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Think for yourself, act for others

4 April 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Academy Update

For many years Cheney School has been working in partnership with local schools with the aim to accelerate student progress and attainment. For example, this term Mrs Hawken, Deputy Head, has been seconded for 1.5 days a week to work with the Blackbird Academy Trust to support a primary school within their trust.

As an Academy, we have been invited to sponsor a local primary school and have been approached by the governing body of Bayards Hill to sponsor their school. I would like to now inform you that we have been approved by the Department for Education to become the sponsor for Bayards Hill Primary School. We will be progressing our academy status to that of a Multi-Academy Trust and are looking forward to furthering our work with Bayards Hill. We will work with them to help accelerate pupil progress so that they have every opportunity to progress when they join secondary school. This will not impact our admission arrangements and we will continue to work in strong partnership with all our feeder primary schools.

The Headteacher of Bayards Hill will be retiring at the end of the spring term and Mrs Hawken, our Deputy Head, will be joining Bayards Hill as Acting Head at the beginning of the summer term. This has been carefully planned for and Mr White, Assistant Head, will be taking on Mrs Hawken's roles which are predominately related to the leadership of the colleges, student development, behavior and standards. We are also expanding our Leadership Team to include two Associate Members; Mrs Garside and Ms Marsh, who are highly experienced Cheney School Lead Practitioners, and will join the team from the start of the summer term. As Head, I will continue to be based here at Cheney School and my role, as ever, is to ensure our students make excellent progress and are well prepared for their future roles.

Preparing Students for success Year 9-11 examination

Next term we will be very busy as we continue to prepare students for the completion of their examination courses and we are sending parents via your son/daughter a personalized letter which shows the revision and support classes available to students in Year 9, 10 and 11. Our expectation is that if a session is highlighted on their timetable then attendance is compulsory. If a session is not highlighted the student can still attend. Our aim in issuing these individualized timetables is to help students balance their revision between all their subjects and avoid them having to choose which subject session to attend.

Reminder - students Years 7-11

Could I please remind parents that we do not allow any fizzy canned drinks onto school site. We are particularly concerned that drinks with high sugar levels and energy drinks are being consumed on the way to school and on occasion students also bring these onto school site. We know that from recent research energy drinks have a negative impact on student's



concentration levels and their consumption is not conducive to good behavior. We will be confiscating these items if brought onto school site.

Rubber Challenge game

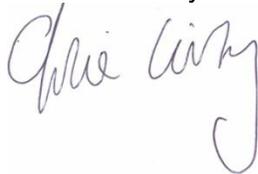
I would like to inform parents that it has come to our notice that a lot of students, especially in the earlier years, have been playing a game called 'Rubber Challenge'. This involves the fierce rubbing of erasers on hands or arms, causing inflammation and skin abrasions. While it is meant to be a fun challenge, it is clearly damaging to skin and well-being. Please check that your son/daughter is not doing this and help us to nip it in the bud by speaking to them.

Celebrations

This term we have had some truly amazing student achievements and events. For example, a Cheney student winning the Oxford City Young Writer of the Year Award, Year 13 Btec students fundraising event and an amazing visit by Malorie Blackman, Children's Laureate. Please see our weekly newsletter for the full story on these events.

I would like to also acknowledge the support you, as parents, provide to the school. It is really appreciated and I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Kirby

