

Our ref: CDC/SHA
July 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw another year to a close at Chantry Academy, I would like to thank you for all your continued support and recognise the hard work of the students and staff. At the end of the year we normally say farewell to a few members of staff who are moving on to new pastures. This year we are saying goodbye to Mrs Dool, who will be retiring from her post as Receptionist after a significant amount of time at the school. We wish her well. We also send best wishes to other members of staff who are moving on to pastures new. A number of new staff will be joining us in September alongside those who will change role within the school: Mrs Manhertz will move to Head of Year 6/7, Mr Perry will be Head of Year 8/9 and Mr Stronach will be Head of Year 10/11.

Successes

We look forward to this summer's results after a busy academic year and examination season. Our staff and students have worked hard during after-school, weekend and holiday revision sessions.

This year has seen many successes – students have been involved in STEM projects, the Maths Challenge, and an English residential trip to St Briavels in Gloucestershire to mention a few. The school has been recognised for the work it has done on Careers and has established itself as a recognised leader within the region for careers information advice and guidance. Our students have really benefitted from additional access to employers, universities and apprenticeship providers.

We have also had a number of sporting successes with our Year 8 footballers winning the Ipswich 7-a-side tournament and Lonarra winning the Suffolk 100m and representing the county in the England Schools Athletics.

Our Arts provision is growing from strength to strength as we utilise resources in all subjects to expand and enrich the curriculum. This year alone we have worked with the Schools Shakespeare Festival, Red Rose theatre and Dance East to ensure that the students' creativity and expression is open for all to see.

Summer packs

Next year will arrive sooner than we think and it is important that the students do not let all their good work stagnate or regress over the summer recess. We have issued some students with holiday work in a number of key subjects, but alongside this it is important that they use this time to revise topics already covered and read through topics they are about to encounter. If you wish to see the topics your child will be studying next year, please look at the academy website.

Summer activity

Six weeks is a long time to ensure the students are occupied and safe. Recently within the news there have been a number of reports of gang related issues. It is recognised that students who are vulnerable, bored and free to roam around are at increased risk of anti-social behaviour. I know that the vast majority of students will always make the right decisions whilst away from school or home. We are very proud of the conduct of our students. That said, there are a number of positive opportunities within Ipswich that the students can get involved in. Below is a link to the Suffolk County Council Leisure site which signposts activities in the area, many of which are free. The iCard is free and gives the students access to a number of activities during the holiday.

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/summerholidays>

<https://www.ipswichfit.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Summer-hols-18-final.pdf>

Attendance

As you are aware there are only 190 school days a year, that is approximately 50% of the calendar year, and so it is reasonable to expect that students attend all those days. There is a significant correlation between students with low attendance and low attainment. This is a situation that may well affect the future prospects and the working ethics of your child. We respectfully ask that your

child attends every day. As an academy we do not authorise any absence other than verified illness. All additional absences/requests may result in a fine.

Dropping off/picking up students

If you do need to come onto the site, please use the student drop off parking area at the top left hand side of the car park, and encourage your child to use the clearly marked walkway.

Uniform expectations

Alongside the information on the website related to your child's learning there are also details of our uniform expectations. Our students wear their uniform with pride and demonstrate that they are part of our community. We have noticed an increase in the number of students who are attending in 'skinny' trousers and trainers – and these are not recognised school uniform. I would ask that you all look at the uniform expectations, including the rules on jewellery and make up, as next year we wish to ensure that all our students create a good first impression sustained throughout the year.

As you are preparing for the start of term, I urge you not to wait until the last minute to order your uniform. Please order uniform by **7 August** to ensure it arrives in time for the start of the new school year.

Website

On the website there are links to a number of software packages that are there to support you. If you do not have access to these, you should contact the academy so that we can provide appropriate log in details.

Go4Schools is a package that allows you to see 'live' data on attendance, progress and behaviour for your child.

Show My Homework is an application you can use to monitor the homework your child has been given. There is also a mobile App, so there are no excuses for not completing work.

Data Collection and Photo/Image/Biometric permissions

We will be sending a comprehensive **Student Information and Consents** form home with all students at the beginning of term. Please ensure that you complete it in full and return it to Main Reception at the academy as soon as possible. This updated version of our Data Collection form not only enables us to check that all our parent/carer contact information is up to date, but also includes Photo/Image and Biometric consent sections, as required by the new General Data Protection Regulations. If your child is over 12 years of age, they also need to sign to indicate their consent for the photo/image and biometric sections, as under data protection law they are viewed as being old enough to be responsible for their own data. If you or your child chooses not to have your child registered on the Biometric System, a 4 digit PIN code will be allocated. Please note that PIN codes do not have the same level of security and it will be your child's responsibility to remember the code and keep it secure at all times. The preference of the school is to use biometrics as this is more secure and faster than any other method of identification and we appreciate your co-operation with regards to this matter.

Our Privacy Notice which outlines how we use and share your personal data, and more detail about Biometrics, can be found on our website at <http://www.chantryacademy.org/Data-Protection/>

ParentMail

ParentMail enables us to send emails and text messages directly to you. There is also the facility to pay for meals, trips and additional activities via ParentMail PlusPay. If you have a ParentMail catering account for a child already within the academy, please ensure there is sufficient money on their account to cover the first few days of term. We are also investigating a ParentMail module which enables online completion of Forms and Permissions rather than the need to complete paper versions – more information to follow in due course.

Term dates

Year 11 - Prior to Work Experience placements, students returning to Year 11 are required in school on Friday, 7 September 2018, from 10.00am to 11.30am to collect their Work Experience diaries.

Mrs Bonwick, Work Experience Co-ordinator, will check that students have contacted their work placement in readiness for Monday, 10 September. In order that they are prepared for their return to school on Monday, 17 September, students will collect their timetables (to familiarise themselves with lessons) and their Learning Companion (to read its content).

The first day back for students in Years 7 to 10 will be Monday, 10 September 2018. This year we are staggering the start of term –

Year 7 to arrive by 8.25am for an 8.30am registration.

Years 8 and 9 to arrive at 10.10am and go direct to tutor bases ready for the start of lesson 2 (10.15am).

Year 10 at 9.50am and go direct to tutor bases ready for the start of lesson 2 (9.55am).

Term will end on Wednesday, 19 December 2018 and half term will be from Monday, 22 October to Friday, 26 October 2018.

Timing of the school day / Breakfast Club

All students should be on site by **8.25am** ready for registration at 8.30am. The end of the school day is 3.15pm unless students have been informed about revision session that we expect them to attend in Year 11.

The student break times are as follows –

Year 7:	9:55 – 10:15	and	12:55 – 13:35
Year 8:	9:55 – 10:15	and	12:25 – 13:05
Year 9:	9:55 – 10:15	and	12:25 – 13:05
Year 10:	11:00 – 11:20	and	13:30 – 14:10
Year 11:	11:00 – 11:20	and	13:30 – 14:10

Our **Breakfast Club** will start on Tuesday 11 September.

Mobile phones, Wearable tech and Headphones

The pressures on young people being constantly in contact and 'on demand' can have a significant impact on their mental well-being, self-esteem and progress. As a society we need to address this. We all need time to switch off and focus on our jobs; the constant beeping is not only distracting it raises levels of anxiety and we all stop being in the moment. This trend is increasingly worrying as we now respond to a message on the phone rather than the person sitting opposite us. We miss out on social discourse, stimulating conversation and lose the ability to talk to each other – these are essential life skills.

As with many schools around the country we have reviewed use of mobile phones whilst on the school site. This has been a difficult decision as we appreciate that students may require their phones to and from school for safety reasons. We also appreciate that they can be of educational benefit. We have decided that an outright ban of the phones would not be in the spirit of what we do at Chantry Academy however, as with all our processes, we will work in partnership with parents and students. Our expectation is that all mobile phones, headphones and wearable technology will be switched off and remain in the students school bags during the school day however, students are able to use them at break time and lunchtime. They will not be able to use them in lesson (unless permission is given by the teacher and there is an educational purpose for doing so) or moving between lessons as this can be distracting and not in line with our learning core purpose. There will be sanctions in place for students who do not meet the Academy expectations. To support your child and yourselves please do not contact them during their lesson times.

If you need to contact your child in an emergency please contact the school and we will ensure the message gets through. Also if your child is having an issue at school, they will need to contact the pastoral team, duty staff or any member of staff for support in the first instance. As this action is so fundamental to your child's health we appreciate your support on this matter.

School Nurse Drop-in Sessions

These will be on Tuesday lunchtimes.

We look forward to a new academic year with ever increasing enthusiasm and determination to make this an outstanding learning environment for your children. We hope to see you throughout the year at various events including Parents' Evenings to support your son/daughter. Have an enjoyable holiday.

Yours faithfully

C D'Cunha

C D'Cunha
Principal