



21st July 2023

Dear parents, carers and all in the Chessington School Community

Ms Wilson - Head of School

It's been yet another busy year at Chessington School, especially the last few weeks. These included end of year exams for all year groups that were approached with a maturity and focus which should be commended; The Year 11 Prom at Epsom Downs Racecourse, the amazing production of Matilda, rewards assemblies & lunches celebrating 100's of students' achievements over the last 12 months, Sports Day competitiveness - well done Phoenix House!

Alternative Learning Week has offered more trips and experiences than ever before. As I write this I am on the Year 8 trip on a river boat cruise along the Thames ahead of a spin on the London Eye. Students and staff have pretty much been smiling all week long. We will all need the summer holidays after all that!

Students return after the summer break on **Wednesday 6th September**, details are below in terms of expected time of arrival:

Year Group	Start Time
7	08.25
8	10.40
9	10.40
10	10.40
11	08.25
12	08.25
13	10.40

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I am incredibly excited to be starting my new role as Head of School in September. Chessington School has had a very special place in my heart for the last 7 years, I will relish the opportunity to lead the school from strength to strength. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, often raising these sooner enables solutions to be found more swiftly.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a relaxing summer and I look forward to yet another successful year here at Chessington School.

Mr Ali - Exec Head

I'm writing this message buzzing, tired and smiling on the coach back from a fantastic Year 9 residential on a drizzly and cloud covered M20. I think the trip has acted like a microcosmic representation of our wonderful school and this Term and so I'll use it as an end of year message backdrop.

On the trip the children faced many obstacles (literally an obstacle course!) including high climbing walls, perilous potential falls (they had harnesses) zip wires, blind folded through tunnels and more. Much like they did during the year, they showed resilience and enthusiasm throughout and were credit to us / you. The site staff and more commented how positive and polite they were as they cleaned their tables and thanked the staff. Sometimes we forget how wonderful they are. Just Tuesday, on another trip, a member of the public asked 'are you a private school because you are so well behaved' to which a plucky Year 8 replied 'nah- we get this for free!' Now that shows me our kids are right back on form after the last challenging years nationally. Your children are a gift and we thank you for entrusting that gift with us this year. We promise to do more in the 23 - 24 academic year to be even better and learn even more next year to help them flourish as we welcome 150 new students to our school.

Continuing the trip metaphor, throughout this Year 9 trip (and others as part of our Alternative Learning Week) my colleagues have loved the kids, shown agility in challenging situations, have smiled and can be seen palpably enjoying the learning and fun with your children. That's what they do and have done all year. We welcome some cracking new colleagues in September who we know will continue this ethos and add to it. We also say goodbye to some colleagues (for now) who I know will instil these values in their new places of work and who I know will always keep Chessington close to their hearts. It's always a strange time when a colleague leaves to pursue their career but I always take the time to think of what great things they did for our school. I would like to publicly thank all colleagues for what they do - Thank You. I know it doesn't go unnoticed from you as parents as I see the lovely gifts you give and notes you send. Keep sending them during the year not just at the end, it's when those kind words have even more impact.

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Then there's you. You paid for the trip, you packed their lunch box, you reminded them to bring spare clothes and you made sure they had a good time after. That's what you do everyday. You present these beautiful children to our doors, in great uniform, with a smile on their face and ready to learn. On that note and dipping out of the trip narrative, while our attendance is way above national average it's still not 100 % so I urge you to ensure we keep our kids in school every day. Let's make it even better next academic year. That aside, thank you all parents and carers. You make our jobs easier and our children's lives better.

On to the holidays. We will see many of you at Summer Schools, Post 16 and GCSE results and then again in September. Summer is such a special time for secondary age children. I hope you have a cracking summer, get some rest and keep our children smiling.

Thank you

Ms S Wilson
Head of School

Mr A Ali
Exec Head