



Chigwell School

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Dear Parents

As I said to pupils in assembly, at the start of the academic year last September, I suspect no one would have expected this term to have been quite like it has. Nevertheless, I cannot praise staff and pupils enough for their hard work, resilience and commitment to keeping education going despite the challenging circumstances. Virtually all pupils up to Upper Two have been attending school, we enjoyed seeing the Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth when they came in recently, and 10,557 live lessons have taken place on Teams for pupils in the Third Form and above. Thank you for your support for your children as they work in this different way and for the staff who have really appreciated all your kind and encouraging messages.

Speech Day with the associated services took a different format this year. The virtual prize-giving has had 1,240 views so far, again we have had some very kind comments about this and the virtual service, and thank you for sharing photos of the family watching the occasion together. A number of pets featured, including one sporting a house tie!

At this time of year we say goodbye to colleagues who are moving on and this year four teaches who have worked very hard to support and enthuse the children in their care are leaving us.

Miss Jessica Bonner joined us as a Pre Prep teacher in September 2015, initially as a maternity cover teacher. Such was Miss Bonner's hard work and commitment, when we had the opportunity to make her appointment permanent, we did and for five years Jessica has worked to bring the best out of the children in her classes. Sadly for us, but happily for Jessica, she moves to be with her fiancé. Oxfordshire's gain is Chigwell's loss – we hope that Miss Bonner will stay in touch and thank her for everything she has done here.

In 1997, Mr Simon Wilson arrived as a new teacher of biology and chemistry, and so began a teaching career that would include co-ordinating Year 7 and 8 science and being assistant housemaster before becoming Assistant Director of Studies. First and foremost, Simon is a first-rate, committed teacher - no surprise that he was made Principal Examiner for Biology which has seen him train teachers across the world. Simon leaves us for somewhere slightly closer to home, Norwich School, where he will be Head of Biology. We thank him for everything he has done so diligently over the last 23 years and wish him every success.

Mr Ron Spicer came to Chigwell in 2006, initially as a part-time teacher of economics, having worked for a quarter of a century in further education. Within a year his role had become full-time and Head of Department, and during this period numbers taking the subject at A level grew. More recently, Ron has returned to a part-time role but his commitment to the wider life of the School has never reduced. Always ready to accompany a trip and a committed manager of the 2nd XI with inspirational half time talks that would put any premiership manager to shame. Ron has been a thoroughly positive, loyal teacher and colleague. We will miss him but wish him a long and happy retirement.

Dr Peter Clayton has committed the majority of his life to Chigwell. The world, and indeed the School, was a different place when he arrived in 1975, and four and a half decades later we must thank Peter for everything he has contributed to the School. His roles have included being a teacher of physics and IT, Head of Physics, Director of IT, Network Manager, ICT Systems Manager, Chair of the ICT Committee, Timetable Manager, and Database Manager. He is a thoroughly devoted, kind and supportive colleague, a clever physicist and a devout and decent man. Quietly and calmly Peter has helped move the School forwards, always looking to use technology helpfully and always ready to help others. Peter thoroughly deserves a long and fulfilling retirement with his wife and grandchildren. We thank him for everything he has done here and we will miss him.

With regard to results days this year, the arrangements are as follows:

A level results will be issued on Thursday 13th August:

- At 8.00am results will be sent electronically to students. UCAS Track updates with course confirmations at the same time.
- From 8.00am onwards Mr Neil Saunders, Mr Simon Coppell and I will be available in the Sixth Form Centre for advice or help.
- There will be no paper copies of results issued, and unfortunately no year group photograph, but we would stress that students and families are invited to come in for advice and support.

GCSE results will be issued on Thursday 20th August:

- At 8.00am results will be published electronically to students and parents.
- From 8.00am onwards members of senior staff will be available in the Sixth Form Centre for advice or help.
- Students should confirm their A level subject choices to Miss Roxanne Darkin, Sixth Form Coordinator, in person or by email (rdarkin@chigwell-school.org) on the day.
- There will be no paper copies of results issued, and unfortunately no year group photograph, but we would stress that students and families are invited to come in for advice and support.
- If, post results day, the student makes an agreed A level subject change following parental request to the Head of Sixth Form, they must complete any holiday homework for this as well as their other A level subjects.

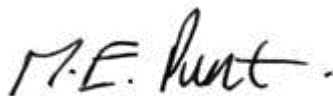
We hope very much that life will be much more normal by the start of full term on Thursday 3rd September. The Government has stated that all children should be back in school and we are keen for that too, although we anticipate that there will be a need for social distancing which will impact on how we do things. No doubt the situation will evolve over the summer and so will the guidance; we will be in touch with more details about arrangements before the start of term.

We wish our leavers every future success and happiness, and encourage them to stay in touch with each other and with us. They will always be Old Chigwellians, whatever paths they choose to follow.

Someone once said 'There is no path, paths are made by walking' and I sense that has been true for many of us over the last few months. We have had to create new ways through these unexpected and challenging times but overall, together the Chigwell community has done so with confidence. Have a really good summer and I look forward to seeing you again in September.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.E. Punt'.

Michael Punt