

# December 2019 Newsletter

## Dear Parents & Carers,

At this time of year we sit and set New Year resolutions. We sit and check our waistline, we vow to do different things or do things differently.

I myself will be making personal commitments to the students around health, community contribution and remembering life is about experiences not things.

I also vow to you to not sing again at Christmas carol concerts!!

I wonder though, do we take the time to reflect on what we have, what we take for granted? Do we ever sit down and remember how fortunate we are in so many ways. I know Christmas can and will be tough for all manner of reasons but I know as a community we are very fortunate. For Chessington School it has been a fantastic year. Our community has become stronger, bigger and better. We are going from strength to strength and I'm so proud to be a part of that community.

## So what has happened to be thankful for?

We have had a bumper crop of Year 7s who are very happy and enriching our community daily. We have had some great teachers join us and immediately smash it in the classroom as well as other areas of school life. We continue to develop and benefit from having teachers who have been with us for some time; a real strength of the school.

We now work as part of our group of schools, the Every Child Every Day group, which adds so much to our young people's experiences from great teachers to experiencing talks from astronauts. As a member of our school community I remain hugely thankful for what we have as a school.

I'm also hugely thankful to you as parents and carers for continuing to support us. It's often said by Headteachers that you are so important; almost too often now it can somewhat cause complacency. However, EVERY PARENT, CARER, AUNTY, UNCLE or GRANDPARENT, we are truly grateful for your challenge, involvement and support. I always say it takes a village to raise a child; it does. Our village is the Chessington Community and that community is all of us.

## Thank you.

Looking forward to the New Year, what do we have in stall?

More of the same, lots of developments and exciting new things. What I want for 2020 is simply that spirit of positivity, aspiration and effort. If I could ask you for one thing it would be that you instill on your child / our children that they can lead the world in effort.

## Effort in 2020 will be hugely rewarded.

That's effort in the classroom, effort on the sports training field or effort contributing to our community. Please ask your child's 'resolution' to have 'effort' as a key word.

I promise you, we, teachers, staff and all involved at Chessington School will make every effort to ensure 2020 is an even better year.



*Wishing  
you all  
a Happy  
New Year*

**Mr. A. Ali**  
**Head Teacher**

aali@chessington.kingston.sch.uk

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 6th January -  
10.40am start of Spring term

Thur 9th January -  
Year 7 Parents Consultation  
evening from 4-7pm

Thur 16th January -  
7pm Governors Parental  
Forum - all parent/carers  
invited from 7-9pm

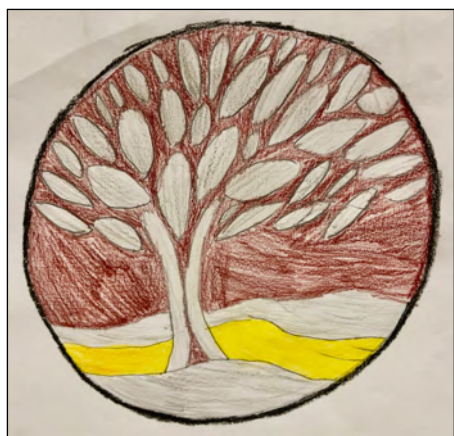
Thur 23rd January -  
Year 11 Parents Evening  
from 4-7pm

# Autumn Term 2019

We started September welcoming our new Year 7 students who had already met in July at Summer Camp.



Miss Smith and Miss Lorence held their very first assembly on September 3rd. Students were given house rules to follow, whose who and key contacts to help them in their Induction week and beyond.



Drawings from two of our new Year 7 students. Can you tell which teacher this is?



At the end of an exhausting first week getting used to timetables, finding class rooms, making a good impression, tucking their shirts in, tying shoe laces and working out how the cashless canteen system works, the Year 7's were very excited to be treated to a Family BBQ!

Staff cooked burgers and served drinks to the new community of parents, carers, siblings, friends and key Year 7 staff. It was great to meet many of you for the first time.



**Reward stickers!  
Collect them all!**



**"IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK"**



**"IT'S NOT WEAK TO SPEAK"**

We are very proud to be working with the Grace Dear Trust promoting mental health and wellbeing with our students.

[thegracedeartrust.co.uk/schools/](http://thegracedeartrust.co.uk/schools/)

## Open Evening



We held a very successful Open Evening late September with the theatre packed out twice to hear Head Teacher Mr Ali's speech and the Head Girl and Boy's personal experiences. The school came alive with a number of activities such as trampolining, singing, wall climbing, fencing, ICT demos, Music, cookery and so much more. Thank you to the Year 7 students who helped as tour guides and to all the students who took part.

## En guard!



The first iteration of Chessington School's Fencing Club started in September. Let's hope some Olympians of the future are in our midst!

Follow Sports on Twitter

**@CS\_SportDept**





Our annual Macmillan Coffee morning hosted by the Student Council always surprises us with the amount of support and generosity our community show when we hold special events like these. In total we raised a whopping £270! Miss Ford would like thank everyone that supported Macmillan by way of baking, attending, drinking tea, buying cakes and donating to this amazing charity.



**Harlequins**

Rugby went from strength to strength thanks to the coaching and support from Harlequins Womens team!



Year 8 played Cricket at Lords in October and came second in the tournament.



### **It's always GOOD to receive emails demonstrating the awesomeness of our students!**

The busses were cancelled on Wednesday due to an accident and a year 7 was stood on his own following after school football. Dorian M in Year 10 waited with him, lent him his phone and walked him back along the Leatherhead Road until his Mum met them. The year 7's Mum sent us this email....

***"It warms your heart knowing that an older boy cared enough to ensure one of his younger fellow students was safe and warm. I am very proud that our Son is attending a school with such example students!!"***



Dragon House week held a very messy fundraiser for The Red Cross which the students found hilarious (Teachers maybe not so but they were all good sports)! Thank you for the clothes that were donated by parents/carers too. The Red Cross were very thankful.





We also planted daffodils for Marie Curie and held a #HelloYellow day in October for the Grace Dear Trust and Young Minds charities. Staff and students wore something yellow, had a successful cake sale and wrote on our 'Positive Thoughts' message board. Thanks to the Teachers and Mental Health Ambassadors for putting this special day together and to every student who took part.



Whilst students were on half term, Chessington School hosted the **Chessington Expo 2019** - celebrating business in the South of the Borough - organised by the Kingston Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday 6th November.



With over 50+ local exhibitors, networking and free entry, the exhibition gave us a chance to show off the school's facilities for hire, reach out to companies to take part in our Career's fair and gain support for our new STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) programme we hope to launch soon.



October, Year 11's won their first Netball game of the year against Hollyfield School, beating them 14-10,



Great team work, bonding and revising at Year 11 Maths & English revision camp in November

The PTA held their annual community BBQ & Fireworks display which is always a great fundraiser for the school. Thankfully the rain held off so we could enjoy the amusements, rides and fireworks display. Thank you to everyone that helped out with the event, especially the Premises team, our lovely caterers, the PTA ladies and those that donated a raffle prize.



Don't forget to follow us on social media





# CELEBRATING 100% ATTENDANCE

Just under 50 of our students received 100% Attendance certificates from the Mayor of Kingston, Margaret Thompson, at the awards ceremony held at Southborough School in November. It was a fantastic event and great opportunity to celebrate this achievement with our students and their families.



15 students from Year 9 attended the 'Explore Your Horizons: Speed Networking Event' hosted by the Mayor's Team London and the London Enterprise Adviser Network at Lord's Cricket Ground.

The event invites over 200 volunteers from the world of work to provide careers advice and guidance in one-on-one five minute networking sessions to young people from London's schools, in order to broaden horizons and raise aspirations.

#BeInspired and explore the variety of careers London has to offer.



The JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION was established to encourage, reward and promote achievement amongst young people through a programme of grant giving and recognition.



Chessington School were awarded 4 brand new table tennis tables in November, which the students couldn't wait to play on, all thanks to the Jack Petchey Foundation.



Six Chessington students were invited to take part in Transport for London's TFL STARS community project which took place at their art-deco HQ in London (with amazing views!). The aim of the project is to educate, equip and empower students to deliver a successful campaign for their school community once they had completed the numerous learning modules on the day. We look forward to seeing their campaign submission.





## Rewards - Ice skating at Hampton Court Palace



Reward badges



Reward - Popcorn & Movie for Streak Weeks

## #BeHereToLearn



## Awards - Year 11 Celebrations!



## Rewards - free shirts from the Quins Foundation



## Rewards - Rugby at Twickenham





# Christmas Concert

From shy Year 7 singers, to talented groups, acts and soloists from all Years, the staff Ukulele band, Head Teacher Mr Ali singing a Pogues song, to Mr Middletons heart warming words of encouragement and pride for the students who performed; we think our 2019 Christmas Concert was the best so far!



**Thank you** to the St Phillips School Choir, Insight Band, Mr Du Bock and Miss Twomey for putting the show together, to all the talented students, singers and musicians who took part, Graham and our own Premises team, the PTA for running the bar, Mr Du Bock, Mr Murray, Miss Massey, Miss Chedda, Mr Lee and Mr Ali for entertaining us and closing the show with Fairy Tale of New York.!



**Thank YOU for coming and singing along!**

## STAFF NEWS:

We are sad to be bidding farewell to Mr Serban Anghene (LA), Mrs Lesley Manners (Data Officer) and Miss Tegan Sessions (Head of Art) and wish them the very best for the future. Recruitment continues, however we are pleased to welcome Miss Natalie Kavanagh as our new Head of Art and Mr Patrick Browne as Head of History. Please make them welcome as they settle into their new roles.



12th December: students took part in a mock election. Booths were set up and each student voted for either Greens, Conservatives, Liberal Democrat, Labour or Brexit. We can tell you we had a 76% turnout but you'll have to guess which party won!



To wear the **Chessington School uniform** is a badge of pride and encourages students to behave respectfully, have a sense of belonging and enhances the community aspect of school life. For all your uniform needs please visit our local school uniform suppliers, PMG.



393-395 Hook Rd,  
Chessington, KT9 1EL.  
Tel: 020 8786 2211

<https://pmgschoolwear.co.uk/>





Miss Twomey took Year 7 on the train to Wimbledon theatre to see Cinderella. They had a fantastic time!

## XMAS HAMPERS

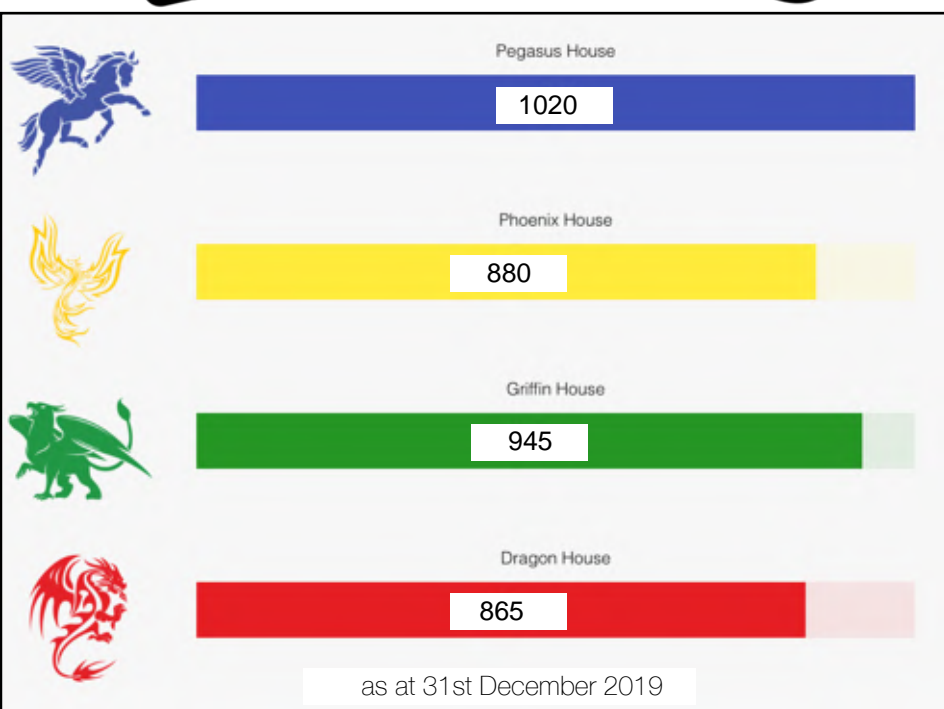


With the help of Sgt Baxter, Miss Ford and the School Council delivered hampers to the residents of Amy Woodgate Care Centre. Thanks to students who wore their best mufti Christmas jumper on the last day of term, in return for a donated food item.



To keep up to date with school life, visit our website and social media pages every day. <http://chessington.kingston.sch.uk/>

# HOUSE POINTS



## End of Term Quiz!

We were very lucky to have our new Neighbourhood Policeman, PC Dan Graham, join us for the end of term quiz. He happily read out some of the questions and met some of the staff and students. What the students didn't know is that PC Dan is also known as the 'Dancing Policeman'. Dan performed on Britain's Got Talent and got through to the semi-finals having been spotted dancing at the Notting Hill Carnival.



**WELL DONE** to all the girls involved in the Gymnastics competition, especially Tilly for her medal!

Do you remember the good old days?



Coming soon!

*School returns on Monday 6th January 2020 at 10:40am.*