



# Chosen Hill School

## Learning Tip

### Combining words and visuals helps learning

Learning Scientists have found that drawing visuals alongside information can make it memorable. This practice is known as 'dual coding' can help students revising for a test or can support research notes. Visuals could be timelines, cartoons, diagrams or icons.

## Parent Newsletter 26/11/21

I would like to start by congratulating Y11 on their attitude, effort and resilience they invested in their Mock exams over the last two weeks. Whilst there is no doubt additional stress was involved, the opportunity to practice and learn from these will be invaluable later on this year.

Over the last week we have surveyed staff and students about the impact of the Disruption Free Learning. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you for your support.

### Trips

One of the biggest frustrations over this term has been that we have had to restrict the number of clubs and trips we would like to be running. These are an important part of the education and memories students make whilst at school and so many have missed out due to the restrictions of the last two years. As you will appreciate the rise in Covid infection rates over this month has meant that the risk assessment of all enrichment opportunities are constantly being updated to reflect this changing context. This uncertainty also affects the insurance cover available, coupled with the

different and evolving legislation in different countries, and has meant (like the vast majority of schools nationally) that we won't be able to run as many trips abroad in 2022.

### Enrichment week 11-15th July

We are however, excited to share with you our plans to relaunch Enrichment week over the coming weeks. Included in this offer will be some residential and day trips within the UK where we will do our best to make provision for as many students as we can, within the constraints of our time, staff and covid related risk assessments.

I have received some feedback regarding trips and visits this week from parents that have been upset that their child has not been able to secure a place. There will inevitably be situations in which demand for some of the opportunities we are running will exceed the number of places available – particularly following two years of limited opportunity. Whilst this is disappointing, please remember that staff are running these trips voluntarily out of a desire to provide for our students.



## Late bus

Unfortunately the restrictions to clubs and after school interventions there are not currently sufficient numbers of students to make the late bus viable. Therefore we are suspending the late bus that leaves school at 4:30pm Mon-Thurs. We will re-evaluate this in January - please look out for information in the New Year.

## Olaf – our new PAT dog

We are delighted to welcome Olaf as the newest member of the Chosen Hill team. Olaf is a Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog and will be based in our Hub some days during the week.

PAT dogs can benefit students educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog.

For more information:  
<https://www.chosenhillschool.co.uk/school-therapy-dog2/48398.html>



## Chosen Hill PE News

Our rugby, hockey and netball teams were in action this week.

The year 7 netball team had their first home fixture against Tewkesbury School on 23rd

November. Well done girls – lots learnt and even more to learn!



The year 7 girls were also in action at a district tournament on 24th November. Great effort from all!



Another great set of rugby fixtures this week with good games at home for year 8 against Holmeleigh Park and Churchdown School for years 9 and 10!



Rugby fixtures next week:

Tuesday 30 November

U12 Rugby v Tewks (a)

U14 Rugby v Tewks (a)

Wednesday 1 December

Senior Rugby v Tewks (h)

Thursday 2 December

U13 Rugby v Tewks (h)

U15 Rugby v Tewks (h)

U14 Basketball v Cleeve (h)

## House Music

From the launch assemblies back in September to the performances on 15th October it has been wonderful to witness the energy and enthusiasm permeating the school as our students took to the stage for House Music. Especially with the inclusion of dance as a category within the traditional format of junior and senior solo, ensemble and choirs representing each of the four houses the competition was fiercely contested this year. We are so proud of every student who performed, and the many more behind the scenes who supported to make this (in the words of one of the students) 'the best House Music ever!'

We are delighted to be able to share an edited highlights recording as we were unfortunately not able to run our usual evening performance in school the week following the competition. Please follow the link which will give students and parents access to [House Music Highlights 2021](#).



## Reminder – Sixth Form Open Evening – 2nd December 2021

The Sixth Form Opening Evening is next week on Thursday 2nd December for Year 11 parents. The presentations run at 6:15pm and 7:15pm after which you will take a tour and have the opportunity to speak to our staff and students about our 6th form offer. Please book via the form sent out on email recently.

## HAFHAP – Winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

#HAF2021

### Holiday Activity and Food Programme

#### What?

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), funded by DfE, is returning this December for children aged 5-16 years eligible for free school meals.

#### When?

The programme will be running for 4 days from 20th - 23rd December.

#### How?

You will be able to sign up to our Children Activities Booking Site (CABS) from November.

Activities will be available to book from 1 December.

**To stay up to date on all things HAF, email us at:**  
[HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

to join our newsletter where we will have updates, insights, recipes and crafts from November.

#### What is available?

We will be offering a variety of face-to-face activities with your local providers:

- ✓ exciting activity packs for all ages
- ✓ an opportunity to claim your own winter food hamper to enjoy over the holidays
- ✓ tickets to local events and more!

To find out more and stay up to date, you can follow us on social media @GlosCC or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)

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### Holiday Activity Programme

#### What?

Using grant funding, this year we are extending our holiday activity programme for December to all children in Gloucestershire.

Open to children of any age, this makes sure all children can access holiday activities locally.

#### When?

The HAF programme will be running for 4 days from 20th -23rd December.

#### How?

You will be able to sign up to our Children Activities Booking Site (CABS) from November.

Activities will be available to book from 1 December. You will be able to book any activities marked HAF in the title.

#### What will be available?

- ✓ Face to face activities for children to socialise and play
- ✓ Ticketed activity schemes to your favourite venues
- ✓ A large online video activity library and more!
- ✓ A potential free meal at your local activities

(Please contact providers directly for more details on this).

To find out more and stay up to date, you can follow us on social media @GlosCC or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)

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