



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

I, like others, sat and watched the recent Dimpleby Lecture which was broadcast on BBC1 on the evening of Wednesday 19th March (and is available on BBC iPlayer) where the previous England Football Manager Gareth Southgate talked at length of the challenges many young men face growing up. Leading a co-educational 11-18 Secondary School with 1200 young people attending, I am acutely aware of some of the experiences that young people come across, particularly with regards to the influence of social media. We obviously focus on the need of girls and boys in equal measure, however this certainly shone a light on something we are managing with many on a daily basis. If you have not had a chance to watch and are interested, I would recommend it.

On Wednesday 19th March **Year 7** took part in their **Healthy Living Day** which is co-ordinated by Mrs Pope and her PSHRE team. Students looked at healthy habits, alcohol, smoking and vaping along with water safety which are all important areas for our young people to have knowledge of. A big thank you to all of the staff involved including the outside agencies who came in to support us.

Congratulations go to the students who participated in the **Poetry by Heart Event** on **Thursday 20th March**. We hosted the other three secondary schools who are part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership – Backwell, Churchill and Gordano, and everyone involved was impressed by the quality of the students' performances.

The **Governing Body** of the school met during the evening of **Monday 24th March** and covered, amongst other things, the areas of **SEND**, both nationally and specifically in our school, along **with our community links**. I don't often get the opportunity to thank those governors who give up their time to support and challenge the school along with setting our long term strategic objectives so I would like to take this opportunity to do so.

The school has been working closely with the **Community Farm** which is located near to Chew Valley Lake on a variety of curriculum and wellbeing projects. It is wonderful to have the partnership in place and over the last few weeks a good number of students have been there to visit. We also have strong connections with **Chew Valley Rugby Club, Bishop Sutton Tennis Club and Chew Valley Badminton Club** all of which share some of our facilities and existing students utilise. We have for a good number of years worked with the **Chew Valley 10K** running event which starts and finishes in Bishop Sutton and takes place on Sunday 1st June this year. Our students take part in a curriculum competition to design the t-shirt and medal every year. The event financially supports a number of ventures including ourselves which we are very grateful for. If you are interested in taking part, please register using the following link <https://race-nation.co.uk/register/chew-valley-10k>. We are also working with **The Pony** restaurant on a project to design the interior of their Farm Bus which is aiming to drive awareness and understanding of how their food is grown; further details have been sent via ClassCharts.

Can I also say that we have moved to a new system working with attendance in school. It will in the long term improve the work we are able to carry out, however it has generated some 'stage 1' letters to parents and carers somewhat prematurely. If you have been a recipient of this, please accept our apologies.

A final reminder that we **break for Easter** next **Friday (4th April) which will be a full day, finishing at 3.20pm**. We **return** to school on **Wednesday 23rd April** following a staff INSET day on Tuesday 22nd April.

Some Year 11 students will be in for Easter Study Camp and I know all Year 11 and Year 13 students will be working hard towards their final exams. This is the last letter from myself before Easter so can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a good Easter break.

With best wishes,

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher