

2023/2024 – Newsletter 21

Dear Parents/Carers

This will be the final newsletter of what has been a fantastic first year of our new school. I would like to express my gratitude to all students, parents/carers and the wider school community for the support and generosity in making our first year a success. We have had countless successes and highlights across the last year, including the recent Bushcraft Residential and an array of extra-curricular activities. Alongside this, I would like to congratulate our founding cohort of students for how well they have settled into secondary school, their hard work throughout the year and for how well they have embraced the opportunities available to them.

As you will be aware, we will have several new colleagues joining us in September. An additional two 'Staff Spotlights' can be found at the end of this newsletter. Our new colleagues will get to know students and families as quickly as possible in September.

Last Day of Term

Please be reminded that **school will close at midday on the last day of the academic year, Friday 19th July**. Students will be released from school at midday. KCC taxi services have been informed and the school taxi service will provide the service home at midday.

Buildings Update

The renovation of the upstairs is nearing completion. We will be adding five new classroom spaces and an additional Art/DT room. The staff team have also visited the final site this week. Rapid progress continues to be made, both internally and externally with the sports areas and classrooms beginning to take shape.



Bushcraft Residential – Photos

A huge well done to all of our students who attended the Bushcraft Residential last week. Photos of the event can be found at the below link.

[Bushcraft Residential Trip - Year 7 July 2024](#)

Parent/Carer Welcome Event – New Year 7 – Wednesday 11th September

On Wednesday 11th September between 3.45 and 4.15, we will be hosting a Parent/Carer Welcome Event for new Year 7 parents/carers. This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to hear more about life in secondary school, our curriculum, how we report on academic progress and to answer any questions following your child's first week in school.

End of Year Rewards and House Championship Results

We proudly rewarded many students for their academic, wider curricular, attendance and pastoral achievements over the past term. We also gave out our final Gold Badges to students who achieved over 200 school value points and awarded two students and teachers with United Learning special recognition awards.

Our House Championship goes to our Blue House this year with a final total of 4,903 points.

Ski Trip Easter 2026

We are delighted to share we have planned our Easter 2026 Ski Trip to Austria which will be available to students in Year 7 and 8. We are collating a list of interest to hand out letters in September. This trip will be limited to 40 places and will require a deposit to secure a place and then regular instalments split over 12 months. To express your interest, please email info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk with your child's full name. This residential is 9 days and fully inclusive of food, activities, ski and lift pass hire, accommodation, travel and insurance.

Preparation for September – Key Points

- **PE Kit and Changing** – There will be no PE lessons until Monday 9th September. On days students have PE lessons they will wear their full Chilmington Green School PE kit to and from school, and remain in PE kit throughout the school day. On days students have extra-curricular (Tuesdays and Thursdays) they will need to bring in their PE kit and change during their lunch break. Should the weather forecast be wet, please pack your child's full school uniform for them to change into after PE should they get too wet. All students will need trainers, white socks, football boots, shin pads and navy football socks for all PE lessons between September-December.
- **Homework** – There will be no changes to our homework setting for September. For new Year 8 students, homework will commence from Monday 9th September. For parents and carers who are new to the school, full information can be found in our Parent/Carer Handbook, available on our [Transition Page](#).
- **Timetable** – Similar to many secondary schools, we operate a two-week timetable. Our first week (starting Wednesday 4th September) will be a Week A.
- **Extra-curricular Activities** - A form will be shared with you in September to select your child's extra-curricular preferences.
- **School Day Timings** – The school day has been slightly changed for the upcoming academic year. For full timings, please refer to [Newsletter 17](#).
- **Lunches** – If your child receives free school meals, these will be provided with lunch from the first day of term. Should you wish for your child to have a cooked school meal and you do not receive free school meals, please let us know at info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk. The current main meal and pudding offer is £2.40, however there will likely be an inflationary increase in September. Exact costs will be confirmed in September.

Autism Educational Trust – Online Questionnaire

A message from KCC below:

Kent County Council (KCC) are committed to improving support for autistic pupils in the county so that they can better access mainstream schools and get the support that they require. We are working with educational establishments in a number of ways within this aim, and one of our key offers is the Autistic Educational Trust training and support offer which your child's educational establishment has accessed. We would like to ask you as a parent/carer of an autistic child pupil (including young people on the Autism Diagnosis waiting list and those that identify as autistic but are not pursuing diagnosis), whether you would assist us by completing the attached online questionnaire, developed by the national Autism Education Trust. The aim of the questionnaire is to assess what level of impact the AET training and support is having on autistic children's educational experience in Kent. Please see the link below, to the online questionnaire.

Link: [Survey](#)

Learning Over Summer – Reading Challenge

We have had a fabulous year reading a wide range of books with Year 7. Many students particularly enjoyed 'A Girl of Ink and Stars' in Term 1! We would love to continue this enthusiasm for reading into the summer holidays. This summer, we are asking our new Year 8 students to read Kenneth Grahame's classic novel: 'The Wind in the Willows'. Join Mole, Rat, Toad, Badger and many others as they navigate new weather challenges, going out of your comfort zone and enjoying adventures.

For all students who have read 'The Wind in the Willows' will be awarded 5 value points on their return to school. Furthermore, please encourage your child to engage with either Sparx Reader throughout the summer.

The Wind in the Willows is free to read online as it is now in the public domain, or you can borrow it from the local library if you do not want to purchase your own copy. Additionally, it is freely accessible as an audio book on Spotify.

Both Sparx Reader and Ashford Library have reading challenges that you can be involved with over the summer if you wish. Please see more information on our website. We look forward to hearing all about your child's reading adventures when we see them again in September!

Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday 19 th July	End of Term. School to close at midday for all students.
Wednesday 4 th September	Start of Term – Year 7 Only
Thursday 5 th September	Start of Term – Year 7 and 8
Wednesday 11 th September	Parent/Carer Welcome Event
Tuesday 17 th September	Extra-Curricular Clubs Commence

I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable summer break and I look forward to welcoming all students back to school in September.

Kind regards

Jon Rutland
Principal

Introducing the Chilmington Green School Community:

Below Ms Wigg, Head of Year 8 outlines her experiences to date and her aims for her upcoming role at Chilmington Green School.

I grew up and have lived in Ashford for all of my life, attending Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre in Tenterden for Years 7 – 13 and then studied at the University of Kent in Canterbury. Following this, I started my teaching career in 2015 at Brockhill Park College in Hythe. Here I taught maths and collaborated on many extracurricular activities, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award, annual School Ski Trip, and residential trips to Wales. September 2020 brought my next challenge of teaching at Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone – a girls’ grammar school – before joining the School of Science and Technology, Maidstone – a mixed comprehensive that only opened to Year 7 students in September 2020, similar to Chilmington Green School. But my most exciting challenge to come is being Head of Year 8 and Teacher of Maths at Chilmington Green School from September 2024.



In my own time, I am a keen cyclist, completing many sponsored cycle rides across Kent and am also an avid equestrian, having two horses of my own. With the summer holidays approaching, I plan on competing Mowgli in some dressage classes.

My Commitment to Pastoral Care

Having been a form tutor throughout my teaching career, I understand the importance in high-quality pastoral care, to ensure that students feel safe, happy and well supported for their time in school. With this experience, I feel confident in my new role of Head of Year to support students, parents and form tutors of our Year 8 students. Knowing that there is already an experienced pastoral support team at Chilmington Green School, I feel confident that we can continue to maintain the nurturing and caring ethos already established with the founding cohort and I look forward to getting to know each student individually and, with support, can continue to offer and provide the tailored support that each student has become familiar with.

Below Ms Jeffs, Assistant Principal outlines her experiences to date and her aims for her upcoming role at Chilmington Green School.

I have spent my entire career working in schools around Kent. I completed my teacher training in Art and Art textiles at Ebbsfleet academy. Since joining my current school in 2013, I have been a Pastoral Leader for year 11, encouraging pupils to achieve their best; Lead teacher of Alternative Provision, and most recently as a Teaching and Learning leader, supporting staff to develop their practice and delivering whole school CPD to support pupils across the school. I am looking forward to the new opportunity of being Assistant Principal in September.



My Ambitions for Chilmington Green School.

Having lived in the area all my life, I deeply appreciate the importance of providing all pupils with a diverse and enriching curriculum. We will offer opportunities for every student to succeed in a variety of endeavours, allowing them to discover and nurture their unique talents. By fostering an environment that emphasizes both academic excellence and personal growth, we can create well-rounded citizens who excel in their pursuits and also find joy and fulfillment in their endeavours.

Our Extracurricular Activities.

As an art specialist I am excited to ensure that pupils access a wide range of creative arts trips and experiences both inside and outside school. Visiting art galleries and local art projects opens up pupil experience and appreciation of the value of creative industries in everyday life.