

chaseterracetechnologycollege

(Part of the Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust)

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the half term break I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a number of things that have been happening in school recently and things we have planned in the coming weeks.



CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)

Last Monday we held a series of information workshops for all of our students centred around the concerning area of child sexual exploitation. These sessions were run by Ann-Marie Jackson who is part of the Staffordshire team responsible for the policing of these issues. She delivered a training session to staff and parents the previous Monday and I hope that her no nonsense, hard hitting delivery to students will have ensured that pupils at CTTC clearly understand the dangers associated with this increasingly worrying and regrettable area of daily life.

Ann-Marie's session ended with the showing of a 5 minute film that told 'Kayleigh's Love Story' - a distressing true story about a 15 year old girl from Burton-on-Trent who was groomed, sexually abused and murdered following initial online contact with a man that was unknown to her. This film clip is available on YouTube and can be viewed by parents who were unable to come to the police workshop. The main points made by Ann-Marie to students in an age when online communication is so constant were:

- do you really know who you are talking to/messaging
- why do you continue to consider yourselves so invincible despite warnings from the police, school staff and parents about the dangers of an online presence.

We are following up these sessions about CSE with a week of assemblies lead by our Head of ICT Mr Davidson who is looking at Internet Safety - an area we have tackled on several occasions before and will continue to discuss with students on a regular basis. I have posted internet safety resources on our school website previously. I will add a copy of the information that we share with students in assemblies this week to the website so that parents are aware of the content and message behind our assemblies.

I am concerned that this area of modern life is not something that parents/carers are very confident with - our children know so much more about computers and the internet than we do. For this reason I will be booking some internet safety advice sessions for parents to attend in the near future - I will circulate details of these sessions as soon as they are available. In the meantime check your child's contacts list, photos and internet history frequently and challenge any unfamiliar entries on any of these lists. The 'Netaware' app which is freely available for download is an excellent way of knowing how safe the apps that your child is using are. Some apps may surprise you!

Uniform and Appearance Policy Update

Attached to this letter is a copy of our updated uniform and appearance policy. I have detailed the main elements of this policy in a separate letter. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students continue to look smart and modest in appearance.

Smiles on faces and a PMA (positive mental attitude)

I have been emphasising my firmly held belief that 'living life with a smile on your face makes everything better' to students over the past few weeks. Staff have been 'meeting and greeting' students at the classroom door and the general atmosphere in school has been really positive. I am keen to talk to students about rewards rather than sanctions and I am therefore delighted to announce the appointments of Miss Roach and Mr Barter to Associate SLT posts. From a first class field of candidates they join existing members of the SLT in supporting the day to day running of the school with a particular focus on rewards - celebrating the academic and extra-curricular successes of our students and ensuring there is a strong culture of aspiration amongst our young people. This ideal closely links with the values that Stephen Sutton shared with us all - to be the best that you can be. This can only be achieved in a climate of teamwork and support - an area of school life that I have asked teachers and tutors to emphasise at all times. More of our new rewards policy will follow soon - it looks very exciting!

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New Website design

I am very grateful to Mrs Bynt and Mr Kirkland for the work that they have been doing to redesign our school website. The old site is functional and easy to navigate but not very contemporary or exciting. I am pleased to tell you that our new look site will be launched shortly after half term - I'm certain that you will like it. You may also not be aware that the school has a Twitter account which we use to publicise news and events - we plan to increase the use of this facility in the coming months. If you follow Twitter you can find us @ChaseTerraceTC.

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Mobile Phones in School- a reminder

Can I please remind parents/carers that students should not be using mobile phones to make phone calls or send messages when in school. During the school day school staff are responsible for the welfare of students and any problems should be directed to staff rather than parents/carers. This is becoming an increasing problem for us at school. Phones should be set to silent when in school and left in bags out of sight during lesson time along with headphones. Mobile phones can only be used in the classroom with the explicit permission of the class teacher. Taking photos or recordings of other people is strictly prohibited. Use of social media during break time or lunchtime is strongly discouraged. Can I please ask parents/carers to support the school in this regard.

Year 9 Options reminders

Parents/Carers of Year 9 students are reminded that option choices sheets are due to be returned by **MONDAY 6th March at 9am**. This is an exciting time for students as they make decisions about their future studies but careful consideration needs to be made to ensure the best choices are made. If you have any questions or queries please let Ms Mason know and she will help.

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)