



Create, Aspire and Excel  
to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)



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## Message from the Acting Principal

We have had a great start to the new school year.

We have a rota of staff who walk around the school dropping into lessons to see all the positive things that are happening each period of the day. This shows that lessons are focused, with lesson objectives and that students are engaged with their learning. We have only been back a week, but this is exactly the atmosphere we want to create and both students and staff have commented on this positive start.

I would like to thank you for your support with ensuring that our students have come back to Chiltern Hills with a 'can do' attitude, ready to learn and to take part in the life of the school.

Can I remind you that we are now back to full school uniform, after the September heat wave, so we do expect all our students to be wearing a blazer. Our students are a credit to you and their community, and I am so impressed with the way that they have conducted themselves around the school and in lessons during the last week.

We have a number of events that we are looking forward to at the school in the very near future. On Wednesday 20 September 2023 we have our first parent Forum of the year. This is an opportunity for you to come into the school and discuss any key questions or issues you may have with members of the Senior Team. Parent forum starts at 6.30pm and lasts for one hour. We will meet you in the atrium at 6.30pm and look forward to seeing you there.

We also have our Annual Open Evening on Monday 25 September 2023. This is an opportunity for the school to open its doors to primary school students in Year 6 who are choosing their secondary school ready for September 2024. As a result of this the school will close at 1.20pm on Monday 25 September 2023. We are enlisting the support of our students to support us during the evening. Year 7 and Year 12 students are being asked to be tour guides and departments will be asking other students to help with a variety of activities.

I feel it is important to let you know that the performing arts department is busy practicing for the production of Oliver. This production will be for 4 nights from Monday 9 October 2023, and you will receive information from the Performing Arts team soon about tickets and prices. It is lovely to see the students practicing for this show and I am really looking forward to seeing our students perform.

Once again please do not hesitate to contact me about any issues, suggestions or concerns that you have, and I will be only too happy to get back to you. I can be contacted on [office@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chacademy.co.uk)

Mr T Dobbs

## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
19 September	Whole school photographs
20 September	Parent Forum, 6.30 to 7.30pm
25 September	Open Evening, 5.30 to 8.00pm ( <b>School closes at 1.20pm</b> )
28 September	Open Morning, 9.30 to 11.00am
29 September	Macmillan Coffee morning (break time).
3 October	CHA-PTA meeting includes AGM 7.00 to 8.00pm
4 October	Open Morning, 9.30 to 11.00am
5 October	Drama trip to Aylesbury 'Peter Pan that goes wrong', 6.00 to 8.00pm
9-12 October	Drama Production – 'Oliver' the Musical, 7.00pm
10 October	CHA-PTA meeting includes AGM 7.00 to 8.00pm
16 October	Deadline for Oxford, Cambridge and Medical Universities
18-19 October	Y11 Geography trip to London Olympic Park
20 October	Breast Cancer Awareness – Wear it Pink (Mufti)
20 October	Last day of Autumn term 1, school closes at 3.15pm.
30 October	First day of Autumn term 2, school starts at 8.40am
30 Oct to 10 Nov	Y11 and Y13 Mock Examinations

## Safeguarding

This week in the news I have read many articles and news reports focusing on the use of vapes and particularly the risks associated for children. There has been an increase in Great Britain over the last few years and more and more children are using vapes and becoming regular users.

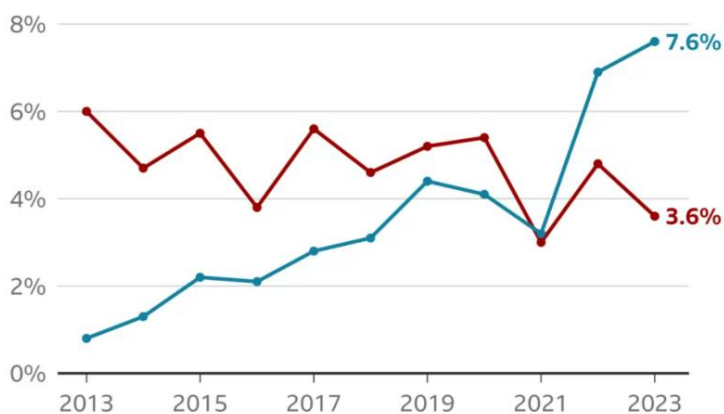
Here is one of many news articles featured this week that asks the question 'How dangerous is vaping and why the concern for our young vapers?'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-66784967>

The report features this chart showing the increase of e-cigarettes over the last decade:

## More children now vape than smoke

Percentage of 11 to 17-year-olds using **e-cigarettes** compared with **cigarettes**



Source: Ash Smokefree GB Youth Surveys, 2013-2023

BBC

There appears to be momentum building for disposable vapes to be banned and this is based on evidence that they are highly addictive and found to contain dangerous levels of lead, nickel, chromium and carbonyls – chemicals proven to cause brain, heart, kidney and lung damage.

Brightly coloured and appealing to children they can go unnoticed due to the disguised appearance of looking like highlighter pens. Let's hope the government take the necessary action to protect our children.

Here is some helpful links should you want to find out more information.

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/e-cigarettes.html#:~:text=Vaping%20is%20the%20inhaling%20of%20a%20vapor%20created,vaping.%20Get%20help%20for%20kids%20who%20are%20vaping.>

Here are some tips for parents to follow

- Check your child's bag, bedroom and coat for vapes
- Check and query what their pocket money is being spent on
- Be especially careful if you are a vaper yourself, that your devices or liquids are not going missing
- Challenge the myth that, "at least it is not as bad as smoking"
- Report any shop that you hear has sold vapes to children by calling Trading Standards on 0808 223 1133

Action for Children have published a page on the matter, and I believe it's well worth a read. Please follow the link below to find out more:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

Together, as a community, I believe we can beat this. We need to work together and prevent our young people from embarking on an addictive and dangerous habit that can have such a negative impact on their health. If your child is offered a vape, please tell us by emailing [safeguarding@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@chacademy.co.uk)

Mrs J Conway  
Vice Principal  
Executive Designated Safeguarding Lead

## PTA news

The PTA would like to say a very warm welcome back to everyone as we start our new school year. An especially warm welcome to you if you are a new family to the school, particularly if you are about to start your secondary school adventure in Y7. We hope that you happily settle into life at Chiltern Hills Academy and enjoy everything that the school has to offer, you will find everyone keen to help as this can sometimes be a daunting experience.

The PTA hopes to build on our successes of last year and look forward to another year of wonderful fund raising events. We sadly lost several of our members at the end of last summer so we really hope that parents will feel able to join us as we raise considerable funds that support and enhance our children's time at school. We know that some of you will bring experience from previous schools, or maybe you just feel that the time is right for you to become a little more involved, it will be fantastic if you can spare some time and help us to make us even more successful. Our first meeting will be this Tuesday in the atrium and we really look forward to seeing you there.

### **Diary Dates**

Tuesday 3 October

PTA AGM 7.00pm in the school atrium, to be followed by PTA meeting

Sunday 5 November

PTA Winter Fayre 10.30am – 3.00pm

## **ParentPay**

Hopefully you have now received the letter with your unique ParentPay login, but if not please contact me via email at [ecraddock1@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:ecraddock1@chacademy.co.uk) and I will forward it to you. As we are a cashless school, we use ParentPay to receive payments for any trips or activities. This means we are unable to accept any cash payments.

Mrs Craddock

Finance Administrator

## **School Production - Oliver**

We are now in the last five weeks before the show. We require all cast and band, where possible, to attend the following rehearsals in the school hall. We are also asking that the cast attend the drama studio on Open Evening so we can use this as an opportunity to rehearse.

### **Dates of show rehearsals:**

- Tuesday 19 September until 5.00pm
- Thursday 21 September until 5.00pm
- Open Evening: Monday 25 September – 5.30pm – 8.00pm
- Tuesday 26 September until 5.00pm
- Thursday 28 September until 5.00pm
- Saturday 30 September 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Tuesday 3 October until 5.00pm
- Thursday 5 October until 5.00pm
- Saturday 7 October 10.00am – 4.00pm
- Sunday 8 October 10.00am – 3.00pm

### **Show dates and times:**

- Monday 9 October – 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Tuesday 10 October – 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Wednesday 11 October – 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Thursday 12 October – 7.00pm – 9.00pm

If possible, could students please start bringing to rehearsal a blazer, scarf and hat that looks suitable for the Victorian era.

Ms Leathers, Mr Upton, Ms Mitchell  
Music and Drama Department

## PE – Extra Curricular Timetable

Please see the extra-curricular sport timetable below:

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch</b>	Futsal Mr Muddiman	Table Tennis Mr Callender	Y7 & Y8 Basketball Mr Sperring	Badminton Mr Sperring	Y9-Y11 Basketball Mr Muddiman
<b>After School</b>	Y9 Boys Football Mr Falcon  Y7 & Y8 Girls Football Mr Muddiman  Y9-Y10 Netball Mr Sperring, Miss Keeble & Miss Leathers  All Years Cricket Mr Callender	Y11 Boys Football Mr Sperring  Fitness & Wellbeing Mr Callender	Y7 & Y8 Boys Football Mr Muddiman  Y7 & Y8 Netball Mr Sperring, Miss Keeble & Miss Leathers  All Years Running Club Miss Medina	Y7-Y9 Rugby Mr Callender  Y10 Boys Football Mr Humphrey  Y9-Y11 Girls Football Mr Sperring & Miss Muir	

Please note that this is a general timetable, and weekly changes will be posted on Show My Homework each Thursday. These changes are due to fixtures and other staff commitments.

Mr Muddiman  
Teacher of PE

## Food Technology

On learners' timetables food technology is now included within Product Design, which learners will rotate around termly over the course of Y7 and Y8. In food technology this week Y7 have made lemonade and Y8 have made apple crumble. In a change to previous academic years, Chiltern Hills Academy are providing ingredients for all key stage 3 learners, and we are asking parents for a £15 voluntary contribution towards the cost of these, which is approximately £2.50 per practical lesson. A letter will be sent to you when your child is due to study food technology.



Miss Rowan, Teacher of Food Technology



## Library News

The library has been very busy this week! It has been lovely seeing so many new Y7s come and have a look at the library and borrow books.

Books are loaned to students on a 2-week basis, which can be renewed if they need longer. Whilst on loan the books are the responsibility of the children to keep them in good condition and not lose them.

There is lots to look forward to this term in the library. It is a very busy term with whizz-popping Guy Fawkes night, spooky Halloween and of course sparkly and twinkly Christmas, all of which will be celebrated in the library with themed book displays, and for Y7 and Y8, in their library lessons.

I have created a Library Loyalty Card, students will receive a sticker for each book read and 8 stickers will gain them a prize! They are on my desk, the children can help themselves to a card when they come in. I also have bookmarks students can take and keep too!

Y7 and Y8 have Bookbuzz to look forward to. Parents of Y8 will be familiar with this already but all will be explained to the children next week in their English lessons and a letter will be going home to parents and carers that will have all the exciting information in.

A big announcement for this term is I am planning a literary evening in December in conjunction with Chapter Two bookshop in Chesham. In the summer they ran a very successful poetry competition for the residents of Chesham and we hope to recreate that here, with the children submitting a poem which will be judged by Mark of Chapter Two and others, culminating in an evening in the library with the winners and their parents to share the amazing work of the students. More details to follow.

Lastly, before the summer I created an Amazon Wish List of books we would love to have in the library. We have had some wonderful additions but would always love more. If you feel like you would like to buy the library a small gift, please click the link and have a look at the titles. If your child has a favourite author they want to add, just tell them to come and see me and I will add it on or do my best to source it elsewhere

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2SA7D39VE70IR?ref\\_=abls\\_nvfly\\_yl](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2SA7D39VE70IR?ref_=abls_nvfly_yl)

Here are some of our new and diverse titles for the children to enjoy!



Mrs Davenport  
Librarian

Acting Principal:

Tim Dobbs BA (Hons), NPQH

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