

5th April 2019

Chipping Sodbury School Newsletter



Forthcoming Dates

April

23rd Start of Term 5

May

2nd GCSE PE Moderation

10th Ten Tors Dartmoor

22nd South Glos Athletics

June

6th HE/Apprenticeship Info Eve

18th Sport Personality Awards

The Easter holidays not only bring the start of spring, but also the beginning of a period of challenge and opportunity for our older students as they face the summer exams. With this in mind, there have been many exciting and enriching revision opportunities provided across the school. The extra hours spent attending the after school revision classes will pay dividends in the outcomes for students and I am pleased so many of our students have taken advantage of these extra sessions. Staff have played a huge part in making this possible, and my thanks to them for their commitment and diligence in helping our students have the best possible chance of success.

This week a number of students have visited the House of Lords as the guest of Lord Davies who visited the school earlier this year. This amazing opportunity of a lifetime was a fantastic experience for our students and a report will appear in our next newsletter. Two Year 10 students visited the National Student Leadership conference in Coventry as part of our increased focus on student leadership and the newly reformed school senate. The ski trip in Austria was a great success and I am pleased that the New York trip for sixth form students has been confirmed for October.



Over the past few weeks, our Ten Tors Team has been busy preparing for their big expedition and we have a number of students who are participating in their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition in the near future. I wish all students the very best in these exciting and challenging events.

We have worked hard to secure some additional funding to improve the fabric of the school and I am delighted to confirm £350,000 has been promised to fund much needed roof repairs and re-model student toilets. Work on this is expected to take place within a few months and we will keep you updated as the projects move forward.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Easter. Amongst all the hard work for those students preparing for exams, I trust everyone is able to re-charge batteries ready for next term.

Katherine Turner

Headteacher

Schools of Tomorrow, National Student Leadership Conference

The School Senate has recently reconvened and as part of our students' development as leaders, Chipping Sodbury School was offered two places at the National Student Leadership Conference, held in Coventry at the end of March.

Year 10 students Paige Kelly and Jessie Hawkins represented CSS and participated in an engaging and thought provoking day.

The conference welcomed students from schools as far afield as Worcestershire, Peterborough and the Netherlands. Paige and Jessie particularly enjoyed meeting their counterparts and learning about some of the initiatives they had been involved in. It was interesting to note that other School Councils had looked not only at improvements to support learning in their home schools, but also ways to improve students' social experiences.

Two keynote speakers were also on hand to lead small group sessions with a view to developing young people's confidence and skills as leaders.

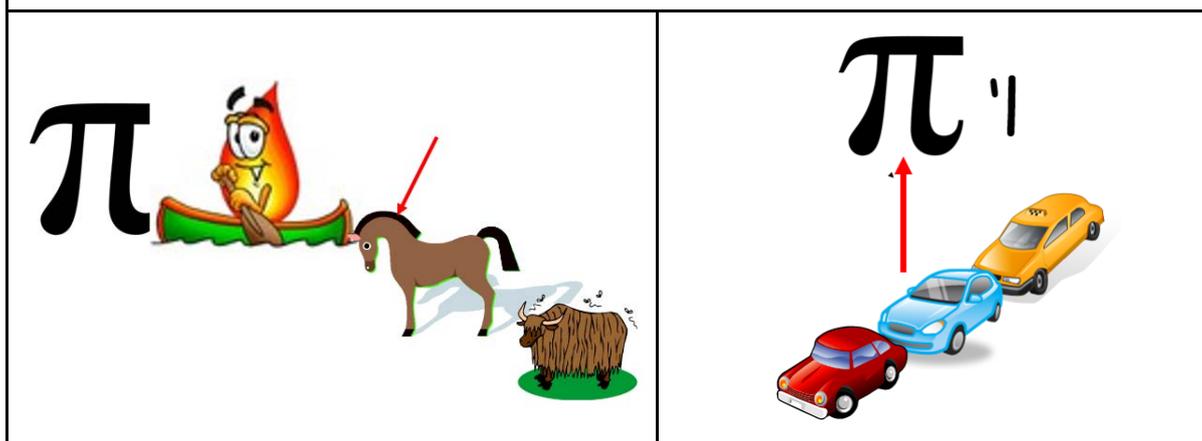


An Easter Mathematical Update

On 14th March, Chipping Sodbury School celebrated "Pi Day" where the date written in American form is 3.14, the same starting digits as pi. During tutor time staff shared facts about pi with their tutor groups including someone who had calculated its value to 10 trillion decimal places. In fact on pi-day itself, it was announced that a Google employee had calculated it to 31.4 trillion decimal places!

Within the department we ran "Pi Pictionary" during maths lessons as well as a Pi-Recall competition at lunchtime. Running away with the first prize was Jeremy Gliddon, TR3, who recalled pi correctly to an astonishing 62 decimal places!

Sample Pi Pictionary Questions:



In the last newsletter we reported that 111 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge which was a fantastic number. Of these, four students scored in the top 10% nationally and hence qualified for the follow-on 'Kangaroo' round. This took place on Thursday 21st March and we wish them the best when they receive their results soon after Easter.

Mr Chapman
Head of Maths Faculty

“The word from the library”

_What an incredible and interesting term we have had, with some engaging and exciting learning and participation in extra-curricular activities. Our Concorde Book Club attended and took part in the award ceremony, all years in the school celebrated World Book Day and our Leopard Gecko, Luna has been helping students with their anxiety and with social and communication skills. A very big well done to everyone for all their efforts and enthusiasm. Our Student Librarians have welcomed to the team Isabelle Harbury and Ashton Bush, having said a huge ‘thank you’ and ‘see you around’ to Diana Font and Daniel Cronin who have stepped down.

World Book Day

On 7th March, our whole school including students, teachers and support staff, celebrated World Book Day. The theme this year was #shareastory and along with our daily paired reading session, students were able to read some new books and share what they thought about them. All the costumes this year were fantastic and students and staff came to the library at lunch to take part in the best dressed competition. Lola Perry in Yr7 and Scarlett Jordan in Yr7 won the student prizes with Miss K Murray and Miss K Newberry winning for the staff. At break, our busy student librarians managed stalls with cakes, sweets and the “Guess the Reading Teacher” photo competition. The amount raised was £27.50 and this will go towards the library.

The 2019 Concorde Book Awards

Following several months of reading and blogging, our Concorde Book Club voted for their favourite book of the six nominated books in the awards shortlisted titles. Our group of students rivalled the current blogging champions, Abbeywood School, but sadly came a runner up for that coveted prize. During the ceremony itself, Ashton Bush and Millie Palmer, interviewed guest speaker Virginia Bergin; a local author of young adult fiction. All students represented the school with boundless energy, pride and responsibility and were incredibly pleased that Paper Butterflies and One of Us is Lying jointly won the 2019 award. All the Concorde Book Award books are available to borrow in the library. We are also looking for new members for the school’s Concorde Book Club which runs every Friday break-time in the library. Everyone welcome!



Box Clever

On 28th March 2019, year 11 On Track and Pupil Premium students, along with their parents or carers, were invited for a “How to Revise” and Boxing session after school. This explored what revision is; how students can revise, what is available in and out of school to support revision and how parents can support and help at home. We hope the session boosted both aspirations for the students and encouragement from their parents/carers. After a short talk and activities in the library, students were invited to take part in a boxing session from Muay Thai trainer, Tony Vallis, who also joined us for a session during mental health week. The take up was extremely popular; we looked for an opportunity to invite him in again.

A reminder of our clubs that run in the library:

Homework Club - Monday to Friday 3.15pm-4.30pm.

Art Club – Tuesday Lunchtimes

Board Games Club – Wednesday Lunchtimes

Concorde Book Club – Friday Lunchtimes

Mrs Vallis – HLTA

Parents' Information Page

IT'S TOUGH OUT THERE FOR OUR TEENS: A glimpse into their world!

Teenagers face real concerns, between 13 and 19 years of age, on a daily basis as this is the most awkward growth stage of their lives. During this time, teens are exposed to some overwhelming external and internal struggles. They go through, and are expected to cope with hormonal changes, puberty, social and parental forces, work and school pressures, and so on. Many teens feel misunderstood. It is vital that their feelings and thoughts are validated and that the validation comes from their parents.

The common teenage problems that teenagers face today are usually related to:

Self-Esteem and Body Image

Stress

Bullying

Depression

Online and Social Media Addiction

Drinking and Smoking

Teen Pregnancy

Underage Sex

Defiant Behaviours

Peer-Pressure and Competition

Not surprisingly, all of these common teenage problems are connected to one another, in some way.

No matter how hard it might be, try to start all interactions with your child with understanding, even if you don't fully agree or even quite comprehend what they're talking about. Example, they're not doing their homework, they are on the phone constantly. You worry, lack of homework means detention, your child is trying to sort out an argument today with their best friend, who worries, rationally or not, if they don't make up, everyone within that friendship group is against them and they will be alone tomorrow. Two very different worlds. Try to put yourself in their shoes, empathise, but find a solution, support with their friendship worries and then with homework, if you talk, they will listen!

Try to take the emotional you out of the equation, difficult, but helpful. Your child does not want to upset you or make you sad, they find making the right decision difficult, our role as parents is to guide them into making better choices, they are problems to be solved and part of 'parenting as usual'.

Ask curious questions of your child, not loaded questions, don't ask 'why are you always anxious?' try 'how do you think we can help you to be less anxious'.

Don't do anything until you are both CALM! Take time, when you are both calm and less upset, talk through what has happened, try not to judge or look for immediate answers. Communicate with your teenager, try to remember that world, how you felt, how you wanted your parents to respond.

The above is by no means exhaustive, this link will support with understanding and communicating with our teenagers:

<http://www.empoweringparents.com/five-secrets-for-communicating-with-teenagers.php#ixzz3GO5VKGnu>

REMEMBER, there is no rule book for them or us, learn together and support each other.

A follow up story on how Lily Greenslade got on in Switzerland:



Lily came on as sub for the last 15 mins of the first game on Wednesday evening.

She started the match on Friday and was so happy as she got to sing the National Anthem. She played striker and had about four shots on target but they were all saved and one shot hit the crossbar!

Although both matches were lost, England did not let themselves down, they played well and this was the first time the England girls had played as a team. The Swiss girls were a year older - Under 16s so they've obviously been

playing together as a team longer.

Lily has made lots of new friends who she's stayed in contact with every day since she's been home, from Manchester United, Southampton and from Switzerland!

Year 7 Accelerated Reader



Congratulations to the following students who have achieved the highest word counts so far:

Oliver Pitts – our only Word Millionaire... so far...

Caitlin Hale, Shaia Hooper, Scarlett Jordan, Yan Li and Poppy Trudgian – these students have read over 500,000 words, with a couple of them only a book's worth away from becoming Word Millionaires.

Students and parents will be familiar with the aerial photo of the school that features on our website. Until recently, the identity of the photographer hadn't been confirmed. The photo was taken in 2013 by then student, Alfie Dando. We are pleased to be able to recognise him for this excellent picture. He told us about the flight –



“The photo was taken when I was in a little four seater light aircraft flown by one of my dad's workmates. Me, my dad and his colleague took off from Kemble airfield on a 40 minute flight that flew from Kemble down to the Severn Bridge and to Chipping Sodbury and the surrounding areas. I captured a range of photos that included the image of Chipping Sodbury School, the high street and my house in Old Sodbury. It was an incredible experience to capture the school and Chipping Sodbury from such a view, which not many people could have the opportunity to see. It was challenging shooting from a tiny plane widow, however I was lucky enough to have decent weather conditions and the pilot willing to do a couple of laps to capture a good photo.”

Exam Invigilators needed

Chipping Sodbury School is seeking additional Examination invigilators to join our team to help with the busy exams period.

About the role:

You will be employed on an as-and-when basis to supervise students taking both internal and external examinations as necessary throughout the school year. The hours are variable depending upon the exam timetable. The majority of the hours are in May and June during the main exam season so you need to be able to commit to being available during this period and definitely between 9th May and 26th June inclusive. There will be further opportunities at other times of the year.

Successful candidates will work as part of a pool of invigilators and should possess good interpersonal skills with an ability to deal with matters calmly, swiftly and firmly without being confrontational and will need to be reliable, punctual and flexible.

You must be able to work flexible daytime hours as exams can be held throughout the school day. We are also looking for individuals that can work alongside our SEN students to help with their additional needs.

About you:

If you are passionate about students' development and enthusiastic to take on a new challenge, then you are the type of candidate we would like to speak to. Additionally, you must meet the following criteria:

- be eligible to work in the UK
- be familiar with the UK curriculum
- possess two valid references

We are dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



On Friday 18th January, the English department took 28 Year 10 students on a trip to Stratford Upon Avon. This trip began with a walk to visit Shakespeare's house. After Year 10 had finished viewing his home (and the gift shop!) we moved on to an exciting drama workshop provided by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Through this workshop, our students explored and revised the characters, themes and plot of Macbeth. Year 10 got fully involved in this and showed a fantastic understanding of the play and its contexts. Finally we arrived at the theatre to watch a production of 'A Christmas Carol'. This was narrated by Dickens' character and gave a great insight into the contexts of the play. Year 10 had fantastic energy throughout this trip and thoroughly enjoyed it!

Sixth Form News

We are now in exam preparation time for Year 13. The students have been issued with their exam timetables and the first exam is on Wednesday 20th May. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the students good luck with their exams. Year 12 are also preparing for their mock exams which will take place during 13th May – 24th May. The mocks are an important benchmark for Year 12 students and it is important that they are approached in a conscientious manner. We will be holding a mock retake week in June for those students who have underperformed in their mocks.

It has been a busy few weeks again in the Sixth Form during our Wednesday morning programme. Year 12 have been starting to explore their choices about their next steps after A Levels. UWE led two workshops on 'Why go to University' and 'Choosing the Right Courses'. We have also been to the UCAS exhibition where the students were able to talk to a wealth of universities about their courses alongside apprenticeships. During term six, Year 12 will start the process of applying for university and considering their options. To support parents through this process we will be holding a Higher Education and Apprenticeship evening on Thursday 6th June 6pm – 7.15pm. More details will be sent to you.

Year 13 have started to make their firm and insurance choices for university; these need to be finalised by 1st May. Congratulations to all students who have made their decisions; applications for student finance also need to be completed by 7th June and more information can be found at www.gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan.

To help those students looking for apprenticeships, Babington Training Provider & Management Training Plus have talked to the students and given them advice on how to apply. Babington also gave the students personalised feedback on the areas which the students indicated they were looking for apprenticeships in. Other good websites to look for apprenticeships are www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship, www.notgoingtouni.co.uk and www.indeed.co.uk.

I am delighted for the students who are attending the New York trip in October. They all applied for grants from the Town Lands Charity and have been awarded a payment to help towards the cost of their trip. We really appreciate the support from the Town Lands Charity and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their very generous contribution.

Over the next few weeks, the sixth form 10 Tors team will be continuing their preparation for their 45 mile walk across Dartmoor. It has been a pleasure to walk on some of their training walks with them and good luck for the event in May.

Finally Access to Bristol students have their graduation ceremony on Wednesday 24th April. I look forward to seeing them at this event.

Gill Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form

More Sixth Form News

After a period of mock exams and coursework deadlines our sixth form students are busy starting to look ahead to their summer exams. It can be useful to make a revision plan and start early. Try to fit in a minimum of 15 hours per week of revision over the next few weeks; it really will make a huge difference to your success.

Our Year 12 students have been getting started on the research section of their EPQ projects. We have some really interesting research projects taking place as well as some work experience based projects. The EPQ is excellent preparation for those wanting to go to university, as well as developing independent research and project management skills, they also give a presentation which is confidence building. Cont.d...

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As well as completing an EPQ we encourage our students to get involved with as many life experiences as possible to enhance their CV's and UCAS applications. Make sure your son/daughter is checking their school emails regularly for opportunities that might be of interest to them.

Computer Science

Congratulations to Joel and Jamal in Year 10 for completing their Bronze Duke of York Digital Enterprise award. They have both received a certificate from Buckingham Palace and are now working on their silver award. Any student can complete the award by logging on to the idea.org.uk website. Please see Ms Jarvis for more information.

DofE

The current cohort of bronze DofE students have spent a day in the company of H5 Adventure Ltd preparing for their expedition. They have planned their expedition, put up tents, boiled water on the stoves and carried out some first aid training. They are all independently working on their physical, skills and volunteering sections, with a practice expedition in May, before their actual expedition at the end of June.

Ten Tors

Training for the Ten Tors challenge in May is well underway with walks in the local area, on the Mendips, in the Brecon Beacons and on Dartmoor. We have all got very wet, been beaten by Storm Freya and nearly had our tents blown away whilst wild camping on Dartmoor. Hopefully the weather will be better for our weekend training on Dartmoor, when we're expecting both the 35 and 45 mile teams to demonstrate all the navigation and team work skills that they have been developing.

