifrog as part of their tutor time programme of study. However, students can access Unifrog 24/7 - the link is accessible from the school website, or the website can be found at [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org)

Finally, our new uniform provider has been working with us since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019. Cross Embroidery is a local provider and all details regarding our uniform can be sourced from [www.crossembroidery.com](http://www.crossembroidery.com). Cross Embroidery is located at Units 5 - 6 Lower Cherwell Street, Banbury, OX16 5AY and they can be telephoned on: 01295 270555

From September 2019, only skirts purchased from Cross Embroidery with the school emblem embroidered on the upper part of the uniform skirt will be accepted in school. Do not hesitate to check the uniform policy on the school website for further details:  
<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/school-policies.asp>

## **Site Improvements**

In June, Edgar Taylor arrived on site to begin work on our new build. By 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 we hope to be opening a new two-storey, eight-classroom block that will replace the dilapidated mobiles at the back of the school. This is very exciting, however, before we arrive at the position of improved accommodation, and, we hope, a more aesthetically pleasing entrance to the school, we shall have to accept the disruption that a build of this size will inevitably cause. The build area has been fenced-off and students (and staff) must not attempt to access these fenced off areas. Students accessing school from the bottom field areas (i.e. Arrow Close and Bull Balk) will need to walk up the firm (metalled) path, turn left at the back of the garages, go around the garages and enter or exit the school via the normal pedestrian pathway. All students (and staff) have been asked to keep to firm (metalled) hard pathways around the school and not to cut across grass or mud areas. This is for obvious health and safety reasons and to keep the

school as clean as possible. The over flow car park has not been available since Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as this has been fenced off and used as the contractor's compound, along with part of the dance mobile area. The school fire escape plan, dated March 2019, will not be affected as the fenced off areas do not impact on fire escape routes. Where deliveries are made to the compound area students will need to be aware of vehicles crossing the main pedestrian pathway when moving in and out of school. **We would ask that all parents ensure that their children are aware of the building works taking place and that they urge their children, as we are, to behave sensibly and have an awareness of contractors, their vehicles and additional delivery vehicles being on the school site and in Archery Road itself.**

## Safeguarding

In order to keep our students safe at the beginning of the school day, if they arrive before 8:15, we ask that students sit in the canteen where there is adult supervision. Students are only permitted to be in tutor bases once duty staff arrive at 8:15. I would ask that students walking or travelling to school by car should aim to arrive in school after 8:15. Please emphasise this message with your children.

As we approach the summer holiday, I would like to remind parents to reinforce to their children the importance of being vigilant over personal safety in terms of both their physical security as well as their virtual safety when accessing the internet and social media sites. You may be interested to know that ever since 2013, the NSPCC has been collating and compiling data across the four countries of the UK to review the state of child protection. Later this year, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) will publish their first compendium of child abuse data sources for England and Wales. This has opened up the opportunity for the NSPCC to look in more depth at the ever-evolving issue of online abuse.

The NSPCC report looks at ten indicators:

- Inappropriate content
- Online sexual abuse
- Online sexual offences
- Child sexual abuse images
- Childline counselling sessions
- NSPCC helpline contacts
- Internet Watch Foundation and industry reports
- Advice seeking and awareness
- Taking actions to stay safe online
- What needs to be done to improve online safety

The key messages for us all to be aware of include:

- 16 per cent of surveyed primary school-aged children and 19 per cent of surveyed secondary school students said they had seen content which encouraged people to hurt themselves
- 21 per cent of surveyed girls aged 11 to 18 said they had received a request for a sexual image or message
- A disproportionately high number of counselling sessions about online sexual abuse involve girls (72 per cent) and children in the 12 to 15 year age group (57 per cent)
- In 2018/19 there were 1,507 contacts to the NSPCC helpline where online sexual abuse was the main concern, a 19 per cent increase since the previous year
- 41 per cent of 11 to 18 year olds surveyed said that they thought websites, apps and games weren't doing enough to keep them safe online

You can download the How Safe Are Our Children 2019 report here:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1747/how-safe-are-our-children-2019.pdf>

Please also take a moment to look at our website. Here, you can find information relating to wellbeing, and safeguarding, including staying safe online. At the following addresses, there are various leaflets offering advice about mental health; support agency information and help with how best to support young people in need:

- <http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/safeguarding.asp>
- <http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/staying-safe-online.asp> and
- [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/mental-health-advice-for-children-and-young-people/the-advice-resource-vault](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/mental-health-advice-for-children-and-young-people/the-advice-resource-vault)

Over the summer period, should you have any safeguarding concerns, please call the police, if this is appropriate, on 101/0300 111 222 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies. Northamptonshire Social Care can be called on 0300 126 1000 option 1 and Oxfordshire Social Care are available through 03450 507666. The parent plus helpline number is 0808 808 3555.

### **Summer Assignment**

Our Summer Assignment is now a regular feature of life at Chenderit. For those new to the school, this is a project that we encourage all students and their families to take part in over the summer break, as by doing so we hope that they might help to make the world a better place. This year, our summer assignment connects to our forthcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. We have developed forty challenges for students to have a go at, from baking a cake to writing to their local MP, with some of the challenges referring specifically to our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We hope that everyone in our community will attempt at least one of these challenges over the summer, but encourage everyone to complete as many as they can.

As with our previous summer assignments, we hope that this will encourage students to take an active role in reaching their potential. Students are encouraged to “Aim High, Work Hard and Be Nice” and we hope that by responding to these challenges, students will become more considerate, more focussed, more generous and more understanding. Like anything in life, the more students make of this opportunity, the greater their reward will be, so we look forward to discovering what each student will choose to do in response. There is more information about our Summer Assignment available on the school website (<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/chenderit>). Please encourage your children to get creative and use their imagination to do something amazing this summer!

### **And now to September...**

As always, in September, we shall be hosting our ‘Welcome to 2019/20’ evening: I shall speak about Chenderit’s key priorities. Mr Taylor will speak about the ways in which parents and teachers can support students as they face the challenges of the more demanding curriculum and examination structure we now have in place. Mr Lloyd-Jones will speak about the role of the form tutor, how Chenderit School’s PSHE and tutor programmes support students’ wider learning, and Unifrog, our new careers and destinations platform. The presentations will last approximately 1 hour (between 6pm and 7pm) on:

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September - years 9, 10 & 11 (KS4)
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September – years 7 & 8 (KS3)
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – years 12 & 13 (Post 16)

Please complete the tear off slip at the end of this letter or email us on [enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk) before the end of this academic year to let us know whether you will be attending. We shall choose our venue depending on indicative numbers, so please only attend the evening if you have told us that you will be coming! Thank you.

Please also note that there has been a change to the bank holiday at the beginning of May 2020. As a result of this, we have made some calendar changes: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 is now an INSET day for staff only and Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 is the new May Day Bank Holiday, in lieu of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### **#SustainableChenderit**

Just recently, we have assembled a new working group that we are calling #SustainableChenderit. The group is led by Miss Cramb and Mrs Coleman, a sixth form ambassador, and some of our students who are passionate about our planet and the effect that we have on it as a school. From 1st September, we want to commit ourselves to a more sustainable policy, and would kindly ask for you to work with us on securing this. One of our overall goals is to reduce the amount of plastic we use around school. To help cut down on the abundance of plastic bottles students use throughout each year, we are asking that parents and carers consider buying reusable bottles that can be washed and used for many years to come. In addition to this, if your child brings their own lunch, we are asking that you aim to reduce your single use plastics, such as cling-film, by buying sandwich wraps made out of organic materials, such as beeswax. These are washable, easy to use, and cost as little as £10.00. We are hopeful that you will want to work with us on enhancing our school environment and in leading the way to a better future for current and future generations.

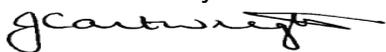
### **And finally**

This summer, we would like to say a heart-felt thank you and goodbye to:

- Mrs Jane Atterby, Mrs Maureen Risbridger and Mr Kevin Foley who are all retiring after a collective 66 years at Chenderit School, spanning 4 decades
- Miss Caitlin Montague, Miss Grace Benson, Ms Aimi Arroyo, Mr Pal Dahal, Mr Anthony Pitchfork and Mr Steve Ward who are taking up posts in other schools.
- Mrs Sara Heaverman and Mrs Amber Sivyler who are both leaving to pursue further studies.

I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed, and eager to learn again on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Yours sincerely



Jane Cartwright  
Headteacher



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**REPLY SLIP – WELCOME TO 2019/20 EVENING**

I/We ..... Parent/Carer of .....

in tutor group .....

Will/will not be attending the “Welcome to 2019/20” evening on: (please tick box to indicate which day you will be attending)

- 6pm to 7pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September - years 9, 10 & 11 (KS4)
- 6pm to 7pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September – years 7 & 8 (KS3)
- 6pm to 7pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – years 12 & 13 (Post 16)

Number of seats required .....

Signed ..... Dated ..... 2019

***Please return reply slip to your child’s tutor or email***

**[enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk)**