

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 19th June 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

One of the highlights of this week was being able to spend the afternoon touring around the new building on Thursday. With lockdown, it has been a long time since we have been able to physically get on-site so the changes that we witnessed were particularly impressive. In the south wing, which is the area we will be occupying in September, the spaces are almost ready. In many of the classrooms, the paintwork is done and they are just waiting for the carpet and furniture to arrive. Compared to what we have been using this year, the amount of space will be a real luxury, even during the partial occupation (September-November). We can't wait for it to be filled by the happy voices of our students.

Ms Wood

Curriculum

Quiz Week (week starting 6th July)

A reminder that students will be doing quizzes for their distance learning on Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th July. These will help us assess what students have learnt and where the gaps or misconceptions are, which will help us plan for September.

Please note that there will be no distance learning set on Monday 6th July or Friday 10th July due to staff inset. Students should use the Monday to prepare for the quizzes, and the Friday to relax and recuperate!

Mandarin

- **Year 8 Elective** - Next year, we will be offering year 8 students the chance to study Mandarin for a whole year as part of their Wednesday elective. Students will be taught by Mr Webster (who has delivered the 'taster' elective this year) and will study towards a formal qualification called the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) Level 1, the content of which forms the base of the Scheme of Learning.
 - Spaces for the Mandarin course will be limited. If your child is interested in taking part, please email their name to headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk. Please note that students will only have one choice of Wednesday elective if they choose to study Mandarin, although they will still have three choices for their academic elective.

2020/2021 Electives

Please click this [link](#) to see exactly what electives we have planned.

Quizlet Live - Mondays at 3pm

Please encourage your child to join our weekly game of Quizlet Live, to help practise their French vocabulary. Just before 3pm on Mondays, I share the access code on Google Classroom. The children are put in random teams of 4 to compete together - it can get quite heated!

Madame McCoy.

Enrichment

The Swan (Audio)Book Club

Our next book is *Talon* by Julie Kigawa chosen by Benedict Green (7H). This is the first book in a series called The Talon Saga, an apparently, 'groundbreaking modern fantasy series, [in which] dragons walk among us in human form'. Please find the book freely available at [this](#) link. We will aim to discuss this book via a virtual Google Hangout meeting on **Wednesday 1st July at 4pm**. Please make sure your child emails me to request an invitation to the Hangout if they have not already joined Book Club. Mrs Hinze.

Promoting Diversity - Ebook Promotion (Bloomsbury Publishing)

One of our parents has made us aware of a great book promotion to help young people better understand the conversations about race and diversity that are happening at the moment. The e-book of the YA title [We Are Not Yet Equal](#) is available via the Bloomsbury website for just £1 this week. This is a reduced price in a bid to help as many young people as possible to make sense of what's happening in the US right now.

Lockdown Poetry Competition Results!

I am delighted to announce that the winner of the Lockdown Poetry Competition was Freya Leech. We were lucky enough to have an external judge, Stephen Dilley (Head of English at Headington School) to judge the competition and he said the following about [Freya's poem](#): 'I loved this poem! Such attention to small details which have become facts of our life, all beautifully observed (the "side-step", the "mangled subtitles" on Skype, the "Fifty emails saying 'Cancelled'"). But what I really loved was the final stanza which surprised me, reminding us of other types of life that go on. Well done for having the courage not to spell out exactly what you were trying to say in those final lines and leaving us to consider them.' Congratulations are also due to [Edie Lazzarini](#), who came second, [Catriona Porter](#), who came third, and to [Isaac Ray](#), [Hannan Hasan](#), [Aaayan Ashraf](#) and [Aiman Shah](#), whose work was highly commended. Well done to all those who took part! Please click on any of the hyperlinks to read these wonderful poems. As a small tribute to these brave pupils for showcasing their work, and to the rest of our pupils for their huge efforts to make the best of lockdown, I have written my own poem. I am very nervous about sharing this, and do not regard myself as a poet, but I hope you like it! You can read it [here](#). Mrs Hinze.

Music

This term in Music, we have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra. If your child has taken an interest in this, or in any particular instrument, why don't you think about instrumental lessons for Year 8?

If you are interested in this, you can register your interest with the Oxfordshire Music Service [here](#), and they will then send an instrumental teacher into school in September. You can also apply for instrument hire, and they have a discount rate for "endangered instruments"!

Please email katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk if you have any questions about this.

Other

Summer Holidays Provisional Care

We do not intend to offer provision during the summer holidays. However, we are watching government guidance closely and will keep families updated on any change.

Chromebook Return - deadline 17th July

We will require all school chromebooks to be returned to us before the end of term. If your child has borrowed a Chromebook from school, this will need to be returned to school before 17th July. Can we please ask that you email office@theswanschool.org.uk in order to arrange a convenient time to return the Chromebooks.

Free School Meals Vouchers

A note to remind families eligible for free school meals that these families will get food vouchers over the summer and subsidised uniforms. If you feel you are eligible please submit a request via the [website](#). We are pleased to confirm that vouchers will continue over the summer holiday.

School Uniform

A reminder that [Price & Buckland](#), our uniform provider will require all uniform orders to be placed by **9th August**, in order to guarantee delivery for September. All uniforms must be ordered to home delivery - we are unable to accept orders to school. If you think you may be eligible for financial support in purchasing a uniform, please submit a request using the [Apply for Bursary Support button](#) on our [website](#).

Well Being

I am pleased to offer our students these free relaxation sessions from Oxfordshire Nurses. They are short sessions where you will join a school nurse without your camera or mic and listen to techniques to calm and relax yourself. The poster is [here](#), and it explains how to join up. Any questions please email Ms Walton.

School Nurse

Please find attached the Term 6 Newsletter from Oxfordshires Health Team - [link](#)
Even though your children may not be coming into school, you still have access to the School Nursing service and everything that it offers. If your child would like a confidential appointment via phone, video chat or a walk and talk, please email or text me at caroline.smith@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk 07717661485.

Key Dates:

- [Quiz Week](#) - 6th to 10th July.
- [Staff Inset Days](#) - please be aware that [Monday 6th July](#) and [Friday 10th July](#) are currently planned as staff inset days. There will be no distance learning or in-school provision during these days.
- [End of term](#) - Friday 17th July
- [Start of term](#) - Thursday September 10th (our new year 7 cygnets will start their matriculation week on Monday 7th September)