



1st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

During the Easter holidays it was heartening that so many young people in Year 11 took up the opportunity to attend our Easter Study Camp in school. At the same time we took the opportunity to resurface and update the area at the back of the school which Year 7 and 8 students are able to use at break and lunchtimes; this work has vastly improved this area for our young people. We had a number of students away last weekend taking part in the final training session for the Ten Tors event on Dartmoor later this month. We have also been busy with a number of public speaking competitions with other schools where our Sixth Formers have performed brilliantly and won a number of awards. As ever a big thanks go to the staff who have given up their time to support all these activities.

We have been back from the break for a couple of weeks and students have settled back into their studies and general school life. The start of term has been busy with a variety of activities and it has been good to get into lessons and see some of the progress being made. Thank you to all of you who attended the Year 7 Parents' Evening on Wednesday this week where staff were able to talk about the progress that has been made since the students joined us in September.

Year 11 and 13 students are getting ready for their public examinations which begin soon and we wish them all the best for the coming weeks. I spent some time on Monday talking with Year 13 students in small groups in my office about how they have enjoyed their time in the Sixth Form and how they have been prepared for their next steps be it apprenticeships, the world of work, taking a gap year or going to university as well as how we might improve our provision for future years based on their experience. They were eloquent and articulate in their responses as we reflected together on the seven years they have been at the school.

Parental Questionnaire

We are currently in the window for parents and carers to complete the annual questionnaire which goes to all families in Lighthouse Schools Partnership schools. The link to complete the survey is [here](#) and the deadline for completion is Friday 8th May. Thank you to everyone who has completed this as the feedback gives us really valuable information.

Uniform During External Examination Period

A good number of the public examinations being sat are located in our Sports Hall and both this area and the changing rooms that are located next door are affected during this period as we need to obviously maintain quiet. We will therefore, as we have done in previous years, move to a period starting on Monday 11th May where students should attend school in their PE kit. We have made a slight alteration to the position that they have the option to wear PE kit every day regardless of if they have a PE lesson or not. This will run for the period up to half term (dates below) in the first instance. Please be aware that PE kit must be in line with requirements in our uniform brochure.

Securing Essential Knowledge at Chew Valley School

At Chew Valley School, we are committed to ensuring that every student secures the essential knowledge needed for long-term success. To support learning beyond the classroom, we have created a dedicated area on our website [Securing Essential Knowledge](#). Here you will find an outline of our approach to securing essential knowledge, alongside access to high-quality digital learning materials that complement our curriculum for Years 7 to 11 in **Maths, English and Science**. The resources are **not designed to replace classroom lessons** but instead, they are carefully aligned with our curriculum to help students:

- revisit missed content

- deepen their understanding of current learning by revisiting material at times away from the lesson
- prepare effectively for future assessments

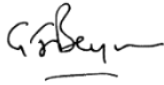
This resource is available **all year round** and can be accessed by **all students**.

Attendance

When reporting absence, we routinely ask parents and carers to call the absence line or to inform of absence via BromCom. If we do not receive contact around any absence then we will follow up by messaging and via telephone as applicable. In a recent development, we now have a Chew Valley Attendance WhatsApp account. If we need to make contact, we will do so via this format to enter dialogue with you. The telephone number is 07818 259769.

This is a short term for us although we have a lot to get through. A reminder that half term in May runs from Monday 25th to Friday 29th May with us returning to school on Monday 1st June.

With best wishes,



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher