



CHERTSEY HIGH SCHOOL

Part of the Bourne Education Trust

NEWSLETTER
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SUMMER TERM 2017



*Transforming Learning
Enlightening minds*

IN THIS ISSUE:

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT
HOUSE NAMES
STUDENT VOICE
3G PITCH
PROPOSAL FOR PERMANENT
ACCOMMODATION
KEY DATES FOR AUTUMN
TERM





Zelia Munnik
Headteacher, Chertsey High School

Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe we are standing at the brink of the end of such an emotional but equally exhilarating 12 months. We are extremely excited to see where this journey will take us as a school and a community and I could not be happier sharing it with the best team we could ever have asked for!

As always, the Summer Term did not disappoint with a packed schedule filled with Induction Days; Primary school visits; Ofsted inspections and finalising our building designs. In this edition, we hope to not only give you a flavour of all the fun we have had during the past 12 months but to also provide you with an update regarding our Temporary and Permanent Accommodation.



Views of the south and west facades



“Chertsey High School is a dream come true for our pupils”

PRE-OPENING INSPECTION

On the 17th May, the team was invited to the Department for Education (DfE) where we had our Readiness to Open Meeting. We presented our thoughts around any risks alongside mitigations for all areas related to the school. The Free Schools Group responded extremely positive to our presentation and documentation and after an interview focusing on our site, curriculum and leadership the Free Schools Group awarded us with the ‘green light’ that we are ready to open. This was followed by a Pre-Opening Ofsted Inspection where again, we received the ‘green light’ to meeting all the necessary standards.

TRANSITION

We have worked in close partnership with our primary schools to provide an enhanced level of transition for those whom we felt would benefit. The period of transition depended on the individual needs of each child. Where we felt appropriate, we have attended Annual Reviews to meet the current class teacher, parents and most importantly the pupils. We have found this strategy particularly useful in easing any worries or concerns parents and children may have. On top of that, on the 8th June we met with all SENCOs from our feeder primaries to discuss and explore support strategies for pupils transferring to Chertsey High School. Finally, we visited each primary school to – where needed – observe pupils in class and spend time with the class teacher discussing students’ strengths and areas that could be further developed. Comment from a local primary school, “Chertsey High School is a dream come true for our pupils”.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Our coffee mornings have continued to be a great success not only because of the coffee and cookies but also because of the amazing support from parents! Coffee mornings this term focused more on transition between primary and secondary and the expectations of the school on pupils rather than specific topics. We will continue to deliver coffee mornings for our next cohort – so watch this space! Parental support has been incredible – we now have our own Chertsey High School Y7 Class Facebook Page where all the minutes from coffee mornings / any updates are uploaded. Comment from parent “My daughter can’t wait for September - Chertsey High School is all she talks about!”

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

On the 20th June we held a Public Exhibition where we invited all prospective parents and members of the public to have the opportunity to view the proposals for our permanent building. This was the perfect platform for parents to ask any questions which they might have had about the planning phase and our design solution for the school. We were delighted with the response from the local community and feel blessed knowing that we have the support from our incredible parents and local residents.



Images on cover: New School uniform and view of Dining Room and Library from second floor

HOUSE NAMES

Students at Chertsey High School will be part of the 'Chertsey High Family' where they will feel a sense of belonging and a sense of responsibility towards themselves and others and our House system is just one way in which we can do this.

The names for the Houses were chosen with the help of our students who had the opportunity to vote for the 4 names that would inspire them and make them feel proud to be part of that particular House. Our Houses: **Nightingale, Tolkien, Wilberforce** and **Newton** are all named after leaders in their field who showed that with knowledge, determination and love we could all make a significant difference to the world!

Students will be allocated a House when they join and will stay in that House throughout their time at Chertsey High. The school will include 2 more Houses as we grow. We therefore will have 6 Houses over the next 2 years. Students will be encouraged to earn points for their House through their studies and get the chance to take part in regular competitions with the other Houses.

The beauty of the House System is that it gives every student, regardless of their ability, the chance to take part in a wide range of activities and in doing so develop their self-esteem.

Our House systems will also ensure that our students get the opportunity to experience school life beyond the academic curriculum. For example, there will be an annual inter-house competition, regular reward events, charity days and many other inter-house events throughout the year.

STUDENT VOICE

At Chertsey High School, students are at the heart of all our decisions. It is therefore pivotal that we establish Leaders within our students that can lead, inspire and set the example for the next generation of Chertsey High students.

We want to empower our children to take a full and active life in our school. All students will be encouraged to take responsibility through the Student Leadership programme, which is why our school code of co-operation is **LEAD**, which stands for:

- Loyalty
- Excellence
- Achievement
- Discipline

When it comes to sharing leadership with students, there are at least 3 ways that we will strive to involve our students as leaders:

1. By giving them leadership responsibilities
2. By valuing their opinions
3. By helping them find their voice

Students will be encouraged to be actively involved in school life and will be given a voice in all aspects of school life including the quality of teaching and learning.

Students will be represented at the School Council by their democratically elected peers. The Head Boy and Girl along with the Deputy Head Boy and Girl and the House Captains will be central to the decision making processes of Chertsey High School.



ADMISSIONS - ENTRY FOR YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2018

Chertsey High School will be admitting 150 pupils into Year 7 in September 2017. Application to the school will be via Surrey Education Admissions service who will co-ordinate our applications.

- ▶ The closing date for applications is: **31st October 2017**
- ▶ National Offer Day is: **1st March 2018**
- ▶ The school's admissions policy can be found on our website: www.chertseyhighschool.co.uk

PROPOSALS FOR OUR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION

Our Client Engagement Process is now complete for the permanent building. Kier has successfully been appointed as our building contractors and Lendlease as our IT contractors.

In response to the site, our proposed main 'Superblock' school building will be located centrally on the site in a North-South orientation. This location enables part of the existing 3 storey building to be utilised during construction and this orientation presents the smallest visual impact on Chertsey Road.

The proposal also offers a carefully considered hard and soft landscaping scheme which contributes to the overall appearance and functioning of the school and will assist in establishing the development within its location. For Chertsey High School (CHS), it is important to provide as calm, green and natural character to the existing site as possible.

The building has been oriented to provide a welcoming approach to the school from the main entrance off Chertsey Road, with the main visitor pedestrian entrance positioned in the south-west corner of the building. The majority of students will access the site from Chertsey Road via either the dedicated student access or the main pedestrian access route. The impression of the new school will be that of a building sited well back from the main road in a predominantly green landscape, with all sides of the new building having amenity grassland or external games areas around the perimeter. The main visitor entrance is accessed from a new visitor car park located towards the south-west of the site. The building façade acts as part of the secure line for the school connecting the existing western and eastern most perimeter fencing. Controlled access points are provided at these gates and visitors are able to access the main entrance without passing into the main school site.

The priority for the new school design is to clearly organise space that facilitates the provision of the curriculum in accordance with the Authority's requirements and school specific brief, to provide for the needs of pupils, staff and other users.

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3G PITCH

Being based in a community with strong sporting traditions, the school will benefit greatly from a brand new 3G pitch. In partnership with Abbey Rangers Football Club, we will have a world class 3G pitch which will not only support the

development of sport within the school, but will also provide the school with the opportunity to extend our facilities to the local community for use. The 3G will be designed specifically for football and rugby use and will be 106m x 70m in size. Our estimated date of completion of the 3G is May 2018. Please see below an illustration of what the 3G pitch will look like.



Section through main teaching block



COMMENT FROM PARENT

“My daughter can’t wait for September - Chertsey High School is all she talks about!”

The school is organised over three storeys with visitors arriving at the south-eastern corner of the ground floor; opposite the dining hall. The entrance is in close proximity to the school reception and general admin offices, as well as support facilities such as the conference / meeting room and student services. The position of each department within the Superblock has been considered to best suit the nature of the subjects being taught.

We will continue to update parents and residents on the progress of the permanent accommodation regularly and would like you to contact the school should you have any questions regarding the site.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

We are delighted to announce that we are on track to open our fantastic school on time! We will be based temporarily in part of the existing building (Runnymede Centre) until our permanent building is complete. Our temporary accommodation will consist of 9 teaching rooms; 1 staffroom; 1 withdrawal room as well as our own dining area. The advantage of our temporary accommodation is most definitely the size of each classroom. We are fortunate that each classroom will be bigger than the normal classroom in any other school. We will also have our own catering solution which is not the norm with new Free Schools in general. Finally, we are able to have specialist classrooms for our core subjects which will allow our staff to deliver our personalised 5 year GCSE curriculum plan to students. Please see the layout of our temporary accommodation right.

Finally, I would like wish you all a well-deserved, relaxing summer holiday – we cannot wait for Chertsey High School to open in September and to see the impact it has on our incredible community!

Yours sincerely,

Zelia Munnik,
Headteacher



Layout of our temporary accommodation

KEY DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM:

- 1st September:** Open House Event between 11am and 3pm for our new Y7 cohort
- 6th September:** First day for students
- 29th September:** School Tour for prospective parents (9am)
- 7th October:** Saturday “Open Event” for prospective students and parents (10am – 12pm)
- 9th October:** School Tour for prospective parents (10am)
- 12th October:** Open Evening (6pm)
- 19th October:** School Tour for prospective parents (9am)

CONTACT

Please feel free to contact us at any time to discuss your questions or views about Chertsey High School.

We look forward to continue to work together to provide a first-rate education for our local children.

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