

# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum FAQs - General- May 2019

- ▶ Q. How do Wisdom points work - this does not appear to be promoted in the school - is it still being used?
  - ▶ A: Wisdom points are currently under review and the revised "Rewards and Sanctions" policy/system for the school will likely be communicated and in place from Sep. 2019. Students are currently being consulted and the Parent Forum will provide views in the June meeting.
- ▶ Q. Can the school mini buses be parked towards the exit end of the site as it causes difficulties in parking/congestion/safety concerns when they are parked near to the entrance?
  - ▶ A: **Awaiting response**
- ▶ Q. Can we have an update on when the outside play equipment will be available in KS1 outside spaces as there are concerns areas have become storage spaces with items not able to be used.
  - ▶ A: Playground equipment is all in wheelie storage boxes - each one has a day of the week written on it and they are taken out each day. This means that children get to access different equipment each day of the week. 2 static play panels have arrived before May Half Term (these were funded through Friends) and are due to be put up by the site team when no pupils are on site. The Shed is not a play house but a much needed storage facility but there are plans to paint it to brighten it up.
- ▶ Q. I am concerned about my child's ability to access sanitary bins in all toilet areas in both primary and secondary - what bins are available and does my child have to use staff toilets?
  - ▶ A: There are sanitary bins available in all female staff toilets, disabled toilets and senior toilets. In KS2 the first 3 toilets out of 6 in the girls block have sanitary bins. A Red Box scheme is also available and accessible via the Main Office.

# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum FAQs - Dates/Tests - May 2019

- ▶ Q. I did not receive information about the recent Yr. 2 SATS/other tests - can this be sent direct to parents and not via. child
  - ▶ A: All details about Yr.2 SATS and any other test will always be sent to the relevant Email address held on the system for the child as well as in Newsletters where relevant. In addition a letter will also be sent home with the child. If parents did not receive this they should contact the school office to check the Email held on the system for their child. Information will also be available on the school calendar on the website <https://www.chichesterfreeschool.org.uk/events/>.
- ▶ Q. When will the dates be issued for the "Shape of the Year" ?
  - ▶ A: Dates for 2019-20 are currently being pulled together and will be finalised and issued before the summer holidays.
- ▶ Q. When will we get information about Sports Day timings and logistics?
  - ▶ A: Sports day is on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The details of the day have not been worked on yet but school will plan and look to communicate shortly after half term.
- ▶ Q. Will we be able to book and confirm clubs for September before the summer holidays?
  - ▶ A: Yes - club options will be launched shortly after half term and it is really important that parents of secondary students return the options slips as soon as possible as without enough responses/interest clubs cannot be confirmed and may be cancelled. Going forward it is hoped that both primary and secondary club booking will be online via Parent Pay but this is unlikely until Autumn.
- ▶ Q. Why can't clubs run as normal in the first and last week of term?
  - ▶ A: From September clubs will run right up until the end of Term with no break. At the start of term if children are returning to school for a full week e.g. for 5 days clubs will start on the first day back. If children return to school during a part week e.g. on a weds. Then clubs will start from the first full week back. For half terms clubs will run as normal until the last day and start again on the first day back. This will be confirmed/reminders sent in each school holiday to remind parents.

# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum FAQs - Club Payment

- ▶ Q. Can I pay for all school trips in instalments with breakdowns of costs for the trip?
- ▶ Primary Email Sent out 06/06/19
- ▶ Learning outside the classroom is a hugely valuable and effective way of extending pupils knowledge, enriching pupils understanding and promoting personal and social development. This is why CFS promotes and encourages the organisation of educational visits for all primary pupils and it is hoped that parents will also recognise the value and importance of these visits by giving their full support.

From September, we would like to ask every parent/carer to pay a **one off** voluntary contribution for their child which will cover all trips and visits for the whole academic year. We will not ask for further contributions throughout that year for educational trips or workshops. We hope that this one off payment will ease the administration for both the school and parents/carers. Exceptions to this will be for residential trips, after school clubs including activities outside of school hours and events that are only relevant to a select group of pupils - such as Young Voices. We are asking that the contribution is paid before the start of the academic year so that trips can be planned with the knowledge that there are sufficient funds to pay for them. We hope that this will also allow the parents to budget and plan appropriately.

You will see a payment item on ParentPay called 2019/20 Primary Trips and we are asking for **£40 for the year**, to be paid in two equal installments of £20 - installment 1 to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> June and installment 2 to be paid by 5<sup>th</sup> September. Both installments can be paid at the same time if parents wish. Although payment is voluntary, if insufficient voluntary contributions are made, we will not be able to offer the extensive programme of educational visits that we hope to.

Costs for every trip and visit are calculated as near as possible to break even and any non payments have to be subsidised by the school. If you are unable to contribute, you are invited to contact the school office in confidence, so that arrangements can be made to cover the cost of your child's participation. In accordance with the schools charging policy, if the school makes a profit of more than £5 per pupil, then the profit will be refunded. We will continue to ensure the best value for money on our trips, but as an illustration, the cost of a visit to Beaulieu was priced last year at £17.50 per child - which is made up of coach costs of £11 and entrance of £6.50 per child.

**Annual consent** will be requested on ParentPay, along with any details on emergency contacts and any dietary or medical information. We will issue letters in advance of each trip in the usual way giving detailed information on the trip but we will not need to ask for individual trip consent. We therefore ask that prior to any trips taking place, parents contact us if there are **any changes** to the consent details given at the beginning of the academic year.

If you have any queries at all please contact the school office on [office@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:office@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk)

# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum

## FAQs - Detentions/ Uniform - May 2019

- ▶ Q. I have not been receiving information about my child's after school detention including notice of the detention and the reason why.
  - ▶ A: The majority of detentions will be during the school day. For those that do occur after school the parent should always receive an Email notification of the detention and the reason why. If parents are not receiving this information they should call the School Office.
- ▶ Q. I am unhappy with the quality of the school uniform are there plans to review the supplier and can the delivery cost be cheaper? Will there be enough supply over summer as last year many items were out of stock?
  - ▶ A: During 2019 the school have directly received under 5 complaints about uniform which is not enough to trigger a review of quality. Parents are advised to contact the supplier of the uniform about any concerns in the first instance and copy in the School Office so they can monitor. <http://www.chichester-free-school.schoolcoloursdirect.co.uk/contactus.aspx>
  - ▶ A: School uniform can be ordered for delivery to the School similar to a "Click and Collect" service which is offered free of charge to parents otherwise the school is not able to influence the prices set for delivery by the provider.
  - ▶ A: CFS are contacting School Colours to review current stock positions in time for summer holidays.

# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum

## FAQs - School Report - March 2019

▶ Q. I am unhappy with the school report issued to my child in April and have concerns about responses being “cut and paste” how can I discuss with the teachers?

▶ A: We piloted a new reporting system last year (March 2018), which received extremely positive feedback from the parental body as a whole. Every year pupils now receive one full report with detailed comments in from all of their teachers.

During the other two terms, a Progress Report is sent home which gives an important snapshot of performance that term. Unlike a lot of schools, who only send data home in these progress reports, we consciously decided to not go down this route, deciding to still include some comments. However, we consciously made these comments different to the ones found in the full reports.

In discussion with parents, we adopted the ‘EBI’ approach. Parents and pupils informed us that, outside of the annual report, the most useful feedback was a clear next step, or ‘Even Better If’, for those subjects where a pupil is not on track. Parents wanted to explicitly know what their child needed to do next, and the most accurate way of doing this is to use target statements taken directly from the success criteria in each subject.

We have actively encouraged subject departments to create a bank of clear targets for their subject, directly taken from the assessment objectives, to ensure that the next steps are relevant to eventual GCSE assessment and are very specific and meaningful. There is a finite number of specific skills needed in each subject at each attainment level and therefore, whilst numerous, a finite number of statements for each teacher to choose from in order to support your child in the making the next relevant step in their academic journey. This means that there will inevitably be some repetition between students, who both have the same needs in order to improve, but that does not mean that the target is not personal or appropriate for them; teachers have looked at the success criteria and consciously chosen the most appropriate next step for each child’s progression.

When we first piloted this, and since, parents have been very positive about this approach, as proactive advice is being given, whilst a reflection of a child’s attitude is shown in the learning profile, attainment and progress in the radar plot, and the more personalised detail in the annual report and parents’ evening.

# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum

## FAQs - Food Qu.s - Feb 2019

- ▶ Q. I am experiencing problems with Parent Pay for lunches with my account in debt/not able to load money on/incorrect charges what can I do?
  - ▶ A: This has been raised with Edwards and Ward the caterers who have been in contact with Parent Pay. The school is not involved with the arrangements for Parent Pay and the caterers and so any issues are to be directed to them [chichesterfree@edwardsandward.co.uk](mailto:chichesterfree@edwardsandward.co.uk). If the issue continues and remains unresolved please contact the school office.
- ▶ Q. I am concerned about the quality of the food available after reports from others.
  - ▶ A: School and the caterers have been providing photos of the lunches available which are being posted on the Facebook Schoolgate page. Feedback from parents has resulted in the caterers looking at options to increase wholemeal bread and vegetable options and Free From ranges.



# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum FAQs - Photos of Food

6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

27<sup>th</sup> February 2019



# Chichester Free School - Parent Forum

## FAQs - Feb/Mar 2019

- ▶ Q. What is the plan for a Yr 11 leavers gift?
  - ▶ A: Hoodies will be available and a film is made which is shown in an assembly. Planning for this usually starts in April. If anyone would like to get involved please contact [swilliams@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:swilliams@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk)
- ▶ Q. Will the school be joining up to the Mile a Day campaign?
  - ▶ A: Yes - from September 2019. Once more details are known this will be shared closer to being launched.
- ▶ Q. How can I get access to my child's teacher before and after school?
  - ▶ A: In addition to email communication with teachers, parents can make an appointment at any time that teachers are free via the Main Office. Teachers will always do their best to accommodate parents after school, fitting this around their club commitment.