



4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly can I offer a warm welcome to this new academic year particularly those who have children at Chew Valley for the first time. Students are due back on Monday morning and we are looking forward to welcoming them in. In advance of this I have highlighted below some key areas which might be useful to be aware of.

Our staff have been on two INSET Days over the past two days. This is a really important time where they cover their annual safeguarding training and other statutory requirements as well as getting ready for the new academic year. It is a time to welcome some new staff to the team and to thank those who have worked during the holidays including those who supported on our two examination results days. Students achieved some fantastic results in both year groups involved and students from Year 13 have secured places of work, apprenticeships and university places and are ready for their next steps.

Once students return, they will be working through our Expectation Assemblies that we run on a year group basis where we will be talking about our excitement for the new academic year and the opportunities that are there for them to take. We will talk to them about our school uniform so that they are clear in how this and their PE kit is worn. If we do have another warm period, as before we will take the necessary decisions around any reasonable adjustment at that time.

Attendance

Our analysis of our recent public examination results tell us clearly that the students who performed strongly are the ones who are in school most frequently. Ofsted left us with a target of making sure that our attendance is as good as it can be particularly with regards to those students who miss school more regularly. Miss Kenyon, one of our Assistant Headteachers, is picking up this area and working with our dedicated team to support both students and families in this area. She has therefore written a separate letter that accompanies this which covers this area in detail.

Altered Arrangements in the Morning from 8.40am

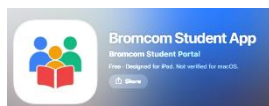
A punctual start to the day is really important and students are in registration first thing following the bell ringing to inform them to move to their tutor bases at 8.35am. We are aware that on a rare occasion a student or family cannot help but being late due to an unforeseen reason however this should be very much the exception. We have a new routine in the morning by which the gates for the main one way driveway to the school will close at 8.40am promptly. As for the rest of the day, any other traffic should drop on the main road or use the car park closest to the tennis courts. Students will be met at the gate from that time onwards by senior staff. The only reason we would need to re-open the main gates is if one of our buses or coaches needed to access this.

Mobile Phones

We are moving to our long-awaited use of pouches for phones during the school day in line with other schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP). Again we will cover how the logistics of this and consequences with the students on their first day in tutor time and reiterate this in their Expectation Assemblies. Students will receive their pouch on Monday. The government are very clear in their wish for schools to be mobile free zones during the school day to give our young people the opportunity to learn, grow and achieve without feeling they need to engage electronically. If parents and carers do need to make contact during the school day, please can I ask that this is done through our main school switchboard. Students will be able to pick up messages at the end of the day once they have used our unlocking stations to access their phones. I have attached our policy around this so that you are clear of our ways of working.

Key App for Communication with School

Since February when the school, along with others in the LSP, moved over to a new school information system called Bromcom, we have been using a new app called MyChildAtSchool (MCAS). This is important for many aspects of school life including receiving reports and our regular letters which go out along with how you might communicate with the school around attendance. Attached with this is the letter that was sent out from our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Rowlands along with the User Guide for information. It would be really helpful if all families were able to access this if you have not yet been able to do so. Please ensure your child has downloaded the Bromcom Student App where they will be able to access all student communications, timetables and homework.



We are really excited about the year ahead and everything that this will bring. The relationship with parents and carers at home is really important to us and working together on the areas above amongst other aspects is key. Below are some important dates coming up and we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these. Details about these will follow in due course.

In the meantime, information about the school including details about our curriculum and dates coming up such as Information and Parents' Evenings can be found on our school website. If you do want to make contact then please feel free to do so.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Beynon'.

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

Key Dates

Tuesday 15 th September	Year 8 Information Evening
Wednesday 16 th September	Year 7 Information Evening
Thursday 17 th September	Year 10 Information Evening
Thursday 24 th September	Open Evening
Friday 25 th September	INSET Day (students not in school)
Tuesday 29 th September	Year 11 Information Evening