

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020



**Chaffinch Brook
& Autism Outreach**

PART OF THE BECKMEAD FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

I hope you find this newsletter a wonderfully uplifting reminder of all the positive activities that have been happening across our community. In spite of the challenges we are all facing, your children – with the support of parents, carers, therapists and teaching staff – are for the most part responding brilliantly to the learning offer, whether that is onsite, remote or a bit of both. Their positive attitude and resilience is something we can all be proud of.

I would like to wish our Yr11 students the very best of luck for the future some of you have been with us since September 2013 when we first opened Chaffinch Lower. As a class you always manage to bring a smile (and occasionally a grimace) to my face thinking about the lengths to which you have pushed us as a staff team! I will miss you all and I am so proud of you at just how much progress you have all made.

There have been many staff changes since March. Including Mr Jay who has moved to work for the Beckmead Trust, to lead and develop all things tech related. Miss Anna who has been helping us with many things, will also be moving on to the Beckmead Trust. Further congratulations go to Mr Patrick, who has been promoted to the role of Assistant Head here at Chaffinch Upper. I would like to thank all of the staff for all their efforts in helping to maintain our pupils' well-being during these unusual times, and for adapting to ensure that learning keeps happening despite all the current obstacles!

Our school community is defined by values such as kindness, integrity, tolerance and inclusivity. We may have been apart from each other but these values have remained the same. At Chaffinch Upper we seek to build outstanding relationships where we respect each other's' differences and hope to learn from them. We look forward to working on this more when we all return to school in September. Stay safe until then. We look forward to welcoming you all back soon!

Mr Andy



The best message therapists in town!

The summer term has indeed ended very strangely for us! We have all had a great deal to adapt to in terms of learning to work remotely. But your tech savvy children have latched on so easily and super exceeded their own expectations! Even though times are difficult, they have worked exceptionally hard.

7G'S NEWSLETTER!

Miss Mwamba, Mr. Derek, and Miss Erin

We are extremely proud of the students!

As for parents, you have been tremendous in your resilience and response, often whilst juggling your own commitments at home. And maintaining your sanity too! Certainly, remote learning has been an interesting and a steep



Getting ride for our bike ride!



Phew! No Social distancing back then!

Working together Success for all!

learning curve for everyone! Well done to you all!

Who would have ever imagined that we would be a regular face in your living rooms/kitchens through the lens of a camera?

It feels like the unprecedented events have overshadowed the fact that normal school life did exist before COVID, but, let us not forget, there is lots to celebrate.

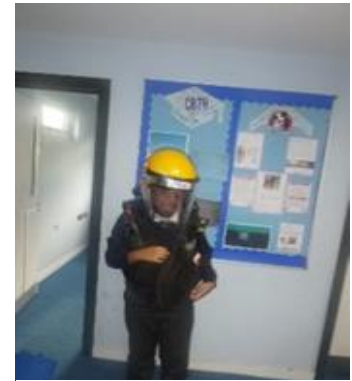
At the start of the academic year the boys engaged with Gym activities, swimming, park visits and a trip to the cinema.

The Spring term came with lots of engaging activities such as 'Impact day'- where the learners had a chance to speak to organizations such as: The Fire Brigade, Community Youth police and the Cats Protection animal charity. It was amazing to see how some of the students displayed such impeccable behaviour!



We also had PSHE workshops with the Croydon Council Youth Engagement Team to equip the boys with a better awareness of the social issues affecting young people.

The students had a better understanding of how they can make good choices and stay safe when they are out and about.



PC Xavier!!

Furthermore, our Sport Relief Day brought a real buzz as the students participated in an array of active and fun activities that they thoroughly enjoyed. We certainly enjoyed watching their competitive edge as they went head to head with other students and staff in closely fought competitions.

We are proud to say that we even had a 'planking champion' come from our class! Such physical stamina!



Sports Relief planking champion-Josiah G!

Finally, some things change, and some things stay the same. We are thrilled to know that most things will stay the same for us as a class. We look forward to working together once again next term!

We would like to wish you all a very restful, safe, and sunny summer holiday!



PSHE lesson with Croydon Youth Engagement team



Lockdown creativity shout out! Master Chef-Alex W. Home baking independently. Delish!

