

17 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the second week of the new term, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a happy New Year. It has been a pleasure to witness the enthusiastic return of our students following the Christmas break.

Today, our Year 11 students received their mock examination results in a special assembly. Students have been encouraged to use this feedback constructively, focusing on areas for improvement and maintaining their commitment to hard work as they continue their preparation for the summer examinations.

Parent survey

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who participated in our recent end-of-term survey. Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us improve and shape the future of our school community. Your responses have highlighted both the strengths of our school and areas where we can do more to support our students and families. We are particularly encouraged by the positive comments about the school's environment and your suggestions for further enhancing communication, facilities, and opportunities for students.

We want to assure you that your feedback has been carefully reviewed and will inform our priorities over the coming term. Our goal is to build on our successes while addressing the areas where we can do better, ensuring that we continue to provide an outstanding experience for all.

Uniform Policy

A reminder around smart watches. Smart watches eg. Apple Watches, are not permitted during the school hours. They are also banned from examinations. Please ensure that your child does not have one on them during the school day as they are not permitted.

School day change - 28th January

Please be aware, on 28th January, **the school day will run as usual** (8.45am - 3.05pm); there will not be an early closure on this day as previously notified.

Pharmacy First service

Attendance in school is a high priority for all and I would like to share information on an NHS service called Pharmacy First, that may assist with getting children back to school following a minor illness.

This service offers quick access to healthcare advice and treatment for both children and adults experiencing minor illnesses, potentially reducing the need for GP appointments and helping students return to school more promptly.

Pharmacy First enables individuals to consult with a qualified pharmacist without an appointment. During a private consultation, pharmacists can provide advice and, if necessary, prescribe NHS medicines for common conditions. For more information, please visit the [Community Pharmacy England website](#).

Girls' Football Team and Octopus Energy

We have recently featured in a post by Octopus Energy, who have sponsored the girls' football team with brand new snazzy football kits for free.

To read the post featuring Chalfonts Community College, please [click here](#)



Home-School Communication Expectations

Effective communication between home and school is essential to ensure that we can provide a high-quality education and care to our students. We understand that both parents and school staff are busy, and we appreciate your cooperation in balancing the demands of home-school communication with our important work of student education and well-being. We believe that by following the guidelines below, we can maintain a positive and productive working relationship between home and school.

- We endeavour to respond to calls and emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends and school holidays. For example, if you email or call and leave a message on Thursday evening, you should expect a response by the following Monday evening.
- As with most organisations, we are not able to meet with you without an appointment. If you wish to meet with a member of staff, please call or email the school to arrange this. If you attend school without an appointment, we will ask you to make an appointment. During the working day staff are teaching or have work commitments meaning they are not able to meet with you immediately.
- If you wish to raise a concern about communication you have received from the school please raise this with Miss Shaw, the Principal's Assistant. This will be dealt with in line with our complaints policy
- We are committed to a positive and respectful environment for all in line with our school value of courtesy and expect all communication between home and school to mirror this.
- We are committed to ensuring that all members of our school community feel safe and valued. All staff at Chalfonts School have the right to work in a safe and respectful environment. Any communication that is deemed to be abusive, threatening, or discriminatory will not receive a response. Instead, the matter will be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership Team

Student Safety

We request that you do not drive into the car park at the front of the school to drop your child off before 9am or to pick them up at the end of the school day. This is for the safety of students.

We know that there is less than adequate car parking around the school, and I would like to thank parents for arranging to drop off and collect their children further from the school to maintain the safety of all. We have unfortunately experienced problems and safety risks at the front of the school due to incidents where parents have not done this. This car park is reserved solely for staff and visitors with appointments and *must not* be used for drop off and pick up. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

I wish all Year 13 students well with their crucial mock examinations next week and I am sure they will be working hard this weekend on final revision.

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs C Whitehead
Principal