



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve



CHEW VALLEY SCHOOL

CHALLENGE PROSPECTUS

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“I think school is really good at getting students to participate in what we feel passionate in. For example, I've been particularly active in the 'Womens' Rights Team. It takes students out their comfort zone and stretches us to our full potential.”

YEAR 9 STUDENT

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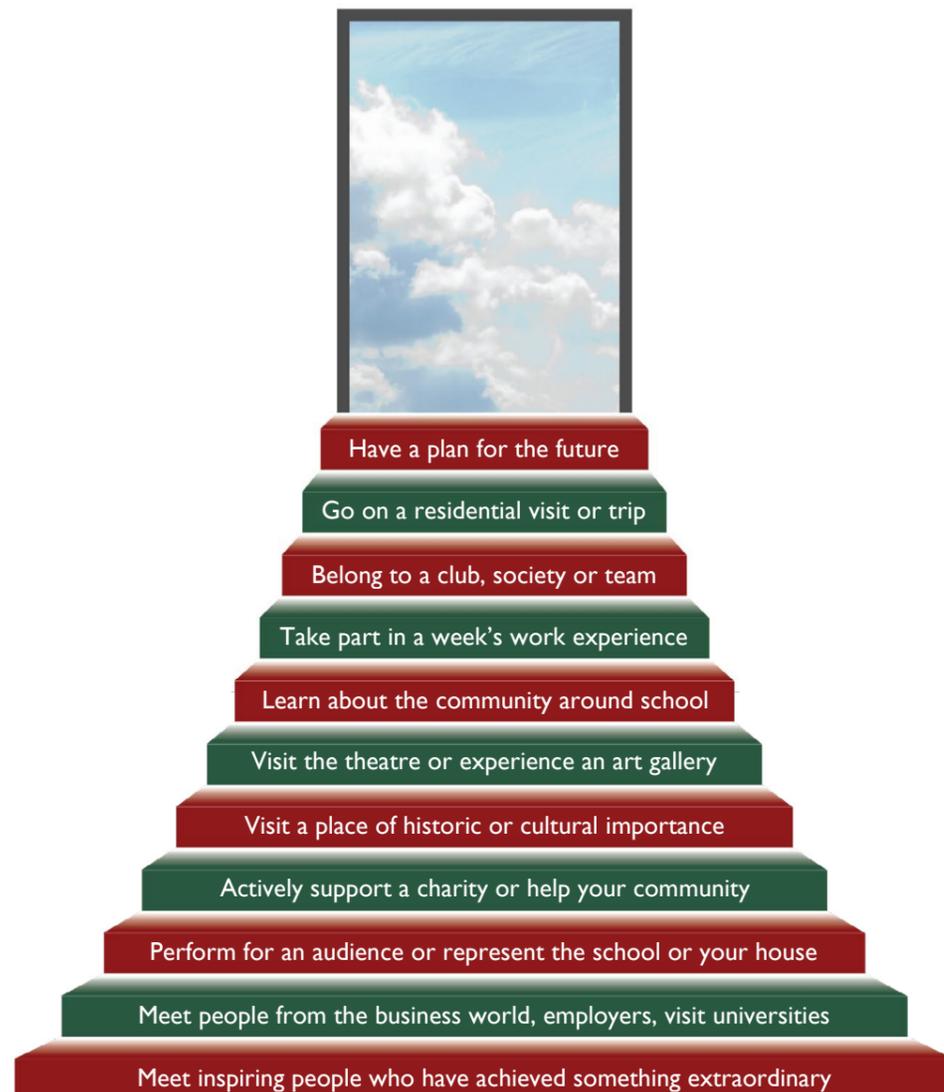
“Chew Valley challenges students in lots of different aspects, for example in dance we carry out a yearly dance festival and performance, this helps boost our confidence and teamwork skills.”

YEAR 10 STUDENT



Introduction

The Chew Valley Guarantee



What is Challenge at Chew Valley School?

As part of the Chew Valley Guarantee, every student will experience challenge during their time at Chew Valley School. Opportunities to be challenged are within the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, change and create teams and trips. These opportunities will instil a desire to grow as individuals and enable students to reach their full potential. Engaging in challenging activities will broaden students perspective of their subjects and allow students to gain skills and confidence in the work they do.





English

The Curriculum

Reading Passports

Explore literature from around the world in a challenge to experience the most countries, and a chance to win house points.

Year 7 and 8 Reading Challenge

How tall a tower of books can your house read? Become engrossed in a reading marathon and use this as a chance to read a variety of genres of books that you might not have thought to read before.

English Extension Group

At GCSE, there is the opportunity for students to study within the English extension group. This group explores texts at a deeper level and exam techniques, to support students in achieving grades 8 and 9.

