



CTA Update September 2021

Dear Families,

As we return to our routines this September, with all students back in school, we look forward to a (hopefully) more normal year. That said, we still do have some routines in place that will help us to continue to operate safely for our staff and students.

Our one way system will continue in school as will the 'zoned areas' for year groups. Whilst we no longer insist on bubbles, we have found that having a specific area for each year group helps with supervision and creating a calm atmosphere at unstructured break and lunch times. We will also continue to have staggered break and lunchtimes to reduce queuing for food and enable children to get their lunches quickly.

One thing that has returned to normal is the uniform expectations. Students will now come into school each day in their normal school uniform. On days when they have PE, they will bring their PE kit in to change in school. During covid restrictions we have not been able to do the same range of sporting activities and because children had been staying in their kit all day, they had not been able to play as much on the field areas in case they got wet or dirty, subsequently having to sit in these clothes for the rest of the day. We now have the ability to do all sports and for hygiene reasons, as well as making sure children are able to be clean and dry following a PE lesson, we expect our students to change into and out of their PE kits for the lesson. We have had a significant refurbishment carried out of the changing rooms in PE so that students have a clean, secure and spacious area to change in.

Covid Testing

We have had to put in place our test centre once again, and have staggered the start to school as a result of having to take staff off their normal duties to staff the testing. We have also had to use our sports hall for the test centre so we hope to complete all of the testing as soon as possible to enable us to have all students back in school for their normal timetable by Tuesday 7th September. Families will only be contacted following a test in school if their child tests positive.

If you need to report a positive case of Covid, please use the email covid@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk

Self-isolation rules have changed over the summer and if there is a positive case in the household, it is no longer necessary for others to isolate unless they have symptoms or have produced a positive test result themselves. Please contact us if you are unclear on your situation and we can support.

There is still a requirement to wear a face covering on the school transport. There is no requirement to wear a face covering in school but we will support students on an individual basis if they feel they would be more comfortable wearing one in busy areas of the school.

Autumn assessments

Year 12 will have some assessments week beginning 11th October on the work they have been set in their Bridging Units.

Year 11 mocks will take place from Monday 15th November.

We will continue to assess all students in subjects within lessons – please see the assessment schedules for each department on the website. Our intervention programme is in place and will start very soon for students who we feel need a little extra support. All students will be supported in class by their teachers to catch up on any work missed over the last few months, and intervention in lessons happens continuously.

Timetables

Students will get their timetables in tutor time on their first full day back. We will then have a short assembly for each year group to ensure that routines and expectations are clear to everyone.

Students are advised to bring all of their equipment with them on their first day including their PE kit so that they can access all lessons. If you have any issues with purchasing uniform please do get in touch.

Important dates and INSET days for the Autumn Term

Open evening for year 6 into 7 students – Tuesday 28th September

Break up for half term – Friday 22 October

INSET Day – Monday 1 November (students not in school)

6th Form Open Evening – Thursday 4th November

Year 7 tutor parents evening – Monday 8th November

INSET Day – Friday 26 November (students not in school)

Year 13 parents evening – Monday 6th December

Winter showcase event – Tuesday 14 December

Break up for Christmas – Friday 17 December

The House System

Please ensure that (year 7) students are wearing the correct colour tie on their first day. For those that are in Brocket (7C, 7P, 7R) they should be wearing a red tie, for those in Elk (7O, 7E, 7N) they should be wearing a yellow tie and those that are in Fallow (7M, 7S, 7H) they should be wearing a blue tie.

If your child is in year 8-11 and already has a tie please do not purchase another one. If you do need to buy one, please do purchase in the appropriate house colour for your child. Brocket – forms C, P and R; Elk – forms O, E and N; Fallow – forms M, S and H.

There will be a wealth of activities for your children to get involved in and earn House Points for their team. We are planning lots of rewards events too for students and staff to enjoy.

Please ensure you have downloaded the **MyEd App** to your phone or device. This helps us to keep in touch with you and you will receive notifications when your child gets a House Point or a behaviour point. This will help you to have conversations at home with your children about their school day and get more involved.

Developments

We have had a significant amount of work done in school over the summer including brand new toilets in the music area. These are accessible toilets that have floor to ceiling partitions so can be used by any student safely, with an additional open washbasin area. We have also been granted just over 2 million pounds to refurbish lighting and heating in the building, which will make a big difference to how efficient and comfortable our systems in school are.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mrs Powell is our designated Mental Health Lead here at CTA. She has already secured funding from Tesco community grants to help us to develop a quiet space for children who are struggling with their mental health. We are currently working to train student mental health ambassadors and many of our staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid. Both staff and students are being encouraged to look after their mental health and given strategies to support them. Watch this space for more information coming soon.

Thank you all for your support over such a difficult period of time. Our families have been an amazing support to us in so many ways. We are so grateful to you all.

Best wishes,



Ms N Mason
Head of School