



# Chesterfield High School

*'for everyone the best'*

Headteacher – Simon Penney B.Ed., N.V.Q.V., N.P.Q.H



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December 2018

Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing to you as usual about the arrangements for the last day of term - Friday 21st December 2018 and the first day of the new term - **Tuesday 8th January 2019.**

Students in Years 7-13 will be dismissed from school at the normal time of 3.00pm on **Friday 21st December 2018.**

On Friday 14th December 2018 we are holding a fundraising event when pupils can either wear a Christmas themed jumper instead of their school jumper or an item such as a festive hat, scarf or piece of tinsel with their uniform. We are asking for donations of £1 in support of the Save the Children Fund.

The Sixth Form students are making Christmas hampers to deliver to elderly members of our community again this year.

During the final weeks of term the following will be taking place:

- Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be in subject areas as specified in the letters sent by school comms
- Year 11 will be sitting their external BTEC PE examinations.

Year 11 and 13 will be sitting their mock examinations the week beginning 14th January 2019.

As you will appreciate these mock GCSE examinations and assessments will contribute to the school's decision about tier of entry in external examinations where relevant and setting. Therefore, your child is expected to attend school all week. Medical evidence will be expected in the event of any absence, otherwise it will be regarded as an unauthorised absence.

Letters have been sent out regarding the examinations with topic lists for students to use in preparation for their examinations. Your child's teachers will be providing them with revision materials and resources for the examinations. Could you please encourage your child to use the on-line revision resources on the PiXL Maths app, PiXL English Literature app, PiXL History app, Tassomai and the school's DODDLE learning platform which is accessible from the school's website.

All students should return to school at **8.30am on Tuesday 8th January 2019** for the start of the Spring Term.

The period after Christmas can be a time when parents and carers decide to book holidays for the summer. The school is not allowed by the Government to authorise any holidays during term time.

Any holidays taken in term time will mean that the school will have to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for each child taken out of school. With the changing examination system, students cannot afford to miss any school days, as every day missed can affect their chances of success in their examinations and affect their future options. Please can we also remind parents/carers that they are expected to make all appointments, including medical, outside of school hours as far as is reasonably possible. Please note that all Year 10 students will also be sitting GCSE English Literature and Mathematics examinations during the summer term.

We recently acknowledged the outstanding successes of the Year 11 Class of 2018 at our annual Prize Giving Event. This year the event was held at St Luke's Church in Crosby. It was a great success as more students than ever were awarded prizes with their families in attendance to share in the celebrations. Students were rewarded for surpassing their targets and their effort and determination to take on the challenge in achieving their well-deserved results.

Meanwhile, our current Year 11 students have completed their mock interviews this term with representatives and employers from the Education and Business Partnership. The feedback we received from the employers was extremely complimentary about the mature, polite way our students presented themselves.

Our annual Christmas Celebration will be held at St Luke's Church on Thursday 13th December at 7.00pm. This is normally an outstanding event with students from Chesterfield participating in a truly festive celebration.

As we are about to go through the season of inclement weather, can I draw your attention to arrangements in case of a very heavy snowfall resulting in the necessity to close our school. In this event, could I advise you to check the school website for information.

Each year group will have received at least one monitoring of performance report sheet by the end of this term, showing progress made towards the minimum targets set for students. We welcome comments from you as this process of monitoring progress will be repeated in the spring and summer terms.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of dates of Parents Evenings next term:

Year 13	Parents Evening	7th February 2019	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 8	Parents Evening	28th February 2019	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 9	Parents Evening	7th March 2019	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 11	Parents Evening	21st March 2019	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 10	Parents Evening	4th April 2019	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 7	Parents Evening	11th July 2019	4.00pm to 7.00pm

When we return after the Christmas Holidays could you please remind your son/daughter not to bring valuable items such as jewellery, electronic devices and mobile telephones into school with them as we cannot be held responsible for them or refund the value of such items if lost or stolen. Mobile telephones and electronic devices are not allowed during the school day.

I am attaching a list of the school uniform and would like to remind you that students are not allowed to wear hooded sweatshirts/jackets. During the winter such items are not an alternative to an outdoor coat. The uniform list also states that students should wear plain black shoes (not patent leather). This means, therefore, that canvas pumps or any kind of trainers should not be worn. We have high expectations of our students and a high standard of uniform is essential for everyone in our community. Please note that the cost of a school tie is now £3.75.

I would like to remind you that certain students within school are eligible for Free School Meals. If you feel your child may fall within this category you will be able to find more information on Sefton Council's website [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk). Please click on 'Schools and Learning' then 'Grants and Funding' to reach the information on Free School Meals.

For those children in receipt of Free School Meals there is a financial benefit to both the family and the school, also since the school moved to a cashless system in the school canteen, pupils in receipt of Free School Meals have money paid directly into their accounts. Therefore, in this discrete way, their receipt of Free School Meals remains anonymous to others.

Could parents and carers please note that payments for school trips and school meals can now be made online via the payment system [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) or on the mobile app. We are no longer able to accept cheque payments. Please be mindful when using the service that you must have sufficient funds available in the accounts you wish to transfer from.

Finally, at the end of this term we say goodbye the following colleagues:

Mr M Bell (Assistant Director of English), Miss C McDonough (Teacher of English) and Miss K McWean (Director of Learning: English)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and commitment to the students of Chesterfield High School and to wish them every success for the future.

We are pleased to welcome the following staff who will be joining us in January:

Mr J McCauley (Teacher of History) and Miss S Mullally (Teacher of English).

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Penney  
**Headteacher**