



CHIPPING NORTON
SCHOOL

A-Z

FOR NEW FAMILIES 2025-26



We know that there are a million and one things that families might want to know or ask about life at secondary school. This booklet is designed for you! We hope it will give you short bursts of information and provide links to the people or resources you want to know. In addition, there is a [FAQ section](#) at the end of this booklet for new families based on the most common questions we are asked each year.

A to Z	Key facts...	Website link	Any questions...
Attendance	We know that in order for a child to achieve, they must feel that they belong. A sense of belonging at school depends on close relationships with staff, friends and the hustle and bustle of school life and all of its opportunities. When a child is in and out of school, their sense of belonging erodes and their life chances are placed at risk.	Click here to read our fuller messages on attendance and the policy itself.	Email or speak to Mrs Whyte, our Attendance Lead.
Behaviour	At CNS, we pride ourselves on achieving excellence as standard. We experience high standards of behaviour and students have a positive attitude to learning, leading to a calm and purposeful learning environment. This is supported by our behaviour policy that puts restorative justice at its core.	Click here to view our behaviour policy. And here to see our simple code of conduct for students.	Email or speak to Ms Hancock, Deputy Headteacher.
Bullying	Every form of bullying is intolerable. We do not pretend it cannot or does not happen and therefore we enjoy a growing referral culture from victims and from bystanders – who are the key to a culture of safety. Our character education programme encourages great conduct because it is the right thing to do. Whilst we are tough on bullying, we are also tough on the causes of bullying and ask what is making that child feel so little empathy for others, or why they do not seek to do the right thing.	Click here to view our anti-bullying policy for families.	Email or speak to Ms Hancock, Deputy Headteacher.
Curriculum	In year 7, students study 16 different subjects (hours per fortnight are in brackets) including: character education (1), art (2), computing (1), dance (1), drama (2), English (7), French (2), German (2), geography (3), history (3), mathematics (7), music (2), RE (2), science (7), technology (4) and PE (4). A total of 50 lessons per fortnight, on top of five (15-minute) tutor time sessions each morning between 08:40 and 08:55.	Click here to explore all of our departments and the topics they teach with each year group.	Email or speak to Mr Trainer, Deputy Headteacher.
Child Protection and Safeguarding	We understand that our primary responsibility is to keep your children safe in school and to help them stay safe when they are not in school. We have a planned PSHCE curriculum to guide children and trained staff to support when needed.	Click here to view our child protection policy.	Our senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Ms Hancock .

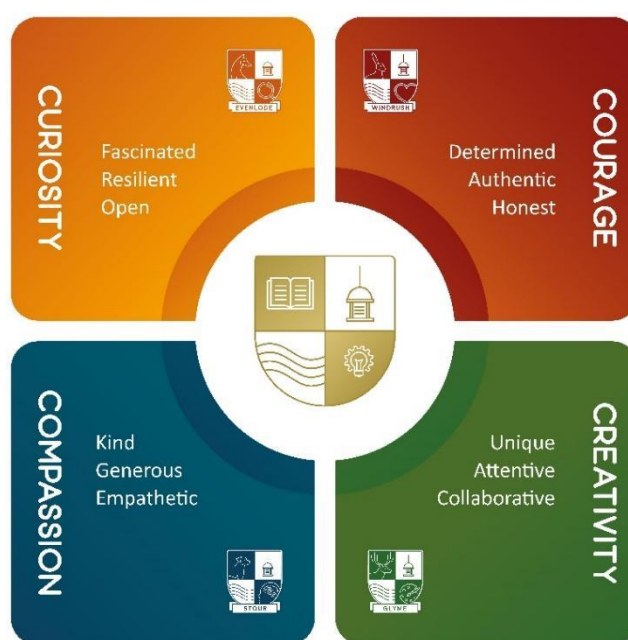
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CNS Newsletter	Ms Bovington, our super School Librarian, publishes the CNS newsletter at the end of each term. This celebrates: our students' personal and academic successes; the work our students do in the wider community, particularly with our local charities; and shares the array of fantastic trips and opportunities our students enjoy as part of the wider extra-curricular life at CNS.	Click here to see the most recent and archived CNS newsletters.	Click here to find out more from the editor, Ms Bovington.
E-Safety - Our Online Safety Policy:	We have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils. Through the curriculum, we deliver an effective approach to online safety, which empowers us to protect and educate the whole school community in its use of technology, including the use of phones. We ask that all students and parents sign and return the acceptable use agreement to establish a relationship of trust and to enable us to support your child/ren and keep them safe.	Click Here to access the online safety policy. Note the acceptable use agreement on page 9.	Email or speak to Mrs Faulkner, Head of Transition and Head of Computing.
Equipment	Your child will need: pens (blue or black and green), pencil, ruler, rubber, colouring pencils, calculator, note book or pad, glue stick, dictionaries (English, French and German), a plastic bottle which can be used for water, and a reading book. In addition to the above equipment, your child may wish to have: scissors and sticky tape. Correction fluid is not permitted.	If in doubt please check with Mrs Faulkner , or your child's tutor.	



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Extra-Curricular Life	Extra-curricular opportunities are highly valued at CNS for the benefits that they bring to our students. School staff offer a wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs which will be advertised internally and children can just pop along to. In addition to this, we offer our extra-time programme. Expert coaches and tutors run after school clubs in 10-week blocks which students can sign up to and pay for on MCAS or with childcare vouchers. New Year 7s can sign up for extra-time clubs in September. There is something for everyone from squash to healthy cookery to drama and lots in between. Clubs are a great way for students to try new things and meet new friends.	Click here to see the wide variety of extra-curricular activities and here to see the extra-time programme.	Click here to contact Mrs Fisher about our extra-time and community programmes.
Financial Assistance	Extensive financial assistance is available to students in receipt of the pupil premium grant to support families with trips, uniform and/or any other barriers that prevent a student from making the same progress as their peers. We also support families who experience sudden or unexpected financial challenges. In addition to this, the local charity, THRIVE, has helped to provide additional laptops and essentials for families in times of need.	Click here to find out more about THRIVE.	Email or speak to Mrs Green who can talk through how we can help.
Home-School Agreement	The home-school agreement represents the trust and bond between the student, their family, and the school, to ensure every child is successful. The content sets out what we commit to as a school and the student's commitments; centred around being ready, safe and respectful. Parent and carer commitments relate to attendance, home life, sanctions, uniform, healthy living and communication.	Click Here to read a full copy of the home-school agreement.	Email or speak to Ms Hancock, Deputy Headteacher, for more information on behaviour expectations at CNS.
Homework	Students in key stage 3 (years 7, 8 and 9) can expect to complete approximately 60 minutes of homework for five nights per week during term time.	Click here to view our homework policy.	Email or speak to Mr Gent, Deputy Headteacher.

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Letters to Families	The headteacher writes to families every Friday. Letters are received via email and also appear on the website at the same time.	Click here to see the headteacher's most recent and archived letters home.	Click here if you would like to contact Mr Richter personally.
Library	<p>Our beautiful 93-year-old library provides a quiet and calm learning environment that also celebrates our love of reading – from fiction to fact, you name it, we have it all - and if we don't then our supportive library staff can probably source it for your child.</p> <p>The library team runs the accelerated reading programme to support students to establish clear reading routines. Ms Bovington runs a book club for our more able students and, with Mrs Blundell, takes pride in providing an extensive calendar of events throughout the year to promote reading opportunities to both our students and local primary links.</p> <p>World book day is always hotly anticipated with <i>Reading off the Rails</i> being a huge success last year.</p>	Click here to find out more about our library and facilities.	Click here to find out more from School Librarian, Ms Bovington.
Parents' Evenings	<p>In October, we host a meet the tutor evening - which is a perfect opportunity to meet your child's tutor to check how well they have settled into CNS and secondary school life.</p> <p>There is also an annual parent-teacher consultation (PTC) evening for each year group. The year 7 PTC is in term 5 and it is your chance to speak to each one of your child's teachers.</p>	Click here to see the school calendar including this year's full timetable of parents' evenings.	Email or speak to Mr Trainer, Deputy Headteacher.
Parents' Association	We have a vibrant and hugely successful parents' association. It plays a significant role in supporting the school by raising money for additional resources to improve opportunities and learning for all pupils; providing support at various events throughout the year; enabling parents to play an active role in the life of the school; and supporting teaching and learning.	Click here to find out more.	If you are keen to join, then please email the Headteacher's PA for more information.

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Pastoral Care	<p>Pastoral care is a pivotal feature of CNS, providing a network of support for our students and families. In terms of pastoral care, every student has three important people in their life: their tutor, their pastoral leader and their head of key stage.</p> <p>However, this is not the only team at CNS to support your child and, if necessary, your family in time of need.</p> <p>A member of the leadership team is also attached to each year group to provide another layer of support and a point of contact for families.</p> <p>We also have a school nurse who is available to support students' physical and mental health and development. Our school nurse also supports our PSHCE curriculum by delivering assemblies and workshops around sex & relationship education and consent.</p>	<p>Click here to see the school's contact page.</p>	<p>Click here to see the school's contact page.</p>
Payments	<p>My-Child-At-School (MCAS) is the online payment system we use at CNS for all payments (we are 100% cashless).</p> <p>It allows parents to pay quickly and securely for items such as school meals, trips and activities. When a family joins, they receive much more detailed information about the system, the app and how to get started.</p>	<p>Click here for more information on MCAS.</p>	<p>Email Mrs Trimmer, our School Business Manager, for more information.</p>



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Personal Development	<p>Personal development and character education centres around our four core school values: creativity, curiosity, compassion and courage (see below).</p> <p>These themes run through all aspects of school life and support us in helping our students grow into mature adults capable of leading healthy, happy and successful lives.</p>	<p>Click here to see more information about the Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum and programmes of study.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Ms Skill, Head of Character Education.</p>
Photographs	<p>At CNS, we sometimes take photographs of students. We use these photographs in the school's prospectus, on the school's website, display boards around school and social media platforms.</p> <p>We always seek your consent to take photographs of your child, and use them in the ways described above. If you are not happy for us to do this, that is not a problem – we will accommodate your preferences. In the separate agreement form, you will be able to select when you are or are not happy for images to be taken.</p> <p>If you have any other questions, please get in touch.</p>	<p>If you change your mind at any time, you can let us know by emailing us or calling the school on 01608 544998, or visit the main school reception.</p>	
Reading	<p>Reading brings the world to life and is a fundamental skill in achieving academic success. We aim to retain and foster a love of reading amongst all our students.</p> <p>Every lesson begins with silent reading for ten minutes.</p> <p>Reading is promoted and taught through the week A tutor programme, reflecting the high-profile importance of reading for pleasure and reading to promote independence at CNS.</p>	<p>Click here to find out more about our library and facilities.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Mrs Armistead, Assistant Headteacher.</p>

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Reporting to Parents	<p>Every year, you will meet your child's tutor in October, and then, later in the year, have a traditional parents' evening with each teacher.</p> <p>At the end of each term (i.e., before Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays), you will also receive a personal scorecard and a standards report that will flag up any classwork or homework concerns from each teacher.</p> <p>In addition, twice per year, you will receive an academic report that indicates the standard of work your child is producing in each subject. That's two meetings per year, plus eight different reports per year.</p>	<p>Click here to read more on the types of reports we send home and what those reports contain.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Mr Trainer, Deputy Headteacher.</p>
Rewards	<p>Students must be recognised, rewarded and valued for the progress and achievements they accomplish. Success builds confidence, and confidence strengthens commitment. At CNS, we do this in a variety of ways from the daily and subtle interactions between teachers and students, to the more public celebration and house assemblies at the end of the autumn, spring, and summer terms. Students are rewarded for their efforts in a variety of ways; both in and out of the classroom. Rewards range from the awarding of house points, praise postcards, kind heart and rising star nominations in house assemblies, to the Headteacher awards.</p>	<p>Click here to find out more.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Ms Hancock, Deputy Headteacher.</p>
Sanctions	<p>Our preferred means to resolve difficulties is to use a restorative approach that helps young people learn from their mistakes. Nevertheless, when things go wrong we have lunchtime detentions (for more minor issues), or after school detentions (for more serious misbehaviours). This document provides a guide to how we typically respond to poor behaviour.</p>	<p>Click here to view our policy for families.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Ms Hancock, Deputy Headteacher.</p>

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School Day	08:35 Warning bell 08:40 Tutor time begins 08:55 Movement time 09:00 Period 1 10:00 Movement time 10:05 Period 2 11:05 Break time 11:25 Warning bell 11:30 Period 3 12:30 Movement time 12:35 Period 4 13:35 Lunch time 14:10 Warning bell 14:15 Period 5 15:15 End of school 15:25 Buses begin to depart		
School Meals	<p>Our school canteen offers a wide range of healthy snacks and meals at both break time (11:05-11:30) and lunchtime (13:35-14:15).</p> <p>Items on our menu include fresh fruit pots, pasta with a choice of toppings, homemade soups, a main meal, sweet treats and yoghurt with a granola topping. Drinks are also available. We use a cashless catering system, which has a maximum daily limit of £5.00.</p> <p>Students in receipt of free school meals have their allowance added to their lunch card automatically each day to enable them to purchase either snacks or the main hot meal of the day.</p>	Click here to view the latest information about our in-school food offer.	Email Mrs Trimmer, our School Business Manager, for more information.
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	<p>At CNS, we believe all students have a right to receive very high-quality teaching experiences, and access a broad and balanced curriculum. Mrs Smart & Mrs Chard, co-SENDCos, along with Mrs Saxby, Assistant SENDCo, lead a team of learning support assistants who work alongside teaching staff to ensure lessons are adapted to meet the needs of all learners.</p> <p>They also provide a specific range of small group interventions that provide targeted students with SEND with the skills to access mainstream education including literacy, numeracy, and communication interventions.</p>	Click here to see our policy for families.	Email or speak to one of our co-SENDCos: Mrs Smart (KS3) and Mrs Chard (KS4 & 5)

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Sports Fixtures	<p>The PE department at CNS has successfully run sports fixtures for many years and have had a great deal of success. We actively participate in a range of sports including rugby, football, netball, hockey, badminton, athletics and cricket. As well as friendly matches, we enter district, county and national competitions.</p> <p>Most competitions, whether at home or away, take place after school and may require special travel arrangements. Transport is usually to and from the school site and we ask you to be prepared, if necessary, to collect students from school following matches. Transport to away matches is usually by minibus, hired coach or staff car in compliance with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) safety policy. You will be notified of any changes to these arrangements.</p> <p>Students who express an interest in representing the school will be issued with a fixture list which you should retain at home for reference. Team lists are published at school in advance of matches and competitions and students selected for teams are asked to note this, together with pick up and return times, and pass this information to you before the day of the fixture.</p>	<p>Click Here to find out more about the PE department.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Mr Thomas, Head of PE.</p>
Teaching & Learning	<p>All teaching staff are united in their delivery of what we call High-TEMPO quality-first teaching. This establishes what does and does not work best for all students, and sharpens our collective skills in <u>t</u>ask design, crisp <u>e</u>xplanations, comparative <u>m</u>odelling of success, extended <u>p</u>ractice and <u>o</u>racy. We think very carefully and precisely about the best ways for students to acquire, retain and then apply new knowledge, ideas and concepts. Nothing is left to chance.</p>	<p>Click here to read our curriculum policy.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Mr Gent, Deputy Headteacher.</p>
Transport / Buses	<p>A reliable range of exclusive bus services collects and returns students to and from CNS every day by OCC. Buses arrive at a range of times, but all buses leave the front of school between 15:25 and 15:30 each day. The school transport is booked directly through OCC. We have routes that cover all the surrounding villages as well as some taxis available for smaller villages. Students receive their OCC bus pass in mid-August and should carry this with them at all times, as per the county policy.</p>	<p>Click here to go to OCC's webpage on bus passes.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Mrs Faulkner, Head of Transition.</p>

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Trips and Visits	We have an incredibly vibrant local, national, European and international trips and visits programme. Letters about all trips are sent home to parents and carers electronically and a payment schedule is offered for more expensive trips.	Click here for more information.	Email our Educational Visits Coordinator, Mrs Thomas .
Uniform & Equipment	<p>Our school uniform celebrates our belonging to a like-minded community that is bonded by common values, aspirations, and goals – to be the best we can be. We seek the highest possible standards in all aspects of life at this school and seek to work closely with parents, carers, and students to make this a reality.</p> <p>There are no planned changes to our school uniform. In any event, major changes only take place following a consultation with parents, carers, students and staff; followed by approval by the local governing body.</p>	Click here to see our comprehensive uniform page or here to see our uniform and appearance guide .	Email or speak to Mrs Faulkner, Head of Transition.



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Values and Goals	<p>A great school curriculum does not happen by chance. Of all the things in the universe we could explore, we have only 1300 school days, 6500 lessons, and 2000 hours of homework in which to dive deeply into the undiscovered depths of human knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>This is why we think very carefully about what we teach, in the order that it is taught, and the manner in which that material is introduced and memorised.</p> <p>Naturally, we want your children to enjoy and be challenged by our curriculum and then leave with superb examination results. However, we are equally concerned with how the curriculum shapes the way your child thinks about themselves, other people, and the future.</p> <p>The simple intention of our curriculum is to educate children with a truly hopeful outlook. Our curriculum intent appears below:</p> <p>"All students will experience a broad and balanced curriculum that nurtures a compassionate, inclusive and hopeful vision of humanity and the future.</p> <p>Our curriculum is ambitious for all children. It follows a carefully laid pathway that sequences and accumulates the knowledge and skills that fuel curious minds. We want all students to be lifelong explorers and creators of undiscovered knowledge. We believe this will happen if they possess the confidence to remember and the determination to make connections of their own.</p> <p>The creative expression of our students' uniqueness will be seen in the things they say, write, compose, design, create or perform. This will secure the education and qualifications of courageous young people who have the freedom to choose their own future."</p>	<p>Click Here to find out more about our vision and our values.</p>	<p>Email or speak to Mr Richter, Headteacher.</p>

Don't forget, [the FAQ part of our website](#) also provides answers to these questions:

