



Chosen Hill School

Carol Service

Due to COVID restrictions, students will watch this year's carol service via a YouTube link. A massive thank you to staff and students that helped to put the video together this week:

Sixth Form: Benjamin Hawkins, Nikita Priday, Libby Newman, Jay Bruckshaw, Isaac Emberson-Heeks, Will Ashdown, Maisie Rackham-Wood, Katie Finch, Will Illesley, Eve Westphal

Yr11: Emily Spuffard, Lily Hall, Maddie Phillips, Gabrielle Illesley

Yr10: Sam Newman, Emerald Nkiwane

Yr9: Josh Pickering, Akira Street

Yr8: Harry Bhowal, Rosie Guy

Yr7: Ethan Cox, Isobel Wong

Reminder that we will be finishing school next Friday (17th December) at 12:45pm with buses leaving at 1:00pm

Parent Bulletin - Friday 10 December 2021

Thank you for your continued support – once again we have had to curtail or change a number of events and activities in response to the evolving situation with the latest covid variant. A reluctant scrooge, I have had to make some difficult decisions that have involved the postponement of some activities in the last week of term and restrict some of our end of term celebrations. This is particularly difficult at this time of year with school often being the epicentre of excitement in the run up to the Christmas holiday. I hope you understand the need to ensure that we are not taking undue risks to keep our community safe. We have, however, been blessed with some incredible staff and students that have been working hard to prepare a virtual carol service and ways to connect our school community over the next week.

This week's bulletin includes some information regarding the planned closure of Brookfield Road (beyond the Rugby Club) which will present a challenge for all of us in the New Year. Thank you in advance for the patience and the flexibility that will be needed by all to minimise the inevitable disruption from January. There is also a reminder to continue to LFD test over the holiday and in particular on Monday 3rd January before returning to school.

Brookfield Road closure update

In the absence of any information/detail and the imminent start day for the M5 bridge repair work we organised a meeting with local councillors, transport providers and partner organisations to try and identify how to best minimise the inevitable disruption that this will cause. Whilst we have some specific ideas, the very tight timescale to the start of the work and the Christmas holiday make it highly likely that these will not be ready for the 4th January.

This effectively makes an enormous cul-de-sac between the rugby club and Albemarle Road.

The implications for this are significant as you can imagine. We would like to ask your help to alleviate some of the traffic issues we expect to:-

- Avoid dropping off students closer than Albemarle Road if at all possible (so they don't have to turn around)
- Do not wait on Brookfield Road - this narrows the carriageway and restricts traffic flow which needs to be kept clear for access for emergency vehicles
- Do not use the school entrances as a turning area – safety hazard with additional students leaving on foot
- Please try to allow for additional travel time - there will be delays with additional traffic and reduced flow
- Please be patient – this work is scheduled for a year, whilst we are hoping to get some additional help to improve the situation we have been given very little information/support and no time to implement measures/markings, etc



Buses

- All existing buses will continue to use the playground as the drop off (morning) and pick up (after school). In addition to this there will be another Stage coach 97 bus to accommodate the Gloucester (direction) students that normally wait outside school (opposite the staff car park)
- In order to accommodate this extra bus we will need to keep the parking area between the ramp and top gate clear (i.e. no staff parking in this area from January) – we will retain the existing disabled parking bays.
- The stagecoach 97 (Cheltenham direction) will only stop on the corner of Station Road and Albermarle Road, meaning students will need to walk from there - this applies to the start and end of the day.

Here is a link to [Stagecoach updated timetable](#) from 4th January 2022.

As we get more details/information I will keep you updated....the unfortunate truth is that it will take longer to get in to school in the first instance.

Covid Testing in January

As you may know we have been asked again by the Government to test all students for COVID on their return to school in January. This is one test only and we will ask students to test themselves using the home test kits that they have been using, but in school.

To help us have a swift and safe return to school we are planning to test all pupils on the first day back on the 4th January. We are not planning on staggering return times as we are aware of the issues this causes for buses and parents dropping off at different times. However, in order for us to do this as safely as we can we are asking all students (unless they have an exemption) to wear a mask until they have received their test in school. This will be in classes and corridors. As soon as they have had their test then they can return to wearing their mask in corridors only.

We would also ask that all pupils take a lateral flow test either Monday night (3rd January) or Tuesday morning (4th January) before they return to school. We will be issuing more tests before we break up for the holiday, so please make sure your child picks up a pack before they leave to ensure they have one to test before they return to school. This is in order for us to return quickly and keep each other safe.

People will obviously be mixing over the Christmas period, so it is more important than ever that students test before they return to school and mix with their peers.

Please do not send your child to school if they have COVID symptoms or have a positive lateral flow test.

We will use consent given from previous tests, so if you have not previously given consent, and you would like to, then please use the [link](#) here. Privacy

notices are on the school website in the COVID 19 tab and testing information.

Throughout the day on the 4th January, students will be called in year groups to the hall to carry out their tests and any positive cases will be notified to parents so they can be collected and test and trace. Any student who has a positive lateral flow test should take a PCR test as soon as possible and stay at home and isolate until they get the PCR result. Other family members do not need to isolate unless told to do so by track and trace.

If you have any questions, please email office@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk

Christmas arrangement reminders

Friday 17th December

School will finish at 12:45pm and the buses will leave at 1:00pm.

Come as you like day

A reminder that students can wear what they like on Friday (themes are encouraged). Contributions can be made via the School Gateway.

Free School Meals

Please note that pupils entitled to free school meals should collect their food at break time instead of lunchtime on the 17th December due to the early finish.

Lost Property reminder

If students have lost any property this term, please could they check the lost property in the Re-prographics room before Friday 17th December. We would like to clear as much as possible before the end of term.

Flu vaccinations - January

A reminder to send back any consent forms for flu vaccinations by Friday 17th December for the immunisations on 5th January.

Year 11

Mock Results Arrangements

Year 11s will be receiving their mock results on Tuesday 14th December. They will get them during registration in the Sports Hall.

Year 11 Mock Interviews

On Tuesday 7th December and Wednesday 8th December, year 11 students were given the opportunity to be interviewed. From feedback received the interviewers were really impressed with the calibre of our students. Some of the remarks made were that they were very polite, and it was very welcoming to speak to young people who have a career goal and ambition to achieve great things.

We would like to thank the following staff and organisations for assisting with this vital experience for our year 11.

Tuesday 7th December - UCAS, Gloucester Rugby,

Chris Auker Howlett, Hugh Roberts, Police, Gfirst, Chosen Hill and Alison Williams
Wednesday 8th December - UCAS, Chris Auker Howlett, Cirencester College, Gloucestershire College, Kohler Mira, GFirst, Warren Brewster, Renishaw, Hartpury college, Hugh Roberts, Gareth Ludlow Gloucester Rugby, Chosen Hill, Natasha Azevedo and Chris Jenns.

Year 11 Parents Evening

The Year 11 parents evening will take place on 6th January online. Parents will be sent an email shortly to let them know when bookings are live to enable them to book time slots with teachers.

P.A.T.C.H (Parents and Teachers of Chosen Hill)

The AGM was held on the 1st December at the Old Elm Inn and it was a fun night planning the next events, which were made more challenging by the current pandemic. We managed to get a couple of ideas up and running, one of which was a car boot sale in the New Year. Before we start organising it, we would love to know how many people would be interested in booking a car slot and/or attending? Please could you send an e-mail to p.a.t.c.h@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk if you are interested.

We are aware that with parent consultation evenings now online, we are not meeting so many parents in person to tell you about our friendly and fantastic PTA. Becoming part of the PTA is a great way to get to know other parents and teachers while gaining an insight into the workings of the

school. With parents and teachers striving towards the same goals, the parent group is instrumental in making a real difference in the school life of all students. If you would like to become involved, even in a small way, please feel free to come along to our next meeting planned for the 10th January 2022 at the Old Elm Inn, Churchdown, we are a friendly bunch and you will be most welcome.

P.A.T.C.H Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everybody who has bought a ticket or two for the PATCH Christmas raffle. We have £717 so far! Thank you for all the lovely donations as well - the hampers will be great. Please log on to the School Gateway to buy your raffle tickets. The closing time to buy tickets will be Wednesday 15th December.



If you have any more donations for the raffle, please bring them in before Tuesday 14th December. The draw will take place on Thursday 16th December.

Last year we bought benches for pupils in the playground areas and all funds raised this year will be to purchase extras for all students to enjoy.

Cheltenham Open Door

Many thanks to everyone who donated some food, clothes or a gift to our collection for Cheltenham Open Door. We were very proud when Dennis from the charity came to collect our donations, and the Year 9 helpers (Oliver Cheal, Kahlan Constantine, Chloe Mason) were excellent in helping to pack the van and hearing Dennis explain how the donations will be used to make parcels for those in need this Christmas. Thank you, again, for getting involved at a very busy time of year.



Hindi Project

The British Council Languages challenge – Hindi
Over this half term, year 7 and year 8 students have taken on the challenge of discovering some interesting facts about countries where Hindi is spoken - they have tried cooking some traditional dishes and even taught themselves some Hindi. The best projects will be sent to our partner school in India, SAI International. Here are some photos of just a few of the interesting things our Year 7 and year 8s have discovered.

“For the Hindi project I made a dish called Chicken Makhani and here is some information about it. Butter chicken or ‘murgh makhani’ is a curry of chicken in a spiced tomato, butter and cream sauce. It originated in the Indian subcontinent as a curry. It is similar to chicken tikka masala, which uses a tomato paste. It originated from North India.” Grace Sawkins.

“Interesting Facts

- Cows are considered sacred
 - India is the wettest inhabited place on earth
 - India has over 300,000 mosques and over 2 million Hindu temples
 - Cehenabl Bridge is the highest in the world
 - Rajasthan has a temple of Rats
 - Hindu is spoken by 366 million people across the world
 - Each letter of the Hindu alphabet has its own independent and distinct sound”
- Lexi Clark

Cooking with Mummyji
my Mum taught me and Evan (from 7cm) how to make Curry and naan Joel Kessell



PE News

More teams in action this week – well done all!

Brilliant U16 Basketball match - edged by @PatesSport (4 points in it at the end). Well led by JD but the whole squad contributed.



A first game for U14 Basketball earlier in the week against Cleeve. A very enjoyable match



Onwards and upwards for the U14 basketballers v All Saints Academy earlier this week.



Congratulations to George (Year 8) who came 13th in Gloucestershire Cross Country representing Cheltenham Districts at Newent - a fantastic effort

U12 Rugby also in action v Five Acres in an absorbing game on Monday



A very competitive and well contested U13 rugby game v Five Acres. Very well done to those new to playing



Sports fixtures next week

Tuesday 14th December

U13 A&B Rugby v Pates (h)

U14 A&B Rugby v Pates (h)

U15 Rugby v Pates (h)

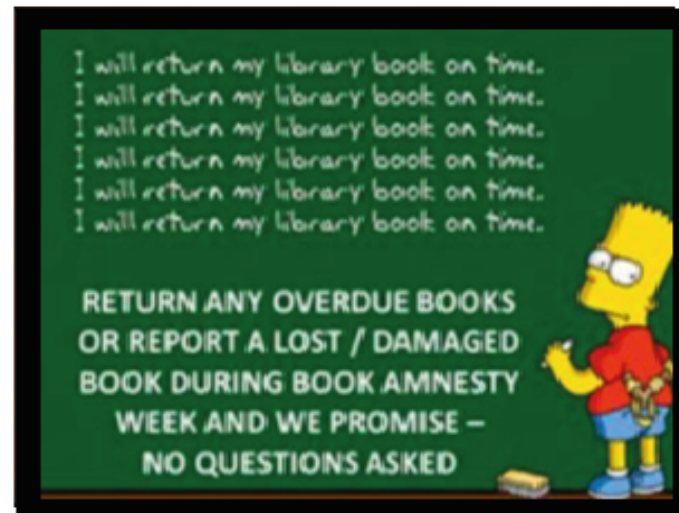
Wednesday 15th December

U16 Rugby v Pates (a)

Book Amnesty Week

CALLING ALL OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

Do you have school library books languishing under your bed or sitting on your shelf at home gathering dust? Is there a library book abandoned at the back of your locker or at the bottom of your school bag? Do you have a damaged library book that you are worried about returning?



NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

Return your overdue library books by posting them into the box outside the library