



Student Name _____

Newsletter

September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

One of my sound bites is that “being a headteacher is easy but being a twenty first century parent is difficult”. Parenting is a constant challenge that does not seem to ease as children hit their twenties! Another truth is that children whose parents support their school and their education do better than those who do not, with national research by Nuffield Foundation unsurprisingly placing attendance at parents’ evenings and reading at home, by all, as the two most important factors to students success. Thank you to all who continue to contribute to our successful school. The 234 parental returns of the lengthy, anonymous Kirkland Rowell survey, our fifteenth year, is a major guide to our success. All individual comments are passed to staff and yes, I am obsessed with litter and those who drop it! The survey is compared with 1,000 state schools and the headline figures are:

- Parents are happy and view this as an outstanding school with 98% stating they would recommend it to another parent and 85% stating that it continues to improve annually.
- Discipline, the happiness of students, approachable staff, teacher expertise and therefore student progress are all rated **outstanding** with no area viewed as less than good. The full report is on the website for those who wish to read further. It is a reassuring read and an invaluable evaluation tool.

Our first set of A-level results are simply remarkable with:

- 99% recording A*-E.
- 48% A*-B, which is simply phenomenal.
- Art, recording only A*/A grades.
- AS level politics students recorded 50% A grades.
- There are stunning individual results with particular delight for students who successfully repeated a year after a difficult start to their A-levels at other institutions. All have progressed to either a job or further education.

Rounding up the end of the year, I am delighted with:

- The recent GCSE results. These are excellent results with our particular happiness at the number of grade 9s scored in maths and English, which are considered to be ‘exceptional performance’. The average points score of all our students has led them to a promising future.
- The superbly well attended Awards Evening which was dominated by our girls, whose effort and attainment received deserved recognition. It was therefore disappointing to hear from our speaker that British Airways employs only 4% of pilots who are female. Come on BA, come on our boys, are the clear messages for 2017/18.
- The unbelievable art and music exhibition in Crowngate and the ensuing fabulous comments from so many parents and shoppers proud of the standard of work in a wide range of genres. Sadly, they were not for sale even though this could be a funding stream for us.
- Da Vinci House narrowly beat Shakespeare House in the numeracy competition and therefore regained the House Cup, with Shakespeare second and Seacole third.
- 30 year 11 students took part in the National Citizenship Service summer holiday programme of building team and interpersonal skills.
- Our fourth Summer School took place during the summer holidays. Year 6 children enjoyed a fantastic week of activities and will now be more than ready for CWLC this September.

A Warm Welcome to New Staff

- Mrs Hall, Geography Teacher
- Miss Marriott, History Teacher
- Mr Heath, Geography & VE Teacher
- Mrs De Abreu, Lead Practitioner
- Mr Jones, Science Teacher
- Mr Farthing, Music Teacher
- Mrs Yang, Mandarin Teacher
- Mr Collier, MFL Teacher
- Mr Norman, LSA
- Mrs Pritchard, LSA
- Miss Meihui, Chinese Language Assistant

Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP)



We are delighted to announce that we have been selected to participate in the Mandarin Excellence Programme - an intensive language programme funded by the Department for Education, to be coordinated by Mrs De Abreu. The nationwide programme offers students an unprecedented opportunity in terms of language provision and aims to see at least 5,000 school pupils in England on track towards fluency in Mandarin Chinese by 2020.

In being the most widely spoken language in the world, Mandarin Chinese is recognised as one of the most important languages for the UK's future. The programme therefore provides a fantastic opportunity for students to acquire vital language skills at an early stage – something essential for work and for life in an increasingly connected world. Students on the programme will study eight hours of Mandarin Chinese every week – including four hours of classroom taught lessons – with selected groups of pupils beginning from Year 7. More information for year 7 talented linguists will follow. We will be at the forefront of delivering the programme – with support from the UCL Institute of Education and the British Council.

The 'Friends' of CWLC Christmas Fayre Saturday 18th November 11am – 3pm



Calling all crafters, bakers and candlestick makers... Book a stall (approx. 8ft table) at our Christmas Fayre for a small charge of £15. If you are interested in running a stall please contact Claire Smith Tel: 01905 423906 ext 274 or you can email: c.smith@christopherwhitehead.worcs.sch.uk

Catering

In response to parent and student council feedback, we have a new catering company Aspens. The menu and price list are on the website. Initial reviews are encouraging and students continue to meet with the managers.

Free School Meals

We are concerned that a number of parents are not claiming free school meals for their children. If you think you qualify please ask for an application form at reception or you can complete it online by visiting the Worcestershire County Council website: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage> click on the Free School Meals section under the 'apply for it' heading.

Current Whole School Attendance is 97.7%

The start of the year requires some reminders of key information / notices:

1. Publicity – please let us know in writing if you do not wish your child's name to be allocated to newspaper pictures / publicity shots.
2. Please notify us of any change of address, telephone numbers, email address or circumstances - it is essential we have correct contact information – you may email any changes to Claire Smith, Student Records Officer c.smith@christopherwhitehead.worcs.sch.uk
3. Please ensure asthma inhalers and EpiPens are in-date and that students have them in their school bag.
4. All school uniform should be clearly named.
5. Ensure uniform is correct, sensible shoes are worn and expensive items and jewellery remain at home. The school will not be held responsible for loss or damage. Similarly, bikes need to be roadworthy, ridden sensibly and left in the bike racks at school and not at Sainsbury's or St John's Sports Centre where they risk being clamped.
6. Unhealthy 'brain drain' food from Sainsbury's and other stores is not allowed and is monitored. Students are not allowed off site between 8.30am – 3.20pm.

Dates for your Diary

Fri	15-Sep	School Photos Y7, 9, 11 + 12 & 13
Mon	18-Sep	'Friends' of CWLC meeting 7.30pm in Science Block – all welcome
Thu	21-Sep	Y10 Work Experience Parents' Evening
Fri	22-Sep	Y12 DofE Gold Practice Weekend (dep 3.30pm ret Sun 24 th)
Fri	22-Sep	Y13 DofE Gold Assessed Expedition (dep 3.30pm ret Tues 26 th)
Mon	25-Sep	Citizenship Day
Thu	28-Sep	Open Evening 6.30pm ABH Additional tours of school available at 9.30am and 3.30pm.
Fri	29-Sep	TED (school closed to students)
Thu	5-Oct	Meet the Teachers Evening Y7 & 12
Sat	7-Oct	Y10 Silver DofE Practice to Forest of Dean (ret Mon 9 th)
Mon - Fri	23-27 Oct	Half Term
Thu	2-Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening 6.30pm
Fri	3-Nov	Non Uniform Day