



Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to welcome Year 10 and 11 students back to school yesterday. They have done so well with their distance learning and benefitted from the excellent virtual lessons provided by their teachers. Thank you to the many parents and carers who sent in messages of support and appreciation to teachers for the distance learning and Microsoft Teams lessons. In such challenging times, your words of encouragement have really meant a lot. However, it is so nice that students are back in school, so that teachers can respond directly to their questions and be able to provide immediate support.

As we near the end of term, although we are still unable to do the normal things associated with the pre-Christmas period, we are still looking forward to some festive activities. We are very grateful to Mr Collison, Chair of Governors, who kindly provided a Christmas tree for our school reception area, where all students can appreciate it. Next week, Shire Services will be offering a menu which includes some festive choices and before the end of term, we are joining with our other Trust schools for a Christmas jumper day, in aid of Save The Children, and another charity, to be determined by the students who make up the Trust Council. More information about this event will follow soon!

Welcome to our new colleagues Miss Clift and Mr Godwin who have both been appointed as cover supervisors.

Finally this week, please could you familiarise yourself with the procedure if we need to close the school due to snow, detailed [here](#). This is especially important should the need arise during the school day; always a logistical challenge which is made so much easier to manage where parents/carers are fully aware of what the implications are to ensure that students remain safe. Thank you for reading this.

With best wishes for a good weekend

John Parr
Headteacher

A huge
thank you to
everyone
who
supported
Children In
Need .



We raised a
fantastic
£899.10



ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS!

Amazon have a Smile Amazon scheme that helps charities in the UK raise funds without costing you anything extra and with exactly the same products, prices and service.

The P.T.A. would like to ask those of you who shop with Amazon to consider supporting the P.T.A. raise funds by signing up to Smile Amazon.

All you need to do is:

- access your Amazon account via Smile Amazon
- register Church Stretton School P.T.A. as your chosen charity
- shop as normal

For more details please see this link:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1183610-0>

This is an easy way to help the P.T.A. who has been unable to hold its major fundraiser this term.

Every extra donation we receive really will help. Thank you.

School drop off and collection

Please can we ask parents not to drive over the grass when dropping off and collecting children from the school car park. Thank you.



Dear parent/carer,

Our cashless catering system has now been updated following the recent disruption. Please can you ensure you check the balance and add credit as required.

Thank you.



Key Stage 3 Student of the Week



Winners and nominees for this week are listed below....

Summer Jones 7L1 Nominated by:

Miss Hough for an excellent newspaper article for Geography and Mr Mottram for effort in recent Computer Science lessons

Henry Pett Nominated by:

Mr Wise for his excellent physical comedy performance and improvisation

Oliver Walden Nominated by:

Mr Basnett for consistent hard work and insightful ideas.

Jimmy Nicholson Nominated by:

Mrs Davis (DT) for working really hard on his Design Technology branding work during a live lesson

This week's nominations



| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Miss Hough | Summer Jones | Recently produced an excellent newspaper article on a carnival in Rio for Geography. Well done Summer! |
| Miss Sollars | Evie Vaughan | Excellent work on History quiz |
| Miss Sollars | Holly Collett | Excellent work on History quiz |
| Miss Sollars | Isabelle Hill | Excellent work on History quiz |
| Mr Basnett | Oliver Walden | Consistent hard work and insightful ideas. |
| Mr Mottram | Summer Jones | Excellent effort in last few lessons |
| Mr Wise | Henry Pett | Excellent physical comedy performance and improvisation |
| Mr Wise | Ed Muttitt Jones | Great, independent contributions to lessons recently. |
| Mr Wise | Oliwia Brjdej | Outstanding homework |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Eva Knight | Brilliant gathering of Anthropometric data on a live lesson |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Jordy Simpson | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Lily Atkin | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Phoebe Jervis | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Charlie Warburton | Fantastic linkage modelling in Design Technology |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Dennis Barker | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Owen Rushton | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Emma Burke | Working really hard on their Design Technology branding work during a live lesson |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Issac Hall | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Jimmy Nicholson | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Megan Williams | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | Troy Lloyd | |
| Mrs Davis (DT) | | |

Distance learning update

With Year 10 and 11 returning from self-isolation this week we have experienced two weeks of our planned distance learning video lessons, which both staff and students have risen to the challenge of delivering and attending respectively. Whilst we hoped that we would not have to put our plans into place, it is a to the credit of the staff and the training they have all diligently undertaken that we were able to begin delivering video lessons via MS Teams less than 24 hours after Year 11 were asked to self-isolate. The vast majority of Year 10 and 11 students followed their normal timetabled lessons from home during the period of self-isolation, meaning they lost very little learning time and continued to make progress in their knowledge and understanding. There is no substitute for face to face lessons (socially distanced of course!) but what the staff of Church Stretton School offered during this period was the next best thing.

