

7 September 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I hope you have all had a good summer. I would particularly like to welcome all parents of children who have just joined us this year in Year 7 and in other year groups. It was lovely to meet so many new parents at the Year 7 coffee morning on Friday.

I have personally enjoyed talking to students in assemblies this week and it has been very pleasing to see such high levels of positivity from students and staff.

I would like to congratulate last year's Year 11 and 13 students for their wonderful examination results. They are to be particularly commended for their commitment and conscientiousness throughout the past two challenging years. It was fantastic to see Year 13 students excited about the next step in their adult lives with many now busy preparing to start university courses or professional degree apprenticeships.

It has been a busy summer holiday in school with many site improvement projects taking place including an essential upgrade to our boilers as a result of a successful bid to the Education Skills Funding Agency for £750,000. These works are on schedule for us to improve our energy efficiency for the coming winter!

Vision and Values

I am pleased to share with you the launch of the new vision and values.

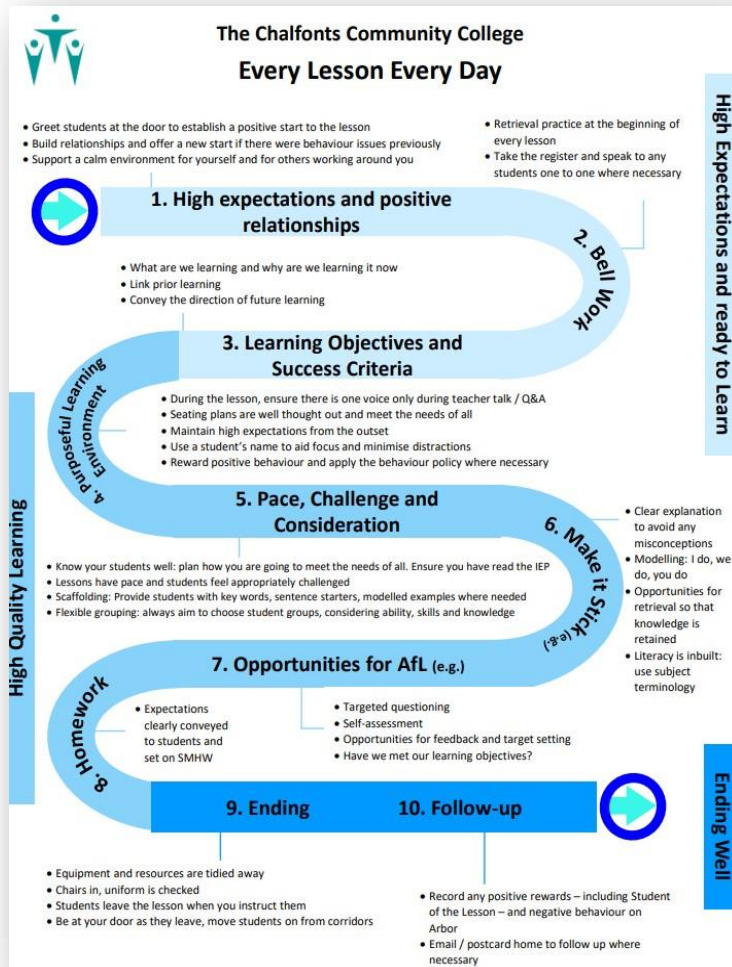
Our vision is that of a happy, successful and aspirational community both today and tomorrow.

We know that positive behaviour and positive attitudes to learning create an environment for all students to succeed and as such have defined these behaviours and attitudes in our values.

Our values are that we are Committed, Conscientious, Courteous and Community Minded.

These values were created through consultation with students last term and have been launched with students in assembly this week. We place a very high value on these behaviours and reward students in line with these values. I am delighted there have been over 750 merit points awarded to students. The majority of these merits have been awarded to students who have already shown the school values of commitment and conscientiousness in their learning.





Every Lesson Every Day

Our values are an important part of our expectations for every lesson, every day.

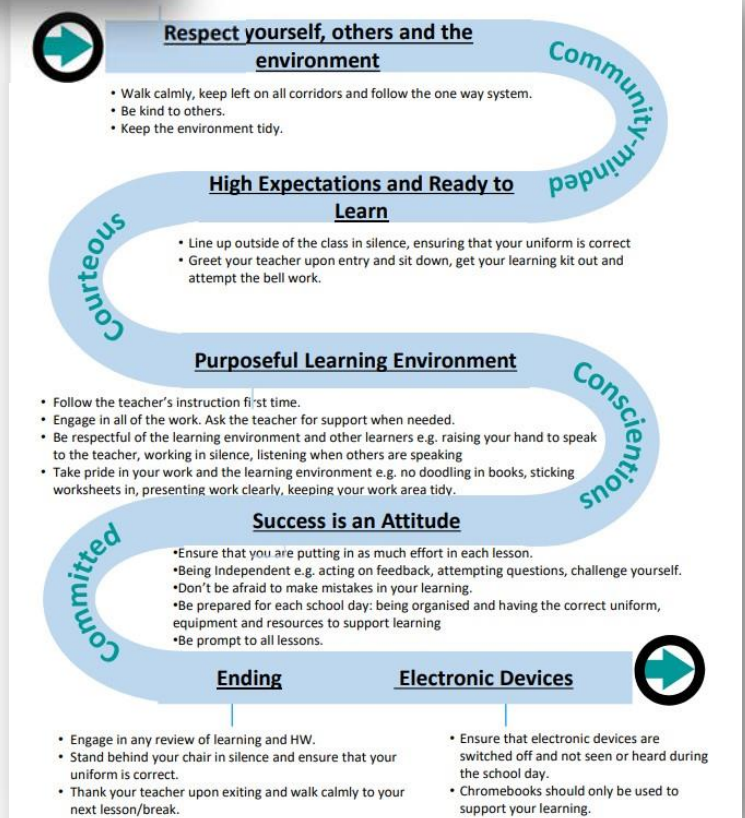
We aim for the highest standards of teaching and learning and want all students to have the opportunity to succeed. We have incorporated the best features of highly effective teaching and learning into our lessons.

Many of the features of our *Every Lesson Every Day* structure are based upon cognitive science research along with the outcome of our work with the Department for Education's Behaviour Hub programme to create a positive climate for learning.

Behaviour for learning

Our expectations of students' behaviour and attitudes to learning are high and in line with our values. Students are expected to follow the principles for success in *Every Lesson Every Day*, which are shown here. We are confident in this structure being right for students to enable them to make good progress with their learning and be a part of a well-ordered school community.

Part of the commitment students' show to the school is wearing uniform with pride. If uniform is not correct students will have a detention in the morning break with a senior member of staff. Full information on uniform can be found here: [Online uniform information](#). If you have any queries regarding uniform, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or Year Leader.





Attendance

Attendance at school is very important so that students can attend Every Lesson Every Day. As a parent/carer you want the best for your child. Having a good education is an important factor in opening up opportunities in adult life.

There is a lot of educational research that shows a clear link between educational outcomes and attendance to school. We know that when attendance drops below 97% we start to see negative impacts on learning. An attendance of 90% means a student misses 19 days of education, which equates to 95 lessons over an academic year. An attendance of 80% equals 38 missed days and 190 lessons.

You can help your child to ensure they don't miss school days by helping them to understand the importance of good attendance; taking an interest in their school work; encouraging them to get involved in school activities; discuss any problems they may have at school and arrange appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays.

Parents are reminded that all term time absences (except for sickness) must be requested in writing to me in advance. Please do not book holidays in term time, as this will not be authorised. Sickness absences should be reported by email attendance@chalfonts.org or telephoning 01753 882032 Option 2. Please include your child's full name, tutor group and the reason for the absence.

Parking and Buses

We understand that many parents pick up and drop off students in the morning and afternoon. In the morning, the arrival of buses makes the turning circle very busy and I encourage you to park safely when driving and be considerate of our neighbours when bringing your children to and from school. The Tunmers estate, next to the school, is private. Please do not use this road to wait for your child or to turn around.

Thank you for your patience in this first week with some problems we experienced with school buses. We are in contact with the bus companies to ensure home school transport runs smoothly. If you have queries regarding bus passes please contact Bucks School Transport ([Bucks School Transport page](#))

Year 6 Open Evening

On 5th October we will be holding our annual Year 6 Open Evening to welcome prospective students and parents to our school. More information will be sent out about this closer to the event. It is an important event for the school and an opportunity for students to be ambassadors for the school by volunteering as guides for the evening. Letters will be sent out with further information on this.



Structure of the school day

As stated in my letters to you last term the structure of the school week has been carefully reviewed along with the structure of the school day. The school day consists of five lessons per day of one hour each. The school day begins at 8.45am and finishes at 3.05pm every day.

Registration	8:45-9:05
Period 1	9.05-10.05
Period 2	10:05-11:05
Break 1	11:05-11:35
Period 3	11:35-12:35
Period 4	12:35-13:35
Break 2	13:35-14:05
Period 5	14:05-15:05

I look forward to working with you over the course of this academic year to ensure the happiness and success of your child in order for them to achieve their aspirations.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

Key dates

Parents Evenings:

Year 7	20 th April
Year 8	11 th May
Year 9	30 th March
Year 10	16 th March
Year 11	26 th January
Sixth Form	1 st December

Welcome Evening for Year 7 parents	15 th September
Year 8 Curriculum Evening	29 th September
Year 9 Curriculum Evening	17 th October
INSET day (no students in school)	21 st October
Half term holiday	24 th – 28 th October
Return to school	31 st October