

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 16th October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearing the end of our first half term back at school, and I want to take this time to thank you once again for your continued support over the last couple of months. I don't think we could have imagined more of a challenging start to the year with the delay to the building and new coronavirus restrictions to introduce. It is also hard to underestimate how difficult it has been for students to readjust to full time education following so many months learning from home. For our year 7s in particular, it has been a steep learning curve as they get used, not just to returning to school, but a brand new school with the highest expectations of them. They have risen to the challenge magnificently, and we are so impressed with how well they have settled in.

Thank you also for your excellent work in supporting your children with their quizzing at home. We know there is an additional challenge for students now that they only have one period of supervised study, but we are really pleased by how much responsibility they are taking. In our Friday gritudes at lunch, quite a few students expressed thanks to their parents for checking their quiz booklets so they were able to fill in any gaps and avoid detention! As well as being lovely to hear, this is just one more piece of evidence to confirm how beneficial it is when all work together!

Ms Wood

Information

6th Form Opening - September 2021

Exciting news! We are planning to start a 6th form cohort of Year 12s from September 2021. This is an opportunity for any Year 11s who want to pursue a rigorous academic curriculum, in our fantastic new building. There will be open events, and a shiny prospectus, coming out soon. But please do let anyone know who may be interested in a place for next year and beyond!

SLT Surgery – Thursdays 9.30-10am

- Parents/Carers can drop in to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team with any questions or concerns they have on Thursdays between 9.30am and 10am. No prior-arranged appointment normally is required.
- Due to Covid restrictions, we have to limit the number of visitors on-site. Parents are asked to complete [this form](#) to arrange a phone call or socially distant meeting during this time.

Homework Club

Please do make sure that you keep us up to date about whether you would like your child to attend and which days. If you no longer wish your child to attend Homework Club, please do let us know so we can update our registers and make the space available for another family.

Annual Flu Vaccination - Year 7 ONLY

The primary school flu vaccination programme is being extended for year 7s this year. Please find attached a [letter](#) regarding your child's flu vaccination. If you would like your child to receive a vaccination you will need to complete the Consent Form, via the link below, so your child can receive their Flu Vaccination. This link will cease to work 2 working days before the session.

- **Session Date - Wednesday 2nd December 2020**

To access the online consent form, please click on the following link:

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/forms/flu>

SwanComm

FREE Fundraising Tool for the SwanComm

Easyfundraising is a **free** website that helps us to raise funds for our school while doing our usual online shopping. It's free, safe and with no extra cost at our normal shopping. SwanComm has so far raised about £110.00 via Easyfundraising. Both parents and staff are able to sign up and help raise money for The Swan! Please see the link below to find out more and get registered.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theswancomm1/?invite=209M68&referral-campaign=c2s>

Reminders

Lost Property

We have quite a collection of lost property in reception (mainly water bottles!). Could we ask you to please remind children that if they may have misplaced an item, come to reception and check the lost property box.

Cycle Helmets and High Visibility Items

It is great to see so many of our students cycling to school - we have nearly 50% of them doing so! Please can you remind your children that they do need to wear a cycle helmet and high visibility items to keep them safe - this is especially important as it starts to get dark earlier in the evening. Students are welcome to wear a high vis/reflective coat as an alternative to their plain, dark one if they are cycling to school.

Parentmail/ My Child At School

Everybody should now have access to Parentmail and the My Child At School platforms. We are not aware of any further technical issues, however, if you are struggling at all please do email into the office on office@theswanschool.org.uk.

Free School Meals

A reminder for any new or existing parents who think they may qualify for Free School Meals, please submit a request via our [website](#). This will ensure that you do not have to pay for lunches, and also means that the school can receive additional funding.

Reporting Student Absence

A reminder that the school office needs to be informed **each day of a child's absence** from school as soon as possible in the morning.

Our preferred method of communicating student absence is email as it helps make sure we get all the accurate information and can easily get back in contact:

- Parents should email office@theswanschool.org.uk including ABSENCE in the title of the email.
- Email/message needs to state child's full name and tutor, and why the child is off, particularly if they have suspected Covid or another infectious disease
- If the child is off due to [Covid symptoms](#) then the parents need to arrange a Covid test and get a negative test result before the child comes back to school. The school will provide home learning resources and a chromebook while the student is off school.

Parents still have the option to telephone the school and leave a message if they have no access to email.

Enrichment

Poetry By Heart half term challenge

Over half term, we are encouraging students to learn a poem off by heart. Students can choose a poem they know and love or, on Monday-Wednesday of next week, go to the library and have some help with choosing a poem. When we return to school after half term, students should go to the library at any time during the first week back to recite their poem to the library team. Anyone who recites a poem will win a prize!

Library News

Library News: From Monday till Wednesday, students may borrow 2 books at a time (instead of the usual 1), so that they are well set-up for half term. One request: please remind your child to bring their book back by its due date, as expectation detentions will be set for all books that are more than one day overdue - many thanks. **Books of the week** (beginning 19th October): *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak - a heartbreaking tale set in Nazi Germany and narrated by Death; and *Unspeakable* by Abbie Rushton - a powerful novel exploring themes of selective mutism and same-sex romance. Happy reading over half term!

Dr Tessa Roynon, School

Librarian

Calling young theatre makers!

Applications are now open for OX2 COLLECTIVE supported by The North Wall Arts Centre and St Edward's School. We are hoping to work with students from The Swan School and St Edward's School to form OX2 COLLECTIVE; a young theatre company. OX2 COLLECTIVE will be part of The National Theatre Connections Festivals, which The North Wall hosts every year.

This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to perform in a professional venue, be cast in a play written by a leading playwright in the UK, and be part of an inspiring festival with thousands of their peers across the country.

This is an open access project; **all places are free**. We plan to run workshops in November and December to explore the play text, build skills and bond the ensemble. Rehearsals start in January 2021 and **all members must be aged 13 by Jan 4th to take part**. All workshops and rehearsals will take place at The North Wall Arts

Centre, South Parade, OX2 7NN. All workshops and rehearsals will be compliant with government guidelines, appropriately risk assessed and Covid-19 Safe.

Important Dates:

- Applications for OX2 COLLECTIVE Close: November 9th 2020
- Workshop Dates(2020): 27th Nov 6pm – 8pm, 4th Dec 6pm – 8pm, 11th Dec 6pm – 8pm
- Rehearsals(2021): Jan 8th – Feb 12th (Fridays 6-7pm) Feb 26th – March 31st (Fridays 6 – 8pm)
- Home Performance: TBC
- The National Connections Festival: May 7th – 9th 2021

To apply, please email Abie at waltona@thenorthwall.com

5K Club

It has been wonderful to see how many students have attended the 5K club - about 20 students and 3 staff came to our second session. All abilities welcome. We will meet at 3.50 at the entrance to the sports block, and the session will last between 30-45 mins. No need to register, just come along if you're keen! Sports kit required (doesn't need to be Swan PE Kit), but students must wear their uniform as usual during the day and get changed

Fantasy football

For the 2020/21 Fantasy Premier League why don't you join our mini-league "TheSwanSchool"? Joining the league couldn't be easier. Simply use the link below and you'll be added automatically after you've entered the game. <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/leagues/auto-join/de1vx0>

- **League Code: de1vx0**

Looking forward to playing against you this season!

Mr MacNaughton, Deputy Headteacher

Cricket Club

An opportunity for any girls interested in cricket. It's aimed primarily at new girls to the game, participants aged 8-12. They will get the chance to learn and practice new skills as well as get involved in lots of game-based activities throughout the sessions. For existing players, these 'Hubs' are a really good way to develop skills and have some fun with new friends and participants from around Oxfordshire.

Starting in Cost £5 per session, at the following 3 venues: Chargers: Charlbury Community Centre OX7 3PQ, Strikers: Didcot Girl's School OX11 7AJ, Stars: St Gregory The Great School, Oxford OX4 3DR.

6-7pm Starting in November. Please email Mrs. White (natasha.white@theswanschool.org.uk) for more information.

Mrs White, PE Teacher

Instrumental Lessons

We are looking to see if any parents would be interested in their child learning the flute in school. We are on the waiting list for a flute teacher from the Oxford Music Service, but we are looking for a couple more students to sign up. If your child would like to try learning the flute, register your interest with the Oxford Music Service [here](#). Instruments can also be hired from the Oxford Music Service.

A reminder that we currently offer the following instruments in school: piano, guitar, drums, violin and brass. If you would be interested in your child learning any of these instruments, please contact me directly at katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk.

Mrs Playford, Head of Performance

Key Dates:

- Half Term - Thursday 22nd October - Friday 30th October
- Data and Planning Day - Friday 4th December
- Parent Day - Wednesday 9th December
- End of Term - Thursday 17th December