We monitored students' attendance at the video lessons and contacted parents and carers if their child had not attended the video lessons. The reason we did this was to quickly identify any barriers to learning, so that we could ensure no students were disadvantaged as a result of self-isolating. Part of our quest to ensure no students were left behind was our IT survey, which allowed us to identify if students were unable to engage in video lessons and other distance learning activities as a result of not having a suitable device to use to join these lessons. If you have not yet had the chance to complete the survey please click on the link for either [KS3](#) or [KS4](#) and let us know about your IT situation. The results of this survey will remain confidential and will be used to identify those students who are in need of additional support from the school and we will do all we can to provide this help.

Mr Morgan has, as always, been doing all that he can to assist students, parents and staff with any IT issues they are experiencing and we are hugely grateful for the fantastic job he is doing. If you or your child is experiencing any issues with Office 365, Go4Schools or MS Teams we have produced user guides and how to videos to try and help everyone find solutions to their problems as quickly as possible. These user guides can be accessed using the following [link](#).

It is our aim to streamline the use of IT by staff students, parents and staff and we will continue to produce user guides and how to videos to support the successful use of IT at Church Stretton School and ensure we are preparing your child(ren) for the world of work and the emerging technologies they will use in their future education and careers.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for being so understanding and supportive of the school during these challenging times, and for their patience with their children during self-isolation studies! We really appreciate the lovely messages, phone calls, emails and letters from parents and carers over the course of the Autumn term. The power of these messages should not be underestimated, they have the ability to give staff a lift when the weight of our new normal feels like it is too much to carry. If you would like to thank a member of staff, or the staff as a whole, please submit your message via this [link](#) and we will make sure they receive your message.

Accelerated Reader

Congratulations to the following students for reaching their

Accelerated Reader target.

Year 7

Jack Cornehl
Alex Costa-Veiga
Poppy Flanagan
Indiya Howells
Molly Jeffries
Erin Leigh
Olivia Whiting
Charlie Dean
George Devey
Archie Norval
Oscar Purslow

Year 7 (cont)

Ella Roberts
George Degg
Sky Milner
Seth Richards
Ashley Holdsworth

Year 8

Connie Woodhouse
Aisha Green
Sophie Allison
Joseph Buckingham
Beth Perry

Year 9

Evie Jackson
Daisy Deards
James Orme
Erin Robinson
William Smout
Iwan Faulkner
Morgan Gray
Oliver Walden

Congratulations to the newest member
of our Millionaires Club

George Degg (1,062,208)

Church Stretton School Chrome book leasing programme round 2

Acer Spin 512 Chromebook



Our Chair of Governors Mike Collison has written a letter that he has asked us to share with parents and carers regarding the Chromebook purchase/leasing scheme.

Mike Collison
Chair of Governors
Church Stretton

Dear Parents/Carers

CHROMEBOOKS

I am writing to encourage as many of you as possible to take advantage of the Chromebook scheme. Already a great many of you have, and that is fantastic.

We are living through unprecedented times with the current pandemic, and it is my belief, that we may well still be dealing with it for the whole of this school year - even with recent announcements. This is one of the main reasons why I have been so keen to support our Head, John Parr and his team in updating the school IT systems to ensure that the students have the best chance possible of being able to interact with their teachers, wherever they are.

The school has invested in a total upgrade of the school network system and provided every teacher with a laptop. This has stretched the budget but needed to be done and has given the school a fantastic infrastructure to be able to teach students in school in a variety of ways using modern technology.

It is possible, and most likely probable, that classes, Year groups or even the whole school will be subject to periods of time when they are forced to continue their studies at home due to Coronavirus cases over the Winter and Spring. How long this would last, we do not know, but every day is a day's education made difficult or for some lost.

