



Chenderit School

A VISUAL ARTS COLLEGE

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



arts colleges

July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic year!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank students for their diligence, achievements and good behaviour this year. I would also like to thank you for your continued support of Chenderit School and our staff and governors for their total commitment. It has been a happy and successful year, which has concluded with a number of exciting activities over the last few weeks. Amongst others, we have:

- Taken Year 7 to Kibblestone, near Stone in Staffordshire for their camp
- Welcomed new year 7 and new year 12 students for their induction days
- Hosted the year 11 Prom at Whittlebury Hall where our year 11 students were stunning in their prom dresses and suits
- Enjoyed our annual sports day which, for the first time this year, included year 9 students undertaking various enterprise activities
- Celebrated many student successes at our annual 'celebration of achievement' evening
- Participated in 'healthy eating' week
- Been shortlisted as a finalist by the Chronicle & Echo Northants Telegraph Education Awards 2017 for our work on 'Making the World a Better Place' (Chenderit's Summer Assignment 2016 – more about this summer's project later)
- Reached the finals of the County Schools Challenge on how to address the problem of drugs and psychoactive substances (year 8).

We still have our Musical Theatre Society summer production and the year 10 visit to Thorpe Park to look forward to.

This year, staff and students have been getting to grips with the new assessment system in key stage 3. Instead of levels, we now have "age related expectations". In rewriting our lessons and schemes of work, staff have deliberately taken the opportunity to make sure their expectations are high and communicated to students. We have been delighted with the way students have responded, with many examples of excellent work, which we are collecting to share with others as examples in the future.

Our year 9 students have risen to the challenge of their new GCSE courses and have already produced some excellent work. Please see the attached GCSE fact sheet for parents from the Department for Education to help you get to grips with the new courses, exams and grading system.

continued/....

Archery Road, Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 2QR
Telephone: 01295 711567 **Fax:** 01295 711856 **E-mail:** enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk
www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk

Chenderit School is the trading name of Chenderit School Academy Trust, a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales under company number 07900254 whose registered office is Chenderit School, Archery Road, Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxon OX17 2QR



On 24th May, as you will know, Ofsted visited us. We were pleased with our short inspection letter, which provided us with a good platform from which to move forward. Staff and governors at Chenderit are ambitious for the school and, together, we shall work hard to improve further. One particular focus for next year will be to build on developments to improve engagement and information sharing with parents so that all parents know who to approach with any issues including those around safeguarding and bullying. In relation to this, the tutor is usually the first port of call and his or her email address can be found at:

<http://www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk/staff.asp>. The Head of Learning would typically be the next port of call, followed by Mr Lloyd-Jones, our Deputy Head in charge of the pastoral work of the school. However, we also have two non-teaching colleagues in school, who are part of our dedicated safeguarding team. For safeguarding/other concerns, you can contact:

- Mrs J Hooper, Head of Safeguarding, Student Welfare and Parent Liaison, or
- Mrs A Smith, Deputy Head of Safeguarding, Student Welfare and Parent Liaison

In relation to safeguarding, as we approach the summer holiday, I would like to remind parents to reinforce to all 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. Sadly, there are some very unpleasant characters in the world and as many parents already do, we need to ensure that the safety of the young people in our community remains a priority both when in sight as well as out of sight. 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 03450507666. The parent plus helpline number is 0808 808 3555.

As always, in September, we shall be hosting our 'Welcome to 2017/18' evening. I shall speak about Chenderit's key priorities for the next three years, Mr Taylor will speak about the curriculum, assessment and reporting changes that will affect students and Mr Lloyd-Jones will speak about the pastoral work of the school, including how we tackle safeguarding and bullying concerns. The presentations will last approximately 1 hour (between 6pm and 7pm) on:

- Thursday 7th September - years 9, 10 & 11 (KS4)
- Tuesday 12th September – years 7 & 8 (KS3)
- Thursday 14th September – years 12 & 13 (Post 16)

Please complete the tear off slip at the end of this letter or write a brief note and return it to school before the end of this academic year. We shall choose our venue depending on the indicative numbers.

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

- Mrs Jane Ward (geography), who is to take up a part-time position in the town in which she lives
- Mrs Emma White (science), who is leaving teaching to set up a new online business
- Ms Judith Wilden (geography), who is relocating to Derbyshire
- Ms Judith Francis (MFL), whose 12 month contract comes to an end
- Mrs French, who is retiring, having been Chenderit's receptionist since September 2005;
- Kinga Rawlings, Teaching Assistant, who is relocating to Poland with her family and
- Rebecca Bailey, Teaching Assistant, who leaves us to take up a post in Australia.

