



Chosen Hill School

Learning Changes your Brain

Did you know that when someone repeatedly practices an activity or accesses a memory, groups of neurons in their brain fire together - creating electrochemical pathways?

Deliberately practicing new activities and skills is crucial to the learning process as when people stop practicing, the brain will eliminate or 'prune' the connecting cells that formed the practice.

Encourage your child to access their Satchel (formally Show my Homework) account daily to check what home learning and practice they have been set by their teachers.



Parent Newsletter 17/09/21

Another very busy week in which students have continued to show a very positive attitude to their learning and eagerness to get involved in the in lesson and extra-curricular activities as they start up again. This week students have been challenged to be limitless in their aspirations.



Congratulations

Jaz Brain 10HM finished 2nd in the Inter-County Junior Championships in Burnham for archery.

Early finish Thursday 23rd September

Due to the need to take additional measures, school will finish at 2:00pm on Thursday 23rd September to enable staff and the site team to prepare for the Open Evening. Buses will be

leaving the site at 2:10pm. Thank you for your support.

School closure for INSET 24th September

A reminder that Friday 24th September is an INSET day for staff and as such school will be closed to students for the day. Students will have been set work by their teachers to support their learning out of school.

Parent Governor vacancies

We have three vacancies for parent governors to join our governing body from November 2021. The Board of Governors, with the Headteacher, have 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**
- **performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**

- **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. If you would be interested in becoming a governor, or would like further information about the role, please email the Clerk of Governors clerk@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk

The application requires the completion of a nomination form including a short personal statement of support (no longer than 250 words) which must be returned by 5th October

Where there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

12-15 year olds COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Following the recommendation from the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) that all children aged 12 to 15 should be offered a COVID-19 vaccination, we are waiting for a decision from Gloucestershire NHS with regards the timescales and support for the roll out.

The recommendation from the CMOs was made following consultation with clinical and public health experts who concluded that whilst the health benefits of vaccinating this group were marginal, there were wider benefits in reducing educational disruption, the impact of isolation and emotional wellbeing which would make offering this group a vaccination worthwhile.

The school has been asked to 'facilitate' the vaccinations 12 to 15 year olds, this will be delivered by local NHS services through schools in the same way as other vaccine programmes such as flu or HPV. All consent and health check forms will be handled through the NHS and not via school, though we will send out the links and information for parents to make their decision regarding consent etc a week before the scheduled date for roll out at Chosen Hill (still to be confirmed at the time of writing)

Please be assured that the usual consent processes would apply with parents or guardians being asked to discuss the offer with their young people and make an informed choice.

To support this and help people access accurate information, the local NHS will be developing a dedicated page on the Gloucestershire NHS COVID-19 portal with factual information about the risks and benefits of the vaccine. There will also be a dedicated advice line and email address for parents or any

young people who may wish to have a more detailed conversation. We will share further details once the final guidance has been confirmed.

Punctuality to school and lessons

Good punctuality to both school and lessons leads to higher levels of achievement within the classroom. The aim of Chosen Hill school's punctuality policy is to offer parents, pupils, and school staff a set of guidelines that, when adhered to, support and promote both higher personal standards and higher levels of achievement within the classroom. The school believes that all members of our community should arrive on time to school and at lessons.

Students who arrive late to school

- Learning mentors will take the register as a first priority, this could be from the start of rollcall.
- All staff should record lateness in their

electronic register and add the number of minutes late of the student.

- Weekly data publication / analysis of punctuality trends by groups as per attendance data – Friday
 - The Progress Coordinator Year Lead will review punctuality data and agree intervention strategies.
- Detention issued and to be served every Monday lunch time, parents informed by text**
- Students late x3 in a week will receive an after school detention.
 - LM and or Year Leads will make a Wave 2 Initiative and contact parents by telephone to discuss the child's punctuality to offer support to address any issues.
 - If lateness persists, the year team will contact parents and invite them into school for a meeting with a staged approach.



This week's Boost project

Mental Health Support at Chosen Hill

Mental wellbeing is just as important as our physical health and wellbeing, despite it not always being a visible concern. As students' progress through school there will be times where their experience can become stressful, particularly for example, as they enter examination periods. It is therefore important that we focus on ensuring their emotional wellbeing is being taken care of. At Chosen Hill we are keen to support our students with any concerns that may arise. Here are just some of the support we can offer:

YOUNG MINDS MATTER GLOUCESTERSHIRE

YMM is one of four Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in Gloucestershire that develop models of early intervention on mild to moderate mental health issues, such as exam stress, behavioural difficulties or friendship issues, as well as providing help to staff within a school and college setting.

The Mental Health Support Team are:

building on support already in place in school from the school counsellor, school nurse and other voluntary organisations;

supporting students in school with mild to moderate mental health issues;

helping students with more severe needs to access the right support, and provide a link to specialist NHS services e.g. CYPS.

Caroline Kelly - Accredited Counsellor and CBT Therapist

May I welcome Caroline Kelly to Chosen Hill School, who has been appointed as our new School Counsellor.

"I am an integrated therapist with specialist training in delivering the best evidence-based interventions to support

young people's mental health. This enables me to work uniquely with every young person with an aim to help empower them to make positive change.

I have vast experience in a range of mental health conditions. I offer a safe and confidential place for talking therapy to work through issues such as relationships, bereavement, and self-esteem along with short-term interventions to work with disorders such as anxiety, panic, and low mood.

You will find me in the Hub, Room H10."

Mrs Becky Vaughan - Girls' Mental Health and Well-being Project Lead

This year we have Mrs Vaughan in place as the Mental Health and Well-being pastoral lead within school. Mrs Vaughan is based in the upper school office and can be contacted on rv@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.



If you feel that you need someone to talk to, or if you know of a friend that needs some help or support please get in touch with Mrs Vaughan who will be able to arrange a meeting and hopefully offer the support and guidance that is needed

SELF HELP AND SOCIAL SUPPORT HELPLINES, WEBSITES & APPS

We encourage our students who may find it difficult to talk to someone they know about a mental health concern, to contact a local anonymous, safe, confidential, 1-2-1, support service for young people. The advantage of speaking to a local provision is that if a young person needs to be referred for Mental Health support, YMM and TIC+ will refer to the most suitable Professional Care locally in Gloucestershire.

YMM Chat - Students can text the number 07480 635723

TIC+ Chat - <https://www.ticplus.org.uk/ticpluschat/>

Kooth - <https://www.kooth.com/>

Holiday free School Meals vouchers

For the October half-term, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to our

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 we 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 £15 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover the half-term week.

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

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for October Half Term is open from Monday 13 September until midday Friday 24 September. Vouchers will be sent out between Monday 27 of September and 30 of September. Vouchers are being sent out this early due to Covid grant stipulations.

For more information and to sign up if you haven't already please visit our website: the Holiday School Meal vouchers page on our website. For any queries please contact: childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