Anything we can do to support the teachers in giving our children the best opportunity to learn in these difficult times should be done. One way is to ensure that every student is able to interact in the same way with their teachers. This is easily done if all pupils are using a suitable electronic device loaded with the necessary software and safety features (which protect both the pupil and teacher), and that these devices can easily be supported and upgraded.

The school is working with FreedomTech to provide parents/carers with the opportunity to buy or lease a school ready Chromebook if they do not already have a suitable device at home. I have been through the costings at great length and they provide excellent value for money, and you will not find the same device with all the extra benefits cheaper. The option to buy outright or spread the costs over several years, gives you different ways to purchase one for your child.

Using phones, family PC or another device is possible, but will not allow the IT team to provide your child(ren) with the same level of IT support as they would receive if they had a Chromebook purchased through the scheme. This is because the Chromebooks allow Mr Morgan, the school's IT manager, to remote access each device purchased through the scheme and trouble shoot problems should they arise.

I believe that we must try and make it as easy as possible for teachers to teach in these difficult times and every pupil using a suitable device will help. I know some of you will have already purchased different devices and not everyone will be able to afford to purchase one, and the school will do what they can to support your child(ren) during periods of distance learning.

The government has promised some support and we have already had donations from local businesses, who are keen to help. This has allowed the school to create a bank of devices that can be offered on a short-term loan to students who do not have a suitable device at home. I am so passionate about this, that I have bought a Chromebook for my daughter and given a second device to the school. I know others have already done likewise, and more will also donate devices, but these will be for a limited number of students. If you know past pupils or local businesses who might be willing and able to contribute towards the purchase of more Chromebooks to support those students most in need, please put them in touch with the school or myself.

Whilst purchasing a Chromebook through this scheme is not compulsory, I urge those of you who are in a position to do so to sign up for the Chromebook scheme and help your child(ren) and the fantastic staff we have at Church Stretton to continue the pursuit of learning throughout these difficult times.

Many thanks and please keep safe.

Mike Collison

If you are interested in purchasing/leasing an Acer Spin 512 Chromebook, they are ordered through, and supplied by, Freedom Tech, which is a technology leasing company that provides students with access to the latest devices in a way that is cost effective and are the same models that were available through round 1. Should you have any questions about the device or how the purchase/leasing scheme works please contact Freedom Tech via email: tech4learners@freedomtech.co.uk or by phone: 02038575632.

By joining the second round of the programme students will have a school ready device exclusively for their own use at home, with 3-year extended warranty, accidental damage and theft insurance, both with £0 excess for a one-off payment of £414.90. Orders can be placed using the portal at www.tech4learners.co.uk, you can logon by providing your email address, the username: **Stretton20** and password: **S3cure02!** The portal is now open and the deadline for orders for this round will be Thursday 10th December and the first direct debt payment will be taken on 25th December. We would expect delivery of the devices to be in early January.

Joining the programme is optional, but will allow students to have access to a school ready device that our IT team will be able to provide remote support for in case of issues arising while the device is used at home. Students who do not take part in the purchase/leasing scheme will not be disadvantaged during in school or home learning, especially in the event of a full or partial lock down, as we will provide the best quality learning experience for all.

Leasing the device is a good way to spread the cost, but will incur an increased cost, which we have broken down in the table below to show you the terms available and the additional cost incurred. The school is not making any money from the programme and our main priority is ensuring as many students as possible have suitable IT equipment that is fit for purpose and provides value for money.

| | | Terms available and monthly cost | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | One off payment | 12 months x £36.77 | 24 months x £19.65 | 36 months x £13.93 |
| Year 7 and 8 | £414.90 | £441.24 | £471.60 | £501.48 |
| Increased cost | | +£26.34 | +£56.70 | +£86.58 |
| Year 9 | | | | |
| | One off payment | 12 months x £36.77 | 24 months x £19.65 | 32 months x £15.68 |
| Increased cost | £414.90 | £441.24 | £471.60 | £501.76 |
| | | +£26.34 | +£56.70 | +£86.86 |
| Year 10 | | | | |
| Increased cost | One off payment | 12 months x £36.77 | 20 months x £23.58 | |
| | £414.90 | £441.24 | £471.60 | |
| | | +£26.34 | +£56.70 | |
| Year 11 | | | | |
| Increased cost | One off payment | 8 months x £55.15 | | |
| | £414.90 | £441.20 | | |
| | | +£26.30 | | |