



13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased with a very positive start to the school year. Students have settled back into school routines and engaged in lessons very well. Thank you to all parents who responded to our request for feedback this week, particularly from parents who have taken the time to thank individual staff for their efforts in making this a very successful start to the school year. These messages are shared with staff and are incredibly well received. Your support for the school and feedback on areas for improvement are greatly appreciated.

As you might expect at the start of an academic year there is a lot of information for parents, so this is a much longer letter than usual but I trust you will appreciate having all the information in one letter. This letter contains information on:

1. Examinations
2. Student Leadership
3. Behaviour for Learning
4. Uniform
5. Parents evening arrangements and curriculum evenings for all year groups
6. Parking and buses
7. Keeping you informed through the Arbor app

## **Examinations**

The hard work, focus and resilience of our Year 11 and 13 students during the exam period saw many of them gain a fantastic set of results. We congratulate them and wish them well in their next steps. Many are busily preparing for their big move to universities across the country! It has been great to welcome many of our Year 11 students into the Sixth Form and see them enjoying their increased independence.

For our current students, a new round of examinations begins. For Year 7 students, over the next two weeks, they will be sitting CATs 4 tests and Lucid tests to give us a better understanding of them as students and to inform our target setting for them. This will be followed by Baseline testing in all subjects in the week beginning 30th September. Parents will receive a report giving those attainment grades and will give you an indication of how they have started in lessons.

For our Year 11s and 13s, the hard work really begins now. Year 11 Mock examinations begin the week of the 25th of November, for Year 13s, their Mocks start on the 20th of January. There will be more information coming from the exams team closer to those dates.

## **Student Leadership**

Assemblies have taken place this week on the theme of leadership and benefits to students of taking on a leadership role. There are many opportunities for students to get involved in the school community, one of those is to be involved in student leadership. Elections are taking place for Tutor Representatives in tutor groups. Those students will have the opportunity to be a voice for their form group at Year Council meetings held once a term.

It is also a way to have a say in the charities we sponsor. Last year alone, the student council raised over £3500 for charity through their student-led fundraisers. We are hoping to do even better this year. If you have a child that is interested in being involved in student leadership, please ask them to speak to their form tutor.

## **Behaviour for Learning**

We have made improvements to our behaviour policy to support the needs of our students and maximise learning time. One such change is the introduction of mobile phone pouches, which students are incorporating into their daily routines. We encourage all students to bring their phones so they can adapt to this policy. Parent feedback has been extremely positive on this new policy and already, we have seen an improvement in engagement during lessons.

Further adjustments have been made to celebrate the achievements of our students. Year 7 students have made an excellent start and have settled in well. A special mention goes to Elbie Harrison in Year 7, who has already accumulated the highest number of merits in the school!

After school detentions are used as an important part of our staged approach in the event of repeated breaches or a significant breach of schools behaviour for learning policy. It is important that you support our detention system in the event of your child's behaviour falling below expectations. After School detentions will not be moved to break or lunch time detentions - if your child receives an After School detention, they will have to attend it after school.

## **Uniform**

We continue to uphold high standards regarding our uniform policy. From Monday, 16th September, any student arriving at school wearing an incorrect uniform item will be sent to the Pastoral Hub, where they will be provided with the correct uniform in exchange for an item, such as keys or a bus pass. Students can then swap back at 3:05 pm. If you have any spare uniform items in good condition, please drop them off at Reception and label them for "The Uniform Swap Shop."

Part of the commitment student's show to the school is wearing the uniform with pride and being equipped for learning and your support in ensuring students maintain high standards of appearance is vital. Full information on our uniform expectations can be found here:

<https://www.chalfonts.org/parents/uniform-1>

## **Parents and Carers Evenings**

Consultation with parents has shown that the majority of parents prefer the convenience of online parents evening appointments to fit parent's evenings into busy family life. We also recognise the benefits of meeting in person and parents of each year group are encouraged to attend Curriculum Evenings which will include helpful guidance on how to support your child in the coming year both in their academic development and their wellbeing as well as reviewing key dates and expectations. I look forward to seeing you in person at these events.



	Online Parents Evenings	In School Curriculum Evenings
<b>Year 7</b>	Thursday 5 June 2025	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 Welcome evening and Year 7 curriculum
<b>Year 8</b>	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 Year 8 Curriculum
<b>Year 9</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 Options Evening for choosing GCSEs
<b>Year 10</b>	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 'Making the Grade'
<b>Year 11</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 'Making the Grade'  Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November Sixth Form Open Evening
<b>Year 12</b>	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July UCAS Evening
<b>Year 13</b>	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	N/A

## Parking and Buses

We understand that many parents drive their children to and from school and I encourage you to do so in a safe and considerate manner. School buses require clear access to the turning circle at the front of the school and therefore must not be used for parking. Cars that are dropping off or picking up prevent access for the school buses to safely drop off students and for students to board buses safely after school. I encourage you to drop off and pick up a little further from the school entrance to ensure the safety of all students arriving and departing from school.

## Car parking in the local area:

May I politely remind families who drive their children to and from school, not to park in the turning circle or the bus stops at the front of the school, nor on the grass verge opposite the school. We have school buses arriving who require full access to the turning circle in order to reach the school bus stop to enable students to disembark and board buses safely. When there are cars parked in these areas it presents a safety risk to students. Please arrange to drop off and collect your child further from the school.

## **Arbor - Keeping you informed**

Please inform us of any changes to addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. I strongly encourage you to download the Arbor App for real time updates and to see your child's achievements along with other helpful information. If you have any issues with installing or logging in, please email [JamieHoward@chalfonts.org](mailto:JamieHoward@chalfonts.org)

I wish you all a pleasant weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Whitehead".

Mrs C Whitehead  
Principal