

24th September 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to see the whole school community returning to normal school life and the many wonderful experiences that makes The Chalfonts Community College such an enjoyable place to be. We are enjoying assemblies in the hall together, the use of the cafes, teaching and learning in subject specialist classrooms and extra-curricular clubs. The full extra-curricular programme is on the school website. I have been very pleased with how well students have settled into the term.

COVID 19 Vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds

All children aged between 12 and 15 years are being offered a first dose of vaccine as part of the school-based COVID-19 vaccination programme. The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) will be the primary provider and will be legally responsible for the delivery and parental consent of the vaccine. Vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff and not school staff. The local SAIS provider team will provide dates for the vaccinations shortly and I will update you as soon as I have further information.

In the meantime you may wish to read further information on the COVID-19 vaccination on the following link. [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for eligible children and young people aged 12 to 17 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-eligible-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17) (www.gov.uk)

Independent learning

This week, all students have attended assemblies focused on 'Independent Learning'. We encourage our students to take ownership and responsibility for their learning and progress and to become more independent in making their own choices and setting their own goals. The assembly focused on why it is important to be an independent learner and how it can benefit them outside of the classroom. Students were encouraged to consider how they could build upon the following areas:

- Making **informed choices**
- Taking **responsibility** for your own learning
- Being **motivated**
- Being **resilient** so you can overcome challenges
- **Reflect** on your learning
- **Manage** your time

To support students with their learning, the LRC is a fantastic resource centre, open to all students every Tues/Weds/Thurs (Year 7 only on Monday). We also have a variety of independent learning activities to develop knowledge and skills available on the school website, separated by Key Stage and subject area. If your son/daughter completes any of the activities, please ask them to give their work to their form tutor who will ensure Miss Weir receives it and can then award a merit(s).



If you would like further information on how you can support your child to build their independence, the following websites contain some interesting information and ideas:

<https://www.brightknowledge.org/study-skills/top-tips-for-independent-learning>

<https://www.learningscientists.org/spaced-practice>

<https://www.learningscientists.org/retrieval-practice>

<https://www.learningscientists.org/interleaving>

Head Boy and Head Girl nominations

A number of Year 13 students have been nominated by staff as candidates for Head Boy and Head Girl. Each candidate bravely delivers a speech in front of all the staff. They are to be commended for the mature and articulate manner in which they have expressed themselves, proving to all be worthy candidates.

Congratulations to the following students for being nominated and I look forward to sharing the results of the staff votes with you in my next letter.

Max Heath, George Purdy, Lois Purvey, Roisin Parry, Paige Fountain, Eve Taylor, Alfie Barker, Alfie Birch, Sean McGuinness, Bakhtain Almani, Lulu Hassell, Gemma Matthews, Andrew Gauld, Lucy Grodecka, Ella Reid, Lucy Harrison, Maria Longford, Amriat Jassell, Alice Constable, Alexandra O'Hara, Nimrit Garayal

The Wave Trip

On Wednesday 15th September 28 Year 8 students went to The Wave in Bristol. After adjusting to the cold water in their wetsuits students really enjoyed learning to surf at this inland surfing lagoon. Thank you to Mr Quesnell, Miss Loveland and Mr Fawcett for taking students on this trip.

Trip to the Black Country Living Museum

On Thursday 16th September 51 Year 8 students enjoyed a visit to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. The students witnessed the challenging conditions in a Victorian coal mine and a trip on the canal into the limestone caverns. One student commented, "We are lucky that we are alive today and not back then". Thank you to Mr Leybourne, Mrs Stockall, Mrs Lawry and Mr Ansell for taking students on this trip to bring history to life.

Covid-19 cases

I wrote to parents in Year 8 and Year 10 recently following an increased number of confirmed cases of Covid-19. I am pleased to report a reduction in the number of cases overall in the school. Thank you for continuing to conduct lateral flow tests twice weekly.

Year 6 Open Evening

On 13th October we will be holding our annual Year 6 Open Evening to welcome prospective students and parents to our school. 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.

Charity fundraising

It was good to hear that three of our students in year 8 who held a bake sale were thanked by the RSPCA for their fundraising. Well done to Lili Houghton, Zara Mian and Phoebe Shack for their initiative and kindness.

Final words from a Year 7 student

I will end this letter with words from Henry Jackson in Year 7. Henry has captured the importance of friendship and his experience of starting school in a wonderful poem.

*I step onto the bus, butterflies swaying,
I take my seat – confidence decaying,
I look towards the window and my face proceeds to droop,
I clutch my chest hard as my heart begins to loop,
I turn towards my right,
And my face lights up bright,
A friendly face I recognize has just popped into sight,
Someone I sort of know,
Someone I met a few weeks ago,
A friendly smile and a request to sit down,
Straight away I feel better – no need to frown,
As we chat together, I begin to realise,
That friendship is one of the most important things in life,
Someone to laugh with and share all your news,
Someone to bolster you when your ego is bruised,
Turning the corner my school comes into view,
With a friend like this, Secondary School seems like a ball,
Maybe it's not so bad after all.*

Henry Jackson, Year 7

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

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