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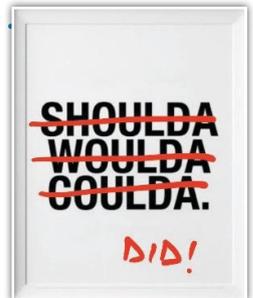
(Part of the Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust)

Dear Parents/Carers

Another quick update... we have had a busy couple of weeks and I wanted to let you know about a few things that have been going on and events that are coming up.

Exams

Today sees the start of exam season for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We now have 4 weeks of intensive exams with a half term break in the middle of this period. We have sent lots of revision advice out to students and parents over the last 12 months - much of which is still available on our school website. I hope that all our students will complete this stressful period of their lives knowing that they have done their best – we can't ask any more of them than this. The bulk of our exams take place in the school sports hall with a few other rooms being used around the school site. Students are asked to respect the fact that exams are taking place and be quiet in these areas. We are also running exam warm-ups at 8:30am (for morning exams) and 12:30pm (for afternoon exams) in Lees Hall for Year 11 students – we hope these brief sessions will get them 'firing on all cylinders'. Good luck Year 11 and Year 13!



Family Fun Day and Car Show – Saturday 17th June

Another mention of our Family Fun Day – this is shaping up to be a really exciting event with lots of things to do and see. As mentioned in my previous newsletter we will have Monster Trucks mixing with Vintage cars, fairground rides, climbing walls and numerous other stalls really does mean there is something for everyone – let's hope that the sun shines too!! Entry is £1 per person payable on the gate and this year we are supporting two charities – Friends2friends and COGS. Both Friends2Friends and COGS work with teenagers and adults with learning difficulties, helping them become more independent, helping them to socialise and learn life skills such as cooking. COGS run a garden project that helps to get the service users into employment. I have been practicing my carving skills as I may be in charge of the Hog Roast – speak nicely to me for an extra piece of crackling!

Site Security

As I mentioned in my last newsletter we are having additional security fencing installed on site – this will be placed between the Bridge Cross Road hedge and our main reception entrance. We are now locking the driveway gates at the Wych Elm end of the school premises between 9:10am and 12:20pm (lunchtime) and 1:10pm and 3:30pm. This will ensure that all visitors to the school site park in our main car park and gain access through the front reception area of the school. Parents/carers who collect their children after school by car will now have to do so from the larger main school car park. Can I please ask parents/carers to park in a marked space and avoid blocking the roadways around the car park so that our coaches and minibuses can move freely. Thank you.

Revision and Assessment Week

Our next calendared Revision and Assessment Week is rapidly approaching – the three week period begins on Monday 22nd May and runs for the first couple of weeks after the half term break. Mrs Baird will be circulating Assessment timetables in the next few days and these will also appear on our website. Please stress the importance of thorough preparation for these tests. In a lot of cases next year's sets will be decided on by outcomes in these assessments. With government exam reforms so much now hinges on being able to revise and perform well in end of year assessments. Your children will be well supported in this by their classroom teachers – support at home is most welcome.

Personal Safety to and from school

Last week I was asked by a reporter from the Lichfield Mercury to comment on student safety as they make their way to and from school. The following piece was published on the Mercury's website:

“Students are regularly reminded, both by their parents/carers and the school of the need to be alert and vigilant at all times when walking to and from school. They are encouraged to walk home via routes where they are highly visible to the general public rather than via quieter cul-de-sacs, alleys and short cuts to ensure their personal safety - they are also encouraged to walk home in groups with their friends and neighbours. We work closely with our local police and community PCSOs who have made us aware of a recent incident involving a white van - they advise us if there is a need to alert our students and parents/carers about specific vehicles in our neighbourhood. The police also advise us that whilst highlighting specific vehicles can put the public on high alert regarding unusual behaviour, it can also heighten alarm amongst the community and distract students from a general safety awareness as they are looking for specific vehicles. We ask our parents/carers to reiterate the message to their children that maintaining a daily awareness of the need to be alert to your personal safety at all times is essential.”

I know parents talk to their children all the time about being safe and 'stranger danger' both in the real world and via social media – as parents we must do this often.

Humanitarianism and being Charitable.

I have recently been talking to students in assemblies about the ever increasing need to be charitable towards each another and our wider global community. In a world dominated by social media and the distorted view of life that youngsters can get from this medium, I have been reminding students not to forget about those less fortunate than ourselves. I expressed my disappointment that, as a school we did nothing to mark Comic Relief and that no students had come forward to ask to put on a fundraising activity. I challenged the students to respond and to my delight (but not unexpectedly) my office door has been knocked on several occasions by students who would like to do more for others.



One such student was Lucy Ashford in Year 7 who wanted to donate her long hair to 'The Little Princess Trust' – an organisation that makes wigs from real human hair that are given to young people who have lost their hair through illness or treatment for cancer. Lucy had her long locks cut in front of a full hall of fantastically supportive students who were all cheering and clapping her on – what a wonderful, selfless gesture Lucy has made – the first of many I am sure. To mark the 3rd anniversary of Stephen Sutton's passing our non-uniform day on Friday made £1043 which we will send to the Teenage Cancer Trust. This event linked in well with the Stephen Sutton Ride Out over the weekend – well done and thank you to everyone who donated. Chase Terrace Technology College has a wonderful reputation for generous giving to charity and through events like this it is easy to see why – long may it continue!

Behaviour Policy – Review

As part of our ongoing school improvement work we have recently introduced a new Rewards Policy which has been well received by students and staff and appears to be working effectively. At the same time we are reviewing our school behaviour policy because rewards and good behaviour are very closely linked. I am keen to encourage our students to make the right decisions at all times and realise that everyone at CTTC wants the best for everyone else. Students are being reminded to consider their actions and behaviours and avoid unnecessary problems or unpleasantness – being respectful to all lies at the heart of this approach. To this end we were visited by a schools behaviour expert a few days ago who thoroughly enjoyed his day with us and would happily have applied for a job at CTTC had one been going! Whilst it is lovely to get such a glowing report from a visitor after such a short visit, we do realise that we can always improve and make things better – which we will be doing. In the meantime let's keep smiles on faces, courtesy levels high and detention levels low!

Best Wishes

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)