

Parent Newsletter - 3 December 2021



Chosen Hill School

Learning Tip

Reward Effort not Results

Psychologist Carol Dweck found that the key to instilling a growth mindset in children is by teaching them that their brains are like muscles that can be strengthened through hard work and persistence.

When you reward this hard work, more hard work will follow, but when you only reward an achievement, the hard work often stops when the task is done, or when the task is too hard. Finally, rewarding effort invites your child to adopt a sense of purpose, and to see their work as something other than a means to an end.

Thank you for your support this week in reminding students of the importance of wearing face coverings and look out for each other. We are really impressed with the care students are showing and adherence in and around school, though it is important that we don't get complacent and keep vigilant with regular LFD testing in the run up to Christmas.

Sixth Form Open Evening Last Night

The Sixth Form Open evening took place last night – thank you to all the staff and students that represented the school so brilliantly. Further information including, presentations and subject information are available on the [website](#).

Covid measures and arrangements

Thank you to students for cooperating with the face covering rules this week as they came into effect on Tuesday ensuring that coverings have been brought in and worn around the school site at all times.

not send students to school if they are unwell, especially if they have Covid symptoms. This is particularly important as we approach the end of term, so that we can all have a happy and safe festive holiday season. Additional tests can be picked up if required from the Student Finance office.

Some timely reminders were sent to us this week from the DfE, which the school continues to follow:

1. We continue good infection control by ventilating rooms and regular cleaning;
2. We provide information regarding the vaccination as the best protection for all eligible staff and students;
3. We continue to remind students and parents regarding the importance of testing and regular reminders not to attend school if students or staff are unwell;
4. Face coverings are worn in communal areas such as corridors when movement occurs between lessons;
5. Reduced mixing between groups of students as much as possible.

Please could we remind you that all students should carry out a lateral flow tests twice a week on Sunday and Wednesday. Please do

Christmas Arrangements

School will finish at 12:45pm on Friday 17th December. The buses will leave at 1:00pm.

There will be planned activities during the last week of term, including a virtual carol service and celebration events for each year group. Of course, all activities will be within safe Covid measures. In order to help keep everyone as safe as we can please can all students test on Sunday and Wednesday for the next two weeks and stay home from school if they are feeling unwell.

Come as you like – Friday 17th December

Come as you like is happening on the last day of term!! Students can wear what they like and themes are encouraged. Contribution via School Gateway is now live.

Returning to school on 4th January

As per government guidance this week, there will be arrangements for testing to return to school in January. We will give you further details shortly. In the meantime, we would be grateful if all students could do a lateral flow test on Monday 3rd January before returning to school.

Miss Abi James

Miss James' funeral took place on Tuesday and I know most of our thoughts were with family and friends. A memory book was given to the family of Miss James where staff and students remembered her in their own way.

Front of school makeover

Over the last week the old greenhouse at the front of school has been removed. Turf has been put down in the first instance, but in the new year we are looking to plant a celebration garden in memory of Miss James.

School Uniform

As we near the end of term, it is a good time to check school uniform is ready for January. We would like to remind you of school expectations for uniform and this can be viewed on our website - <https://www.chosenhillschool.co.uk/uniform2/84.html>

Uniform Consultation

Updated statutory guidance from the government was published last week regarding the cost of school uniforms. We would like to have a consultation about uniform, particularly around the affordability and value

for money. If you are interested in being part of the consultation in January, please email Gemma McCreath at gm@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.

GCSE, BTEC and A-Level Certificates

GCSE, BTEC and A-Level Certificates will be ready to collect from the school's Reception from Monday 6th December onwards 8.30-4. If students are unable to collect certificates in person, please can they email the name of the person who will be collecting them instead to the Exams Officer ec@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.

Year 11 Mocks' Results Day

There will be a Mock Results' Day for Year 11 on Tuesday 14th December. We will give out their mock grades in an envelope on that day.

Year 11 Mock Interviews

Year 11 will have mock interviews with local employers to provide them with experience of interviews in preparation for their applications to post 16 providers. Year 11 students are encouraged to wear interview clothing instead of their school uniform (jeans and leggings are not allowed). A timetable of



time slots will be emailed to students. Hill students will have their interview on Tuesday 7th December and Chosen students on Wednesday 8th December.

PE News

Great games from our rugby and table tennis teams who were in action this week.



On Thursday, our U13 rugby team had a good evening. Some fantastic play in both attack and defence.

It was great to host a fantastic table tennis tournament at Chosen Hill with Crypt, Severn Vale and Dene Magna. Well played to all our boys.



Earlier in the week the U14 rugby team played some top rugby against Tewkesbury with some great tries scored.



The U12 rugby team were also in action against Tewkesbury. They are improving every game! Some great play and lovely tries.



Next week's sports fixtures

Monday 6th December

U12 Rugby v Five Acres (h)

U13 Rugby v Five Acres (h)

U14 Basketball v ASA

Tuesday 7th December

U12 Futsal @ Tewkesbury

U13 Rugby v Churchdown (a)

U16 Basketball v Pates (a)

December Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers

During the December holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to the Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through COVID-19 grant funding they have received and is separate to that of the term time free school meals.

Parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a voucher for £30 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover both weeks in the December holidays.

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they have already been included, but, to ensure they get all who are eligible, they are encouraging new parents to sign up as soon as they can.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for the December holiday period is open from Friday 26 November until midday Monday 13 December. Voucher emails will

be sent out between 13 and 15 December. If parents apply after the deadline, they cannot guarantee delivery of vouchers before 25 December.

For more information and for sign up if you haven't already please visit the GCC website: the [Holiday Free School Meal vouchers](#) page.

Please contact childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you have any queries not answered on the Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page.

Flu vaccinations - January

An email has been sent out today regarding flu vaccinations in January with a paper copy being sent home with students. Please complete and return the consent forms by 17th December at the latest.

The immunisation nurses will be in from 5th January to the 11th January giving out nasal flu vaccines.

Christmas Charity Collection

We are pleased to be supporting Cheltenham Open Door with their Christmas food and gifts collections. Many thanks for all those who have sent in donations already.

If you are able to, please donate whatever gift, toiletry or food item you can from the list (see attached). We still have until the 9th of December to collect donations. These can come to school and be kept in Learning Mentor bases, Learning Leader offices, or given to the English Department to pass on to Mrs Caddy who is organising the collection.

Many thanks in advance for your support in helping the charity with their quest to make Christmas a better time for those who are lonely and vulnerable.