



3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Our Year 11 Information Evening, which took place on Tuesday evening, rounded off opportunities for the majority of you to come in and hear about the year ahead. We had some good attendance at most of these but could I urge those who were not able to attend to visit the materials that were delivered so that you are informed. Year 13 have their Parents' Evening next week on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October and we are looking forward to some really positive conversations.

### **Our Mobile Phone Policy and Work with Other LSP Secondary Schools**

We carried out a piece of research during the last academic year with the University of the West of England (UWE) around the use of mobile phones both around school hours and during weekends and evenings. It is clear that having a mobile phone on and potentially able to receive messages during the school day places our young people in a dilemma with regards to carrying out our current practice in that they should be placed in bags between the hours of 8.40am and 3.20pm.

Gordano School have moved to using Yondr pouches (<https://www.veryondr.com/phone-locking-pouch>) in which phones are kept by the students but locked securely in these during the school day and due to the fact that they are faraday pouches, messages cannot be received by the students whilst in the pouches. We have spent some time talking to Gordano, along with other schools in our Trust, about how these are working and it is our intention to take some students over to Portishead along with staff to review this.

We will be talking to our governing body about this in coming meetings and developing our strategy for this moving forward which we will communicate to everyone in due course.

### **Snapchat and TikTok**

It has come to our attention in recent weeks that there have been incidents of problematic usage of Snapchat and TikTok. For example, an account has been created which is specifically mentioning school staff. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the risks associated with these popular social media applications. While these apps can provide opportunities for creativity and connection, they also present significant concerns for young people. Snapchat's disappearing messages can encourage impulsive sharing, sometimes leading to inappropriate content being circulated without consequences feeling immediate. Similarly, TikTok's algorithms can expose students to harmful or age-inappropriate material, encourage unhealthy comparisons, or lead to excessive screen time. Both platforms also carry risks around online bullying, grooming, and challenges related to privacy and digital footprint. We encourage parents and carers to be vigilant, to have open conversations with their children about safe and responsible online behaviour, and to monitor usage in a supportive and informed way. The attached guides will support you in understanding these apps in greater depth.

### **Cover Lessons**

As we move further into the term, we wanted to share an insight into how we deliver cover lessons here at Chew Valley School. Mr Henley, our Assistant Headteacher who looks after this provision amongst other areas, has created the [Cover Room recording for parents on Vimeo](#) that explains the process of the cover work your child may be working through when their teacher is absent from school. The information video also talks you through an example of what the emergency cover work looks like and our intentions behind it. As always, if there are any questions, he will be more than happy to communicate with you. Mr Henley's email address is [dhenley@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:dhenley@chewvalleyschool.co.uk).

**Year 7 'Settling In' Feedback**

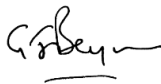
As we have done for a number of years, we will formally review how the transition and settling in period has been for our new Year 7 students. All students will complete a questionnaire for us in school and our staff will also be given a chance to give their views on general matters. We absolutely would want parents and carers to also give their feedback and to that end you will receive a short questionnaire from Mr Henley to complete. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do this as it will give us valuable feedback in advance of any future planning.

**A reminder - Careers Convention Evening - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Please hold this date as we would like as many parents and carers along with students to access this event..

Can I wish you a good weekend.

With best wishes,



Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher

**Key Selected Dates**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Year 13 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Careers Convention Evening