

Our ref: CDC/SHA
March 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

As we are now approaching the end of term I would like to thank you for your continued support. It has been another busy term and the students and staff have been relentless in ensuring progress.

This term ends on Thursday, 29 March 2018. The first day back for all students will be Tuesday, 17 April 2018. Students should be on site by 8.25am ready for registration at 8.30am. The summer term ends on Friday, 20 July. In the summer term the academy is closed to students on -

Monday, 16 April – staff development day
Monday, 7 May – Bank Holiday
Monday, 28 May to Friday, 1 June

Breakfast Club will start on Tuesday, 17 April.

Uniform / jewellery – as we enter into the new term I would like to thank all those parents who have supported our collective stance on the enforcement of our uniform and jewellery expectations. We are very proud of our students and their attire is always praised by visitors and the community alike. It is essential that there is a consistent approach to uniform as it creates a good first impression. This is vital when students approach employers or colleges for interviews. To this end we would like to remind parents and students that we still expect students to wear blazers in the summer term; if the weather reaches temperatures that are high we will obviously review this on a day to day basis. Finally on the theme of first class presentation, the academy does not allow brightly coloured nail varnish or any make up. Please reinforce this with your children as these will get picked up when we return after Easter.

Exams / revision – after Easter our Year 11 students and many Year 10s will be approaching their final examinations; everyone understands the added pressure that this brings. However, we also recognise the impact that solid revision and continued focus at this time has on their life chances. This Easter break, staff and students are continuing to work on securing their success. For those Year 11s intent on revising we have now provided access to the internal wifi system so that they can access GCSE Pod, MyMaths and a range of other useful sites to aid examination preparation. They can access these using their own devices and we will monitor the appropriate use of our systems.

Attendance and punctuality - as our students are preparing for life outside of education, it is essential that good habits start early. Attendance and punctuality are areas which are vital for students to address. Whilst 95% is an excellent result in an exam it is not considered to be acceptable with employers. What would your employer say if you had an afternoon off every other Friday? Missing that amount of your education can have serious implications with learning, as it creates gaps in knowledge, lower attainment and decreases life chances and course options. Whilst 100% is desirable for every student, for some it is a challenge. At the academy we do our very best to ensure a high level of attendance and punctuality is expected. To this end we do not authorise any applications for holidays or leave of absence unless in extremely special circumstances.

Over the last three years we have seen Chantry Academy grow and start to realise its true potential and that of the community it serves. There have been many challenging times and difficult decisions; however, the community has persevered and succeeded. This is only possible through an effective relationship between home and school. The students that are the most successful are those whose parents and school have a common understanding as to expectations and standards. The recent evidence suggests if we are to continue to be successful this partnership needs to extend to all students. Our staff work tirelessly to provide a high quality experience and they appreciate your support in supporting your children.

As our school numbers rise, and we are becoming the school of choice for the area, it is important that we build on the effective parent/school relationship. Our Parents' Forum has served the development of the school well; it focussed on the essential challenges whilst in special measures and then as a parental voice in new developments within the school. However, it is now time to review this group so that it can focus on our next stage of development. After Easter, Mr Stronach will be contacting all parents to relaunch the forum so that it addresses the needs of the community. The parents' and carers' voice is so important in ensuring that your child is receiving the education you trust us to deliver.

This positive support is also welcomed through modelling or celebrating Chantry's past successes. We are currently in the process of developing our own Alumni - this group is made from ex-Chantry students who have used their time at school as a launchpad to a successful career. Whether the route was through to University or into employment and enterprise, we would love to hear from you. Once we have collated the list we would like to use those as examples of the enormous potential within our community.

Data Protection – Pupil Privacy Notice - the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018, replacing the Data Protection Act 1998. Chantry Academy is currently working towards meeting the GDPR requirements, which include development of a Privacy Notice for Pupils which outlines to our students how we use data about them and what we do with it. This statement can be found on our website under the Information tab, or a hard copy is available from Student Reception. If you would like any further information please contact the Active Learning Trust's Data Protection Officer – email dataprotection@activelearningtrust.org

Free School Meals (FSM) – some families are entitled to FSMs but choose not to sign up for them. We would encourage all those entitled to FSM to sign up as this generates additional funding for the school and benefits all students. Please refer to our letter dated 26 March that was issued to all parents/carers.

Sports Relief took place last week and the Year 7 – 10 students and staff have raised £530. Well done everyone for this fantastic achievement!

Sporting activities - it has been another successful year for our Year 9 netballers. They have represented the academy superbly and won the majority of their league games this year - they have finished second in the table behind Ipswich High School which is an incredible result. The Year 10 netball team moved up to the B league this year and found the competition tough- after 3 matches there was a team decision to withdraw from the league.

Our cross country runners were particularly successful this year with two of our students making it through several rounds of competition. The Year 8 boys' football team won the Ipswich 7-aside tournament and the Year 7s came second. Previously the Year 8 boys and U15 girls made it to the fourth round of the National Cup, Year 8 boys made it to the quarter finals of the Suffolk Cup also. Rugby has continued to draw the crowds at Chantry Academy with teams from Years 7, 8 and 10 representing the Academy at local tournaments. We continue to be supported by the CBRE All Schools program and have had a coach in from Ipswich Rugby Club this year. We plan to run a touch league for students during the Summer term in readiness for the start of the 2018/19 season.

Design and Technology update – the department continues to thrive both in and out of school. Catering students have been able to support ActivGardens at their Maidenhall allotment base ensuring a profitable and well stocked café ran for the new and regular customers of their monthly community café. Students have been practising their baking and cooking techniques and the third rotation of lower school students have been busy learning about healthy eating and nutrients. Graphics students in lower school have been improving their Modern Foreign Language skills by producing pop up books in their chosen 'second' language. In Resistant Materials students have been working on designs for the home inspired by Popart, working with plastic and designing mobile phone stands, kitchen implements and shadow boxes. In Textiles, Mrs Marchant has been embedding a variety of skills to support students' independent learning - hammer printing, acrylic marbling, batik, digital embroidery and fabric fusing - all of these skills will be used in the summer term when students will produce their garments inspired by nature. All subjects have been running busy and well attended clubs where the students have been working collaboratively to produce a range of gifts and treats to take home. Students also appeared in a featured piece on the BBC's Schools Report.

Arts success – the Performing Arts department have gone from strength to strength this term. We started the new term with Year 9 and 10 Drama students participating in a historical workshop with Small Nose Productions. We have also showcased our talented students with three performances of 'Hairspray'. The performers, the band, and the technical and stage crews all worked together to make the show a success. Year 11 have successfully completed Component 2 of their GCSE exam and they are now working towards their Component 1 devised piece. Year 10 are completing their Unit 2 and look forward to performing their scripts after Easter. Year 9 have studied a range of drama practitioners and styles and are now devising their own short drama pieces ready to perform in May. We have also been fortunate to work with DanceEast and tutors of their CAT programme. Year 8 Music students have had an exciting term competing in 'Battle of the Bands' to be the best band of the term. Year 11 music students have also successfully recorded their performances pieces ready to be examined. We have had an exciting term in the Performing Arts department and look forward to an equally busy and exciting summer term.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your support in making Chantry Academy a better place to learn. This has only been successful through an effective parent / school relationship which puts the student's best interest at the centre. After all we all want the same outcomes for the children and are in this together.

Yours faithfully

C D'Cunha

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Principal