



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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12th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached half term after some busy weeks. Year 8 have recently been off timetable with their Diversity Day where they covered some really important aspects of this topic. A big thank you to the staff involved. The History department took Year 11 students to 'the Doctors Show' in Bristol where students were able to look at medicine through the ages which is a significant topic on their summer GCSE paper. We have also recently had success in Sixth Form debating where students won the round of the North Somerset Debating Competition which was hosted at Clevedon School. The next round is here at Chew Valley due to a home fixture so we hope the success is continued. Younger students have also been taking part in another chess competition in Bristol along with sporting fixtures happening throughout. In addition our popular climbing club continues to run on a Monday evening. Tonight is our Dance Festival which was organised by a group of students with staff supporting and I am looking forward to seeing the quality of the performances on the stage.

Visit From the CEO of The Royal National Lifeboat Institute

The Sixth Form had a visit recently from Peter Sparkes who spoke to the whole of Year 12 about leadership and his career in the navy and his current position. He also spent some time with the Sixth Form student leadership team along with those students who are studying our Protected Uniform Services course. He was inspirational and it was lovely to be able to host him.

Expectation Assemblies

Following the half term break, we will be having our usual expectation assemblies where we will be focusing on punctuality to tutor time and lessons. The vast majority of the students at Chew Valley are amazingly prompt and are keen to both start their day off well at tutor time in the morning and to start each of the five lessons that we have in an effective manner.

Parking / Dropping Off at Chew Valley School

I know that in the morning sometimes the traffic is busy but it would really help us if all students could be dropped at school in good time for the start of the school day when the bell goes at 8.35am. We are also aware that some of our buses find it difficult to arrive on time and we have been in contact with the contractors about this.

The issue of parking at the front of the school at the end of the school day was this week raised at the Chew Valley Forum meeting. We respectfully ask that parents and carers, when collecting students at the end of the school day, do not park on the double yellow lines or zigzag lines at the front of the school.

Addendum to Behaviour Policy

As agreed with our governing body, to assist with searches, senior members of staff are now able to utilise handheld metal detectors. There are two handheld metal detectors on site at Chew Valley School. Search protocols indicate that two members of staff must be present when searches are being carried out and these must involve a member of senior team or pastoral leadership staff and one additional member of staff [Chew Valley School – Behaviour Policy](#).

School Uniform

Half term is a good time to revisit school uniform and look to make sure that it is in line with the information which is on the school website [Chew Valley School - School Uniform](#).

Year 9 Options

All Year 9 students were asked to make their option choices by Monday 9th February. If you wish to make any changes to choices or have any other queries around options, please email Mrs Rowlands via krowlands@chewvalleyschool.co.uk.

Year 10 Work Experience

The deadline for submission of work experience forms is Friday 13th February. If you have not yet managed to secure a placement, we would ask that you continue to try and find a placement and keep us updated. If students have not secured a placement, the expectation is that they attend school for the week. If you do have any queries relating to work experience, please email Mrs Fenlon via kfenlon@chewvalleyschool.co.uk.

Working with Shine to provide Activities during the Holidays and at Weekends/After School

Chew Valley School, along with some of the other Lighthouse Schools Partnership secondary schools, is working with the organisation Shine to offer activities at times when the school is not running. Their link is here for you to see what is currently offered [Shine Holiday Clubs | Sports and creative activities](#)

A change in School Management Information Systems to Bromcom

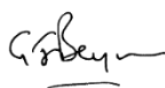
Along with other schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) we are moving to a new management information system. As a parent you are used to working through ClassCharts and this will continue for the moment however the mechanism behind this will change. We have a plan over the half term break to move all of our data to the new system however if we do have any teething problems then I apologise in advance and we will look to rectify this quickly. Linked to this we will change the way you receive reports which will mean that Insight, our existing platform for this, will be removed. If you do want copies of old reports please do log on and take them from here as they will soon not be available.

Returning After Half Term

When we return from the half term break, there is much to look forward to including World Book Day on Thursday 5th March as we move towards Easter. We are also looking forward to the School Production of Wendy and Peter Pan which will be exciting to see. A number of students will be out on Dartmoor training for Ten Tors and carrying out their Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expeditions. Again all of this requires a considerable amount of time, which is volunteered by staff, to support our young people. I hope that the students will continue to take up as many opportunities as they can which are offered by the school.

Can I wish you a good half term whatever you are up to.

With best wishes,



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher