

9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024

As we approach the end of a very short half term, I wanted to thank you for your support in our drive to raise expectations for our pupils and to update you with our plans for the rest of the spring term.

Personal Development and Fundamental British Values

Our Personal Development programme is well established now and pupils have been taking part in community wide activities and learning to enable them to understand the fundamental British values that are important to us all.

In assemblies last week, all pupils learnt about the challenges of people in different communities and how groups of people have overcome adversity in the face of discrimination. Here at Chase Terrace Academy we promote tolerance as one of those fundamental British values, which means all of our pupils are a valued and respected part of our community, regardless of their race, religion, identity or sexuality. Our staff team have spoken to pupils about the importance of 'allies' and when another member of our community is facing challenges, or where discriminatory words are used, we have to have the strength and skills to challenge this and report it. The safeguarding team is a really important part of tackling discriminatory behaviour – Mrs Thombs is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Mrs Woodhouse is our Designated Safeguarding Officer. If your child reports feeling unsafe, or needs to report an incident, please do ask them to talk to their form tutor, or one of the safeguarding team who are located on the safeguarding landing between the Computing and History classrooms on the first floor of the main building. Please talk to your children about this at home and support us in ensuring that all members of our school feel part of, and included within, our community.

Curriculum and Teaching and Learning

Following a review of the surveys that we have recently sent out to parents, we have noticed that some parents have said that they do not know what their child is studying in school. It is important to us that as parents, you feel involved in the knowledge that your children are building in school and the content that they are studying. Our website has a [dedicated curriculum area](#) where you can search by subject or by year group, to find out what your child is studying at any point in the year. Pupils will also have a Curriculum Roadmap for each of their subjects which is usually stuck into the front of their exercise book. This will give you a summary of where your child is in their learning journey in each subject.

There is also a summary of the assessment system for Key Stage 3 pupils (years 7, 8 and 9) available for parents to view via this [link](#).

Behaviour and Attitudes

You will know that this is a big focus for us in school and we have been keen to reward positive behaviour regularly, as well as hold a consistent line for any incidents of poor behaviour.

Our community is working hard, together, to ensure that our reputation continues to improve and that pupils see a positive difference in their school experience. Whilst everything we do is focused on the best interests of our pupils, there are times when we do not always get everything right. In circumstances where you are unhappy with our decisions or if something has not happened in the way you might reasonably expect, please do talk to us. It is important to us that we all work together and make our community a better place for our children. The education and happiness of our pupils is of primary importance to us and we know it is important to you too.

Please note that we will not tolerate abuse of any kind towards our members of staff, whether that be during a phone call, an email or during face-to-face meetings. If you have any [compliments, comments or complaints](#) please use our policy to ensure the correct procedures are followed and the most appropriate person deals with your communication.

JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Award

You will have had a communication from us regarding the John Taylor MAT Exceptional Achievement Awards and how to make a nomination. If your child has achieved something exceptional, for example, representing their sport in a National event, raised a significant amount of money for charity, or has overcome adversity, then we would love to hear from you. Please do let us know so that we can make sure that your child is recognised across our family of schools – there are inevitably going to be some events and achievements that we may be unaware of. Pupils receive a very special award and meet with the CEO of our Trust, Mr Mike Donoghue, to celebrate their achievements and to thank them for their contribution to our community.

Extra-curricular events and activities

There is a wide range of clubs and activities that our pupils are invited to be a part of. From sporting events to KS3 Macrame Club (every lunchtime in A5 and after school on Thursdays), we want to see many more of our pupils immersing themselves in wider school life. Our SEND Hub provides a supervised space at lunchtime where pupils enjoy colouring, chess, board games and craft activities.

There is an LGBTQIA+ Pride group that meets every Thursday lunchtime in C27.

Sports leaders meet Monday week 1 at lunchtime in the PE department.

We have a new opportunity for pupils to attend a CPR and First Aid awareness session on Friday 9th February from 13:20-14:00 in the library. Please email Miss Pickerill if your child wishes to attend.

Year 7 have been challenged to take part in the form Photography Challenge – please see Show My Homework for details.

For year 9 girls, there is a 'Just Dance' club every Monday lunchtime in Lees Hall.

We also have opportunities for pupils to involve themselves in leadership events and clubs to support younger pupils, and pupils from other schools with aspects of school life such as inclusion and transition. Pupil Leadership meetings are each Thursday between 8.30-9am – please speak to Miss Pickerill if you would like to be involved.

For our KS4 pupils, there are a large number of intervention sessions and workshops available in Art, D&T, English, Maths, Photography, Philosophy and Ethics, and History. Please ask your child to talk to their teaching member of staff if they are interested and want to find out more.

Communication

You will have noticed, I hope, an increased amount of communication to parents and carers. We have recognised that some parents, upon installing the My Child At School App (MCAS), do not have the push notifications facility enabled on their device. This means that you may not have been receiving all of our updates through the App. We have emailed all parents who this applies to, with instructions to support you on how to enable the notifications. If you are having any difficulties with finding your way around MCAS, or you are not receiving messages, please do [get in touch](#) with us so that we can help.

Dates for your diary for Spring 2 Half Term

Monday 19th February – Year 11 Mock Exams

Thursday 29th February – Year 12 Progress Evening

Thursday 7th March – Year 7 Progress Evening

Friday 8th March – History trip to Poland departs (weekend trip)

Wednesday 13th March– Parents/Carers Forum (Please note this is a change to the calendared date of Thursday 14th March as requested by parents/carers)

Week beginning 18th March – Double House Points week

Thursday 21st March – Ski Trip departs

Thursday 21st March – pupils break up for Easter at 3pm

Friday 22nd March – INSET Day (school closed to most pupils)

Finally, as always, we wish you a restful and safe half term. Should you need safeguarding support or advice over the half term period please see our safeguarding page on the website. There are signposts to emergency and non-emergency support that you can access out of school hours, should you need to.

Kindest regards,



Ms N Mason
Headteacher