

Dear Parents/Carers

The final few weeks of term have been filled with the festive spirit and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. The Year 7 cohort have enjoyed the annual theatre trip visit to the Leas Cliff Hall. Alongside this, many families have joined us for what was a fantastic Christmas show and we had the annual singing competition for both year groups. We have also welcomed back Peter Heritage, Centre Manager for the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, to talk to Year 7 about the range of careers and opportunities available in the retail sector and Natalie Cresswell, from Money Matters, has also visited to speak to Year 8 about the importance of managing money and preparing for financial independence.

Thank you to all families who contributed to yesterday's cake sale. Year 7 Red, who organised the event, raised £155.70 for Demelza. We are also donating £227.50 to Save the Children from funds raised on Christmas Jumper Day last week.

With so many of the events that were offered last year being offered again for our new Year 7 cohort, it really does feel that the school is establishing its culture and these traditions that will continue as we move to our final site and beyond. I am exceptionally proud of how all students have settled throughout the academic year and would like to say an enormous well done for what has been a great two terms so far this year.



Homework

Homework for this current week (w/b 16th December) will be due in on Tuesday 7th January. Homework will be set again on Tuesday 7th January. A reminder that Sparx Reader homework will be changed from 30 to 60 minutes per week from Term 3 onwards for Years 7 and 8. We will share our homework planner for non-compulsory subjects at the start of the new term.

Smartphones

I would urge all parents/carers to not allow your child have a smartphone/console or other device in their room overnight and to monitor the use of such devices carefully. In all the schools I have worked at since smartphones have come into common use, the level of risk that some students have put themselves in is of great concern. This is through getting into safeguarding difficulties with strangers online or oversharing with peers. Furthermore, there is the tendency for group chats and other online interactions to be offensive and inappropriate. As a result of all this, time and again we have had to urge students to leave chats/apps and ask that parents monitor what they are doing on their phones. Your child may potentially have greater access to their phone during Christmas holidays when they are away from school. I would therefore ask all families to reiterate the messages that have been delivered in school around online safety and monitor closely the use of online devices.

I would also like to remind families and students that phones are not permitted throughout the school day and must be put away and switched off during the school day. Should your child need to contact home, they are able to speak to the pastoral or reception teams. This is so that students can access the support or help they need promptly.

Chair of Governors

The school's founding Chair of Governors, Mr Mike Hall, has decided to step down from the role. Mike's decision comes as a result of relocation to Northern England to take on a position in another school. Mike's experience and expertise during our pre-opening phase and throughout our first academic year has been invaluable and we wish him well in his new role.

We have been fortunate to secure the support and guidance of Ms Nicola Timms who will be Chair of Governors from the start of the January term. Nicola has been part of the school's governing body since our opening and has extensive experience across many areas of education and within United Learning schools.

Clubs Reminder

Clubs will commence on Tuesday, 14th January. Please note that there will be no clubs during the first week back in January, except for our Swimming Club, which will start on 7th January.

Clubs will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The start and finish time of your child's club(s) has been communicated with you separately. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to arrange collection from activities and students will not be supervised once dismissed.

Attendance

Attendance at Chilmington Green School continues to be excellent, with over 80% of students achieving 95% attendance or more. Thank you to all families for your support in ensuring your child's attendance to school remains high.

E-Scooter leaflet

You will find attached an information leaflet regarding the legalities around e-scooters. Please be reminded students are not permitted to use these to travel to school.

PE Lessons and Equipment for Term 3-4

Our students will be moving onto new sports over term 3-4. In their single lessons, students will require white socks and trainers for fitness and frisbee. For their double lessons they will be participating in basketball and rugby. For rugby we require all students to wear health and safety equipment including a gum shield, football boots, shin pads and navy football socks. Gum shields are available in most sports shops, Amazon and high street stores such as Sports Direct. We would encourage students to layer up and bring black/navy gloves and hats to all double lessons outside. Can we please remind parents / carers a refillable drinks bottle is required for all PE lessons. If you have any questions, please contact Harry.Moore@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk

Mid-Year Assessments

A reminder that our mid-year assessments will be taking place between 13th-24th January. Students will sit written exams in Maths, English, Science, History, Geography and RS. We will share the reports with you on 6th February (Year 7) and 13th February (Year 8). We will offer a 'Parent/Carer drop-in session' on Monday 10th February to enable you to better understand your child's report. Year 7 will be at 3:45pm and year 8 will be at 4:15pm.

You will find our revision resources at the following link:

<https://chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk/information/how-to-support-my-childs-progress/>

Uniform and Equipment Reminders

Thank you to all families for your support in ensuring that students come to school fully equipped and in full school uniform. A reminder of expectations can be found [here](#).

Nut-Free School Reminder

Please be reminded that our school is nut-free. Recently, we have noticed an increase in pastries with nut toppings and sandwiches with spreads like Nutella. Thank you for helping us protect the health and safety of our community by avoiding nut-based products.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday 20 th December	End of Term. Students finish at 12.15pm.
Tuesday 7 th January	Start of Term 3
Monday 13 th – 17 th January	Year 7 Assessments Week
Tuesday 14 th January	Extra-Curricular Clubs Begin
Monday 20 th – 24 th January	Year 8 Assessments Week
Thursday 6 th February	Year 7 Reports Released
Monday 10 th February	Parent/Carer drop-in session – Understanding Your Child’s Report Year 7 – 15.45 Year 8 – 16:15
Thursday 13 th February	Year 8 Reports Released
Friday 14 th February	End of Term 3

I would like to wish the whole school community a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming back students on Tuesday 7th January.

Kind regards

Jon Rutland
Principal