

July 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we find ourselves near to the end of another academic year, we are keen to update you on events that are upcoming, our progress to date, and new information for the coming year.

### **CTA Values**

Our focus this half term is on our whole school values. Respect for the CTA way – with Respect; Community; Tenacity and Aspiration, now featuring in all we do. Our careers and aspiration agenda has been strengthened to provide many more opportunities in school for pupils to build skills towards their expected careers. Recently Miss Turner, our Health and Social Care lead bought a number of professionals into school to talk to pupils about what a career in social care involves. This was really well received and attended by our pupils and has inspired many to take advantage of our newly developed Health and Social Care course in KS4.

You will have hopefully seen our values published on Facebook and Twitter recently. Pupils have had assemblies focused on our school expectations and what the values mean to us in our community. We would like to thank you all for contributing to the development of our values and particular thanks to our pupil leadership team, and the design team that have ensured these values are displayed prominently within school.

### **Change of the school day update**

In February, I wrote to parents regarding the expectation from the Department for Education (DfE), that by September 2023 all schools will be expected to provide a compulsory school week of at least 32.5 hours. Communication also went out recently to look into specific issues some families may face with the change of time. Thank you to all of you who fed back to us. This expectation is not led by us as a school, but is an expectation of the DfE.

We had a very small number of replies following this letter and the more recent communication, that specifically focused on the time of the public transport leaving from outside of school, meaning pupils would no longer be able to catch the 3pm bus. Whilst we have made every effort to look into this, and I know parents have previously also contacted bus companies, we have unfortunately been unable to secure a different time for the buses to run. I understand that there are a small number of families that this would affect and ask that you contact [office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk) to discuss other ways that we can support in September.

We are now confirming that the school day will start at 8.30am (gates close at 8.25am as pupils should be in class by 8.30am) and will end at 3pm from September 2023.

## **Safety in school**

We have spoken to many of our children about where they feel safe in school, and areas where they have reservations. We have done a lot of work around this, listening to pupils and acting on their perceptions. Pupils told us that the toilets were an area that they were concerned about. In response to this we have significantly increased supervision in these areas of the school. During break and lunchtimes toilet areas are always supervised and it is made clear to pupils that these are spaces to be respected in their use. Pupils have been reminded that they should not enter into cubicles together with others, or use the toilets as social spaces. At the end of break and lunchtime (and not before), toilets are locked for a very short period of time to enable cleaning and to ensure pupils are moving swiftly back to lessons to make the most of their learning time. Even when the smaller toilet blocks are locked for cleaning, we still have accessible toilets open for those children/staff with medical conditions or for emergencies and these are also supervised and cleaned regularly.

The school have also made the most of funding to ensure that sanitary products are freely available for any pupil that needs them. Pupils can go to the first aid room to collect any products they need. If any families require sanitary products for their children over the summer break, please do contact us and we will provide them.

## **Transition Day**

Our transition day for new students took place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. We were very much looking forward to meeting our new pupils and welcoming them as part of our community. The children all seemed to have a fun packed day enjoying new subjects and meeting new friends.

It was lovely to welcome our new (and some returning) parents and carers in the week prior to the event too. We look forward to working together in partnership in the future.

## **Uniform**

We understand that the cost of uniform is difficult to manage, and the cost of living crisis has heightened this worry for parents. We do have capacity to support either through our CATCH hub in school, where we have items of preloved, clean uniform for pupils to take, or in the form of a voucher to take to one of our uniform suppliers enabling parents to source new uniform support.

Our uniform was developed with our pupil leadership team and has taken into account the cost of branded items. All items of the daily uniform can be sourced from supermarkets or uniform shops. Badges for blazers can be purchased separately to enable cheaper options to be used when buying a blazer. Please see our website for information on uniform and items that are, and are not accepted. Please note that we have previously written to all parents to remind them that trainers and trainer style shoes are not accepted. This is an important reminder as we go into the new school year and your children require new clothes or shoes. Please check with us first if you are unsure what is accepted.

## **Key upcoming events and dates**

The final weeks of term are packed with events going on in school including our Sports Day, which takes place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June we hosted our Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening. A large number of pupils have worked hard to pass their Bronze and Silver awards this year and have certainly gained a lot from the experience. As a school we would like to thank Mrs Pickin for leading this opportunity and for the volunteers who regularly support our pupils over the weekend of their expeditions, giving up their own time to enable these events to take place. I am very much looking forward to hearing about their experiences on the evening and would like to congratulate all of the pupils on their achievements.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding our annual Awards Evening. This will be the first face to face awards evening since the pandemic so we are excited to have the opportunity to see our children receive awards with you in attendance. Please look out for the invitations that will follow shortly.

### **Celebrations**

It is important to mention our pupils that have gone above and beyond in our expectations of them.

Each week the senior team host a 'Thankful Thursday', and a 'Feel Good Friday' meeting with pupils who deserve recognition. We thoroughly enjoy these meetings as they provide us with opportunities to 'notice' those pupils who are working hard every day.

We recently met all of our year 12 pupils that have completed their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is a piece of academic research worth half an A Level that extends their experience of research and prepares them well for future study. It was fascinating to hear about their projects that ranged from topics on Artificial Intelligence, the impact of heading the ball in football, politics in China right through to safety in Formula One and the murders at White House Farm. There were other fascinating topics that we discussed the learning from and you can see a photo of these exceptional pupils on our social media.

One of our sixth form pupils represented the Royal Navy in the King's Coronation and took part in the parade for the King. This was an incredible and exclusive experience and one that will lead this pupil into their chosen career into the Navy. The pupil commented on how proud they were to be chosen to play a part in the event and that they were fully committed to serving their country. A remarkable chance taken with both hands.

### **The House System**

There is a rewards day scheduled for the whole school this half term. We are looking forward to the events that have been scheduled and will be sending invites out to pupils very soon.

In September we are moving to an 8 form entry school throughout all year groups. As a result of this we will be introducing a new House – Sika, with a new logo that pupils have designed and prepared ready for September. This House colour will be green and ties will be available to purchase for the new Year 7 cohort very soon. Please note that the new House will only apply to year 7 and will transition through. Parents are not expected to purchase a new tie if their child is in year 8-11 (current year 7-10) and current pupils will remain in their existing House.

**Dates for the diary:**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Sports day. All pupils to attend in PE kit for the day.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – INSET Day, no pupils in school

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Awards evening

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – End of term – pupils leave school at 12.10pm

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – INSET Days

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – All pupils return to school. Exact times for each year group will be confirmed before the end of the summer term.

**Year 11 and 13 Examinations**

Finally, the external examinations have now finished and our pupils have conducted themselves in an excellent manner throughout. We would like to extend our thanks to those of you at home who have supported our pupils, your children, during the exams. Thank you also to the team of invigilators and exams officer, Mrs Bradford who have made sure that the exams have run smoothly for your children.

As a school, we all extend our warm wishes to all of our pupils who have completed exams. We will see you on results days which are 17<sup>th</sup> August for A Levels and BTEC L3, and 24<sup>th</sup> August for GCSE and BTEC L2.

Thank you as always for your support and community spirit. We are working hard to improve the experience for all of our children and we value your input.

Kind regards



**Ms N Mason**  
**Headteacher**