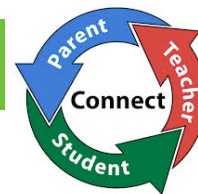


Cavendish Connect

The Cavendish High Academy Newsletter / Autumn 2021



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a very warm welcome back it has been to the autumn term in more than one way. It has been great to see your sons and daughters back in school and to welcome our new students to Cavendish.

Our staff teams are doing all they can to help your sons and daughters settle back quickly into school routine and have everything crossed (as I'm sure you all do) that there will be far less disruption for us all than last year.

Covid-19 in the Autumn Term

We would like to reassure you that we have re-opened again with a number of measures in place to help protect everyone in our community:

- Throughout the day students are encouraged to sanitise their hands as appropriate.
- Crossover within the school is still limited though at present we are not in the very small class bubbles we have had previously.
- Break times and lunch times are staggered time for access to the playground.
- We are still not holding whole school events such as assemblies whilst Covid-19 rates are still high.
- Staff are lateral flow testing twice weekly and the vast majority of staff have been able to be double vaccinated.

We have regular, weekly, meetings with the Local Authority and Public Health to ensure we are working together in everyones best health interests.

With our community health, well-being and safety being at the core of all we do we are asking everyone who is able to test to please continue lateral flow Covid-19 testing twice weekly. We have plentiful stocks of tests so please let your child's class team know when you need some more sending home.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow result then they will need a PCR test. You will also need to notify school with a phone call and where possible with an e-mail please to our dedicated e-mail address:

trackandtrace@chs.academy

In the classroom

We start the school year again with health and well-being and communication as our focus across the school for this half-term. Ensuring that your children are happy and settled and in the best possible place to begin learning at school again.

For the time being there will be no minibus trips put into the community. We will risk assess this after half term depending upon local, regional and national COVID-19 data and information.

Please could you also ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather/outside temperature because school windows and doors will be open as much as possible so we can continue to ensure fresh air flow and ventilation in all rooms.

Drop off and pick up

Could I ask you to please bear with us as we work with our new transport groupings for when students both arrive and leave. The number of students we now have on site has grown to 105 and this means more vehicles coming and going. Also as I am sure you are aware our car park space on site is very tight and we have very limited parking capacity. Arriving and leaving school are incredibly busy times and are currently taking slightly longer than usual whilst we try and get into new routines with the larger numbers and increased transport.

I would therefore ask that if you need to contact your child's teacher or class team rather than trying to speak to them at arrival time if possible could you contact them via e-mail or if you need to speak to someone directly that you call school and someone will get back to you as soon as they are able or, if not an urgent matter, will speak to you at the end of the day when the vast majority of students have left the building.

Please could I also ask you to still maintain social distancing whenever possible if coming in person to collect your son/daughter.

Staffing

Goodbye.....Covid-19 has made many of us reflect on our lives and how we spend our time and who we spend it with. At the end of the summer term we said some very sad goodbyes to three long established staff members. We said goodbye to two wonderful teaching assistants; Lynne Percival and Debbie Rex, who had both chosen to retire. Debbie worked at Cavendish for 14 years and Lynne for over 24 years. They both contributed so very much to our school community and will be very much missed by both their colleagues and the students. We wish them both very happy retirements and hope they truly enjoy their time.

One of our fantastic teachers, Hannah Whitbread, has also sadly left to take up a new position as a teacher at a special needs school which is much closer to her home. She will be very much missed by us all at Cavendish where she has worked since September 2007. Hannah contributed hugely to the wider life of the school whether it was through DoE Award or organising and attending Leavers Proms or Valentine Discos. Her new school are very lucky to be getting such a kind, compassionate and caring teacher on their staff.

On 21st September we will also be wishing a very happy, healthy and long retirement to our longest continuously serving staff member Peter Wilding. Peter has been our Maintenance/Premises officer for over a quarter of century and has worked with all 4 of the schools headteachers. Peter has seen the school grow over the years from the 56 place Cavendish Farm School, through Cavendish School, Cavendish High School to the now 105 place Cavendish High Academy. He is the man who knows where every pipe or wire is - or was - and which walls hold the building up and we will miss him and his extensive knowledge and skills immeasurably.

Hello.....We do however also have a number of new staff joining us this academic year. We extend congratulations and a very warm welcome to the following new staff members (some of whom you may already know as they have been with us previously on fixed term contracts or a supply basis): teaching assistants - Rachael Willis, Saoirse Curran, Helena Watson, Patrick Bratin & Vina Casiberg.

Other roles and responsibilities for 2021-2022:

Congratulations to Marie Histon & Grace Easton who have been appointed as Higher Level Teaching Assistants their role includes covering teacher PPA time and delivering a variety of interventions across the school.

Congratulations also to Paula Burke and Clair Ball who are currently acting assistant heads and have taken on respective roles as head of lower school and head of upper school along with being deputy designated safeguarding leads.

I am sure you join us in hoping we can have a much more settled year in our new, new normal.

Kindest regards,

Elaine & the whole Cavendish team

