

The Chantry School Newsletter

Important dates for your diary

- Wed. 5 April : Talent Show at 7.00pm in the school hall.
- Thur, 6 April : non-uniform day for Comic relief—pupils finish for Easter holiday
- Fri, 7 April : Professional Development Day (4)
- Mon, 24 April : school re-opens, Summer term starts
- Wed. 26 April to Fri. 5 May : Music GCSE Creative tasks
- Wed. 26/Thur 27 April : Art GCSE exam
- Thur 27/Fri.28 April : Textiles GCSE exam
- Mon, 1 May : May Day holiday
- Tues. 2/Wed. 3 May : Art and Textiles GCSE exams.
- Mon, 8 May : Y8 Llanrug trip leaves and returns on Fri. 12 May
- Mon. 15 May : GCSE exams season starts. Pupils and parents have been given timetables.
- Wed. 17 May: Y9 Dip,Tet,Polio, Meningitis ACW&Y vaccinations
- Sun 21 May : French Exchange pupils arrive and leave on Thur. 25 May.
- Fri. 26 May school closes for half-term holiday.
- Wed. 31 May-Mon 12 June : Y9 China trip.
- Mon 5 June : school re-opens
- Wed. 7 June German Bensheim trip leaves and returns on Mon. 12 June
- Thur. 15 June : Y10 exams start and end on Fri. 30 June
- Thur. 22 June : Y11 Ball
- Fri. 30 June : Battle of the Bands
- Mon. 3 July : Y10 work Experience week
- Tues. 4 July : Y8 Careers Fair in school
- Wed. 5 July : New Intake day and New Intake evening
- Thur. 6 July : Rewards trip
- Tues. 18 July : Sports Day
- Tues. 18 July : World Challenge trip to India leaves
- Wed. 19 July Y7-10 Progress Checks/Reports issued
- Thur. 20 July : school ends for pupils for the holidays
- Fri. 21 July : Professional Development day (5)
- Thur. 24 Aug. : GCSE results issued : 9.00-11.00am
- Tues, 5th Sept. : School re-opens for pupils for 2017/18.**

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March 2017

Dear Parents/Carer

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. A glance through will show just how busy the pupils have been this term, with very many activities and events taking place.

We have been delighted this week to see two of our year groups in Rugby County Cup Final action. Year 9 pupils returned victorious, for successive years, and remain unbeaten over 2 seasons. Very many congratulations to that very impressive squad of young players. Y8 boys have also performed very well indeed to reach the final, but unfortunately were unable to match the performance of the Y9's, coming off second best to Bredon. However, to even reach the final demonstrates well the quality of the rugby the boys are playing, and I know they are eagerly looking forward to next season already. Well done to all the boys on a successful season, and very many thanks indeed to staff and volunteer coaches for their work with the teams

The school's planned progress towards expansion of numbers is moving ahead smoothly. We are in receipt of Worcestershire County Council funds to provide 30 additional school places per year in Y7 from 2018. We have now received planning permission from Malvern Hills District Council for the new buildings required. Pupils and parents will notice work starting shortly behind the existing languages block, which will provide additional classroom space for mathematics. We hope this work will be completed by around October half term. This will be followed by conver-

sion of the existing maths classrooms into new science facilities to ensure we have sufficient laboratory accommodation, and an additional Humanities block. We are also working over the summer to improve car parking on the school site, which is an area of challenge. Please can I ask that local parents encourage their child to walk to school, and for others to utilise the school bus service wherever possible.

We have introduced our new Parent Forum, and I have written extensively about this on the next page. I very much welcome this dialogue with parents, in trying to ensure our service to you is not only as good as possible, but is reflective of your views and needs as well. Please do take time to read this, and if possible join the next Forum on 27th June at 3:30 pm.

Year 11 pupils are very much in the throes of examination preparation at the moment. There is plenty of hard work happening at school, and we hope at home. It is a stressful time, and we want the young people to feel the right balance between challenge and support. There is plenty of advice on our website for both parents and pupils (<http://www.chantryschool.com/year-11-support/>) for both revision methods, and support. We do, of course, wish our Y11 pupils every success in their forthcoming GCSE examinations.

Finally, my thanks to parents and carers for their support and partnership in working with the young people in the school. I wish you all a very pleasant and enjoyable Easter break with your families.

Andy Dickenson, Headteacher

Friends

Firstly, MANY THANKS to all who have responded to our letter asking for help with the running of events etc. It is so encouraging to be able to share the load. We were very grateful too for the offers of cakes for the 'staff refreshments' on Tuesday 28 March. This is a great opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work during the term and it is very much appreciated.

It was great to meet some of you at the first Parents' Forum on 9 March and to welcome you with a glass of wine and nibbles. The Friends see the offering of hospitality as one of their key roles in school life and there were many nodding heads when I shared that at the Forum. I encourage you to put the date of the next

Forum in your diaries - 27 June, 3.30pm. Alongside the obvious fundraising, the Friends also see their role as creating opportunities to hear from staff about current issues around school life e.g. homework, reporting etc and so to work alongside the Senior Management in this informal way is brilliant.

As a Parent Governor, I am also encouraged and inspired as I experience a different area of 'behind the scenes' school life, but yet again, I come to the conclusion that The Chantry really is in very good hands.

Have a great Easter break and we look forward to working together with you next term.

Paul Wilcox
Co-chair of The Friends

Goodbyes and Hellos

This term we said a sad farewell to Martin Grove who was one of our IT Technicians. Martin worked here for 15 years and we thank him for all his hard work over the years. Also this term we said a sad farewell to Mrs Sian Dark, MFL teacher. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and support. We send them our very best wishes for the future.

After Easter we welcome Mr Ambrogio De Santis who is our new MFL teacher. We hope he settles well into school and send him our very best wishes.

Parent Forum We held our first Parent Forum on Thursday 9th March. This was initiated in response to the paper based parental survey of last summer, the results of which were conflicting and ultimately not as useful as we would have liked. The meeting attracted 18 parents, including members of Friends, and was supported by 4 staff. The rationale for the group is fairly simple: improve dialogue and parental feedback to help enhance delivery. This agenda for this meeting covered:

Homework – Parents were keen that pupils retain their use of the planner, and do not see Sims Learning Gateway as a way for them to avoid this responsibility. This is very much our view in school as well, and we offer the SLG view simply to inform parents of what the pupil should already be well aware of. The homework setting schedule was also discussed, as well as the demand and nature of tasks. Parents were very constructive on the whole, and are providing us with clear views of where practice can be improved. Parents that do not have access to SLG can have their account activated by contacting Lorna Webster, Data Manager, at lwebster@chantry.worcs.sch.uk.

Long term staff absence – this was requested on the agenda by parents. Parents were sympathetic to the challenges we face when a member of staff is unfortunately off for an extended period of time. Our policy is always to try and recruit a subject specialist to fill the post. The nature of an indefinite period of absence is that recruitment can be extremely difficult, since almost everyone prefers a contract of a definite time. It is especially difficult where the subject is hard to recruit for anyway, as some are. We have been fortunate that we have found subject specialist staff in our recent absences, with some days where we have been forced to cover with non-specialists. Heads of department always have the overview of work that is being covered. Parents did request that we communicate the plans on how to cope with missing staff more directly, both to them and to the pupils, in order to reassure them that we have the challenges in hand, and we are of course happy to do

that where we know in advance the likely length of the absence. On that note, you will see elsewhere in the newsletter that our new teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, Mr De Santis, will begin work with us at Easter. I would like to reassure parents that we try and deal with these situations with all urgency and seriousness that you would expect, since we cannot afford to lose teaching and learning time.

School Funding The Parent Forum also discussed the challenge of school funding. This item provoked discussion about sharing the financial challenge with parents, in order to gather support, as well as the more radical suggestion of requesting parental donations. On the former aspect, I think it is valuable to share a couple of facts with you. Since 2013, we have had a £100,000 cut in real terms in our grant, despite pupil numbers remaining the same. This has been coupled with increased costs in the form of increased national insurance, pension and unfunded cost-of-living pay rises. Despite managing our staffing, this has increased our costs by approximately £80,000. Consequently, the balance for resourcing the curriculum and running the school after staff costs is about £180,000 lower than it was in 2013. The school funding crisis is well documented in the national press, and I continue to press Harriett Baldwin regarding our individual situation. Disappointingly, the Government's proposed national funding formula, for which historically low funded authorities such as Worcestershire were hoping would help them, will only yield an additional £15,000 p.a. I can honestly say that school funding has never been so tight, and neither have I felt the need to share this so explicitly with parents. However, I think it is fair to say that we will struggle to maintain breadth of opportunity and support we currently offer unless the school funding model changes in the near future. Should you be so minded, you can contact Harriett Baldwin at:

Malvern Science Park, Geraldine Road,
Malvern, Worcs WR14 3SZ

We intend to run three parent forums per year, at different times of the day to seek different members of the school community who may be available. The next meeting is scheduled for 27th June at 3.30 pm. Items for discussion will be Reporting and Communication.

Andy Dickenson

Vacancies Kitchen Assistants required by Shire Services Catering Company at The Chantry School: **Kitchen Assistant** to help prepare and serve meals, **Job No. SS17/021R** : Mon-Fri. 16.25 hours per week; term time. Rate of pay : £7.68 per hour. **Kitchen Assistant** to help prepare and serve meals. Experience required : Mon-Fri. 25 hours per week, term time. Rate of pay £7.68 per hour. Full training and uniform will be provided. As part of our commitment to safeguarding children and vul-

nerable people, appointment to the posts are subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure by the Disclosure and Barring Service. To apply for these vacancies please go to: www.shropshire.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers or telephone 01743 250250.

Visit to see Professor Lord Robert Winston

On Wednesday, 15th February 2017 a group of pupils went to Christopher Whitehead Language College to see Professor Lord Robert Winston. While we were there he talked about a range of topics including : The future of nuclear power, Genetics and cloning and, on a more personal level, how he used his failures as a base for his success.

Hearing him speak was inspirational, however, the way in which he spoke could, at times, be difficult to follow! We hope to attend more of their lectures in the future. *Martha and Josh (Y10)*

UKMT Report

On Friday, 10th March George Fisher Edwards, Ellis Miles, Adam Scurrell and myself were given the opportunity to represent our school at the UK Mathematics Trust regional final. Hosted at Earl Mortimer College and Sixth form, we competed against 22 other schools for a chance to go to nationals in London. It was a lot of fun which really tested our Maths skills. We completed in four rounds working as a team: 1. Challenge; 2. Shuttle; 3. Cross numbers; 4. Relay. Overall it was a great day and is definitely an experience worth trying. *Kelsey (Y8)*

Y11 updates

In February all of Y11 had a workshop with Dave Keeling from "Independent Thinking". The workshop focused on motivation and how to "work harder, aim higher, get better results!" Dave is an actor who uses the neurological link between humour and learning. The workshop focused on the structure of the brain and how to use revision time effectively. Year 11 said: "The workshop was inspirational and entertaining. He showed us what we should and shouldn't be doing in terms of revision. He changed my mind and he used humour to motivate". "He explained how our brain works and he was very funny – I hope Year 11 will put his motivational ideas to good use whilst they are preparing for their final examinations. *Mrs. Miles*

Congratulations to Kirsty Dixon, Y11, who received a Tryangle Award for personal achievement nominated by Mrs Kate Miles Head of Year 11. We attended the presentation evening at Worcester Bosh on 23rd March - Kirsty was the winner in her category from a total of over 90 nominations! We value all Kirsty has done in school; helping at parents evenings, giving a reading on Remembrance Sunday and being an excellent peer mentor and prefect. Well done! *Mrs Miles*

Photography competition

I was really happy to be given the chance to write this for everyone to read because, recently, I entered the school's photography competition and came 2nd! I was really surprised because this was my first time entering a competition, and the fact I'm a Year 7 pupil, and only started doing photography about a year ago.

The photo I entered was of my older sister Megan blowing colourful glitter. I took the photo at my mum's work colleague's home under an archway. The work colleague, Holly, is a professional photographer as well as a nurse. Holly, on the day of my mum's wedding, let me borrow her camera to take photos because my interest had begun to grow by then. She was so impressed by my imagination and the potential I had, she decided to start teaching me new skills and I now go to weddings with her sometimes to help out and have a little bit of fun.

My favourite kind of photography is portrait photography. This is something I like because I like to be around people and because I'm well small and Holly says "I can get into smaller spaces and catch people off guard."

I love my new hobby so much, I want to turn it into my career. I dream of one day becoming a famous photographer and maybe even do photo-shoots for celebrities and the most majestic creatures on earth, giraffes. *Lilly-Sue (Y7)*

Worcester Skills Show

The Worcestershire Skills Show was held on Wednesday 8th March at Sixways Rugby Club and was a day out for Year 10 pupils to explore and research more about future careers and possible opportunities. The Skills Show helped inspire many of us in what choices to make and what paths we choose to go down.

There were many college and university stands promoting themselves, providing advice and helpful information on career choices and further education. Many activities were involved in this event such as decorating cakes, pancake eating, doing pull ups, performing on camera and participating in small games. The Skills Show also provided us with many handy freebies like pens, hats and sweets etc.

During the show many of us were given the opportunity to experience a practice interview. In this the interviewer asks you a series of questions about you, your interests and lifestyle. The aim of this is to get you used to the idea of interviews, to improve confidence and receive positive feedback.

There were a lot of education, business and employment opportunities there to discover including stands from the Army, RAF, Navy, Mazak and University of Worcester. There were lots of practical

things to do including a flight simulator, a reaction test and goggles that you could wear to simulate the lack of coordination experienced by being drunk. I had a go at reading a weather forecast, which was interesting and fun being live on camera.

Overall, the day was successful and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and gained knowledge about possible colleges they may wish to attend and future career paths. This Skills Show really helped make things a lot clearer and guided us all in the right direction, to help us make the best decision we possibly can about our future.

Overall it was a good, worthwhile experience and there were lots of free pens!
Faye and Tommy Y10

Oxford trip 2017

On the 6th March, myself and nine other pupils from Year 10 were provided with the opportunity to spend the day in Oriel College at Oxford University and get an insight into what options were open to us going forward. This trip was organised in conjunction with Worcester Sixth Form College.

We spent the majority of our morning in a lecture theatre, taking part in a session that was aimed at giving us some information surrounding what going to a university could offer us, how a university could broaden our thinking, the huge variety of courses available at different universities and how to apply to study at a competitive university successfully. The overriding message being that ultimately, a lot was possible through hard work and persistence. Although the session was obviously slightly geared towards Oxford University specifically, we were given plenty of information about other universities as well, which really helped to showcase the benefits and challenges of university life.

After a cooked lunch in a building that literally had swords hanging on its walls, we met with some current Oxford students, who gave us a tour around Oriel College and showed us some student rooms. Oxford is quite unusual in that most of its students remain in student accommodation for their entire degree and don't move out to somewhere else. When the tour was complete, we returned to the lecture theatre and were given a model lecture on: different methods of storytelling and what affects they have on people. Although this does sound dreadfully dull, it was actually very interesting and encouraged a lot of engagement and thinking around the topic.

It was definitely a really worthwhile and interesting day out, that served to excite us about the challenges and rewards that the future holds.
Will (Y10)

Ski trips

Y10+11 After a long 25 hour trip on the coach, we arrived at the hotel we

would be staying at for our time in Italy. The hotel was far better than what we expected and turned out to be a big success. All the rooms were nice and had a cleaner in every day, and the food was occasionally unusual to our taste buds, but often turned out to be nice.

Each evening we had an activity organised for us, all of which were good fun and entertaining. However a few definitely stood out above the rest. Firstly the swimming. We arrived at the pool, all very pleased to see it had a slide and a lot of space for ourselves, with few members of the public. This of course meant we could have a great time without causing too much of a disturbance. The next night was tobogganing. We got ourselves into pairs, and went down what was just like a very small sledge. The slope was similar to what we skied on in the day, but far narrower with sharp turns, and in the dark. We were equipped with a small head torch to light the way, however many of us spent most of the time out of control and flying into a wooden barrier. But all in all, a great time. The final night was a disco at a local bar. There was a DJ, we all had a free drinks token and even our ski instructors had turned up on our final night. Everyone had a good time and I'm sure the whole week will be a once in a lifetime experience.

However, overall the evening activities were great, but the skiing was easily the best thing about it all. We were in groups, based on experience on the slopes, and it turned out that many of us were with our friends, making for an even better experience. We were with our ski instructors, who all turned out to be great fun and made the experience as good as it could have been. We had a great lunch half way through our day on the slopes and kept us going through the tiring day.

The final day was a sad one, saying goodbye to our instructors, bus drivers who had driven us everywhere the entire week, and of course the overall experience. But all of us had a great week that we will never forget.
Ollie (Y11)

Mayrhofen Ski trip

On the first day we were all exhausted from the journey, but extremely excited for the first day of skiing. The weather was disappointing, however, we made the most of it with very few injuries. Each evening we had two diners of the day, one boy and one girl, who got the privilege of eating with the teachers! The next few days everyone was getting the hang of skiing. Every morning Mrs Edwards, aka Sister Clare, wrote a poem for the previous day, which everyone found entertaining. The evening activities were so much fun, they consisted of things such as tobogganing, bowling, swimming and night clubs. Altogether it was an extremely good trip and I highly recommend it.
Ellie and Molly (Y9)

Digital Leaders' Conference

In early February Ms Dowding, myself (Matthew) and The Digital Leaders of The Chantry School embarked on a journey to a college in Birmingham to attend a Digital Leaders' workshop and conference. This wonderful event was set up and run by Brett Laniosh, of Catshill Learning Partnerships, who is the person that trained our Digital Leaders when we first set up the group. There were three other schools there and it gave us the opportunity to share our practices and learn about how other groups work. I presented Trello, which is our collaboration and organisational tool, that other schools found useful to know of. We also got the chance to speak to Trilby TV who are a company that promotes and makes apps for digital signage in schools.

Safer Internet Day 2017

Shortly after the Digital Leader Conference, Safer Internet Day 2017 took place. As we've done for two years, I took to the stage and presented assemblies to all year groups throughout the week. I shared advice for what to look out for when speaking to others online and an unfortunate story of a local teenager who took his own life after receiving online bullying for many years even after moving schools two times. The Digital Leaders and I sincerely hope that our message of:

"Is it true, is it kind and is it necessary?" will play a larger part in the pupil's social media activity.

Updates

So as I'm sure you can appreciate, the Digital Leaders have been up to a lot to help make the school more digitally safe! The group is now working hard on getting our messages and knowledge across to parents directly with our Parental Involvement Programme. We are now actively working with parents at school events and through our newsletter column and other platforms to help parents understand what their children are doing online. So, keep an eye out in this termly column if you're interested in being involved in future events. As Chairman, it's great to see the group, and ultimately the school, benefit from our hard work and I hope that as parents and teachers, you will see the benefits of raising awareness of the safety that has to be taken when using the great resource of the internet.

Thank you to parents, teachers and pupils as well as The Digital Leaders and Ms Dowding for the continued interest and support in making the school a better place online and in school with our projects; some you've seen and some we're working on behind the scenes!

Matthew, Chairman of The Digital Leaders (Y10)

Setting Parental Controls

For parents interested in setting more filters and controls for internet access at home, please visit the E-safety Advice

section of the Parents & Pupils menu on the school website. Click on the link to Parental Controls and use this great link to the Internet Matters website to find out how to protect your family. *Ms Dowding*

ICT visit

In December 2016, five pupils from Y7 Will Middleton, Elliot Whittaker, Linus Hughes, Zunab Raza and I (Faith Steele) went to Bromsgrove School to a cyber-security event! A variety of local schools came to this event, including a team from Bromsgrove School. We were very excited to go to this event and did very well in it. We were very pleased to hear that The Chantry were the first to complete the task! We had to find out who had started the 'virus' that was going to stop all the computers in the world and stop it before it had spread too far! The school was up against a private school and a high school. We were very pleased to have won. *Faith (Y7)*

PE

Year 7 Netball team were undefeated this season and went through to the Winter School Games after winning a partnership tournament. The girls managed to get through to the semi finals and narrowly lost out in the final.

Boccia and New age Kurling club takes place on a Tuesday lunchtime. Children currently attend from Martley Primary School and all are showing real progress and potential. KS3 pupils are welcome to join this club (speak to Miss Robinson). Thank you to Adam Scurrrell and Jodie Whiteman who led the sessions successfully and have given up their own lunchtimes to help.

Congratulations to all the teams who represented The Chantry School at the Winter School Games. These teams include Pan - Football, Sports Hall Athletics and Netball.

The Chantry Mile Running Club – Four pupils have managed to achieve the 5 mile mark and received certificates for their efforts. Over 20 pupils have taken part in this club since it began this half term and times are continuing to improve. A special mention must go to Joe Gibbs who has shown real excellence in his performance.

Congratulations to the U13 Rugby team who made it through to the Worcester Schools' County Cup competition. They played against Bredon School on Monday 27th March at Malvern Rugby club. The Chantry were runners up losing to a strong Bredon team 65-0.

Congratulations to the U14 Rugby team who made it through to the Worcester Schools' County Cup competition. They played against Dyson Perrins School on Monday 27th March at Malvern Rugby Club. The Chantry won convincingly beating Dysons 55-0.

PR training

The PE Dept have been delivering

CPR training to all pupils in Year 7-10 with equipment supplied from The British Heart Foundation. The pupils have been using CPR dummies and now know how to potentially save a life if someone they come across has experienced a cardiac arrest. *Miss Cooke*

Young Leaders Year 4, 5, 6 Monday Sports Sessions

Every Monday after school, The Chantry Young Leaders have been running a variety of sports clubs for Primary school pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. The sports we are running are: - netball, basketball and indoor rounders. These clubs have been extremely popular with over 45 pupils attending our most recent session. We hope to continue these over the next term and possibly further into the future. *Max Y10 Young Leader*

Wednesday Martley Netball Club

Since the start of 2017, every Wednesday, two Young Leaders go over to Martley Primary school to help out at their netball club. The Young Leaders have been doing various things to help Martley run their club. For example, at the beginning of every session they do a warm up with the children then they will do ball skills, drills and help umpire games for them. Hopefully, it will prepare Martley for all of their games in the future. *Clover and Izzy*

Mini Rio Olympics On the 13th February 2017, The Chantry Young Leaders hosted a Mini Rio Olympics for Years 1 and 2 from most of the Cluster Schools, Hallow, Broadheath, Broadwas, Abberley, Astley, Martley, Gt Witley and Grimley. The event started with a mini opening ceremony where all the children enjoyed running around the sports hall with flags (which each school had made themselves) and listening to Brazilian drumming. The atmosphere was very joyful and loud with all the instruments being played. Each Young Leader took charge of a school. They gave support and encouragement, but also played along with all the children. There were various different races which the Young Leaders helped to score and all the pupils loved. Everyone enjoyed themselves! *Ellie (Y10)*

Remembering Anna— The Mockingbird Trust

To remember and celebrate the positivity of the late Anna Wilkinson a number of staff are currently in training for the Worcester Half Marathon. They are hoping to raise in excess of £7000 for the Anna Wilkinson Mockingbird Trust, a charity set up by the Wilkinson family to support families with children who have life limiting conditions. If you would like to show your support by sponsoring them please visit our just giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Chantry-teachers> .

PS. The magnolia tree planted in Anna's name is in full bloom this week.