

chaseterracetechnologycollege

(Part of the Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust)

Dear Parents/Carers

September 2018

Welcome back! And a particular welcome to our new Year 7 students.

I am pleased to report that the autumn term has got underway very positively. The atmosphere around the school and in lessons is excellent. My colleagues in the leadership team and I have been dropping into classes and have been very impressed with the good work ethic being shown by our students who seem pleased to be back at school after the summer holidays. I have reminded our students of our 3 simple school rules – Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. I used my assemblies at the beginning of term to remind everyone what is expected of them in this regard and particularly stressed the importance of being respectful to each other as we go about our daily business. The message was the same for students and staff. Modelling courteous behaviour and good manners is essential in this day and age – something we stress hard here at CTTC. We will do everything we can to maintain this atmosphere as the weeks progress.

New School Day

Although it is still early days as far as the new school day is concerned, early indications are that things are running well. Feedback from students has been very positive. Many have commented to me that the new times work very well and they feel the day goes more quickly. They particularly like the single lesson after lunch. Staff consider that behaviour and concentration is more focused which is excellent. We will continue to monitor things carefully and I will feed back to parents/carers on this area again in due course.

With the changes made to the school day we have been monitoring our lunchtimes very closely. Some parents expressed concerns that a 30 minute lunchtime may be too short. Despite having Year 11 students on site along with the rest of the school at lunchtime currently (until their lunchtime passes are distributed) the canteen has coped well. In the main students have been served within 15 minutes of the beginning of lunchtime. Some meals are more popular than others and queues have been longer in some areas but this is the exception not the rule. We are working with the canteen to look at the best way of serving the more popular options to reduce queues still further. We have also opened up the drama studio at lunchtime to provide more seating for students. Throughout lunchtime there has been space at tables in the dining hall for students to eat at. We will continue to monitor this situation as the weather deteriorates towards the winter – I will again inform parents/carers of how things are going in the future.

Carpark

As parents/carers will know, CTTC is fortunate to have two carparks. The larger of the two at the east end of the building remains open all day as our security fencing has been positioned to ensure that visitors to this carpark can only access the schools reception area and nowhere else on the school site. The smaller carpark (at the swimming pool end of the school) is closed off during the school day for security and safety reasons - visitors to this carpark could access all areas of the school from this carpark. With the introduction of new school day timings we are shutting off access to the small carpark at 8:25am. This gives us time to allow cars on the carpark to exit and staff to close gates and be in school ready to start the school day at 8:30am. The pedestrian gate is closed shortly after this. Students arriving late are asked to enter the school via the main entrance and report to student reception where they will be marked in late. If parents are dropping students by car – please use the main carpark to do this after 8:25am. Please observe the one way system on this carpark turning right on entrance to the carpark and following the road markings safely around the site. Thank you to parents/carers for your support with this – the safety and security of your youngsters is of paramount importance to us. Students arriving to school on foot are encouraged to use the safety crossing patrol in front of the school when crossing Bridge Cross Road. Parents who are dropping students in side roads around the school site are reminded of this facility. Please be mindful of our neighbours when dropping off/collecting students from the immediate area around the school site. Thank you.

School Calendar

A new copy of the school calendar has been uploaded to our school website (www.cttc.staffs.sch.uk) – this is now working correctly – apologies for the fault that existed previously.

Open Evening

The school's Open Evening will be held on Tuesday 25th September. As in previous years school will close early at 1:50pm that day to allow staff to prepare for the event. School transport will run at 2pm that day.

Parents Information Evening

New Year 7 parents/carers are invited to a Parents Information Evening on Tuesday 2nd October beginning at 7pm. Senior staff will be available to talk to parents about how best to support their children at secondary school. There will also be a presentation from the Heads of English and Maths to support learning in these areas.

Accelerated Reader

As year 7 parents/carers will be aware the school has purchased the Accelerated Reader Programme for all students in year 7. All Parents/carers are asked to ensure that their children are reading a minimum of 30 minutes per night. Reading is an important activity for each and every one of our students to engage in and we ask all parents/carers to ensure their children are reading at home. Readathon and DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) are initiatives that the school will be participating in during the coming weeks – more information coming very soon.

Show My Homework

Show My Homework continues to be our method of communicating homework to students and parents. Log in/ access codes are available in school if you have difficulty in accessing the platform. Please be aware that you can access the homework without having to log into the system by visiting:

<https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/homework-calendar>

and searching for Chase Terrace Technology College. There is also a free App that can be downloaded for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

Best Wishes

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)