

20 October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. This half term has flown by and some of our highlights are captured in the Autumn Newsletter which I encourage you to read. [Autumn Newsletter](#)

End of half term celebrations

At the end of our first half term of the academic year it has been wonderful to see so many students being rewarded in celebration events. Last week sixteen Year 7 students were invited to my office for a pizza party to celebrate their high levels of merits for displaying our school values in their first half term at secondary school. Today I joined 30 Year 8 to 11 students in a celebration 'breakfast' with cookies and hot chocolate along with Year Leaders and other senior leaders. All students shared a highlight of the half term and it was wonderful to hear how much they have enjoyed lessons and great teachers, sports teams and helping around the school.

Students have also held celebration assemblies with their year group to recognise and commend students for their hard work and commitment to our school values.

Safeguarding Week: Mental health and resilience

Guest Speaker

We held our second annual safeguarding week last week and all students had a presentation from Josh Connelly, one of the UK's most influential mental health advocates who has regularly spoken on the BBC, ITV and Channel 5 news as well as contributing to UK mental health policy. He spoke to students about his personal experiences and how to build their resilience as young people.

Courses for young people

The Family Support Service are running a series of courses for young people on confidence and self esteem and stress, anxiety and low mood. Details of these courses are attached to this letter with a link to secure a place for your child.

Substance misuse

We were also visited again by K9 Deployment who work with us to support our proactive approach to safeguarding students against substance misuse. Many students will have seen the dog and his handler in school, who toured the school and visited some classrooms to ensure we maintain our approach to being a drug free school. All students were introduced to the dog handler and his dog last term, and Year 7 had a special assembly in which there was a demonstration with the handler and his dog.

Supporting your child with upsetting media content

Raising a child in the digital age is a challenge with the world experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to conflicts around the world, children can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. Please read the attached advice from National Online Safety to help you support your child with this.

Open Evening and Year 6

On Wednesday 11th October, the school opened its doors for our annual Open Evening. Hundreds of parents and children attended the evening which started with the choir filling the main hall with a rendition of 'The Climb' followed by speeches from our Head Boy, Laurie and Head Girl, Aswini with a Q&A by the Year 7 Leader, Miss Head with four Year 7 students done in a chat show style! Our student tour guides were commended by visitors for being wonderful ambassadors of the school. Parents and Year 6 children were invited in again to see the school in action at our Open Morning on Thursday 12th October. This gave parents the opportunity to see the school in action. Visitors commented on how good it was to see lessons taking place and speak to staff and students about school life and how well engaged students were in their lessons.

Black History Month

We have celebrated Black History Month in school with assemblies, an art competition and a donut sale which has raised £380 for the The Hairoun Elderly Day Centre. We are proud to have contributed to this specialised, charity facility providing daytime care, social engagement, and support services to some of the most vulnerable elderly people in a multicultural environment.

Uniform

Please be reminded that as the colder weather arrives students should wear appropriate coats to school. Students should wear plain navy or black coats that are free from logos. Students are reminded to wear a tie and blazer (and optional school jumper) with their outside coat only being worn over the top. Outside coats are not substitutes for blazers and no other items of clothing such as hoodies or sweatshirts can be worn under blazers or in place of a school uniform. The uniform is to be worn without adaptations.

This includes skirts which must not be tailored to make them shorter. Students with skirts that are not being worn correctly will be addressed and those with very short tailored skirts will be asked to purchase new skirts. Break time detentions are held each day for students with incorrect uniform.

Ties are back in stock so please ensure if your child does not have a tie to purchase this in preparation for the start of the next half term. [The Chalfonts Community College - Uniform and School Shop](#)

Our PTA run an online second hand uniform shop with very reasonable prices for items in good condition/nearly new. Please click on this link to place an order: <https://chalfont-community-college-pta.sumupstore.com/>

I hope you enjoy the next two weeks and we look forward to welcoming our students back refreshed and ready for the opportunities that the next half term will bring.



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

Important dates

Autumn Half term	Monday 23 October to Friday 3 November
Return to school	Monday 6th November
Sixth Form Open Evening	Thursday 16th November 6pm
Year 7 Parents Evening	Thursday 23rd November
Year 11 Mock exams start	Monday 27th November
Christmas Fayre	Wednesday 13 December
Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening	Thursday 14 December
End of term (12.35pm)	Wednesday 20th December