



# Chew Valley School

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Headteacher: Gareth Beynon BA (Hons), MA

Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8QB

Tel: (01275) 332272

Email: [enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk)

Web: [www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk](http://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Expectation assemblies took place at the start of this week where it was pleasing to talk to each year group about the positives from the first seven or so weeks of the academic year. We have also challenged our young people to continue to contribute in a positive way to school and there is much to get involved in.

### **Sixth Form Evening - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

A reminder for Year 11 that we are running this important evening next week; we are looking forward to seeing many students along with parents and carers.

### **INSET Day - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

The school is closed to students on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November when all of our teaching staff will be at Gordano School alongside their staff and others from Backwell and Churchill Schools. This is our joint INSET for the four secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership where we will be focusing on teaching and learning.

### **Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

All parents and carers of students in Year 10 are in the process of receiving details of this online event.

### **End of Term - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - 12.05pm finish**

We will break for the Christmas holiday on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. For Year 7 parents and carers in particular, we finish on this day, and also at the end of the academic year in July, at 12.05pm. We organise the buses so that they adjust their times accordingly. Easter break is a normal 3.20pm finish.

Thank you to everyone who attended our '**Staying Safe Online**' event last night where it was useful to talk to parents and carers around the opportunities and challenges of supporting our young people to stay safe online. Linking to this, we are aware that WhatsApp 'group chats' are often created by students. Unfortunately sometimes within these group chats, there have been messages posted of a negative nature which we have needed to investigate. Can we ask you therefore to remain vigilant around what your child is contributing to online. The following link might well be of interest to you: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>.

### **Year 7 Settling-In Questionnaire**

Thank you to those parents and carers who completed our questionnaire to give us some feedback on how our Year 7 students have started at Chew Valley. The senior leadership team are spending time reading through the responses, many of which were really positive, and reflecting on them which is really important to us.

As I said at the start, this is a particularly busy term with Year 11 mock examinations taking place at the end amongst many other activities. In due course, we will publish information around these events entitled 'Christmas at Chew Valley' which will give you further details of various upcoming events. In the meantime, can I continue to thank you for your support of Chew Valley School and remind you to make contact with us if there is anything you would like to discuss.

With very best wishes,

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher