

8th October 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you having just watched the choir rehearsing in the hall for our open evening next week. I am delighted that we are holding our first Open Evening and Morning since the Covid pandemic started. The sound of the choir rehearsing in the hall has certainly spread a lot of joy to us all!

I am really looking forward to their live performance during Open Evening as well as the exciting displays and demonstrations that will be taking place across the school next Wednesday. I am looking forward to welcoming prospective parents and students to the school on Wednesday 13th October and on Open Morning on Thursday 14th October. Whilst we know we are a great school because of our amazing students and staff, the Open Evening is an opportunity to showcase what makes The Chalfonts Community College an excellent secondary school choice. I would like to thank all the students who have volunteered as guides and helpers for the evening.

COVID-19 update

We have experienced a small increase in the number of students testing positive for Covid-19 this week. Letters have been sent to parents and carers of Year 7 students where we have seen an increase in cases.

We are taking a number of measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including:

- Encouraging all staff to test regularly, to minimize the risk of our teachers giving your child or other children Covid;
- Ensure our staff and children practice good hygiene;
- Making sure our spaces are well ventilated; and;
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a PCR test should they develop symptoms of the virus.

I would like to thank staff and students for their continued engagement with conducting lateral flow tests at home. We are expecting another delivery of lateral flow test kits to school next week and kits will be distributed to students during form times.



Vaccination information

Dates for 12-15 year old vaccinations are as follows:

Tuesday 12th October – Years 7, 8 and 9 – Flu and Covid Vaccinations

Thursday 21st October – Year 10 – Covid Vaccinations

Thursday 21st October – Year 11 – Flu and Covid Vaccinations

The programme will be delivered by an NHS commissioned School-aged Immunisation team (SAI) which will include nurses, healthcare support workers, administrative staff, and other associated professionals who specialise in the delivery of school age vaccinations. The team will administer the vaccination according to nationally agreed standards. Staff are appropriately qualified, trained (including in safeguarding) and experienced in vaccinating children and young people. Staff administering the vaccine will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

Young people aged 16-19 are also able to get vaccinated and can simply attend a vaccination walk-in centre. Further information can be found [here](#)

If parents/carers have any questions or concerns regarding the vaccinations due to take place please read the attached parent information booklet.

Year 7 activity days

It was wonderful to see Year 7 students getting to know each other and their tutors even better last Thursday and Friday when they enjoyed scaling a climbing wall, archery, bush craft, team building and laser tag, which much to the delight of one group included taking aim at the Principal!

GCSE and A Level Examinations in Summer 2022

In 2020 and 2021 national exams were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is the government's intention that exams and assessments for GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications should go ahead in summer 2022. As students in Year 11 and Year 13 have experienced disruption exams and assessments taken in summer 2022 should be adjusted. As such there has been changes to some assessment arrangements which have now been published. I have shared the link to the full details here. [Decisions: proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/decisions-proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2022) Teachers will ensure students are well informed and prepared for these changes and I will update you as soon as any further information is released.

Parking

We have received a few complaints from local residents about parents parking or waiting in cars where access to and from properties and at the Arqiva Chalfont Grove site. While I appreciate it is busy at pick up and drop off times I encourage you to park with careful consideration to our residents.

Values project

This project aims to develop some of the key attributes that we want our students to have such as kindness, compassion and resilience. The aim being that in developing these qualities, we are helping our young people to be comfortable and confident when dealing with some of life's challenges. Your children already display so many of the qualities that we hope to see. This project just aims to help them to develop further. We are starting this year with Year 7, with a weekly challenge. Last week's challenge was to attend at lunchtime in the Hall and meet a non-teaching member of staff that they had learnt about that morning. The thought being that by valuing that member of staff they will have a better understanding of the school, making them better able to contribute to and improve it.

Whilst the reward for this project is students own personal development, 'Value cards' are given out with each session, which contribute to termly awards for those who attend each week. Everyone in Year 7 is welcome and we hope to see them soon.

Head Boy and Head Girl team

Finally, I would like to congratulate Max Heath and Maria Langford who have been elected as our new Head Boy and Head Girl and to Sean McGuinness and George Purdy, Lucy Harrison and Alice Constable who have been elected as Deputies. I look forward to meeting with them soon to provide students across the school with the opportunity to provide feedback and contribute to decisions about the school.

Wishing you a happy and safe weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

Key Dates:

Friday 22 October - Staff training day **(no students in school)**

Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October - **Half term week**

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