

chaseterracetechnologycollege

Part of the Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust

Dear Parents/Carers

December 2018

It has been several weeks since I contacted you via newsletter. As we rapidly approach December I am asking myself where the autumn term has gone! As usual the term has been a very busy one. We have just completed our first set of mock exams. A full programme of exams has been taken by our Year 11 students, but our Year 10 students have also been involved in English Literature mocks as they sit this GCSE exam this coming summer. These exams provide the students with a very realistic taste of how the exams in the summer will feel; how to contend with revision over a focused period of time; and the energy required for two lengthy papers in a day! They also provide students and staff with a very sharp sense of where the students are with their studies and what still needs to be done. We will be sharing the Year 11 students results with them through a 'brown envelope day' – again mimicking the opening of exam results in the summer and experiencing how it feels to see your results for the first time. We are linking these results to our 6th form entry requirements so that students who aspire to return to our 6th form can see whether they would get a place with us or not. We hope that this approach will spur the students on to even greater effort in the coming months.

Careers Expo 2018

Parents and carers will have heard about our fantastic Careers Expo earlier in the week. This was an incredible event attended by approaching 2000 people from the local community. Our school was transformed into a full scale exhibition space with over 150 exhibitors sharing their many and varied career opportunities with our visitors. Our guests commented on the massive scale of the event, how well organised it was and the enthusiasm of our young people (most of them our own students) for finding out about career opportunities for their futures. Our thanks go to Mrs Poppleton and her extensive team of support staff for all the hard work that went into putting this event together. It is also worth mentioning that all CTTC students can access the careers departments expertise and book a 1:1 careers interview with Mrs Poppleton whenever required – she does get very busy!

School Uniform

As we are rapidly approaching the end of term I thought it would be sensible to remind parents/carers of the schools' new uniform policy which comes into full effect immediately after the Christmas break on January 7th 2019. After a long lead in period girls will need to be wearing our new uniform skirts or trousers branded with our school logo. Following feedback from parents it will be important to ensure that uniform has been ordered from our suppliers ahead of time as stocks have run low in the past. We have 2 main uniform suppliers:

- ❖ Uniforms Plus Unit 6, Burntwood Town Shopping Centre, Cannock Rd, Burntwood WS7 1JR Tel 01543 677068 and
- ❖ A & J Designs (Staffs) Ltd Unit 2, The Innovation Centre, Pool Road, Brownhills, Staffs WS8 7NL Tel/Fax 01543 360055 Mobile. 07890 387533 www.a4jdesigns.co.uk Email a5jdesigns@aol.com The code for use when purchasing online is: code AJ684

Can I also please remind students, parents/carers that our popular school hoodie should not have your child's name or nickname printed on the back of it. Staff will be monitoring uniform closely after the holidays and I thank you in advance for supporting us in ensuring that your child attends school in the correct uniform.

Full details of our school uniform and appearance policy can be found on our website www.cttc.staffs.sch.uk

School Crossing Guard

As I'm sure parents/carers will know, Staffordshire County Council are planning to withdraw funding for school crossing guards at the beginning of April next year. Being situated on a busy main road, I am particularly worried about the effect that this will have on our school as I consider that this will put our students at serious risk when crossing the road, particularly at the end of the school day when up to a thousand students leave the site via Bridge Cross Road at the same time. I understand that a petition has been drawn up protesting about this decision and am asking all parents/carers to sign this in the hope that the decision can be overturned. Details about the council's decision can be found here: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=154167544135>

And there is a further petition to be signed here: <https://www.change.org/p/staffordshire-county-council-retain-our-county-council-funded-crossing-patrols>

School Improvement Fund

As parents/carers will know, Chase Terrace Technology College is passionate about providing students with an environment where they can live, love, laugh and learn. We invest heavily in teaching and learning with the majority of our funding invested in our curriculum. The costs associated with maintaining a school are becoming increasingly challenging with well published changes to school funding. As a school we are anxious to preserve the advantage that we have with our relatively new and well-appointed buildings.

We would like to raise £100,000 to continue to improve our school and the provision for our students by funding the following projects, which are listed in priority order:

A maximum of £50,000 for a replacement DDA lift in the main school building

Daniel Ball is one of our year 8 students who requires the use of an electric wheel chair to move around school and a lift to get to the 1st floor. He is currently unable to access lessons on the 1st floor in the main building because his wheel chair exceeds our lifts weight limit. We are currently trying to secure funding through a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid to replace this lift, but this is not guaranteed and even if successful, it would take a significant amount of time for the funds to be released for the project to be completed.

We would like the first £50,000 raised to fund a replacement DDA lift in the main school building. A separate Just Giving page will be set up to help raise individual awareness for this project. All funds raised through the Just Giving page will be added to the school's improvement fund. In the event our CIF bid was successful, the money raised would then guarantee our other priority areas listed below. I will send out our Just giving page details as soon as they have been confirmed.

£15,000 to extend our Accelerated Reading programme for all year 8 and 9 students

This year we invested in a new accelerated reader programme which promotes a positive reading culture across our school. The programme provides us with a chronological reading age for our students, encouraging them to read more, increasing their vocabulary and access to all subject content. Increasing the range of words that children are exposed to increases their chances of success in all areas of the curriculum.

We would like to extend this facility into year 8 and 9, increase the range of texts available and upgrade the technology in our library which is used as part of the accelerated reader programme.

£35,000 to renovate Lees Hall

Lees Hall is a fantastic provision for students, parents/carers and for the local community who regularly hire the facility. It is now starting to look very tired and we would love to replace the carpets, curtains, upgrade the technology and install air conditioning.

I'm certain that all parents/carers that have sat in Lees Hall for a presentation or concert would agree that this would be hugely beneficial to their comfort!

Fundraising Initiatives

By July 2020, it is our aim to raise £100,000 through various different fundraising activities. You can track our progress at <http://cttc.staffs.sch.uk/page59.html>.

Donations are already being accepted for old equipment that is no longer in school use and funds raised through non uniform days will contribute towards our school improvement fund, but this will not be more than 50% of the total funds raised.

Our Deputy Headteacher has signed up to do the Great North Swim and we are looking forward to the following fundraising event:

Christmas Raffle

We have a wonderful collection of prizes worth over £1000, including an Amazon Kindle Fire, Apple keyboard, family photoshoots, meal vouchers at local pubs, golf, leisure & health passes, nail, hairdressing and men's grooming vouchers, cosmetic gift sets, sweets, chocolates and many more! Tickets cost £1 each and all proceeds will go to Chase Terrace Technology College, raising money to replace the lift in the main school building for Dan!

Your child will have received a booklet of raffle tickets on Monday 26 November 2018. I would be grateful if you could support your child by selling them to your family, friends, work colleagues etc., for this very worthy cause.

Please return all sold ticket stubs, money and any unsold or damaged raffle tickets in the attached envelope by 14 December 2018. The form that sells the most raffle tickets will assist in making the draw on 20 December and win a pizza party!

Thank you for your support with this.

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)