

Our ref: CDC/SHA
December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

With a huge sigh of relief we have reached the end of an extraordinary and difficult year and, as we approach 2021, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. This term ends on Thursday, 17 December, and students are ready to relax and spend some time with their family.

The need to maintain year group bubbles and social distancing means that students and staff have had to miss out on the traditional end of term activities in December. However, we had an innovative and enjoyable virtual Carol Service which is on the website on Academy TV or can be watched using this link <https://vimeo.com/491126758>

Covid Advice Chart for Christmas Closure

With this letter I am issuing a separate Covid Advice Chart to cover the period 14 - 24 December 2020. If you need to inform the school of symptoms / a positive test, please email Covid@chantryacademy.org

The first day back for all students will be Tuesday, 5 January 2021. We will continue with the staggered start times in January and students should arrive in time for registration as follows:

Year 7 - 8.20am Year 8 - 8.30am Year 9 - 8.30am Year 10 – 8.20am Year 11 – 8.40am

Breakfast Club which is open by invitation will resume on the same day.

Looking ahead, half term is from 15-19 February 2021 inclusive and the Spring term ends on Friday, 26 March 2021.

At the end of this term, we say 'goodbye and good luck' to Mr Baker, Head of IT, Ms S Wilson, Intervention Assistant – English, Mrs Chamberlain, Learning Support Assistant – Oracy Mentor and Mrs Catchpool, Cleaner. Also, this month, we said farewell to Mrs Barrell, Cover Supervisor, and wished her the best for her retirement. I would like to thank them for their valued contribution to the school and am sure that their experiences at Chantry Academy will have equipped them to make a great contribution in the next chapter in their lives.

I would like to reflect on some of our successes this term. Even within our turbulent year, our staff have provided a level of normality for our students -

- Arts events have taken place that reflect the enormous talent within the school, including -
Dance workshop with the Matthew Bourne Dance Company.
Shakespeare Schools Festival performance of 'Twelfth Night'
Remembrance Day Dance performance
- Year 10 Business webinar and careers activities with KPMG
- Raised over £1000 for Children in Need and FIND through two non-uniform days
- Library Fortnight in November
- Friday Feast events within Catering
- Black Lives Matter project in partnership with Anglia News
- Year 9 Wednesday Well-being sessions with Ant, our Chaplain
- Starting with Year 11, we began our programme of providing all student with laptops
- Half-term revision sessions delivered for Year 11 students across a range of subjects
- Year 8 Textiles creations
- Year 6 on-line Open Evening for students hoping to come to the school next September.

Chantry Academy

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The Active Learning Trust

Alongside this we have focused on developing speaking and verbal reasoning (Oracy) in lessons and embedding the Chantry Curriculum across our entire provision.

I am delighted, humbled and in admiration of our staff, students and the whole community as they made the very best of a difficult situation. That is what a true community is about.

Looking ahead to next term, I would like to remind you that our expectations remain high, not just academically or with the opportunities we provide, but also in terms of uniform, attendance, behaviour and punctuality.

- Mobile technology is not allowed in school. If it does need to be used to and from school, it should remain in the student's bag and switched off during the school day.
- Facial piercings are not allowed. Students must either wear a plaster or have a clear retainer in its place.
- We take pride in our appearance and the uniform is one that should be worn with pride. Ties must be worn with the rest of the correct uniform.
- Chewing gum is not allowed on site.
- All students are required to bring and wear a face mask as they move around the academy, unless they have a medical condition

In January we will be reaffirming these expectations and I look forward to your support over the next term.

When we return on 5 January, we will be making the following adjustment to the timetable and our mitigations. Having reviewed the processes we have in school, we feel we will be able to maintain a high level of COVID security whilst students are moving around the academy, when they adhere to the following mitigations.

- Move swiftly using the one-way system
- Wear face coverings when circulating inside
- Regularly clean hands and work surfaces
- Maintain social distancing wherever possible

As such behaviours are now the expectation around the school, we feel we are in the position to have all teachers returning to teach in their subject areas. This will benefit the quality of learning and ensure staff are able to meet and greet students as they arrive to the lesson.

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. Please do not park alongside the walkway as this blocks the access of students and parents with mobility issues.

The rear entrance of the school (Birkfield Drive) is open from 8.05am until 8.45am; this allows students from the southern area to access the school site. The gate re-opens at 2.50pm until 4.45pm to allow students to exit the site.

In the unlikely event that weather becomes more challenging and we have to take the decision to close the school, I thought it would be good to remind you of our closure procedures. We will post information on our school website and social media sites, message via ParentMail and communicate via the local radio stations. If you do not have ParentMail, please contact the Academy to update your account. As a side note, it is essential that all students have warm clothing so they arrive at school comfortable to work and focus on the core purpose of learning. I thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Finally, I wish you well for the holiday period and look forward to a new year with ever increasing enthusiasm and determination to make this an outstanding learning environment for your children and the wider community.

Yours faithfully

C D'Cunha

C D'Cunha
Executive Headteacher