7H



Now that we're finally getting back to normal, it's time to give some well-deserved recognition to the year 7 students who have not let the pandemic stop them from learning. I can confirm that attendance to online sessions has been absolutely excellent during this difficult time. Students have made a brilliant effort, every day, to make sure they engage with the learning and complete their work. There has been superb effort in the Advertising topic, where students used different sales techniques to create posters and videos for their own products. Also, Mymaths has helped us revise the year's numeracy topics and some students have managed to complete level 8 online homework with scores of 100%! Finally, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a book we're all enjoying reading and talking about at the moment, and so a very special thank you has to go to the benevolent forces which managed to resource us with Chromebooks, helping us to remain connected with each other right through the crisis. Once we're back to normal, let's appreciate how important routine is in all our lives and how amazing it will be to be back in our safe, happy school where we can learn and be with our friends.



On that note, the one thought I want to emphasize, and that has impressed me so much this year, is how kind, friendly and supportive you are to each other. To have such solid friendships and overall togetherness is a brilliant thing, year 7. These friendships could be with you for many years to come, and after the difficult time we've been through, having lots of friends to help us and support us can only be a good thing.

“To have such solid friendships and overall togetherness is a brilliant thing, Year 7.”

A few quick reminders. First day back for year 8 is Wednesday 9th September 2020. School jumpers have been ordered, at no cost to parents, for all students.

Any other queries or questions, please do get in touch with me. Lastly, let me say how much I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you. You are a wonderful class of students- have a brilliant summer! Good luck and all the best for the future, year 7!

Mr Stephen



YEAR 8

RAAZIA BAGGIA

In the PSHE lessons, we were learning about autism. This is Carlos's visual representation of autism. How colourful!

What a year it has been! Quite unexpected and unprecedented events have dominated 2020. Hearteningly, all is not doom and gloom for the Year 8s. Despite the school closures due to the Covid-19, the Year 8 pupils and their parents/carers have shown their mettle. A sure proof that nothing can stop them should they put their mind to it.

I am very proud of how the Year 8s have conducted themselves throughout the year, especially during the pandemic. There were some rough moments, but they persevered and continued to perform to the best of their abilities.



I admire their flexibility in adapting very quickly to new ways of learning through the newly acquired Chromebooks, remote Google Meet session, weekly class assemblies and the daily Google Classroom assignments. Teaching and learning is truly a two-way street. We have learnt a lot from each other through using ICT to dealing through stressful situations.

It gives me utmost pleasure to report that all the pupils have progressed academically during the Summer term! A big well done to all! A massive thank you to the parents and carers who, given the circumstances, had to fill in the teacher's shoes. You have been ever so supportive making sure that the pupils are participating proactively in all the remote learning programmes. These efforts have indeed borne fruits.



Science at home!

Some exciting science experiments performed by the pupils at home! If the students couldn't come to the science lab, then the science lab would come to them!

Overall, Year 8 pupils have made great progress throughout the year. There has been a marked improvement in their behaviour, attitude, learning and engagement. I have to admit that I have grown much fond of all the pupils, as they are all such wonderful individuals in their own ways. It has been truly an honour to witness their learning journeys.

Good luck for the next year. Keep doing your best, Year8!

Spread your wings and fly high.

It's a wrap for year 8! Great to relate. Know no hate. Bagels you ate.

In year 9, there is a lot at stake. Remember to punctuate. Claim your fate!

SOMEBODY ONCE TOLD ME...

9G

Mr Dan, Ms Annabel, Mr Chris and Ms Kemia

This year has definitely been eventful, It's hard to even know where to start! Firstly, we'd like to say how proud we are of all the progress the pupils have made this year and the superb way they have adapted to conditions since the beginning of lockdown. We have managed to have some really fun and productive lessons.

We feel the pupils are really starting to mature and are ready for the rigors of KS4.

The pupils have enjoyed lots of extra-curricular activities such as after school football club and BMXing. All pupils really improved their bike riding skills and would have been able to race around

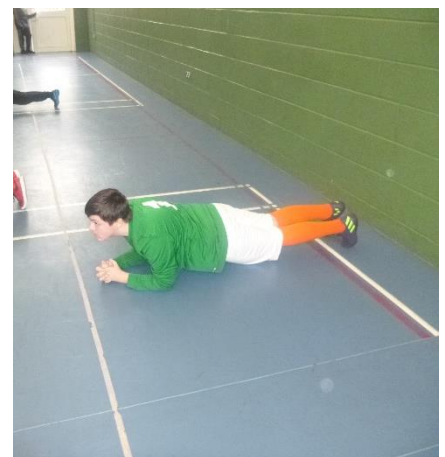


"Creativity is intelligence having fun."

the Queen Elizabeth BMX track.

The pupils have really unleashed their creative sides this year, making stop motion films, short films and animation. I am sure they will have all kinds of success in KS4 lessons such as media and art.

This year seems to have flown by and although we are sad to have missed such a chunk of time with the pupils, we are all very proud of them and we are certain they will do so, so well, in KS4.



YEAR 10H

Ms Yeti, Ms Sasha, Mr Tyrus

The Covid 19 Pandemic has had a huge impact on all our lives and our thoughts go out to all the families that have been affected by it.

Before lockdown, Year 10H had had an eventful autumn & spring term. Our first trip was to the 'London Sugar and Slavery Museum' for our trip for Black history month. This trip enhanced our knowledge on how sugar was used as a commodity.

In November, 10H went to see 'Spiderman: Into the spider verse' as part of the Into Firm Festival, in Bromley. The boys maintained good behaviour throughout.

Academically, the boys have been working hard and in December, they sat external exams. Many of the boys did well, up leveling from Entry level to Functional Skills 1&2.



Year 10H made a good start to Key Stage 4 and embarked in a range of academic, vocational and enrichment activities.

Vocational skills at Beckmead college was a new venture for the boys and most of them enjoyed the different skills it had to offer.

In the spring term, Year10H were eager to get a pet and we finally decided on a variety of goldfish species. The boys enjoyed naming them and feeding them in turns. Our last trip before lockdown was to

the 'Apprenticeship show' In Sandown.

During lockdown, the boys have been able to access their learning and remote lessons online. Although a huge change, they have coped very well.



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!!

Mr Jermaine, Mr Emmanuel and Ms Sam

This year 10H have managed to achieve a great deal from beginning to study for GCSE's in Science, English and Maths, attending college on a weekly basis to start vocational studies in mechanics, wood work and multi skills and thinking about their future roles by attending the National Apprenticeship Show.

The students have also made strides in their general behaviour, students are more focused and seem to have stepped up to the challenge's set for them at the beginning of the year and are becoming a group of students who are not only a pleasure to work with but are also a great example to



10G have improved their general behavior and have stepped up to the challenges, that they have faced.

the younger students within the school.

The National Apprenticeship Show was a great chance for the students to find out about what qualifications they may need to get into certain professions. Art students went to visit the Tate Modern which was a great success for the students as they were able to view a variety of different art styles from a range of different artists. Enterprise students were visited by

different companies who came to explain how they run their individual businesses and the students were then able to ask their own questions about the day to day running of a business.

All in all, it has been a good year for the students and we are extremely proud of what they have achieved and we hope that they continue to improve and are able to achieve the best possible educational outcomes they can at the end of next year.



YEAR 11



Teacher: Patrick Hawthorne

It has been a privilege for CBU to witness the year 11 pupils become independent, resilient and pleasant young men.

Although this summer term will mostly be remembered for the disruptions caused by Covid-19, we must not let it stop us from remembering what the boys have

achieved. These are some of the highlights:

In year 8, the boys were ready to step up their social skills and went to London on public transport to watch a West End show.

In year 9 they were the first group to attend the BMX sessions and performed incredibly well at the London Schools BMX Olympics. They



Success isn't measured by what you achieve, its measured by the obstacles you overcome.

also planned and carried out the Christmas Chaffinch grotto event which turned out to be a huge success (I still have my mug!). They were also the first group to sit the ICT functional skills exams.

In year 10, they were the first group to start the Enterprise/Vocational Study and Media BTEC courses. They interviewed

famous hairstylist John Frieda and went on to plan their own micro-enterprises.

In year 11 they completed all of their coursework and would often dedicate their Friday's to study and catch up with work. They have all achieved so much and there is no doubt that they will go on to achieve a lot more!

We will really miss you!



SCIENCE IN ACTION – SPRING TERM 2020

9G
investigating
the effect of
amylase
enzyme on
starch.



Required
practical activity -
10H kiwi DNA



11G investigating
which material
keeps tea hot for
the longest



11G Investigating
Static Electricity
with Van de Graaf

