



15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As with every secondary school in the country, it has been a really busy few weeks getting everything settled into remote learning. My thanks go to all of the parents and carers who have communicated with us supportively during this time which is really appreciated. Thanks also go to members of our wider community who have looked to help us where they can with technology offers.

My biggest thanks however go in equal measure to the students and to the staff who have stepped into this new world with a strong 'can do' attitude and have therefore made progress. There have been some hiccups along the way, as is to be expected, but these have been handed well by everybody.

As promised, we have looked to review our offer, particularly at Key Stage 3 but also with regards to our pastoral work which is so important to the values and culture of Chew Valley School.

1. Our KS3 Offer

From Monday 18th January we will add into this package video content lessons or specific stand-alone assignments organised for the whole year group in Aspire, ICT, Drama and RE to the existing subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography along with Spanish and French.

From Monday 25th January we will then add more video content lessons/assignments in with the majority of the other curriculum subjects.

Students will find the video activities/assignments for these subjects in the 'assignment' section of their whole year group area in Microsoft Teams. They can look to do this work at the time when they would have that particular subject, however it can be done at any other time also.

In addition we have been talking to subject areas about making sure that we get an opportunity to assess how the students are doing and therefore have asked departments to build this into their planning over the next few weeks.

2. Our Pastoral Offer

From Monday 18th January

Mondays : There will be pre-recorded assembly from the pastoral team to watch independently
Wednesdays: A wellbeing message from Miss Hayfield, again to watch independently
Fridays: House activities to complete independently

As with the other video lessons/assignments, these will be accessed by the year group 'assignment' section in Teams. The idea is that they are watched at the start of the day before Period 1 begins but again they can be accessed at any time.

A student newsletter will also be published weekly.

In addition, the following will be taking place:

- Year 12 and 13 drop-in slots on selected mornings with tutors
- Careers interviews with Year 11, 12 and 13 where appropriate

3. Online Tutoring Day on Monday 1st February

We have reflected on the feedback which we took during the last lockdown around how much the community valued individual phone call contact to students from the school across the board. With the vast majority of our staff committed to teaching online all day or supporting students in school, we have thought hard about how we deliver this in a meaningful and manageable manner.

We have therefore taken the decision to use Monday 1st February as a day where staff can focus on calls home to talk to students, potentially using our Parents' Evening booking system, School Cloud, at a given time. For all years **apart from Year 11**, these will be made from their 'new' year group tutor or their normal Sixth Form tutor.

On Monday 1st February there will be no Teams lessons. Students will be set a range of pastoral/House activities to do throughout the day when not on their call with staff. **We will let parents and carers know how to book these appointments via communication on Wednesday 20th January.**

Year 11 have their Parents' Evening on Wednesday 3rd February (separate details will come from Dr Holland) and therefore they will not meet their tutor on 1st February. Instead we are looking at how we work with Year 11 on that day to offer alternative careers and development/wellbeing opportunities which we will publish in due course. All of Year 11 will have their second individual interview with a senior member of staff scheduled during February and March to discuss their careers next steps and supporting them in their learning.

Also a quick reminder that Friday 12th February is a scheduled INSET day so no work will be set on this date.

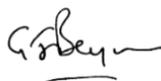
In Summary

We have looked to build on our offer and continue to have the learning and wellbeing of students at the centre of everything we do. We have reflected on our knowledge and what has worked well in the past together with feedback that we have received but have also looked to make sure we have considered external research and views which are being published by the government and others at the moment.

The research is all really clear about the view that the most effective provision is happening where there is some live learning through Microsoft Teams or similar but not an over-reliance on it. Instead, a blend of pre-recorded lessons as well with some good pastoral contact to maintain a sense of community which is indeed what we have tried to do here at Chew Valley School for our students.

As ever, thank you for your support.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher