



Cheslyn Hay Academy

Part of Windsor Academy Trust

Saredon Road Cheslyn Hay Staffordshire WS6 7JQ
Telephone 01922 416024 Facsimile 01922 414411
Email headteacher@cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
Website www.cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Headteacher Ms N Crookshank BA (Hons) MA

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing today in relation to iPads for Learning, to ensure you have had all of the information regarding the support that we continue to provide to accelerate your child's learning.

Whether through our teaching, curriculum, learning environments or various other educational experiences, we work hard to give every child the opportunity to achieve their very best, unlock their academic and personal potential and prepare them for their future.

Progress of our children, plus research, has shown that children's learning is strengthened when enhanced by iPads for Learning. For students who have already started with iPads for Learning, we have seen strong improvement in their ability to learn independently, resulting in accelerated attainment and progress. However, while iPads for Learning provides tremendous educational benefits, we are limited in terms of what we, as an education charity, can access for our students through the limited funding we receive from the government. We have invested significantly in the iPads for Learning infrastructure across all of our schools and although we would like to provide every child with a personal iPad package for both home and school, this is simply not currently possible.

Your child will not only receive an iPad but a comprehensive package that includes a range of tools to support your child's learning within and beyond the classroom. This package includes the latest iPad, a case, a digital pen to support your child's creativity, three years of warranty and insurance, and a number of apps tailored for your child's learning that are paid for within the contribution. Critically, it also includes device management and safeguarding software so that you can be assured that your child is making safe use of the iPad at school and at home. We can assure you that 100% of all contributions go towards iPads for Learning.

We have made every effort to ensure the iPad for learning package is as affordable as possible including a monthly payment plan. As we emerge from the pandemic, we understand the more challenging financial climate. We have provided additional funding where required to support families with the cost of this initiative and we will continue to sensitively support families where meeting the full contribution is a challenge. Our goal is to ensure all children have access to iPads for Learning and will ensure that no child is left out. We will continue to try to find ways to make it more affordable in the future as it is so important to our children's learning and life chances within our family of schools.

The development of our curriculum through the use of iPads is just one of many areas we have worked on to make important and impactful changes across our family of schools in recent years. For example, the professional development of all our staff is vital in ensuring the teaching and learning across schools is excellent and best equips your child with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in life. Our excellent professional development programme has served as an exemplary model for other schools and trusts around the country to follow.

To further develop how we support our people, our schools and your children, our Deputy CEO had the opportunity to be part of an excellent leadership development programme in the beginning of 2020 at Apple's headquarters in the USA.

The leadership programme was organised by Whole Education, and supported by Apple as part of their efforts to support education improvement. This was an opportunity for school leaders from around the globe to learn about how Apple works to develop their organisation and their people, and think about the future of education and how children learn, with speakers brought in from around the world. There was an enormous amount of learning that was then taken directly back into every one of our schools, really shaping our strategy for developing our people, our organisation, our curriculum and school improvement.

Since then, we have also worked hard to make our curriculum even more inspiring, both at school and at home. We are redefining the way our children are learning. This proved incredibly timely as we had to move to remote learning in March 2020, and we were able to incorporate the insight taken from the leadership programme directly into the remote learning provision for students. Our remote learning was implemented immediately, was extremely effective and we really appreciated all the positive feedback we received from parents.

Discussion within the leadership programme inspired us to become carbon neutral, and examine our own impact on the environment as schools. As part of this, we were able to secure a £2 million grant through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce our environmental impact. This has helped to fund works including installing solar panels, LED lighting and double glazed windows, and we have now set ourselves the target of achieving carbon neutral by 2030. Addressing environmental issues is an important part of children's futures and something that we know many of our pupils, staff and wider community feel passionately about.

Everything we do is to make the biggest possible difference for your child and this is why we have made every effort to ensure our digital programme is as affordable as possible and accessible to everyone, working closely with families to provide support.

We thank you and deeply appreciate your ongoing support as we all, hopefully, begin to see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. We hope very much that you and your child are looking forward to a much more relaxed summer break.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss anything further so please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,



Keith Sorrell
Chief Executive Officer
Windsor Academy Trust



Nicky Crookshank
Headteacher
Cheslyn Hay Academy

