



Headteacher:
Mr Paul James



Science



INVESTORS IN
PEOPLE UK



Healthy School



International
School Award
2007-2010

Training
School

The Cherwell School

Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE

Telephone: 01865 558719

Facsimile: South Site 01865 518277

North Site 01865 514517

Headteacher's confidential fax: 01865 311165

office.cherwell@cherwell.oxon.sch.uk

head@cherwell.oxon.sch.uk www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk

BT/pv

16th October 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

STUDENT WELLBEING UPDATE

As we approach the end of Term I thought I would write to you and let you know about the work we have been doing in school to support students as well as some of our future plans. School takes every child's wellbeing very seriously and lots of work is underway right across the school to support all students to thrive and learn effectively. This letter just gives an update of some of the areas of focus.

Anti Bullying

All the evidence we have suggests that the vast majority of our students feel happy and safe in school but we will always remain vigilant. We are working with students to improve ways of reporting and addressing bullying. Our E-Safety Action Group have developed an App that students can install on their phones. As well as offering advice, guidance and links to support agencies, it also provides a facility to report any concerns to the school without having to talk face-to-face. They have been told how to install this App in assembly and more information is on the student intranet.

Promoting safe use of the internet remains a challenge as so much of this occurs out of school. You are probably aware that this is an issue of growing national concern with particular regards to Child Sexual Exploitation and Radicalisation. Following our successful event last year, we have arranged an information evening for parents in February 2016 which will be facilitated by a specialist trainer from the Local Authority. We have also put some e-safety advice and guidance with links to resources on our website under the 'Information for parents' tab. If you are worried about any of these issues you should contact your child's form tutor or deputy year leader in the first instance.

Attendance

It is no surprise that students with good attendance do better in school. The Government considers attendance below 90% to be a concern that requires intervention – this translates to 3 days off in a term. We set a higher target of 95% attendance which we believe gives students the best chance of success. With this in mind, please avoid making routine dental or doctor's visits during the school day and if this is not possible, please return them to school as soon as you can. There will be times when your child is too unwell to attend, but having a minor ailment like a cold should not prevent them from coming.

Road Safety and The School Run

We continue to explore ways of ensuring students are safe as they travel to and from school. We are proud that so many cycle, but this can lead to problems at peak times. Our petition to ask the Council to paint a line down the middle of the cycle path running between Marston and The Cherwell was successful and we keep reminding students to stay on the left of this line and cycle no more than two abreast. If you could reinforce this message at home as well as promoting the use of helmets, lights and high viz clothing now that the dark mornings and afternoons are nearly upon us we would be grateful.

If it is essential for you to bring your child to and from school by car, please use the Rugby Club or Marston Ferry car park and take great care driving across the cycle path.

The Cherwell School is an academy managed by The Cherwell School Academy Trust, which is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with a registered company number 7966500. Registered Office: The Cherwell School, Marston Ferry Road, OXFORD OX2 7EE United Kingdom

A centre of opportunity

We are currently exploring ways to further enhance safety with CTAG (Cherwell Travel Action Group) and there will be more to come on this in the very near future.

School Council

This is a key avenue for student input into the running of the school as well as linking with senior leaders about all matters relating to school life and student well being. Elections have taken place to choose South Site, North Site and Whole School Council representatives, all of whom have been provided with an iPad to use in order to carry out their roles effectively. Year 7 council elections are still in process.

We are really keen to develop this aspect of Student Voice and see it as a key element of our drive to enhance the wellbeing of all our students. Students should contact their Form Rep if they have any issues or suggestions that they would like to be discussed by the Council.

Young Carers

Your child is a Young Carer if they have additional responsibilities at home as a result of caring for a disabled or ill relative. Several parents and carers indicated on the admission form that their children are Young Carers. Please do contact Ms Young (Attendance and Inclusion Officer) to discuss the support that we can offer your child. She is also the person to contact if you have any concerns about your child's ability to attend school.

kyoung@cherwell.oxon.sch.uk

Scholars

As you will already know, the Government provides additional funding specifically for the purpose of raising the attainment of students who are looked after, adopted from care or in receipt of free school meals (or who have been in the last 6 years). This is known as the Pupil Premium Grant.

At The Cherwell School we use this funding in a variety of ways including increased staffing for interventions and resources as well as focused support for individuals

We launched our Cherwell Scholarship Programme in 2012 in order to support eligible students to make good progress in school. The programme has been very successful and Scholars have benefitted from a wide range of academic support and enrichment activities which you may have read about in our Newsletters. Please contact your child's Deputy Year Leader if you think your child may be eligible to join our Scholarship Programme.

Additional Support Services

We address a range of wellbeing issues with students in an age appropriate way through PSHCE, Assemblies, tutorials and visiting speakers/theatre companies. Our aim is always to make sure that they have enough information to make good choices as they mature. As well as our curriculum approaches there will be some students who need access to more specialist services:

We are lucky to have **Jo Bowd** as our School Health Nurse who is on site every day. She is available to support students with range of issues including:

- General Health and Wellbeing
- Smoking cessation
- Sexual Health

Students can refer themselves to this service or be referred by a member of staff.

Matt Barnard is our new Lead Counsellor and is working hard to expand the Counselling Service. We have 4 counsellors on Placement joining us in Term 2. Again students can ask

to see a counsellor, parents can request this or referrals may be made by Year Leaders or their deputies.

Advisors from **The Hub** – can give advice about drugs and alcohol if students are worried about themselves or a friend or family member

Helen Bould – PCAMHs – Students are referred via their GP or a member of staff

Peer Support Team. Some of our Y13 students have undertaken a day of approved training in order to be able to confidently support Y7 students over a range of issues. They are co-ordinated by Mr Roberts and have close contact with Matt Barnard.

We always encourage students to discuss these important issues with you but some decide not to. We will not inform you that your child has accessed any of these services without their permission unless we have a significant concern for their safety. Please refer to our Confidentiality policy for further information about our approach to such things.

<https://www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk/files/info/policies/CONFIDENTIALITY.pdf>

I hope that you have found this update useful and that you will contact me if you have any comments, questions or ideas. More information about the E-Safety evening in February will follow after the Christmas break.

Best wishes



Barb Timms
(DEPUTY HEADTEACHER)