

chaseterracetechnologycollege

(Part of the Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust)

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Year

With the end of another year and the school term rapidly coming to a close, you will be pleased to hear that we are still as busy as ever here at CTTC over the next few weeks. The school show "School of Rock" will be performed on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December in the penultimate week of term (we are hoping that 2 ex-students and brothers - Cameron and Jake Sharp who are currently performing in the west end run of the show will be able to join us for one of our performances). Tickets for the shows are available from school reception.

Many parents/carers and students will make a trip to Lichfield Cathedral over the Christmas holidays to see the Christmas Trees and maybe enjoy the illuminations and some quiet time in and around the Cathedral buildings. CTTC has again taken part in this display with a small number of students, supported by our resources centre staff, decorating a Christmas tree on behalf our school community. Please take a look if you get the time!

I hope that the students are looking forward to singing some carols in our final week of term assemblies. My Christmas message to the students this year will be the same as it has been for many years - the most cherished gifts that we can give are free - giving of our time, being thoughtful to others; that unexpected cup of tea for a parent/carer; help with the washing up (without being asked!); tidying a bedroom all mean so much to us busy parents/carers - it really is that simple!



Asian Business Community Awards – "Outstanding Contribution to Society"

I am delighted to report that CTTC has once again been shortlisted to receive a prestigious national award.

Our careers and IAG department led by Mrs Poppleton have been shortlisted for this award - we are the only school in the country to receive this honour and a group of nine staff will represent the school at the ICC in Birmingham on 2nd December hopeful of taking away the prize! We owe an enormous thank you to Mrs Poppleton and her team for the work that they do in school and the wider community to promote careers and support our students in finding the right path for the future. Whether we win or not we have been recognised for this unique feature of our school life which puts CTTC on the map and is a real selling point for us as an academy. I am all the more proud that the award recognises our 'outstanding contribution to society' as this is so important in today's world.



Burntwood Town Council -
Stephen Sutton Bursary 2017

I am delighted to congratulate two CTTC students - Siân Hubbard and Laura Burley who are this year's recipients of the Stephen Sutton Bursary Award. They will both receive £1000 to support their respective sporting and art talents. The awards will be made by Burntwood Town Council at a ceremony at the beginning of January - the school is very proud of your achievements and will watch how you progress and excel in the future – well done!

Medicines in school

Can I please take a moment to remind parents/carers that students should not bring medicines of any sort into school at any time. This includes paracetamol and other headache type tablets. Should students be on a course of antibiotics or regularly need to take medication this can be managed by our medical department who will support with the administration of prescription medicines. Parents/carers should contact the medical desk and speak to Mrs Hawkesford who will be happy to explain how our systems and procedures work in this regard. Self-administration of any medication can lead to significant difficulties when a student becomes unwell in school which in turn poses a risk to other students. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Charity Collections

The last few weeks have seen a flurry of charity activity at CTTC. As a school we have a great reputation for the generosity of our students and parents/carers. Over the last 12 months students and staff have raised money through all sorts of activities including being sponsored for some short haircuts, cake bakes and the school box appeal for the Samaritans Purse charity.

Our most recent focus was on Children in Need and the school raised a very impressive £2070 plus which we have chosen to split between Children in Need, Dyslexia Awareness and Diabetes charities.

Not to be left out the 6th form have collected a staggering amount of tins and boxes for the local Burntwood, Cannock and Hednesford Food Banks appeal - so much so that rooms and store cupboards in the 6th form area are bursting at the seams with bags of food aid. Our 6th formers have driven this appeal forwards with the support of the 6th form tutor team but it is the generosity of those students lower down the school that has resulted in the incredible amount of tinned goods - fantastic!

I am so pleased to see that the school has rediscovered its mojo in this regard as last year nothing happened for CiN - and it is essential that we think of those less fortunate than ourselves. A truly outstanding CTTC response!

And there is still more to come. Our Christmas Fayre takes place on Thursday 7th December from 4:30 - 7pm. All are welcome and there are lots of stalls selling lots of Christmas goodies and stocking fillers - I believe that Santa will also be calling in!



Uniform

Can I please pass my thanks onto students and parents/carers for their support with our school uniform.

The great majority of students are looking smart and well presented in and around school. We have a few lingering problems with skirt lengths and the dreaded return of leggings which we will be addressing over the next couple of weeks - thank you in advance for your support with this.

Our new hoodies are proving to be very popular amongst the students particularly as the weather gets colder - can I please remind parents that for safety reasons when the students are going to and from school we do not want names printed on the back of hoodies. Our uniform suppliers should not be offering this service (please let me know if they still are!) and please don't take the hoodies elsewhere to have names added. We agreed to a transition period for names to be removed from hoodies which comes to a close at the end of this term so I am hopeful that January will see a substantial reduction in hoodies with a student's name printed on the back of the item. No new hoodies should be bought with names on them.

The students have responded well to our agreement that mobile phones and headphones should be switched off and put away in bags (not pockets) during lesson times. This is a good compromise for us as a school. Just a quick reminder that students should not be contacting parents whilst in school - if there is an emergency we will always ring parents ourselves - it is essential that school staff are aware of any issues or emergencies that might occur whilst the student is in school – students ringing home first delays our response time and hampers our ability to deal with an emerging situation - thank you.



Pupil premium

As many of you will be aware the school receives additional funding for students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. We are currently evaluating the effectiveness of the work that we do with this funding to support students with this entitlement. If parents/carers are entitled to receive Free School Meals support then by claiming this benefit the school will also receive additional funding to support your child. In this modern age when meals are paid for using a biometric finger print students will be completely unaware of those who receive benefits and those who don't. I mention this to encourage parents to claim the benefits to which they are entitled as this, in turn, will help us to support your children financially in school.

Thoughtful Parking

As mentioned in previous newsletters our new car park arrangements are working well and we have all got used to turning right as we enter the school site to find a parking space. Can I please ask that parents who chose not to use our parking facilities ensure that they park in a courteous manner on any roads around our school site. Our neighbours, understandably, get upset if they find their drive ways blocked by drivers waiting to collect their children from school. Parents/carers are reminded that we encourage students to walk, cycle or scooter to school if this is possible.

Year 11 Mocks

Our Year 11 students have been preparing in earnest for their mock exams - a crucial part of their readiness for the summer exams which will be with us with alarming speed. They should have given serious attention to this preparation as a strong performance in exams at this point in Year 11 is extremely reassuring. This also helps students manage the stress of the exam season. If your son/daughter hasn't taken things very seriously please let the year office know and we will try to help. Different subject areas are already running revision sessions at lunchtimes and after school to help with preparations - this will be further formalised after the Christmas break. Please recognise that these sessions are run to help the students and whilst they may sometimes feel that this is just more work your encouragement with attendance is vital. More news regarding these sessions will follow in the New Year.

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Homework Revamp

CTTC is in the process of completely reworking our homework policy and systems. We have purchased a new software package called "Show My Homework" - an online tool through which homework is set for all students. It allows staff to set homework with all the accompanying paper work and notes so that students know exactly what they need to do to complete the exercise. The software links to a smartphone app which students and parents/carers can download - each time a homework is set an alert pops up so that parents are informed and can help their child organise and complete the homework task. This will be considerably more reliable than the current planners that the students use. This will be accompanied by a new homework timetable that will be published to parents/carers and students in the New Year. It is likely that some departments will chose to set weekly homework tasks whilst others may opt to set less frequent but more extensive pieces of work. I am certain that the new system will have a very positive effect on homework at CTTC. More on this system to follow.

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End of Term Timings

Parents/Carers are reminded that term finishes on Tuesday 19th December at 12:30pm. Our school transport will be booked to reflect this earlier finish. Students and staff are invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers on the last day of term to mark the start of the festive season.

The staff will be tucking into their Christmas Dinner shortly after this. I would like to publically thank all of the staff that work at CTTC for the excellent work that they do under increasingly difficult financial restraints. The staff are the schools most valuable asset working tirelessly as they do to support the youngsters who attend the school whether this be by keeping the building clean and warm, delivering engaging lessons or offering advice and guidance when it is required. As a school we are fortunate to work in modern buildings with tremendous students who are characteristically kind hearted and generous

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As I come to the end of my first year as Headteacher at Chase Terrace Technology College - a year that has been both exciting and challenging, I am optimistic about the year to come and the developments that we have planned to keep moving the school forwards.

I would like to wish all our students, parents/carers and staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to welcoming and working with you in 2018.

Best Wishes

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)