



The Chiltern School

Message from our headteacher

First and foremost I want to say a huge **thank you** for your continued support in another year of unprecedented events and transformation. It's incredible to think that we started the academic year in September with so many unknowns relating to COVID, Omicron did not even exist, and this week we dealt with a heat wave. We have certainly learnt to expect the unexpected!

Whenever I visit classrooms and especially when I show visitors around, I have an enormous sense of pride as we see young people engaged happily in learning, making progress and succeeding. Visitors always comment on the incredible relationships staff and pupils have and the dedication they show, our values emanate from everyone. We are very lucky to have such an amazing staff team.

From the Parents/Carer questionnaire, which was overwhelmingly positive, we have identified several areas that will become focal points for the new academic year. These include, **Parental engagement**. We want to enable parents and carers to visit the school more frequently, especially as COVID restrictions have been lifted, to give you a better understanding of our curriculum, how it is taught and how young people are assessed. This year we have reviewed our Behaviour and Mental Health Policy, we will be sharing this with you in September, again we want to support understanding of how we keep young people safe and support them.

Please find an update of some of the key experiences this term and an overview of what to expect for next term, here at The Chiltern School. You will also receive a Pathway or Phase newsletter which has more specific information relating to learning. Wishing you all a fantastic summer holiday, we look forward to welcoming young people back to school on **Monday 5th September**.

Kind regards,

Lisa



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Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Pupils, Parents and Staff

Well it hardly seems possible that we're at the end of another academic year. It's hard not to begin by talking about the new building and that finally everyone is now on the one site at Kingsland Campus. It was an incredible team effort that got this all completed in what, I must admit, I thought was a very ambitious timescale. So a massive thank you and well done to everybody involved. By the way I notice Lisa still has her hard hat and high "vis" jacket in her office - between you and me I think she's grown quite attached to them!

Next term sees the launch of the updated curriculum for all pupils and is another key tenet of the philosophy of continuous improvement that runs through the school. From the beginning of the review of the existing curriculum frameworks last October to the implementation of the updated ones formally beginning in September the focus has been, as it should be, relentlessly pupil centred. I was incredibly impressed on a recent learning walk I undertook to see it being adopted and the really positive engagement between pupils and staff as it was being delivered.

I'm also delighted to say that we now have two new parent governors in Anne-Marie Turner and Michelle Todd. I know that you will all, as do I, appreciate them stepping forward to undertake this important work and give them all the support you are able.

COVID is never far away from any of our thoughts and the recent escalation in cases has, again, seen real pressure placed on staffing resources. The team do everything they possibly can to keep all classes open but sometimes that is, sadly, just not physically possible.

So let me close by offering, on behalf of myself and my fellow governors, sincere thanks to all pupils, parents and staff for their support and contributions to another very successful year at The Chiltern School.

I hope you all have a lovely summer break, that the weather is kind and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Regards,

Mark L Cattle

Chair of Governors



The Chiltern School

Summer Term at The Chiltern School



Tea Party

Tea Party for The Brain Tumour Charity

On Wednesday 7th July we held a Tea party for pupils to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity. This followed with our pupils learning about The Brain Tumour Charity and some of our pupils gained an understanding of what it is like to live with a brain tumour. We raised £443.40, thank you to everyone who donated!

Work Experience

Our job coach Lisa has been busy assisting pupils to access and progress within work placements at Cancer Research and the Bizzie Bees Nursery. We continue to work with Snakes and Ladders and Whipnade Zoo for further placements.

Careers Education

Boras Construction have been in school this term to deliver workshops to our pHase 2 and 3 pupils, including: 'Understanding the Construction Industry', 'What is Building' and ' Staying Safe'. Willmott Dixon have also been in school working with Grandin class to 'Build a Green Village'.

Food Safety

Congratulations to our Phase 3 young people who have completed their Food Allergy and Intolerance training. We look forward to seeing them serving in the Buzz Hub next term!

Essential Skills for the future

Tigers, Beethoven and Phillip class have been focussing on essential skills and household chores this term.



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African Drumming

Our formal pupils took part in an African Drumming workshop with a focus on timing and performing as a group. We plan to deliver this experience to other pathways across the school as an SMSC and musical opportunity next academic year.

Horticulture and Animal Care

Wonder, Einstein and Simmonds class have been experiencing Gardening Skills this term.



Leavers BBQ

We have recently celebrated the pupils who are leaving our school for their next steps as young adults. Our BBQ was momentous, celebrating pupils who have been with us for their entire education! We wish these young people every success for their future.



School Uniform

It is great to see all pupils wearing school uniform. A reminder for those who are purchasing uniform over the summer, all pupils will need to wear a **white** polo shirt (as shown in the picture). Early transition pupils will continue to wear the **gold** polo shirt.

A general uniform list is below:

- Suitable outdoor shoes / wellies
- Suitable indoor shoes (black trainers / plimsolls)



White Polo shirt for all pupils



The Chiltern School

- Black leggings, jogging bottoms or shorts
- School polo shirt (white / gold)
- School Sweatshirt (navy blue)
- Warm base layer (for winter)
- Waterproof trousers and jacket

These are available from

<https://web76.secure-secure.co.uk/prestigedesignw.co.uk/live/School-Uniform/Chiltern-School/CHILTERN-Tops>



Gold Polo shirt for Early Transitions pupils

Personal Development

Getting to know you! We want to work closely with our families to understand your traditions, values, routines and celebrations. Your child's teacher will be in touch during the first half term to get to know you a little better, this aids our Personal Development planning, please share as little or as much as you feel comfortable with!

Please see below our Personal Development Themes for next Half Term, these will be celebrated via exploration in the classroom, child led play, our curriculum themes and assembly.

Together Again
Someone is there for me
International Day of Sign Language
The Chiltern School 10 Year Anniversary
World Food Day
Happy Healthy Minds

School Photographs

You should have received details of accessing your child's photograph this week, if you haven't then you can contact the photographer directly, we do not manage this process.

Email on: info@pzazzphotography.com if they have any queries.



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Houghton Regis Funfair Trip Informal Learners

Our Informal learners are invited to Houghton Regis funfair on 8th September between 11am - 2pm. This visit to the funfair is funded and is an opportunity for pupils who may not usually be able to access the funfair. We are working to plan the day to ensure there are low arousal hours, ensuring lights and music are kept off to make the funfair accessible and enjoyable to our learners.

If there are any parents or carers who would like to volunteer to help with this visit, please contact reception@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

Attendance from September

Pupils are expected to be at school daily, unless they are too unwell to come into school, for example; they have a temperature or they are contagious to others.

If your child is absent, please email attendance@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

If your child has a medical appointment, please send a copy of the appointment card or letter to attendance@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

If you are struggling to get your child into school, please give us a call or contact us via attendance@chiltern.beds.sch.uk and we will get in touch and do all we can to support.

Why we focus on Attendance

It is nationally recognised that pupil attendance affects pupil progress. The thinking can sometimes be that this doesn't apply in a specialist school, however we have found that those pupils who attend regularly (95% or more) are higher achieving and have the opportunity to embed their learning, routines and preparation for adulthood more successfully than those whose attendance is poor (below 90%).



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Parent/Carer Coffee Sessions Autumn Term



Thank you to those of you who have joined our Parents/ Carer Coffee Sessions, these will continue in September on Wednesday mornings. We have loved having young people from Phase Three serving drinks to parents at these sessions, it's been wonderful to see our pupils growing in confidence!

This term we have had visits from Central Bedfordshire staff who have shared information and offered support to parents around Early Help, PCNA's and Young Carers. We planned to have the Children with Disabilities Team but this has had to be postponed until next year. Next term we have a number of sessions planned which will be delivered by school staff. The need for these has been identified through consultation with parents and so we feel you will find them useful. We will send out more information and booking forms for each session closer to the time, but the dates are further below, for your diaries.

World Food Day / CookBook Launch

On the 17th October, we will be celebrating World Food Day. Pupils will take part in a World Food lunch as well as prepare, play and explore with World Foods within their pathway learning environments. Pupils will also have the opportunity to opt for a lunch from around the world, more information will be sent closer to the time.

This is in response to parents sharing their views around the school food alongside us implementing this opportunity to further support pupils' understanding of the world, provide exposure of traditional foods across differing cultural groups and celebrate our similarities and differences.

To help us celebrate World Food Day, we will be asking parents to send in their own recipes so that we can put together our very own 'The Chiltern School World CookBook'. We would really like contributions from as many families as possible. Please could you email your recipe into - recipe@chiltern.beds.sch.uk



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Autumn Term at The Chiltern School - Pupil Calendar

Information will be sent closer to the time for activities which involve your child

8th September - Houghton Regis Funfair Trip for Informal Pupils

9th September Suicide Prevention - Someone is there for me focus

12th September Work Experience for pupils attending Whipsnade Zoo

19th September Jeans for Genes Day

23rd September International Day of Sign Language Celebration

5th October World Teachers Day

10th October World Mental Health Day

17th October World Food Day (The Chiltern School Cook Book Launch)

Traineeships for post 16

We are excited to be partnering with SSG to offer traineeships in school from September 2022. This is part of our strategic plan to offer support and training to pupils who may not have the required skills and qualifications to access college or apprenticeships. This term we have interviewed 4 potential candidates who as of September will be working alongside us, supported by a Job Coach. The four successful candidates are:

- Dylan - Digital Media and catering trainee
- Iain - Learning Support Trainee
- Richard - Digital Media and creative arts trainee
- Bailey - Land Based learning maintenance trainee



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Medicines in school

Pupils should not be bringing medicine into school unless by arrangement. Arrangements need to be made at the EHCP review. If your GP or specialist has prescribed something or altered a prescription, parents or carers will need to bring this into school in person and complete a medical form. We are unable to give medicine without this process taking place. All medicines where possible should be given at home. For example, antibiotics 3 times a day could be offered at 7.30am, 3.30pm and 8.30pm.

Domestic Abuse

We are pleased to be included on the [Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Safe Space register](#), this means we will:

- Offer a safe space if you need to access support around Domestic Abuse
- Offer a safe space for you to contact a support service who will help you to safely end an abusive or controlling relationship

To access this service you just need to ask for our help at Reception. You can also ask to speak with Jemma Kirby, who is a Domestic Abuse Responder.

To further support pupils and families impacted by Domestic Abuse, the school will be registered with Operation Encompass, a project that will run jointly between schools, Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police. Operation Encompass is the process for reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced or been exposed to any domestic abuse. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been experienced a domestic abuse incident. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Parent Working Groups

Parent working groups are a way for us to work closely with parents and carers, gaining their perspective, recommendations and support around a variety of areas across the school. We hope some of you will join us to help make a difference, continuing to drive forward our Quality of Education and our partnership working. We will be running working groups made up of staff, parents and carers within the following areas:

Parental Engagement Working Group

RHSE Working Party

If you are interested in supporting us in this way, please email Jemma or Lianna

jkirby@chiltern.beds.sch.uk or ltaylor@chiltern.beds.sch.uk



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Dates for your Diary - **free** events and training for all of our families to access support and information

Dates	Time	Events	Delivered by
14th September	9.30am - 11am	Communication session delivered by Rachel Sawford	Speech and Language Therapists
20th September	9.30am - 1.00pm	Signing Training	Rachel Sawford Speech and Language Therapist
20th September	9.30am- 11am	Understanding Sensory Integration differences and how to help your child manage.	Karen Davies, Sensory Integration Occupational Therapist
4th October	9.30am - 11am	What is a Trauma Informed Approach?	Kati Taunt ARC Therapist
11th October	9.30am - 11am	How we use ARC in schools	Kati Taunt ARC Therapist
19th October	2.00pm - 2.50pm	World Food Day Celebration, The Chiltern School Cook Book launch	TCS Celebration
3rd November	9.30am - 11am	Using social stories at home to support your children	Emily Critchley Outreach Teacher
16th November	9.30am - 11am	Using visual supports (schedules / visual aids) at home to support your child	Emily Critchley Outreach Teacher
5th December	9.30am - 11am	The Curiosity Programme, engaging your child's attention through play	Emily Critchley Outreach Teacher

