



# Chew Valley School

Learn      Grow      Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

Having returned from half term, we are back into learning quickly already this week. We started on Monday with Expectation Assemblies for each year group where we talked about a successful Term 1 using the data from ClassCharts and focused on key aspects of the term ahead. It was good to spend some time with Years 7 to 10 developing our thoughts on both respecting others but also respecting ourselves. Mr Cocks took the Year 11 assembly as always and he developed the idea of them being incredible human beings as they work through the next few months which include their mock examinations.

On Tuesday this week we hosted a visitor from **the Good Schools Guide** who were really impressed with the students that they talked with and the lessons and provision that they witnessed. This was followed up on Thursday by a review day where our School Improvement Partner, Deb Wring, along with our Chair of Governors, Sarah Cran, and the Director of Secondary Education at the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Natalie Wilcox, spent time talking to Year 7 students and visiting their lessons. This was a really positive day and we are linking it with the feedback from our Year 7 Settling-In Surveys which parents, carers, students and staff completed to give us a good picture of how this year group are doing.

Assemblies next week are planned around the theme of conflict and remembrance led by our History Department and as a school we will reflect on the past with a period of silence at 11am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

A big thank you to all the contributors who made our **Careers Convention** before the half term break such a success. It was lovely to see how many families took the opportunity to come and take part.

We have some key dates coming up in the weeks ahead:

On the evening of **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**, we have our **Sixth Form Open Evening** where students can find out about courses they can follow at Chew Valley School. Further information has already been sent to parents and carers.

On **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**, Year 7 will be off timetable for the day looking at the theme of **Anti-Bullying**. **Students will be involved in activities covering areas including** cyber-bullying, conflict resolution and celebrating diversity.

We have an **INSET day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November** where we will be working in various groups as staff. Our curriculum middle leaders are all going to be based at Backwell School for the day where they will be alongside colleagues from Backwell, Churchill and Gordano Schools.

We also have a number of opportunities, amongst all of the other co-curricular activities going on, for students to work with our Outdoor Education Team in the Mendips, developing their night navigation skills now that the evenings are closing in and I look forward to hearing all about it.

It is pleasing to hear that some students in the Sixth Form are already receiving offers from universities and apprenticeships along with job offers from the world of work. Our Careers Team here at Chew Valley are available to work with our young people to support them with any applications.

With very best wishes,

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher