



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

Can I start by saying I am very aware that the last week and a half of term have been characterised by a good number of Covid cases in our community after a long period where this has not been the case. This has needed for us to isolate a large number of students at very short notice and I would like to thank everyone for their support at this very challenging time. Can I wish those students who have not been well during this period all the very best.

I am, in the rest of this letter, going to highlight some recent events as well as talking about the end of this academic year and our plans for the start of the next.

Enrichment Week and Other Co-Curricular Activities

Our Enrichment Week between the 21st and 25th June gave students the chance to carry out activities away from normal lessons and for some of them to focus on their future potential careers and plans. It was wonderful also to see Year 7 camping and other year groups going out on trips. The week was based around our 'Chew Valley Guarantee' which is designed to give students a wide range of opportunities – a big thanks goes to Mr Jones for his organisation of this. In addition, a large number of students have been out over recent weekends on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, along with other trips which are starting to return, although it was a shame to have to cancel expeditions last weekend due to our Covid cases – we are aiming to reschedule these for potentially the 24th to 26th September.

End of Academic Year

We are approaching the end of term and just a reminder that the summer holidays begin at 12.05pm on Wednesday 21st July and that buses have been informed of the change in timings. This is the time of year when we say goodbye to staff and I would particularly like to say thank you for everything they have done to Miss Straw, one of our Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Kerr, our Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Mrs Morgan (Music) who are leaving after a considerable amount of time teaching at Chew Valley. Mr Lewis (Mathematics) and Mr Mason (English), along with Miss Thornhill and Mr Mitchell, who are part of our student support team, are also leaving us and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Work During the Holidays

As I have recently written about in a previous letter, we have spent some time thinking about the skills that students perhaps have not had as much chance as normal to develop due to the periods of time over the past academic year that we have not been present in school. We have put these together with some suggestions of how students might wish to think about these during the holidays and they are again attached together with the link from Mr Cocks for reference <https://vimeo.com/573949105/52a2a8a0be>.

Parental Survey

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who took the time to respond to our parental survey; we had a really strong response to this. It was good to see that the vast majority of parents and carers who responded felt that their child was happy and safe at Chew Valley School and that they would recommend the school to another family. We will be discussing the results with our governing body and looking at further ways in which we can communicate with parents and carers in the new academic year.

Governors

The governing body held its Strategy Day on Saturday 26th June where, amongst other things, they reviewed the strategic goals for 2020 to 2023 for the school. After a number of years in post, Phil Heath is standing down as Chair of Governors (although he is staying on the governing body). Phil has steered us well through this period and we must thank him for everything he has done. Shelia Williams has been elected as the new Chair of Governors and we are looking forward to working alongside her in the years to come. Thank you also to Joy Harcup and Lucy Blackwell who are standing down as governors for everything they have both contributed.

Start of Autumn Term 21 and Testing

Staff INSET days will be taking place on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September where we will be busily getting ready for another year of learning and activities. Due to the fact that it was not possible to have the new Year

7 into school so far, along with testing requirements, we are intending to have a staggered start. The new Year 7 only will attend school on Monday 6th September with the rest of the school starting on Tuesday 7th September. We are looking to put in place the government requirement around testing in school and we will communicate with you on this separately as we will need to gain individual consent for each student and then confirm appointments. We are currently looking to use the period from Wednesday 1st September onwards for this to happen and allow us to start term as stated above.

The School Day

It is our intention for the school to return to vertical House tutor groups along with students being taught once more in departmental areas from the time that we return. In addition, the school day will move to the following which will allow for the introduction of lunchtime co-curricular clubs and activities:

8.35	Movement time
8.40	Registration / assembly time
9.10	Period 1
10.10	Period 2
11.10	Break
11.30	Period 3
12.30	Period 4
13.30	Lunch
14.15	Movement time
14.20	Period 5
15.20	End of School / start of co-curricular offer on most days

Uniform

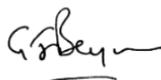
We are aware our uniform has been perhaps understandably variable this year. From September we will revert to our high expectations around full school uniform to be worn every day with PE kit being changed into for PE lessons. We have republished the guidelines for this (again attached with this letter and referred to in the [Uniform Brochure](#)) and can I please ask for your support. We will make it very clear to the students of our expectations before the end of term so that arrangements can be made over the summer.

Action as a Result of Student and Parent Feedback

Linking back to the survey that was sent to parents, carers and students via their tutor groups, there are some arrangements in school that have been in place primarily due to Covid requirements that we are keen to keep when we return in the autumn. We are for instance going to have some designated space for specific year groups to use at lunchtime and breaktime.

It has been a very different year and I would like to finish by saying thank you for your support and encouragement throughout which has meant a great deal to myself and the rest of the staff. Can I wish you and your families a good summer break.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher