



Chosen Hill School

Covid Testing in January

A reminder before returning to school on the 4th January 2022 for all students to take a lateral flow test on the evening of 3rd January 2022.

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

Students will be tested, as mentioned in last week's newsletter, on 4th January throughout the morning.



Parent Bulletin - Friday 17 December 2021



Thank you for your ongoing and much appreciated support over the last two terms. The staff and students have worked incredibly hard and despite some restrictions to 'normal' school life we have been able to achieve an enormous amount. Over the last few days it has been fantastic to recognise the achievements of so many students over the last term through the (virtual) celebration assemblies. It has also been a time where our community has shared some time of reflection through the amazing Christmas service and some fun through the 'come as you like' charity day today.

In the coming months we will have to contend with the impact of the bridge closure, whilst the timing and implications of this are out of our hands we are confident that with your support we can minimise the impact on learning. Thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility in managing this.

I am incredibly excited about the plans and direction for the school over the next year. We will be ready and eager to welcome back students on the 4th January. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and restful Christmas.

Matt Pauling, Headteacher

School is back on Tuesday 04 January 2022

Brookfield Road closure update

Over the last week we have continued to communicate with GCC and National Highways to try and get some further information regarding plans to manage the implications of the road closure in the New Year. Unfortunately, the very short notice and pending holidays will mean that, other than revised signage to inform and direct traffic, there is not much more that will be in place for 4th January. We have been assured that there will be some traffic enforcement support in the first few days, but your support with the bullet points below would be much appreciated. It will, no doubt, be an additional stress for some time during the bridge repair works so we will need to be patient and accommodate the inevitable inconvenience that will be caused, by everyone doing their part.

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

We would like to ask your help to alleviate some of the traffic issues:-

- 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. For those catching a public bus this may require an earlier start in order to arrive in school at the normal time.

- 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 Stagecoach 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 Albemarle 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 we will keep you updated....the unfortunate truth is that it will take longer to get in to school in the first instance.



We will review the situation during the first week back and share any other information.

Year 11 Parents Evening

The Year 11 parents evening will take place on 6th January 2022 online. The Parents' Evening Online Booker is now live to enable you to book time slots with teachers.

Year 13 Internal and External Exams – January 2022 (including year 12 BTEC external exams)

There are external and internal mock exams for Year 13 running in January. These will commence on 10th January for internal exams and 17th January for external exams.

Useful updates from Gloucestershire County Council before Christmas

COVID-19 update

The Department for Education has updated its COVID-19 [Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus outbreak \(gov.uk\)](#).

We are encouraging all of our participants to read through this in the lead up to 20 December to reduce the risk of infection. We are also working closely with our providers to make sure their provision is safe for families to attend.

HAF/HAP Provision

There is just one more week for families to book their HAF/HAP activities. For more information and to book, they can visit gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

STEM Activities for children and young people

We also have 2 very exciting STEM based activities that families can reserve tickets for that involve engineering and computer science. Please see details below:

Educraft: 6-16 year olds can travel back in time to discover what coding was like 40 years ago by using the very same computers which were used back then! Children will be designing and animating their very own video game as well as having the opportunity to kick back and play some classic games. A great opportunity to learn and play for all the gamers out there! [Click here for more information and to book](#). You can also view a trailer they have put together to advertise their offer this December by clicking [here](#).

Bloodhound: 6-15 year olds will have the opportunity to see 'engineering in action'; learning about various science engineering technologies such as the Bloodhound Land Speed Record Car. Afterwards, children will have the opportunity to build and race their very own prototype car! At the end of the day, you will be leaving with a souvenir from the day and activity pack for the family to take part in back at home. [Click here for more information and to book](#).



PE News

Our rugby teams were in action again this week. A great week of rugby with our friends from @PatesSport. Fantastic to see so many young people playing. Well done to all who played – U16, U15, U14 and U13 teams.



School uniform

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>

Reminder – Flu Vaccinations

Thank you for returning your consent forms if you would like your child to have a flu vaccination in January. The vaccinations will take place between 5th – 11th January in year and tutor groups:

- 5th January – Yr7
- 6th January – Yr 8
- 7th January – Yr 9
- 10th January – Yr 10
- 11th January – Yr 11

Parent Governor Vacancies

We have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our governing body. The Board of Governors, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. The Board of Governors have three core strategic functions:

- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent;
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

The most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the Board of Governors' work. However, we



would particularly welcome nominations from parents with the skills in Health & Safety, Finance and/or Education.

We will email the information shortly, but if you are interested and would like to know more, please contact: clerk@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.

Remote Education

We have been asked by the DfE to ensure that our contingency plans for remote learning are in place should there be any possible changes to public health advice next term. If there is any possibility of remote learning, we will, of course, contact you as soon as we have the details. Any students who qualify for devices to support their home learning will be contacted separately if the situation arises.

Come As You Like Day!

A small selection of images from today on the next page.





www.chosenhillschool.co.uk

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and peaceful New year
From all of us at Chosen Hill School

