



Headteacher's Comment

The sense of belonging for pupils and staff at Chase High School has always been a reason for celebration, and this week's events have truly reflected that. The VE Day events, along with engagement in trips, visits, and PSHE workshops, are just a few examples. Our Year 10 pupils will embark on their two-week work experience next week, where the sense of belonging to an organisation outside of school will be both challenging and rewarding. I wish them all the best.

#ProudtobeChase



VE Day Celebrations

This week students participated in a number of activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day which marked the end of World War II in Europe. Pupils took part in activities at tutor time, History lessons had a VE Day focus and pupils in Years 10 and 12 enjoyed a celebratory street party which took place in our Atrium at lunch time.



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Pupils at Chase High took a major step towards their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award on the weekend, completing a successful and spirited practice expedition at Danbury. Over the two days, the pupils navigated the countryside, cooked their own meals on Trangia stoves and set up tents. The pupils were an absolute credit to the school and on track to completing the expedition section of their award. Well done to all the pupils for their resilience, hard work and determination. Good luck for the qualifying expedition ahead.



Healthy Relationship Workshops

This week, we welcomed 'Safe Steps' into school to deliver workshops to Year 12 and 13 focusing on healthy relationships. Students developed an understanding of what a healthy relationship looks like. Safe Steps discussed the warning signs of domestic abuse, and the services students can access for support.





The World of Tim Burton Exhibition

On Thursday, Year 12 and 13 Photography and Media students delved into the fantastical world of Tim Burton and explored his remarkable creations and designs at the World of Tim Burton Exhibition at the Design Museum in London. The trip offered students an immersive educational experience, aligning with the curriculum by exploring visual storytelling, character design, and Tim Burton's impact on contemporary media.



Game Show Event

This week we rewarded 280 pupils in years 7-10 for achieving 100% attendance for the entire second term! This is a huge achievement and something that pupils should be very proud of. Pupils were immersed into a TV style game show, where they were able to take part in a variety of classic games. Well done to everyone who was involved in this event!



Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Parents/Carers of pupils in Year 8 should have received a message from The SE Immunisation Team requesting consent for the HPV Immunisations taking place in school on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 May. The deadline for giving consent is Wednesday 21 May.



Remote Learning Day

On Friday 13 June, we will be welcoming over 700 Year 5 pupils from our local primary schools for a taste of life at Chase High School. For our current pupils, this day will be allocated as a remote learning day from home. Teaching staff will upload classwork for pupils to complete on Satchel one, this time also gives them a chance to catch up with any outstanding work. A letter has been sent home with more details.



Book of the Week!

Throne of Glass by Sarah J Maas

Age recommendation: 12+

Short synopsis: Short synopsis: In a land without magic, where the king rules with an iron hand, an assassin is summoned to the castle. She comes not to kill the king, but to win her freedom. If she defeats twenty-three killers, thieves, and warriors in a competition, she is released from prison to serve as the king's champion. Her name is Celaena Sardothien.

Pupil Review:

"Such a thrilling adventure. With so much fantasy, thrills and banter to enjoy throughout!"

Gillian, Year 8.



Dates for your Diary:

12.05.25 – 23.05.25 Year 10 Work Experience

19.05.25 Pop up Arts and Tech Event

13.05.25 Jack Petchey Performance Palace Theatre

22.05.25/23.05.25 Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

15.05.25 Year 8 Community and Curriculum Evening



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

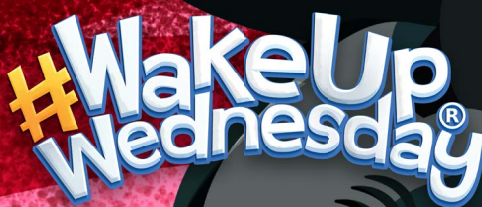
Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging

HPV Vaccine Factsheet & FAQs for Schools, Parents and Carers

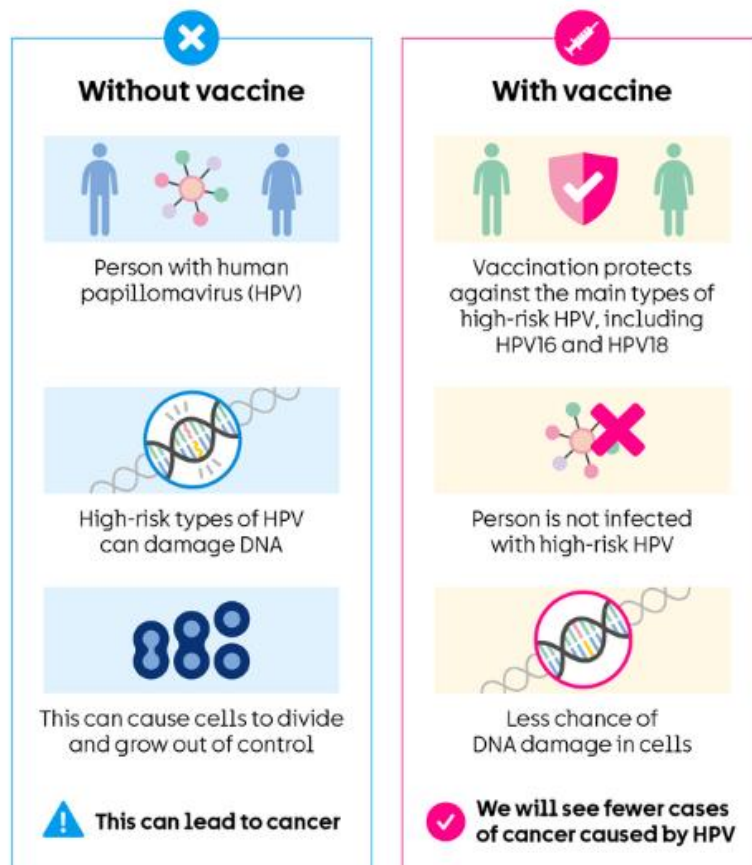
What is HPV?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus with over 200 types, some of which can cause cancers such as cervical, anal, penile, and throat cancers.

Why is the HPV vaccine important?

The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that cause the majority of HPV-related cancers. Vaccination can prevent more than 90% of these cancers when given at the recommended ages.

How does the HPV vaccine work?



By protecting against HPV infection, we can help prevent cell changes and reduce the risk of cancer

Statistics

- **Efficacy:** By mid-2020, HPV vaccination had prevented an estimated 687 cervical cancers and 23,192 cases of cervix cell abnormalities (CIN3) which may lead to cancer in the UK ([BMJ](#)).
- **Safety:** The HPV vaccine has been extensively tested and monitored with robust safety data ([NHS](#)).
- **Cervical Cancer:** Approximately 99.8% of cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV ([NHS England](#)).
- **Reduction in Cervical Cancer:** The HPV vaccine has reduced cervical cancer rates by 87% in women in their 20s who were vaccinated at ages 12-13 ([BMJ](#)).

FAQs

1. Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes, the HPV vaccine is very safe. It has been extensively tested and monitored. The most common side effects are mild, such as a sore arm, redness, or swelling at the injection site ([NHS](#)).

2. Does the HPV vaccine cause infertility?

No, the HPV vaccine does not cause infertility. In fact, not getting vaccinated and contracting HPV can lead to cancers that may require treatments affecting fertility, such as hysterectomy or chemotherapy ([WHO](#)).

3. Why does the HPV injection hurt?

The pain from the HPV injection is similar to other vaccines and is mainly due to the needle insertion and the body's immune response. The discomfort is usually mild and temporary. ([NHS](#)).

4. What are the side effects of the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is very safe. Most side effects are mild and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever ([NHS](#)). Serious side effects are very rare. More information can be found in this information leaflet : [HPV Vaccination](#)

5. Does the HPV vaccine protect against cancer?

Yes, the HPV vaccine protects against several types of cancer, including cervical, anal, and throat cancers. It is most effective when given before exposure to HPV ([Cancer Research UK](#)).

6. How effective is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is highly effective. In the years following its introduction, HPV infections have significantly decreased among vaccinated populations ([GOV.UK](#)).

Myth Busting

Myth: The HPV vaccine causes severe side effects.

Fact: The HPV vaccine is very safe. Most side effects are mild and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. Serious side effects are rare. ([NHS](#)).

Myth: The HPV vaccine affects fertility.

Fact: There is no evidence that the HPV vaccine affects fertility. In contrast, HPV infections can lead to cancers that may require treatments affecting fertility ([WHO](#)).

Myth: The HPV vaccine is unnecessary if you're not sexually active.

Fact: The vaccine is most effective when given before any exposure to HPV, which is why it is recommended for preteens ([NHS](#)).

Myth: The HPV vaccine only protects against cervical cancer.

Fact: The HPV vaccine protects against multiple types of cancer, including cervical, anal, and throat cancers ([Cancer Research UK](#)).

Conclusion

The HPV vaccine is a crucial tool in preventing HPV-related cancers. It is safe, effective, and recommended for children aged 12 to 13 years old to ensure the best protection against HPV.

The HPV vaccine will be offered in school to all year 8 and 9 students and immunisation teams will be visiting schools in the next few months. Please complete and return the consent forms for your child when you receive them to assist with the campaign.

Further Information and references

1. [NHS. "HPV vaccine"](#)
2. [GOV.UK. "Information on the HPV vaccination from September 2023"](#)
3. [GOV.UK. "Human papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccination coverage in adolescents in England: 2022 to 2023"](#)
4. [BMJ. "Effect of the HPV vaccination programme on incidence of cervical cancer"](#)
5. [Cancer Research UK. "The HPV vaccine"](#)
6. [WHO. "Human papilloma virus vaccines and infertility"](#)
7. [Gardasil 9, INN-Human Papillomavirus 9 valent Vaccine \(Recombinant, adsorbed\)](#)