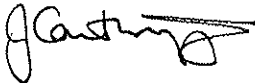
Finally, as last year, I hope students in years 6 to 9 will be participating in this year's summer project, which, once again, is designed to make the world a better place. We are asking students (and even their families!) to:

- 1: Become an expert in something
- 2: Do something for family or friends
- 3: Engage in a cultural activity
- 4: Do something that will benefit the community
- 5: Start thinking about the student's own future: Investigate a career.

This year there will be prizes for the very best responses in each year group. There is more information available on Show My Homework.

I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed, and eager to learn again on Tuesday 5th September 2017.

Yours sincerely



Jane Cartwright
Headteacher

✂-----
REPLY SLIP – WELCOME TO 2017/18 EVENING

I/We Parent/Carer of
in tutor group

Will/will not be attending the "Welcome to 2017/18" evening on: (please tick box to indicate which day you will be attending)

- Thursday 7th September - Years 9, 10 & 11 (KS4)
- Tuesday 12th September – Years 7 & 8 (KS3)
- Thursday 14th September – Years 12 & 13 (Post 16)

Signed Dated 2017

Please return reply slip to your child's tutor



Is your child studying for GCSEs?

If so, or if they will in the future, you might be interested to know that GCSEs in England are changing. The courses and exams have been changed to ensure that young people have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century. The new GCSEs will ensure that students leave school better prepared for work or further study. They cover more challenging content and are designed to match standards in the strongest performing education systems elsewhere in the world.



Top facts about the new GCSEs

- GCSEs in England will have a new 9 to 1 grading scale, to better differentiate between the highest performing students and distinguish clearly between the new and old exams.
- Grade 9 is the highest grade and will be awarded to fewer students than the current A*.
- The new GCSEs are being rolled out over the next few years, starting with English language, English literature and maths exams in 2017.
- The old and new GCSE grading scales do not directly compare but there are three points where they align, as the diagram shows:
 - The bottom of grade 7 is aligned with the bottom of grade A;
 - The bottom of grade 4 is aligned with the bottom of grade C; and
 - The bottom of grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of grade G.
- Although the exams will cover more challenging content, this won't mean your child gets a lower grade than they might have under the old system. Ofqual, the exams regulator, will ensure that broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above in any subject as would have got grades G, C or A and above respectively in the old system, other things being equal.
- The Department for Education recognises grade 4 and above as a 'standard pass'; this is the minimum level that students need to reach in English and maths, otherwise they will need to continue to study these subjects as part of their post-16 education. There is no re-take requirement for other subjects.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 STRONG PASS	
4 STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
	U

- 7 Employers, universities and colleges will continue to set the GCSE grades they require for employment or further study. We are saying to them that if a grade C is their current minimum requirement, then the nearest equivalent is grade 4. A* to G grades will remain valid for future employment or study.
- 8 For measuring school performance, we will publish the proportion of students achieving a grade 5 and above. The Department for Education recognises grade 5 and above as a 'strong pass', a benchmark in line with the expectations of top performing education systems around the world – this will be one of the headline measures of school performance. We will also publish the proportion of students achieving a grade 4 or above for transparency and to enable schools to show their students' achievements.
- 9 Most GCSEs taken by students at schools in Wales and Northern Ireland will continue to be graded A* to G. The grading scales for AS (A to E) and A levels (A* to E) are not changing.

When is this happening?

- The first exams for the reformed GCSEs in English language, English literature and maths are being held in summer 2017, with results in August 2017.
- All GCSE subjects will be revised by 2018 and examined by 2020.
- Between 2017 and 2019, GCSE exam certificates will have a combination of number and letter grades. By 2020, exam certificates will contain only number grades.

First teaching in 2015, first exams 2017	First teaching in 2016, first exams 2018	First teaching in 2017, first exams 2019	First teaching in 2018, first exams 2020
English language, English literature and maths	English and maths plus... art and design, biology, chemistry, citizenship studies (including short course), combined science, computer science, dance, drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, geography, German, classical Greek, history, Latin, music, physical education, physics, religious studies (including short course), and Spanish	2016 and 2016 subjects plus... ancient history, Arabic, astronomy, Bengali, business, Chinese, classical civilisation, design and technology, economics, electronics, engineering, film studies, geology, Italian, Japanese, media studies, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Panjabi, physical education short course, Polish, psychology, Russian, sociology, statistics and Urdu	All previous subjects plus... Biblical Hebrew, Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese and Turkish