Chenderit School

Aim High, Work Hard, Be Kind

Headteacher: Christopher Billings

2nd September 2026

Dear families,

On behalf of our staff and trustees, I extend a very warm welcome to all students and their families for the new school year and particularly to those who are new to our community. Even after many years in education I still get the same sense of nervousness and excitement at the start of a school year. There is so much potential; a fresh start offers all of us a sense of renewed purpose.

I hope the summer holiday was a time to relax and spend time with friends and family. Hopefully all our young people will return to school recharged and refreshed ready for the challenges and exciting opportunities of this school year.

Our whole community works tirelessly to ensure that Chenderit is a warm, welcoming and aspirational community. This resulted in an excellent set of academic results in the Summer. Many of our students are now moving on to some extremely exciting destinations. I am particularly pleased that high numbers of students are choosing to join Chenderit Sixth Form this year. I hope they will be delighted when they see the new Sixth Form Study Centre which is re-opening following a significant refurbishment and expansion.
Our commitment now is to use this set of wonderful outcomes to aim even higher this academic year. At the start of a new school year, we re-commit to: Aim High, Work Hard, Be **Kind**, in all that we do.

Staffing News

I am delighted to inform you that, once again, we are fully staffed. I would like to offer a particularly heartfelt welcome to the following new teaching colleagues and trust they will be welcomed by our whole community:

Name	**Role**
India Prendergast	Teacher of History
Jodie Rodgers Kent	Teacher of English

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Alongside our teaching staff there are several other members of staff that will be working alongside you to support your child this year:

Team	Role	Name
Leadership Team	Headteacher	Chris Billings
	Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral, Behaviour for Learning)	Billy Belstone
	Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum, Teaching and data)	Andrew Williams
	Assistant Headteacher (Community)	Jack Armstrong
	Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion and Belonging)	Natalie Nowell
	Assistant Headteacher (Developing Teaching)	Abbie Whitfield
	SENDCo	Anna Greening
Guidance Team *(Heads of Year)*	Head of Sixth Form	Holly Millan
	Head of Year 11	Joanne Dowden
	Head of Year 10	James Orton
	Head of Year 9	Sam Oliver
	Head of Year 8	Alice Nicholls
	Head of Year 7 and Primary Lead	Lindsey Cramb
(Pastoral Support Managers)	Pastoral Support Manager – Year 7 and 8	Robi Brenchley
	Pastoral Support Manager – Year 9,10 and 11	Stacey Clarke
	Pastoral Support Manager – Inclusion	Tracey Leibling
	Pastoral Support Manager – Sixth Form	Kim Smith
Curriculum Team (Heads of Department)	Head of Art	Tom Christy
	Head of Business, Enterprise and Media Studies	Anna Willett
	Head of Drama	Michelle Jackson-Pate
	Head of Design Technology	Toby Holland
	Head of English	Alex Lindsay
	Head of Geography	Liz Taylor
	Head of History	Will Gowers
	Head of Mathematics	Harry Huckin
	Head of MFL	Chris Williamson
	Head of Performing Learning	Mark Ledger
	Head of PE/PSHE	Tony Vickers
	Head of Religious Studies/Politics	Matt Bonnett
	Head of Science	Christopher Hill
	Head of Sociology	Rebecca Gulamhussein
	Head of Psychology /EPQ	Lauren Brunt
	Head of Health and Social Care	Kim Smith
Key Support Staff	Headteacher's PA and Operations and Personnel Manager	Joanne Davies
	Finance Manager	Bridget Wilkinson
	Site Manager	Rickie Higgs
	Data and Examinations Manager	Nicola Barlow
	Safeguarding, Student Welfare and Parent Support Manager	Janet Hooper
	Deputy Safeguarding, Student Welfare & Parent Support Manager	Allison Smith
	Attendance Officer	Kirsty Craske
	Admin Assistant/First Aider	Fiona Liston

Communicating with Chenderit School staff

Our relationship with you, our students' parents and carers, is crucially important to us because we know that positive parental engagement with schools is a powerful lever for raising students' achievement and improving their life chances.

As general guidance, should you need to contact someone in school, your child's tutor or relevant class teacher is most likely to be your first point of contact. However, if you feel that this is not appropriate, please use the following guidance:

- A subject or curriculum query in one subject: contact the Head or Deputy Head of Department
- A pastoral enquiry or curriculum enquiry in two or more subjects: contact the Head of Year for the relevant year group
- A Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities query: contact Ms Anna Greening (SENDCo)
- A child protection or safeguarding concern: contact Mrs Hooper (Safeguarding, Student Welfare and Parent Support Manager) in the first instance, Mrs Smith (Deputy Safeguarding, Student Welfare and Parent Support Manager), Mr Belstone (DSL).

In order to contact a member of staff, please either use the 'Messages' tab at the bottom of your EduLink One profile - this will allow you to contact your child's tutor, teachers and Head of Year directly - or the 'Contact Us' form on our website, found Help.

If a matter remains unresolved following contact with staff, please be aware that Mr. Williams can be contacted for curriculum and assessment related issues, Mr. Belstone can be contacted for pastoral related issues and Ms. Greening can be contacted for SEND related concerns.

Emails and face to face meetings

We are always happy to receive emails or phone calls from parents and carers because we recognise the importance of clear and effective communications between home and school. Occasionally, parents may become exasperated if they feel that a message elicits no immediate reply and so we would like to ask for your understanding if you contact staff by email or telephone. For example, teachers may be teaching all day, on duty at break times and running intervention programmes or extra-curricular clubs after school. If you do not receive an immediate response, it is most likely to be the case that there has been no available opportunity for the member of staff to telephone or email you.

On receipt of your communication, staff will endeavour to contact you **within 3 working days**. However, communications sent at the weekend may not receive a response until the following working week and emails sent during the holiday may not receive a response until the new term begins. Should you not have received a response **within 5 working days**, please approach the relevant senior leader.

Summer works

Over the summer we have spent significant resources updating, expanding and refurbishing our Sixth Form study centre. The new space now looks modern, fresh and contains specific spaces for silent study, collaboration and a sixth form specific café. I hope the sixth form students enjoy

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their new state of the art facilities.

Opportunities beyond Chenderit School

We are extremely lucky at Chenderit that our staff provide a wealth of exciting and dynamic enrichment and extra curricular opportunities throughout the academic year. Our extra-curricular offer begins again on **Tuesday 8th September,** keep an eye on the website for the new enrichment provision offer for 2026 to 2027.
Please encourage your child/ren to participate in our extra-curricular programme and reinforce the message that through their participation, they are likely to have greater academic success, greater character development, especially in the areas of time management and leadership skills, more positive social development, and greater interest in community involvement.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and to working in partnership with you to ensure your child/ren receive the best possible education, and reach their full potential. From this year, this promise of a diverse and broad wider education is formalised in our Chenderit pledge.

Pastoral Update - Mental Health and Well-being

Student well-being remains a priority at Chenderit and is addressed every day through the tutor and PSHE programmes, our assemblies, extra-curricular activities and core PE, all of which form our 'personal development curriculum'. From time to time, students need a little extra emotional support and staff are available in school to provide this. Posters are displayed in student areas with photographs of key staff who have roles in the school that are directly related to student well-being, such as heads of year, the inclusion team and the pastoral support managers ; however, students are able to speak to any member of staff.

Mobile Technology

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers about the use of mobile technology in our school.

Although our policy is based around mobile phones **not being seen or heard at any time while on site** (i.e. they should be switched off and in students' bags), the actual policy includes student use of **personal technology.** For breaches of this policy, we confiscate the technology, which may include a mobile phone and/or wired or wireless 'AirPods' that are connected via Bluetooth to phones and/or smart watches. On the third confiscation, parents and carers have to come into school to collect their child's device, which we know is usually inconvenient to you as well as to the school. We are aware that some students carry their bus tickets digitally on their mobile phones, and in cases where a child's phone has been confiscated for a third time, parents and carers will have to ensure alternative arrangements are made for their child to get home until they can collect their child's phone. These expectations apply to students from Year 7 to Year 13, so please discuss this with your child in order that confiscations and the ensuing inconveniences for us all can be avoided.

School Uniform

A great deal of work has been undertaken to ensure that students and their families are clear about our school uniform expectations, particularly in relation to the wearing of jackets, coats and/or hoodies, as well as school footwear and jewellery. As stated in our policy:

- No hoodie, sweatshirt, cardigan, jacket or other similar clothing should be worn in the place of an outdoor coat.
- All students (in years 7-11) must own a school sweatshirt. These must be worn at all

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times during terms 2, 3 and 4 unless a student has gained permission to remove it. During terms 1, 5 and 6, sweatshirts are optional.
- Shoes must be black and a plain, sensible style (e.g. no sling backs, high heels, boots, black or other trainers, trainer style shoes, canvas shoes etc.)
- Students are allowed one small stud in each ear. **Nose studs are not permitted.** No other jewellery is allowed. If jewellery is seen in school it will be confiscated.

We make every effort to ensure that the cost of our uniform is reasonable, but if you are in difficulties, please contact the school: any such approach will be treated in strictest confidence. Please also note that we have some second hand and nearly new uniform available for students. Please e-mail **uniform@chenderit.net** with your requirements and sizes. We will be pleased to advise you about current availability and condition, and a suggested donation.

Please ensure your children are following the uniform policy in order to avoid being sent home to resolve any issues and, consequently, missing learning.

Attendance

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about our attendance expectations and our policies and procedures in relation to student absence.

Attendance at school is important and research shows that missing school for even a day can have a negative effect on their well-being and could mean a child is less likely to achieve good outcomes.

At Chenderit we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance - every day and every lesson count. Our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential. Our attendance team will be working especially vigilantly this year to ensure good attendance in school, this includes home visits and daily phone calls for students who do not attend school.

Please remember that if your child is unable to attend school for any reason, it is imperative, for safeguarding purposes, that you report the absence via Edulink, by phoning school or by emailing attendance@chenderit.net before 8:30am to inform us.

Parents' Evenings

As a reminder all of our parents' evenings are held face-to-face in school. Our parents' evenings will be on the following dates:

- Year 7 – Thursday 26th November 2026
- Year 8 – Thursday 15th October 2026
- Year 9 – Thursday 18th March 2027
- Year 10 – Thursday 12th March 2026
- Year 11 – Thursday 28th January 2027
- Year 12 – Thursday 4th February 2027
- Year 13 – Thursday 3rd December 2026

On Monday 7th September, all students will have their photo taken for the year. Students need to be in full uniform for this, as they should be every day.

I hope you have found the information in this letter useful. I look forward to seeing many of you in school over the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, I wish all members of our school community a happy and purposeful start to the new academic year.

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Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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