



14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We started last week with a series of assemblies where we highlighted once more our expectations around how Chew Valley students behave, their uniform and PE kit, and importantly how they approach their learning. Senior staff have been visiting lessons since we returned and it has been good to see how students have settled back into their studies.

Year 9 have received their **KS4 Options Assembly** from Mrs Rowlands this week which was followed up on Tuesday evening with an information event for parents and carers. We are aware of how important this time is for the students as they select their subjects for next year. If parents, carers or students have any questions, please do direct these to subject staff or the relevant tutor.

Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place online on **Wednesday 19th January** and staff are looking forward to meeting as many families as possible on this evening. **Year 11 Parents' Evening** follows on **Thursday 3rd February** – further details regarding this will follow. Dates of all Parents' Evenings are available on our website.

As I write, COVID numbers within school are similar to where we left off in December with a small number of staff and around thirty students across the school needing to isolate. We will continue to monitor this and take action should the figures increase. It is really important for students to **continue to test twice a week** for the benefit of everyone at Chew Valley School.

The national advice for COVID has changed with the following information being available from the Department for Education:

'Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- *have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)*
- *wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment*
- *have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group*
- *have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme*

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Students should be strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home and to report all results to the National Track and Trace and to their setting (our school). Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.'

Phase 2 of **the in-school vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds** has begun nationally alongside out-of-school vaccine centres offering appointments for first and second doses. We have been given the likely date of **Wednesday 9th March** for this to happen at Chew Valley and we will be in contact with further details.

I am pleased to announce that we intend to hold our annual **Careers Convention on Wednesday 9th February** and will open our school to exhibitors once again to provide an informative experience for students across our year groups, including our Sixth Form. If anyone would like to host a stand, demonstration or a 'hands-on' activity at our event, please email knorfolk@chewvalleyschool.co.uk.

As ever if you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Beynon', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher