



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly I hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer holidays and may I take this opportunity to welcome all the new Year 7 students and their families to Chew Valley School to begin their journey with us.

We have been busy during the summer break with Year 11 and Year 13 results being published in the middle of August. As I mentioned in the press releases, which can be seen on our website, students worked hard for these grades in challenging times. We are really pleased that so many of them have accessed their next step in life be that attending our Sixth Form or another college or university around the country or accessing prestigious apprenticeships or wonderful places of work. We are really proud of them all.

Also during August we had two weeks of Summer School for students who are joining us in Year 7. We are aware that the dates might well have clashed with other commitments; however, we had over half of our new intake take part. My thanks go to the staff from the school and GrassRoutes who were involved, along with the wonderful Sixth Formers who acted as mentors.

In addition, we have had work carried out on the school site including movement of department accommodation with the Mathematics Department now being based in the old Humanities block. This has been totally refurbished and a big thanks go to our site team who have worked so hard on this.

With the new academic year starting next week, I wanted to write and remind you of some important aspects and introduce you to Class Charts.

Testing

Many students have signed up for testing before the students formally return to school and this process has begun. If you have any questions, do let us know via enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk.

School Buses

School buses are running from Monday morning. Government guidance is to request that where appropriate masks should still be worn on the journey to and from school.

House System and Vertical Tutoring

We are moving back to vertical tutoring for Years 7-11, along with House assemblies, following a long time in year group 'bubbles'. The relevant House tutor will be a key person involved in your child's future and we will be giving an opportunity for you to have contact with them in the future. In the meantime, please do make contact at any stage should you need to do so.

Uniform

School uniform is really important to everyone at Chew Valley and, after a period of change where students were able to wear PE kit to school on the days where sport was involved, we have now reverted to our usual arrangements. We are asking staff to be really clear with uniform expectations from the outset. Details are on our website if any clarification is needed.

Lessons and Behaviour

We are spending time with students in our expectations assemblies in the first week talking about their learning which is at the heart of what we do in school. The vast majority of our students contribute really positively throughout their time at Chew Valley; however, it is important that

everyone is aware of our Behaviour Policy and the sanctions which are in place on the occasion that these are needed to be used. These have been revisited and therefore can I ask that you are familiar with this document so that if we do need to work through these you know what to expect. There is a copy on our website for reference. As I say, these are only used in a small number of occasions but we have much to do in lessons and we do not want other students' learning being influenced. We are of course looking at the far more regularly used positive feedback that we would want students to receive.

Communication from School - a Change in Technology - Class Charts

Existing parents and carers will be aware of Insight as a tool/app for parents and carers to stay in contact with school. In using Microsoft Teams over the past year or so, we have also used this for setting homework which did not give parents and carers perhaps enough information. We said we would look to rectify this from the start of this new academic year along with finding a product which will allow parents, carers and students to have all communications from school in one place. As a result, from September 2021, we will be using Class Charts at Chew Valley School.



Class Charts is an online system which teachers use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. By using Class Charts, we can share your child's achievements with you and keep you up-to-date in real time. Class Charts will also allow you to keep track of your child's behaviour, view attendance records, access their weekly timetable, view assigned homework tasks, track scheduled detentions and view announcements from school. If you have more than one child, you can also access Class Charts information about all your children from a single, centralised parent account. We therefore require all parents and carers to download the app so that you can receive relevant notifications.

A brief introductory video from Miss Kenyon can be found here <https://vimeo.com/595986301/fb556efe06>.

To access Class Charts, which will be available from next week, you can do so via the internet, or through our iOS and Android apps. To create your account, please follow this link <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>. Links to the Android and iOS parent apps are also available from this page. When you first log in, you will be asked for an access code; the code you need to access Class Charts will be on a separate letter which will be on Insight early next week.

Once logged in, you can navigate through to the various parts of the app that we have opened to parents and carers. From there, you will be able to access everything on the list below (page numbers link to the parent guide).

- Behaviour (page 4)
- Homework (pages 6-8)
- Detentions (page 11)
- Attendance (page 12)
- Absences (page 13) – An easy way to report an absence and communicate with our Attendance Officer
- Timetable (page 14)
- Classes (page 15)
- Messaging (page 20) – We will begin with absence messaging only
- Adding additional children (pages 24-27)

The parent guide should answer any questions and help you through the initial stages whilst you get used to things. The guide does however contain reference to some parts of Class Charts that we

have not yet opened. Over time we intend to open the majority of the features so that we can make a complete transition from Insight.

https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf

If you have any concerns about behaviour, detentions, or homework during the school day, please speak to your child in the first instance, when they return from school. Your child should be able to update you on what has happened and it is very likely the situation has been resolved by the time they come home. However, if following this conversation, you are still concerned and would like to speak to someone, please contact the school as you would have done previously or, if new to the school, please see the attached flow diagram.

At present 'announcements' and general correspondence will still take place through Insight but we will begin to make this transition throughout Term 1. Our Admin Team will make sure they communicate these changes very clearly with you so that you do not miss any important information.

We do hope that once downloaded, you can see the benefits of Class Charts and it will also enable you to have more conversations with your child about their progress in school. Please make sure you 'turn on' the notifications.

COVID-19 NHS Guidance on When a Child Should Attend or Stay off School

Please see the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Guidance specifies that a child should not attend school if they have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

For those who have given consent, following your child's second test in school, they will be issued with home testing kits. Please make sure your child tests themselves twice a week, 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening beforehand. It is really important that test results are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. To report results to the NHS, please click [here](#). Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. The test results also need to be reported to school [here](#).

In Conclusion

Although the government guidance has removed many of the ways of working that we have been operating under over the past year, we are aware of the need to continue to be mindful around COVID. Some measures will still be in place, for example, with masks being worn in crowded areas such as corridors, hand sanitisers in classrooms and good ventilation continuing to be part of our mitigation.

We have an updated risk assessment that we are working through with our staff as part of the INSET programme and following this we will make it available on our website for everyone. If there is a change in the way in which we need to work in future then I will of course communicate this.

There are some key diary dates for Term 1 below; we will be in contact in due course with regards to these:

Thursday 9 th September	Year 12 Information Evening
Thursday 16 th September	Year 7 Information Evening
Friday 24 th September	INSET Day 3
Thursday 30 th September	Year 13 Information Evening

Tuesday 5 th October	Year 10 and 11 Information Evening
Thursday 7 th October	Religion & Sex Education Information Evening - all parents and carers
Friday 15 th October	School Society AGM and Parent Focus Group
Thursday 21 st October	Meet the Tutor Evening

Other dates are available on the website.

Can I finish by saying I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the forthcoming year and can I thank you in advance for all your support of the school.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher