

chaseterracetechnologycollege

(Part of the Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust)

Dear Parents/Carers

March 2018

I don't know where the year is going! We are already well into March with the Easter holidays approaching at a pace. Mother Nature has challenged us this term – warm days, wind, snow and ice have all featured leading to the inevitable difficult decisions regarding school closures. As a school we were able to stay open for one day more than many others local schools - our site being on the main road means that access conditions are not as bad as others may experience, although I do realise that our local side roads can be very difficult to pass. Ultimately it's one of those 'damned if you do, damned if you don't' situations! I hope you survived the 'beast from the east' without incident – apparently there is another one on its way this weekend!



Year 11 – 25 school days to go...

As I write this newsletter we only have 25 more school days until our Year 11 cohort begin their GCSE exams on 14th May. This information always comes as a bit of a shock to the year group despite plenty of reminders from tutors and subject teachers. Year 11's should now be well into their revision programmes investing at least 2 hours a day of their own time in preparing for their summer exams. The Easter holidays is also a hugely important time for revision – it is vital that large chunks of time are invested in preparation throughout this period. As always staff at CTTC are actively supporting this programme with after school revision and catch up sessions. Year 11 students MUST attend these sessions. Nothing is more frustrating to teachers who are willing to give their time to assist students than none attendance at these sessions. It feels as if the teacher is more concerned about the students' success than the student who can consequently give the appearance of not being bothered. Can I please ask parents/carers to give us your complete support in this preparation period and ensure students attend these sessions and that they are working hard on their independent work? I hope the revision advice on our school website will help students and parents/carers to manage the coming few weeks.



'Show My Homework' – Parents/Carers must login...

As parents will be aware we have now launched our new homework facility – 'Show My Homework'. This is a brilliant piece of software that allows teachers to set homework online which is then immediately available to students and parents/carers so that everyone knows exactly what is going on in this regard. Students and parents/carers can download a handy free smartphone app for apple and android phones which sends an alert when there is any new homework and a reminder when homework is due to be submitted. There is also an online version of the same thing that can be accessed from any computer that is connected to the internet.

Can I please ask that ALL parents/carers log onto this system in which ever way suits you best – the free phone app is definitely the most immediate and easiest to use. We have sent you all an access code to use to do this – if this has been misplaced please let us know and we will reissue the code. Students must also log onto the system using their usual school login username and password so they are aware of all homework and notifications being sent out.

As this system also allows us to contact home with messages and news items at no cost to the school we will be using this system to communicate with home in the near future rather than texting as the texting system is expensive for the school to use. This is another reason why it is essential that parents download and log into this app.

No Mobile Phones ...

Thank you to parents/carers and students for your support of this new initiative. CTTC has a noticeably different atmosphere about the corridors with the absence of mobile phones and students are reacquainting themselves with the art of conversation rather than staring at a phone screen. Quite a number of students have reported to us that they prefer this situation which is very pleasing. We have made very few phone, smart watch or headphone confiscations which is also excellent – long may this last!

As a school we continue to support the use of tablets in the classroom as long as they are not 3G compatible. These devices remain useful for research activities and notetaking/capture.



A Uniform Update ...

Parents/carers and students are reminded about the wearing of correct school uniform at all times. Our uniform policy is clear and simple and available to all on our school website. In general the students look smart and comfortable. Any breaches of our uniform code are dealt with through uniform infringement cards which vary in length depending on the infringement.

Can I please ask for support from parents/carers regarding girls skirt lengths? I do not wish to have to insist on skirts being bought from our uniform suppliers with school logos on them but I am very close to having to make this decision from a respectability point of view. As a reminder our uniform policy states: "Plain or pleated grey skirt of a MODEST length and style falling between 5cm and 10cm above the top of the knee." We are experiencing particular problems with girls 'tube style' skirts which are frequently not modest and fall considerably more than 5cm-10cm above the knee!

I also remind parents/carers that hoodies should not have the students name printed on the back. Our uniform stockists have been asked not to offer this service. Hoodies with names on the back will incur a uniform infringement from September 1st 2018 – please don't have names printed on the back of these garments as we are concerned that this presents a safeguarding issue when students are walking to and from school – thank you.



Car Parking...

The great majority of visitors to the school site have got used to the one way system round our main carpark. Just a few visitors ignore the no entry sign directly opposite the entrance to the school and don't turn immediately right. This presents us with a safety risk as pedestrians do not expect traffic to approach from this direction. It can also cause traffic flow disruption. Please ensure that all users know that they should turn immediately right on entry to the carpark and follow the one way direction around the site – thank you.

Could I also ask parents/carers who use Lulworth Road to collect their children to ensure that they park considerately around our neighbours' driveways and watch their speed in a built up area with large numbers of young people making their way to and from school?

Fundraising- Non School Uniform day...

Parents/carers will be pleased to hear that the school raised the very impressive total £1168.11 from our joint fund raising event. This money will be shared between the following charities: The Anthony Nolan Trust; Birmingham Children's Hospital; MIND mental health charity. As our fundraiser fell on World Book Day and several students and staff dressed up for the occasion we will also use some of these funds in our own library to help update our book stock. Thank you for your support with this event. We have a number of further days planned in the coming few weeks.



End of Term ...

I remind parents/carers that we break up for the Easter holiday at the end of the day on Thursday 29th March and return to school on Monday 16th April. I also give you advance notice that school is closed on Monday May 7th for May Day. Although there are still a couple of weeks to go before our Easter break – I would like to take this chance to wish you all a very happy Easter and I hope you enjoy this time with family and friends.

Best Wishes

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)