

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 26th June 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come towards the end of term, I am reminded again that one of the saddest things about this period for us as a new school is that we are unable to celebrate everything that we have achieved in such a successful first year. This is particularly pertinent for our cygnets (who are soon to be swans) who have grown and changed so much since they joined us in September.

We are therefore proposing to run some celebration events during the last week of term where we invite students in to recognise their achievements, see their form tutors, and socialise with their classmates, many of whom they will not have seen for a very long time. It is important that we organise these in such a way that social distancing can be maintained so we are planning for each tutor group to be invited into school for an afternoon on a different day, and for them to take part in outdoor activities on the field.

- Monday - 7L, Tuesday - 7Y, Wednesday - 7H, Thursday - 7B.

These celebration events will be optional and we will provide more detailed information next week. However, to help us plan, please can we ask you to [fill in this form](#) to indicate whether you would like your child to take part.

Ms Wood

Google Chat Function

As you know the increased time students are spending on devices comes with certain benefits and potential issues. It has come to our attention that the unmonitored 'google chat' function is being used inappropriately by a small number of students. Unfortunately, we are unable to remove this function without removing the video call function, which some teachers are using to deliver 'live lessons' and tutor group get-togethers.

We are therefore asking parents/carers to take responsibility for monitoring their child's activity on their device while at home. Please be extra vigilant to their use of Google Chat and other social media platforms. If you would like any support with how best to do this then please get in touch.

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!

The timetable for quizzes is below:

- Tuesday: English, History, Music
- Wednesday: Science, Geography, French
- Thursday: Maths, Art, RE

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

A reminder that our current book is Talon by Julie Kigawa chosen by Benedict Green (7H). 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.

National Theatre - A Midsummer Night's Dream

The National Theatre is currently streaming a production every week on YouTube. This week, from 7pm on 25 June until 2 July it is the turn of A Midsummer Night's Dream, featuring Gwendoline Christie and Hammed Animashaun. Click [here](#) to access this free production and help your child to understand this complicated but hilarious play! Mrs Hinze.

Music

In Music, we have been using Noteflight to write our own compositions. In preparation for Year 8, we have set up a Swan School Noteflight website which we will be using for now on. The Swan School Noteflight has more functions and students can write more music. They can also continue composing over the summer if they wish!

Students will be given instructions on how to sign into their new Noteflight account on Tuesday in their Music lesson, and they will also be shown how to upload all of their own work and delete their old account. We ask parents and guardians to check if children are able to follow the instructions, have uploaded their work correctly and have deleted their old account. We ask that this is done by Friday 3rd July, as I will be checking all students are able to access The Swan School Noteflight by then.

If you have any questions about this, do let me know.

Mrs Playford

Summer Holiday Activities

Oxfordshire County Council will be getting information together about summer holiday activities/provision in the area. Please follow this [link](#) to find out more information. The council assures us that more information will be added over time.

Other

End of year celebration

Please see the introduction for more information about our plans for an end of year celebration for students. Parents/carers should fill in [this form](#) to express interest in your child taking part.

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. Information about other activities available during the summer holidays will be available [here](#).

Chromebook Return - deadline Wednesday 22nd July

We will require all school chromebooks to be returned to us before the end of term. We understand that children may need to continue using their Chromebooks until the last day of term. If your child has borrowed a Chromebook from school, this will need to be returned to school by Wednesday 22nd July, at the latest. There will be a member of staff onsite between 9am and 3.30pm, from Monday 21st July until Wednesday 22nd 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

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) - remember, students will need to come to our new site!