Additional KS4 Qualification

Year 10 and 11 students with additional needs take an additional KS4 qualification in English. The qualification will equip students with functional literacy skills, enabling access to their next stage of educational training.



Extra-Curricular Offers

Writing Club

A chance to develop your creative writing skills and explore the style of author you could become.

Trips

Theatre Trips for GCSE English

When the opportunities arise, students are taken to watch their GCSE texts performed at a theatre production. This helps students to visualise and experience their texts, in order to analyse them with a greater insight.



Maths

The Curriculum

At each stage in the curriculum, there are opportunities to continue challenging students' mathematical abilities. We offer extension sets in year 7 and 8, a Further Mathematics level 2 qualification to GCSE students, and the Further Mathematics qualification at A-Level.

At each key stage, students have the opportunity to participate in UKMT challenges. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. At KS3, students enter the Junior Individual and Team Maths Challenges; at KS4, the UKMT Intermediate Individual and Team Maths Challenges; and at KS5, the UKMT Senior Individual and Team Maths Challenges.

All subject departments have a numeracy representative that build in the practice of mathematical skills within their own subject. This further strengthens students mathematical understanding in the context of real world scenarios.

Extra-Curricular Offers

GCSE Lunchtime Challenge Club

A GCSE support and challenge group where students can address weaker areas and continue practising more challenging exam questions.

A-Level A/A* Exam Technique

Sessions

An A-Level session where students are encouraged to develop the skills to achieve the highest grades by focusing on exam technique using practice questions.

University Entrance Exam Support

An A-Level after school support session, where students can practice and ask questions when preparing for any university entrance mathematics exam.



Science

(Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

The Curriculum

KS3 Science

All KS3 lesson plans have a “Stretch and Challenge” section which can be open-ended questions about scientific ideas, or activities that go into greater depth.

GCSE Combined Science

KS4 content begins with ideas from KS3, but very quickly builds the level of challenge with more mathematical rigour, complex ideas and recall demand.

Physics GCSE and A-Level

GCSE Physics covers more demanding physical concepts like fluid pressure and electromagnetism, and study of space which is not covered in double science. At A-Level students require a deeper understanding of the nature of physical measurements, and we introduce particle and quantum physics as well as much more advanced mathematical treatment of forces, waves, energy, nuclear physics and thermal physics that have been studied at KS4.

Chemistry GCSE and A-Level

GCSE Chemistry covers industrial applications of their knowledge, such as life-cycle assessments of materials and water purification. A-Level Chemistry continues to deepen their understanding of chemical concepts, for example drawing reaction mechanisms. The mathematical demand increases from GCSE, including use of logarithmic functions and standard form.

RSC ambassadors provide an in school session called “Spectroscopy in a Suitcase”. It is an opportunity for A-Level Chemists to learn about spectroscopy (infra-red and UV-visible) through hands-on experience. As well as covering the principles of spectroscopic techniques, the activities use real-life contexts to demonstrate the applications of the techniques.

Biology GCSE and A-Level

GCSE Biology begins to answer core questions about the human body and ecology, while encouraging students to think about medical and real life applications. For example students debate the ethics of using embryonic stem cells to treat diseases. A-Level Biology builds on the GCSE course to a much higher detail, while introducing more complex concepts such as gene technology techniques. The course also builds students’ practical and statistical skills.



Extra-Curricular Offers

Reptile Handling and Feeding Club

Students share their knowledge of reptiles, as they learn the feeding and behavioural habits of our school reptiles.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics Clubs

A revision and support club for KS4 and KS5 Scientists. An opportunity to practice exam technique and ask questions to a Science teacher.

Year 8 Salters Festival Of Chemistry

These festivals are designed to inspire budding young scientists. Teams of four students work together to complete two practical challenges, with prizes awarded to the winning teams! In the afternoon there is a fun lecture followed by a prizegiving.

Big Questions Club

Students play games and hear a Christian answer to your questions about life, the universe and everything else. Students develop their ability to form arguments and think outside of the box.



Science

Trips

@Bristol PCR

The trip is run in April for our Year 13 A-Level Biologists. This trip exposes students to cutting edge laboratory techniques and expands their knowledge of gene technology.

Slapton Field Research

This trip is run in July for our Year 12 A-Level Biologists. Students conduct field research on Slapton Sands with the support of FSC Slapton Ley research centre. Students develop their data analysis and statistical skills.

CERN, Geneva

The trip is run in July for our A-Level Physicists. Students will see cutting edge particle physics research at CERN, and visit Geneva's science museums.



Physical Education

The Curriculum

Students work in their 'Stretch Zone' – where they work on developing planning, practice, perform skills through problem solving, team work, communication. All activities have a skills performance pathway that pushes students to learn and perform higher level skills. There is the opportunity for students who can perform their year group's skills to work on those in the years above.

There is the offer of leadership opportunities from year 9 and above, where students take on leadership of multiple primary school students whilst considering health and safety.

At A-Level students have to master Scientific and Sociological topics that are separate in other subjects, as well as perform sport at a high level. In each topic area, where there is time students are led into higher level learning of the topic e.g. sports injuries - the healing process within the body.

Extra-Curricular Offers

D of E (Bronze, Silver and Gold)

An opportunity to develop your confidence and resilience, alongside building skills in leadership and teamwork. Explore the countryside, and give back to the community through volunteering projects.

Football Club

Fun and enjoyable weekly football session, open to all those looking to improve their footballing skills. With an opportunity to represent the school in the National Cup, County Cup & Banes League fixtures.

Hockey Club

Open to those looking to improve their hockey ability, with the opportunity to represent the school at district level.

Netball Club

Open to all keen netballers who are looking to improve their skills, with the opportunity to represent the school in Banes League fixtures and tournaments.

Badminton Club

Open to all who are looking to improve their badminton skills. Weekly relaxed sessions where you can turn up and play with your friends under supervision of some badminton leaders.



Physical Education

Tennis Club

Done in conjunction with Bishop Sutton Tennis Club. The sessions help you develop your tennis ability and style.

Rugby Club

Weekly session for all keen rugby players who are looking to improve their skills and have some fun. For those who regularly attend there will be the opportunity to represent the school in BANES league fixtures.

Basketball

Open to all who are looking to improve their basketball skills. For those who regularly attend there will be the opportunity to represent the school in BANES tournaments.

Cheerleading

Love dance and gymnastics? In a cheer team you train with an expert coach to prepare for the three competitions we participate in each year.

Tae Kwon-Do

An after-school club run by the Chew Valley and Yatton School of Tae Kwon-Do. You learn the discipline of this sport and can work towards your belt gradings.

Gymnastics

A fun lunchtime to come and practice your skills, get additional help and have fun with all ages. Make full use of all our brilliant gymnastics equipment

Athletics

Open to those who want to develop their skills in a range of sporting events; running, jumping and throwing.

Rounders

A fun club to learn new skills and develop your rounders tactics. For those who regularly attend there is the opportunity to represent the school in BANES tournaments.

Cricket

A fun club to improve your cricket skills. For those who regularly attend there is the opportunity to represent the school in BANES tournaments.

Golf

This is a recreational club where you are able to learn the basics of golf and enjoy yourself whilst developing your skills. For those who already play there is a chance to represent the school in county competitions.

Climbing Club

An after school club where you develop your climbing skills indoors. Get the chance to take those skills into the outdoors for example, bouldering in the Mendips.

Frisbee Club

Open to all students who want to develop their frisbee skills in a fun and enjoyable weekly session.



Trips

Outdoor and Adventurous Activities Day

Students undertaking the Cambridge Nationals Course complete their coursework during this trip.

Cheerleading Championships

During the year, students take part in 3 competitions, including 2 national championships. Students develop their teamwork and physical resilience.

Ten Tors

A yearly event that will physically challenge our students as they navigate 35, 45, or 55 mile routes across Northern Dartmoor; visiting ten checkpoints in under two days. Teams must be self-sufficient, carrying all that they need to complete their route and overnight stay. Training trips and school sessions are carried out throughout the year. Training covers navigation, map work, route cards, equipment, food, using stoves, tents and safety aspects.





Modern Foreign Languages

The Curriculum

All lessons have an open ended element to them, allowing students to think beyond the lesson content, express their personal opinions and ideas and generate their own original language.

At GCSE students need to master grammatical concepts and apply grammatical rules correctly such as conjugation of regular and irregular verbs in multiple tenses and agreement of adjectives. They need to know subject specific vocabulary on a variety of topics including social issues, the environment and future career plans.

At A-Level they need to add to their grammatical knowledge with concepts such as the passive voice and the subjunctive mood. They study the culture, history and literature of the countries where the Target Language is spoken and discuss complex issues such as inequality, extreme ideologies and social change both in a written and a spoken form.

Extra-Curricular Offers

MFL Spelling Bee

Students compete for house points in a spelling bee in a second language.

MFL Cinema Club

French and Spanish films will be shown during lunch time for students to be exposed to different linguistic and cultural aspects while enjoying themselves. This will help improve their vocabulary range as well as their listening skills.

French GCSE Booster Club

An opportunity for GCSE French students to practice their speaking, reading and writing skills whilst consolidating and building upon their lesson work.



Trips

Normandy or Barcelona

A trip for year 8s that give younger students the chance to visit the country of the target language they are studying.

Montpelier

A trip that gives GCSE students the chance to live with a French family for a week, have some French lessons and visit the area.

Benalmadena

A trip that gives GCSE students the chance to live with a Spanish family for a week, have some Spanish lessons and visit the area.

Salamanca

An A-Level trip for students to have the chance to live with a Spanish family for a week, have some Spanish lessons and take part in some cultural activities.



Modern Foreign Languages



Geography

The Curriculum

Introduced in year 7 and throughout KS3, students develop the geographical skills for GCSE Geography. Students are introduced to geographical questions and work to practice the skills needed to evaluate and draw conclusions based on their knowledge of places and understanding of geographical concepts.

The nature of the new 9-1 OCR B Geography GCSE curriculum offers challenging geographical content. Students become confident in answering geographical questions and are encouraged to view geographical issues from different perspectives. Students learn about far places which contrast significantly, both socially and economically, with near places in the UK. Through forming synoptic links students will leave the course with a broadened view of the world in which we live

At A-Level students will tackle additionally challenging content and concepts not taught at GCSE e.g. Global Systems and Water and Carbon Cycle. There is a greater emphasis on geographical discussion and debate of current moral, social, economic and environmental issues.

Students are encouraged to connect further with current affairs and global issues to enrich learning. Students continue to develop their evaluative skills and abilities to formulate arguments and draw conclusions. Students undertake NEA projects, where they need to manage their own time and are responsible for their own learning (with guidance), including application of GIS.

Extra-Curricular Offers

Geography and History Quiz

A chance for students to make connections between two subjects and earn house points.

Climate Action Team

Students discuss ways to improve the school's carbon footprint and become a more eco-friendly school. Please see the Change and Create section for more detail.



Trips

Lulworth Cove Trip

Students see and learn about the formation of Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Students practice their fieldwork skills, in particular surveys and questionnaires, during an investigation into the effectiveness of the management of the area.

Skern Lodge

An A-Level field work trip in North Devon where student practice various techniques to collect data. Students study rock formations, and coastal erosion, transportation and deposition on the pebble ridge. Students also take a trip to the historical village of Lynmouth to study the impacts and changes to the area following the infamous flood of 1952.

St Paul's, Bristol and Symonds Yat

An A-Level trip as part of the Changing Places topic. Students see first-hand how perception of place changes over time. Students will develop a broadened appreciation of cultural and socio-economic diversity within Bristol.



Geography



History

The Curriculum

At KS3, students work through a range of historical enquiry questions from that allow for evaluation of the importance of time periods as well as comparisons of their features. Concepts such as power, religion, empire, political decision making, protest and 'hidden' histories are investigated to help students make sense of the world today. Skills are developed in a cyclical manner to allow students time and scope to practice the complexity of increasingly difficulty of historical skills such as source work.

At KS4, students are exposed to and become adept at handling a range of previously unseen historical material with confidence. Students are taught to handle and compare the work of historians. Homework regularly feature 'take it further' tasks with video links and additional reading. The curriculum at KS4 has clear links to many of the most complex influences on children's lives today, the impact of technology, power relations in Europe, the refugee crisis, religious divisions and their impact, power, and limits of protest.

The KS5 course is built on extensive reading from a range of historians, it is an exciting study of the dynamics of protest and power and civil rights that still shape current events today. The study of America helps us understand the impact of migration and changes in economy that influence how nations grow. The Tudor section explains the impact of foreign and domestic politics that have shaped and still shape the UK today. The independent study equips students with the skills of critical self-reflection in independent work or study.

Extra-Curricular Offers

Geography and History Quiz

A chance for students to make connections between two subjects and earn house points.



Trips

Jenner Museum

The birthplace of vaccination, home of the country doctor who changed the world after he carried out the world's first controlled vaccination against smallpox in 1796.

London trip

A visit to the Science Museum to see the world's first MRI scanner, Fleming's penicillin mould, a professional pianist's prosthetic arm and even robotic surgery equipment. Along with a Tudor walking tour around London including sights such as the Tower of London and the Golden Hind.

Battlefield Tour

Students visit key battlefield sites in Belgium and France, sites of commemoration and memorial and a variety of museums that enhance the GCSE study of medicine in WWI and surgery in the 20th century.

History



Technology

The Curriculum

Arkwright Scholarship

Chew Valley School is partnered with Arkwright Scholarship. After a rigorous selection process, there is the opportunity for year 11 students who have a keen interest in a future career in engineering to be awarded with the scholarship. Every Scholarship is sponsored which means that support is offered in various different ways, for example, valuable hands-on work experience, support for your curriculum project and a personal mentor who can help you with aspects of your studies and career planning.

Extra-Curricular Offers

4X4 Club

Work as part of a team to design, build and market a 4x4 remote control vehicle. Teams will enter their vehicles at the Regional Final to compete for a place at the National Final.

Textiles Club

Design & make a range of textile projects; from decorations to School Production costumes.

Food GCSE Study Club

After school study session, an opportunity to work on weaker areas, and improve coursework and exam technique.

Product Design GCSE Study Club

After school study session, an opportunity to work on weaker areas, and improve coursework and exam technique.



Information Technology

The Curriculum

Challenge is embedded throughout the curriculum through application of knowledge to real life scenarios, independent learning, and opportunities to develop skills both in and out of the classroom.

Extra-Curricular Offers

Coding Club

Students develop their interest in the wonderful world of coding and computer science. Students learn the basic programming techniques for building advanced software games.

Typing Tests

Students see how quickly they can type in a competition for house points.





Art

The Curriculum

Students are taught to use and explore a broad range of mediums, building a portfolio of creative skills. They are encouraged to express and communicate ideas, making sense of the world around them. Through the investigation of themes and artists, students produce a personal and creative response creating their own cultural capital. Students work from all year groups are displayed around the school, allowing students to visualise the progress they themselves will make.

Artist and Photographer in Residence

Artists from a variety of specialisms come into school and run workshops. This opportunity has been ran across year groups. Students are taken off-timetable for a day and receive guidance and new skills directly from the artist in order to create their own piece during the day. Examples of past sessions include sculptor Edwina Bridgeman, and pinhole photographer Justin Quinnell.

Winford Show

An annual village show where pieces of art from students across all year groups are showcased to the public.

Art Summer Show

An in school display that is private for parents to come and view the A-Level artists' and photographers' projects. Some GCSE students' work is also showcased.

Extra-Curricular Offers

Winford Scarecrow

A fundraising competition for "A Siblings Wish", in legacy of Harvey Hext. Students design and create a scarecrow within a yearly theme, for example, 'amazing women around the world'. The scarecrows are displayed on a community trail around Winford.

GCSE Art Catch up

A lunchtime session where students can work on their coursework and ask questions one-to-one with their teachers.



After-School Ceramics Coursework Enhancement

Students can use this opportunity to develop their pottery skills within small after-school groups.

Wallace and Gromit

A fundraising school competition for the BRI. Students design patterns to go on Wallace and Gromit figures. The entries are submitted, and the winner, along with a team of artists, decorates their figure.



ART

Trips

Buckingham Palace Enrichment Trip

A KS3 trip for selected students that have shown outstanding artistic ability within lessons. The students experience a tour of the gardens, palace and coaches. Students sketch the amazing sights throughout the day.

Art Residential Europe

An A-Level Art and Photography trip, which gives students a chance to experience local art and culture. Previous locations include: Berlin, Amsterdam, Cornwall and Venice.

GCSE Art Gallery Critical Resources Trip

A trip that supports GCSE students in their coursework and gives students first hand experiences of gallery exhibitions. Students get to see a range of different art movements and develop their ability to communicate and identify different artistic techniques. Galleries previously visited include the Tate Modern, Tate Britain, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and Bristol Art Gallery.



Music

The Curriculum

Music Technology

Students carry out movement and performance analysis using technology such as Dartfish. Students undertake detailed action planning using SMART targets which means they have to reflect and look closely at their own strengths and weaknesses.

Extra-Curricular Offers

There are a range of choirs and bands that Chew Valley School offer for students to participate in. All bands and choirs are given the chance to perform at the School's own Autumn and Summer concert. This allows students to showcase their skills and experience performing. The list of opportunities are below, with any additional opportunities stated.

Orchestra

Year 7, 8 and 9 Choir

Recorder Club

Resound Choir, Chamber Choir, Festival Choir

These choirs also take part in the Mid-Somerset Festival. Students go out on trips to take part in public performances and competitions at the Festival.

Swing Band, Soul Band

These bands are particularly challenging, and rewarding. Students become highly skilled in their instruments and perform professionally at Valley Fest and other public gigs. This develops students' commitment to their practice, and their confidence when it comes to performing.





Drama

The Curriculum

Chew Valley is an ArtsMark Gold school. This means that Arts Council England have awarded us the highest creative quality standard for schools in the UK. Every student at our school has the entitlement to experience direct involvement in quality arts activities. These experiences will be acquired through our curricular & extra-curricular activities, celebrating achievements and partnerships with organisations outside school and the Arts Council judges them of the highest quality.

Our KS3 curriculum allows students to be introduced to a wide range of Drama skills. At the heart of this subject is the development of communication, creativity, imagination, clarity of expression, autonomy, leadership confidence and co-operation. There is more to Drama than being able to perform on stage. Opportunities are embedded for students to be able to hone and develop performance talent but equally important is the ability to understand the purpose of the theatre we create and the inter-personal skills we develop.

At KS4, we follow the OCR specification as, once again, it provides the freedom for students to experiment and take risks whilst having a high percentage of practical assessment.

GCSE Drama also helps to develop confidence and to become independent thinkers able to work with others. The best way to develop practical Drama skills is under performance conditions; as a result, students will be given the opportunity to be involved with productions & workshops both in and out of lessons. Those who do not wish to perform can be assessed on lighting, sound, set or costume design in their practical work.

At KS5 we offer the Cambridge Technical in Performing Arts. This is an exciting, 2 year course which is equivalent to 1 x A level, with a Distinction * grade worth the same UCAS points as an A* grade at A level. During the course, students will develop performance skills in their chosen areas of specialist study (Music, Dance or Drama). They will also study a number of key practitioners in each subject area and this study will include, where possible, workshops, theatre or concert visits, enabling students to see how practical work is created, developed and performed.



Drama

LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art)

Additional acting tuition that will result in additional qualifications. Students will prepare dramatic scenes. By portraying other characters, learners will explore a range of different personalities and emotions and develop a clear speaking voice and good body language. Over time, students will become more emotionally aware, empathetic and self-confident.

Extra-Curricular Offers

School Production and Rehearsals

Students develop their acting skills whilst developing their teamwork, self-confidence, and speaking skills. A chance to experience being part of a cast and working with the technicians and lighting crew to put on a whole school production.

Drama Club

Students work as part of a team to explore, rehearse and perform a play. Open to performers and technicians.

GCSE Drama Rehearsals

Students get additional time in the studio to prepare and master their GCSE creations.





Dance

The Curriculum

GCSE Dance students develop, rehearse and refine their performance and choreography skills throughout the duration of the course to become independent and creative thinking dancers. Students are challenged to critically appreciate and analyse both their own, and several professional works.

Extra-Curricular Offers

Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 Dance Club

Students learn a range of dance styles and techniques, as well as creating pieces for various performance opportunities throughout the year, including the Dance Festival.

Chew Valley Dance Company Dance Club

Chew Valley Dance Company will work on improving technique and performance in dance across a range of styles. There will be a number of opportunities to perform throughout the year.

GCSE Dance Rehearsals

Additional rehearsal time for Year 11 GCSE Dance Students so they can perfect their compositions.



Health and Social Care

The Curriculum

All students are given independent learning booklets designed to encourage them to work on their own and stretch their knowledge and practice application. During the course students carry out role play activities that develop their communication and quick-thinking skills. Students undergo a First Aid Training Course ran by the St. Johns Ambulance.

Public Services BTEC

The Curriculum

As part of the course there is a Leadership Unit. This encourages students to take on responsibility over year 9 students and their delivery of the primary festival. Students then complete a detailed and demanding written evaluation of the team work and how individuals contributed.

Business Studies

The Curriculum

Challenge is embedded throughout the curriculum through application of knowledge to real life scenarios, independent learning, and opportunities to develop skills both in and out of the classroom.

Psychology

The Curriculum

Students critically analyse and evaluate experiments. All students are given independent learning booklets designed to encourage them to work on their own and stretch their knowledge and practice application.



Sixth Form

Opportunities for Challenge at Chew Valley School Sixth Form

Volunteering Opportunities

All sixth form students are encouraged to sign up to one or more volunteering opportunities in school. Students need to organize their own volunteering activity, during which they learn important leadership, mentoring and time management skills. The volunteering opportunities that students take part in are:

Sixth Form Council

Represent your sixth form by voicing the opinions of your peers to school leadership.

Sixth Form Debate

Practice your public speaking and debating skills in the yearly sixth form debate.

Peer Mentoring

A mental health charity called Off the Record, train sixth form students in listening skills to help them mentor y7 and 8 students lower down in school.

Reading Support

Students work with year 7 and 8 students struggling with reading during tutor time.

Maths Buddies

Students work with year 7 and 8 students struggling with mathematics during tutor time.

Homework Club

Students run a club to support KS3 students with their homework.

Library Supervision

Students support our librarian in organising and running the library.

Quiz With House Form

Students come in to lower school tutor times and help the tutor run the Friday Quiz.

Lunchtime Club Support

Students work with teachers to support or run lunchtime clubs for students lower down in the school.

In class support

Students organise with their teachers to assist them in KS3 lessons in one of their A-Level subject areas. This is a great opportunity for aspiring educators.

Charity Fundraising

Students organise a range of events that help to raise money for local charities. Included in this is the organisation and advertisement of the school's RAG week. RAG week is a series of events and activities run every day of the week, for younger students to participate in by donating a small fee. Example activities include ordering a SING-O-GRAM, non-school uniform day and throwing sponges at teachers!



Access To Bristol

Students attend a series of sessions, held at the University of Bristol. You will get an idea of what it is like to study at the University of Bristol, working with academics and current students who can offer advice and guidance about higher education and their subject area. Taking part shows a commitment to further study that will strengthen your application when you apply to university.

Pathway to Bath University

An online curriculum enrichment programme which gives students the chance to develop important key skills for university study by completing their own research project (or similar) while working alongside experienced university staff within a real research environment.

Heading Higher Passport Plus, UWE

Heading Higher Passport Plus (HHP) helps prepare students for higher education. Students have the opportunity to visit a university, talk to current higher education students, and develop study and reflective learning skills. If you complete the Passport, you become registered as an HHP applicant to UWE and receive additional UCAS tariff points to count towards your offer.

Reading Scholars Programme

The Reading Scholars programme aims to give Year 12 students a real taste of life as a university undergraduate, and provides practical support as participants begin their higher education application process. Featuring input from leading academics and current undergraduate mentors, the programme will challenge participants academically and enhance current studies. Students who successfully take part in the Scholars programme, who go on to apply for an undergraduate course at the University of Reading, are guaranteed to receive either an invite to interview or a conditional offer, a two grade drop on their offer for most courses, and can apply for a £1,000 Scholars bursary in their first year if they put Reading as their first choice.

Extended Project Qualification

An independent research task that involves you either writing an extended essay of about 5,000 words or creating a product with an accompanying shorter essay of about 1,000 words. The project develops essential research and extended writing skills required during University courses.

Futures Week

A week off timetable where year 12 students begin to plan their life outside of school. This week includes workshops on writing CVs and personal statements, the UCAS application system, applying to Oxbridge, and student finance. A University visit is also organised.

Partnership with UWE Careers Team

The university offers careers and university guidance to our students.

Grassroutes

A series of trips and workshops that help selected year 12 students develop their confidence and personal skills.

Future Quest (by UWE)

Future Quest delivers a targeted higher education outreach programme to our students. The programme aims to equip students with the knowledge of higher education and potential future pathways, the understanding of skill requirements for study and future life, and the ability to develop self-reflection, self-awareness and self-belief. Future Quest provides an outreach hub which enables students, parents and carers, and school staff to access information and opportunities.

Sixth Form



Trips

UCAS Convention

An opportunity for students to meet higher education providers. Students receive advice and information about the courses each institution offers. The fairs also offer an extensive seminar programme, covering topics like student finance, gap years, and applying to university through UCAS.

Apprenticeship Fair

An opportunity for students to meet apprenticeship providers, to find out what is on offer and ask questions.

Taster University Day

Run as a part of the Futures Week, students go on a university visit where they can get a taste of university life; from getting lunch at the canteen, to listening to talks about applying in a lecture hall.

Cambridge University Residential

A two night stay at Cambridge University for selected year 12 students. Students will get a taste for the campus and life as a student and Cambridge University.

Oxbridge Fair at Hayesfield School

A trip to Hayesfield School to partake in their Oxbridge information fair. Students will be able to ask questions to current Oxbridge students and representatives of the universities.

Sixth Form



Careers Team

Opportunities for Challenge by the Careers Team

Careers Fair

Open to all years, however targeted towards KS4 and KS5, the careers fair holds stalls ran by a range of employers, apprenticeships and universities. Students can become inspired and learn about the range of opportunities after A-Level, along with asking questions about the paths you can take to get there.

Careers Advisor

One-to-one sessions that will guide you on how to progress towards your future career.

Careers Lunches

A chance to listen to speakers from a range of different careers. Find out about their routes into their chosen careers, and what a real day in that occupation looks like. Ask questions and be inspired!

Work Experience

An opportunity to immerse yourself and get a taster of a chosen career for a week.





Tutoring, Mentoring and Coaching Opportunities

The Curriculum

Corrective Reading Programme (Year 7-9)

Our year 7 students sit a reading comprehension test which assesses their ability to decode language, and provides teachers with NFER data and a “reading age”. Students with a reading age of 9 years and 6 months or below, are selected to take part in a corrective reading programme, with sessions up to three times a fortnight. The sessions challenge students develop stronger reading skills that will enable them to be better equipped with accessing the secondary curriculum. Students ‘graduate’ out of the programme when they have made sufficient progress.

Extra-Curricular Offers

Bright Sparks- Bristol Bears Rugby, Eagles Project

This opportunity helps students with their own personal development, specifically promoting teamwork, leadership and self-reliance. An outside agency works with students and through the power of sport, help students to unlock their potential and become inspired to engage in their own communities. The Bristol Bears group work with year 9 boys, and the Eagles Project work with year 9 girls.

InTo University

An innovative opportunity for y7-10 students that inspire students to plan their future and have high aspirations. InTo University offers both academic support and mentoring work. Previous sessions have covered action planning, introducing University life, communication methods and independent learning.

Impact Mentoring

An outside organisation that work with our students in small groups. They focus on supporting students’ emotional wellbeing and emotional resilience. Impact Mentoring help students to develop a strong and positive sense of identity and learn to recognise and manage their feelings. As they develop their social and emotional skills, students continue to form positive relationships and develop greater understanding for others. Their group programmes include urban arts, gardening, construction skills, cooking and Olympic weightlifting.

Mentoring Plus

A one to one mentoring opportunity for KS3 and KS4 students, focusing on personal development. The opportunity gives students space to talk and reflect, develop coping strategies, and emotional resilience.



RockSteady Training

An opportunity for students to gain vocational skills within the construction industry whilst also developing students social, emotional and life skills.

GrassRoutes (Year 8-10)

An opportunity for students to develop their confidence, teamwork and leadership skills. Students engage in a series of days off-timetable, with each day focusing on a skill, such as problem solving. The sessions include a trip to Nettwood farm, where students take part in bushcraft activities, and a trip to Bristol University that includes attending a lecture, tour and a Q&A session with undergraduates.

Preparation for University Course

A series of 6 sessions that focuses on preparing students for university applications. The course is ran in conjunction with Cambridge University's outreach team. This opportunity is for students considering competitive courses, or applying to Oxbridge. It covers research and independent study skills, choosing A-Levels, a university student panel Q&A and 'taster lectures' from University lecturers.

Tutoring, Mentoring and Coaching Opportunities





Change and Create Teams

What are our Change and Create Teams?

In 2005 the Chew Valley School Community Council was launched. The aim was to encourage positive involvement of students in their school community. Through this inclusive school team approach we hoped that students would explore opportunities to discover more about who they are and what they want to do in the future.

Students self-elect to form Project Teams to fulfil the plans they make to contribute to their school community in ways they have perceived need their help. All the Project Teams' plans are put together and feed into the School Development Plan.

The teams lead and manage their own projects and are accountable to the whole school community for the successful completion of their projects.

Each team has its own link teacher and a facilitator. A team has to find a link teacher before its plans can start to be implemented. All members are trained in how to run meetings; writing agendas, minutes and also working effectively as a team.

All team members attend the School Forum which is a termly meeting. This Forum is to communicate the ongoing work of the project teams to the whole school community. It is also a forum for discussing any issues students are concerned about or interested in that relate to the work of the different teams.

The Teams

Reptile Handling and Feeding Club

Students share their knowledge of reptiles, as they learn the feeding and behavioural habits of our school reptiles.

Library Team

Students help our librarian organise and run our school library.





Fundraising Team

Students come up with and launch fundraising ideas for a range of worthwhile causes.

Homelessness in Action Team

Students launch whole school initiatives to collect food, clothes and other amazing resources to distribute to homelessness charities.

Equalities Team

Students work to make Chew Valley School a more safe and equal place for staff and students.

Lego Team and Lego Robotics

Students can get creative and construct increasingly complex designs.

Chess

Students play against each other, helping each other develop skills such as forward planning and memory.

Gardening Team

Students develop their gardening skills and knowledge of plants in the school's polytunnel.

Up-Cycling

Students share ideas on how to use recycled materials to make new things.

Women's Rights

A discussion and action group, students come up with ways gender equality can be improved within and outside of school.

Gecko Club

Students learn how to take care of our two school geckos - includes feeding and handling (if they are awake!)

Mental Health Awareness Team

Promoting awareness of mental health conditions and promoting positive mental health, for example the anonymous questions boxes answered in a monthly newsletter email.

Planet Over Plastics Team

Students work closely with staff and the catering team to find ways to reduce the school's plastic consumption.

Climate Action Team

Students discuss ways to improve the school's carbon footprint and become a more eco-friendly school. So far this team has:

- Appeared on national TV to talk about our work
- Attended several climate action marches representing the school
- Been on a trip to a zero-plastic shop for inspiration
- Written new school guidelines on how school trips should be approached from a climate friendly perspective
- Held a staff clothes swap
- Attended a climate change conference at Bristol university featuring Thangam Debbonaire MP as keynote speaker
- Worked with Bristol University Innovation dept on their climate action project
- Successfully applied for 105 free trees from the woodland trust to be planted on school site
- Frequently written letters to governors and SLT to make sure the environmental impact of decisions are considered
- Attended a 'green careers' conference with Chris Packham as the keynote speaker



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve



”

“I think school is really good at getting students to participate in what we feel passionate in. For example, I’ve been particularly active in the Womens’ Rights Team. It takes students out their comfort zone and stretches us to our full potential.”

YEAR 9 STUDENT

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