



7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

A welcome back to everyone after the half term break. We have a busy period ahead as we move towards Christmas with a range of activities to look forward to including our Sixth Form RAG week where our older students look to raise money for charity as well as having some fun. This period for Year 11 involves preparation for mock examinations which will take place towards the end of November with Year 13 sitting theirs following the Christmas holiday in January.

Expectation Assemblies

As ever, our return coincided with year groups having their expectation assemblies. Here we celebrated everything that has gone well during the first few months of the academic year. ClassCharts is a wonderful tool in order to see how individuals or groups of students are progressing and it is pleasing to see how many positive points have been given already. We also looked to the future and reminded the students of the power of a good start to the year and how important it is to keep moving forward. Students were able to see the benefit of small wins building momentum for them and how important it is to get the basics such as punctuality correct. We have also spoken with them about the need to have the correct equipment and uniform and I know that we can rely on the support that students get from home around these areas. A reminder please that all students should have their jumpers with them at all times.

Challenge Partners Visit

Along with the other secondary schools who are members of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) – Backwell, Churchill and Gordano – we work with the organisation called Challenge Partners in order to review provision within the school. This involves a three day visit from a lead reviewer and a team of three or four other professionals from education. We have our visit next week between Wednesday 12th and Friday 14th November and I will look to feed back to you on the main findings from this following the review. This is in addition to the five or so visits we have every year from the LSP Trust Central Team amongst other ways in which we quality control the work we do at Chew Valley.

Punctuality in the Morning

Having monitored the situation for a period of time, we are aware that students on certain buses in the morning were routinely arriving after our bell goes for the start of the day at 8.35am. We have worked with the bus companies and altered some of the timings so that this does not happen, except in an emergency, and if you have been affected by this then you will have been contacted directly. Can I make the more general point that it is really important that students are on site by 8.35am in order to start the day in a punctual fashion. My thanks go to everyone in supporting this.

Remembrance Day Assemblies and Event in School

Mr Stirling-Turner has been taking assemblies all week on the theme of remembrance. Students in Years 9 and 11 as part of their History curriculum had the opportunity before half term to work with an external group of professionals who came into school and, through the medium of virtual reality by using special glasses, are able to experience in part the trenches of World War I. It is really important as a community that we come together and recognise the debt we owe people in the past and we will mark this occasion as a whole school.

Parental Communication

Working in partnership with parents and carers is a really important part of our work to support the young people in our care. We do want to be able to talk to parents and carers however everyone

will understand that during a school day the staff are fully committed to teaching lessons or supervising the students who are on site. We also have a good number of staff who work part-time and are not always available.

It is not therefore always possible for staff to respond to immediate requests to be able to speak to parents and carers and by phoning the school we are not able to pass this on easily. In addition we would not expect staff to be checking emails either during an evening or at weekends when they have other priorities.

In order to support this, we will shortly be launching a new communication method for parents and carers to raise a question or concern. This will be found on the school website with a link and QR code for you to access a form which will allow your requests to be triaged and directed to the most appropriate person within a 48-hour period. If you speak with our reception team, there will be a system in place to utilise these forms first, so that we can direct your contact in a specific and clear manner.

School Governor Vacancy

We are currently looking for passionate local people to join our Local Governing Body. Governors play a key role in guiding the school's direction, supporting staff and ensuring the best outcomes for our students and community. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please see further information, including how to apply, on our website [Chew Valley School - Governors](#).

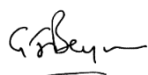
Sixth Form Information Evening - Tuesday 18th November

A reminder to Year 11 students that the evening of the 18th gives them an opportunity to come and find out about our Sixth Form offer for the next academic year for those who are considering staying on at Chew Valley.

INSET Day – Wednesday 19th November

A reminder that we have an INSET day on Wednesday 19th November when school will be closed to students.

With best wishes,



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher