



# The Chantry School



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Company No: 07657852

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the new school year. A particular welcome to those of you who join us as new parents or carers with pupils at the school for the first time, and we, of course, warmly welcome all new pupils as well. We hope you enjoy and benefit from your time at The Chantry School.

## Buildings

It is a new start for us at the school as well. Our building programme to accommodate increased capacity is nearly all complete. Pupils will have been enjoying lessons in the brand new Humanities block that opened this week. Languages and Science rooms have also been refurbished, and these new facilities join the Maths block that opened earlier this year. The site is much improved and we hope that pupils enjoy their new facilities. Reception has also moved. It can now be found at the front of the school at the top of the ramp.

## New Staff

We welcome to the school Mr Ash Williams (English), Miss Katie Amey (Geography) and Mrs Claire Mason (Science).

## Exam Results

It was a pleasure to meet the outgoing Y11 pupils on results day in August. I am pleased to report once again the success of the school. 76% of our pupils achieved a standard pass or better in both English and Maths, with 50% achieving strong passes. Well done to all the young people on their achievements, and we wish you all well in your next steps in education or training.

It is ever more evident that you only get out what you put in. The exam system is challenging, and there is no doubt that recent changes have increased that challenge. I have been very impressed, however, by how many of the young people organise their time well and work hard. This certainly doesn't mean getting life out of balance and sacrificing everything else. It does mean a commitment to consistently completing work thoroughly and to a high standard. It does mean meeting deadlines and being ready to ask for help. A calm, consistent approach to the challenge of GCSE is encouraged, with good sleep patterns and exercise. These good habits do reap good rewards in the challenging GCSE years. Pupils in Y7 and Y10 will soon be invited to our Curriculum and Wellbeing Evenings later this month.

## School Fund

Last year we re-launched the School Fund, after positive discussions at Parent Forum. School Finance continues to be very challenging. (For information, the building programme is not part of our funds but is financed by Worcestershire CC to meet their obligations for school places.) School Fund last year enabled a number of activities to take place that would not otherwise have been possible. These included Young

Enterprise, the purchase of SAMLearning to benefit all pupils, library books and House activities. As previously, this is an entirely voluntary donation. We hope that all parents who can afford to do so will make a contribution of £10 per pupil/family at the start of the year to support additional activities and provision in the school. Our School Gateway site will be set up to receive payments that any parent wishes to make.

My original letter about School Fund can be read here

<http://www.chantryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/New-School-Year.pdf>

### **Behaviour for Learning – Update**

The school's Behaviour for Learning policy has been updated for September 2018. There are no major changes, we still have the same high expectations of behaviour in the classroom and around the school. Parents will still be able to see consequences that have been resolved using the parent gateway. What is different is that teachers have been asked to issue a warning to pupils who are not meeting our expectations and be very clear with the pupil what it is they need to do to correct their behaviour. There will no longer be a C2 for this warning, however, pupils that fail to change their behaviour despite the clear instruction on how to correct their behaviour will be issued a school lunchtime detention – a C3. Pupils who fail to attend their lunch time detention will be issued an after school detention.

The updated Behaviour for Learning policy is published on the school website.

### **Homework Expectations**

Homework is an important component of every pupil's experience at The Chantry School. We firmly believe homework helps to develop good study habits, which are essential for life-long learning. It helps pupils to become independent learners without the need to always have direct supervision. Research suggests that if homework is completed to the best of the pupil's ability, it can add up to five months of learning/attainment. The tasks will either complement their classwork or prepare them for future learning.

To this end, we have devised a homework timetable in order to complement the pupils' curriculum and lessons. We have tried to spread the slots equally to encourage pupils to manage their time effectively as well as ensure a balance between study and relaxation. At KS3 it is reasonable to expect pupils to spend 30 minutes on each homework task and at KS4 45-60 mins on each task. All subjects may, from time to time, set discrete homework tasks, including revision/revisiting subject content for in class assessments.

All pupils should have written down their homework timetable in their planner and a copy is available on the school website under the **CURRICULUM** section.

As an amendment to our homework protocol, and in response to parental consultation, any homework set over a holiday will be either set: in the penultimate week of term and due the first week back after the holiday, or set the last week of the term and due at least the second week back after the holiday. Our reason for this is to allow pupils to manage their time sensibly, whilst enabling a proper chance to relax and recharge their batteries over the holidays.

I would like to take this opportunity to promote the homework club which is supervised by staff during lunchtime; they are always willing to help pupils. If pupils wish, they can stay after school until 4:30 and work in the library by signing in and out of the office. It is important to note that this is not supervised by a member of staff, although office staff will always be on hand.

I hope the above gives an insight into our thinking about the setting of homework. You will be able to monitor homework set through SLG (SIMS Learning Gateway), and there will be a link available in the 'School Gateway' to this site.

Finally, please see on the next page some important dates for pupils and parents. These relate to Progress Reports and various evenings taking place in school. We look forward to seeing you at these evenings, and working with your son/daughter over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Dickenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'A'.

Andy Dickenson  
Headteacher

## Important dates 2018-2019

More information will be provided closer to each event.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year10	Year 11
<b>18<sup>th</sup> September</b> Curriculum Information Evening  <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Progress checks issued  <b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b> Parents' Evening  <b>8<sup>th</sup> April</b> Progress checks issued  <b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b> Progress Checks issued	<b>31<sup>st</sup> January</b> Y8 Parents' Evening  <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Progress checks issued  <b>8<sup>th</sup> April</b> Full reports issued  <b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b> Progress Checks issued	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Parents' Evening  <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> full reports issued  <b>24<sup>th</sup> January</b> KS4 information evening  <b>8<sup>th</sup> April</b> Progress checks issued  <b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b> Progress Checks issued	<b>25<sup>th</sup> September</b> Curriculum and Wellbeing evening  <b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b> Work experience launch  <b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b> Parents' Evening  <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Progress checks issued  <b>8<sup>th</sup> April</b> Progress checks issued  <b>17<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> June</b> Exam period  <b>1<sup>st</sup> July</b> Work Experience week  <b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b> Full reports issued (including exam results)	<b>November 7<sup>th</sup></b> Year 11 Parents Evening (by invitation)  <b>November 27<sup>th</sup></b> Y11 Revision Strategy evening  <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> full reports issued  <b>9<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b> Mock exams  <b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b> Y11 Mock results issued  <b>28<sup>th</sup> February</b> Parents' Evening  <b>8<sup>th</sup> April</b> Progress checks issued  <b>10<sup>th</sup> May:</b> Study Leave commences (provisional)  <b>13<sup>th</sup> May- 17<sup>th</sup></b> June GCSE exams (provisional)