



22nd June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Visit 12th and 13th May

Please find attached with this letter a copy of the Ofsted report following the visit by five inspectors last month.

This inspection was based on the new format which has moved away from a single judgement on a school to a dashboard approach where a number of aspects of the school are looked at.

Safeguarding is such an important part of our work and the visiting team were impressed by the continuing work of our team in this area. As far as a judgement is concerned, safeguarding is either 'met' or 'not met' and it was agreed that we were the former.

Ofsted have been clear in their communication that they start from a perspective of school being at an 'expected' standard which equates as much as it can to previously being 'good'. We were therefore really pleased that in the two key areas of Student Wellbeing and Development, and our Sixth Form provision, the inspection team chose to grade the school in the 'strong' standard.

The team were able to identify a strong caring culture where our staff *"know them (our students) as individuals and there are warm relationships. Staff provide effective support with learning or wellbeing challenges and as a result pupils feel cared for"*. In addition they identified the *'array of experiences as part of the 'Chew Valley Guarantee' gives all pupils and students the opportunity to thrive'* from the Duke of Edinburgh programme and Ten Tors to trips and visits along with our Change and Create teams.

We are incredibly proud of our Post-16 provision and the team found that *'Chew Valley sixth form is welcoming and inclusive, with very effective pastoral support. Leaders understand the strengths of the 16 to 19 study programme and leaders ensure that all students are very well supported to achieve their aims. Subjects are well taught.'* The team also identified that *'Post-16 students are role models for younger pupils, supporting them in lessons, helping them develop their reading or peer mentoring'*.

It was good to see that the work that takes place around our SEND provision was singled out by the inspection team for praise stating that *'the school has a wide range of effective support available for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This includes the school's learning support base, where pupils are supported well to develop their social skills and to manage their mental health and wellbeing.'*

The report also highlights our curriculum, teaching and learning and our careers provision as being areas where the school adds value with the comment *'that students are very well prepared for later life and study'*.

Under the new framework Ofsted has chosen to group together both 'attendance' and 'behaviour' which has caused much discussion in educational circles and did between ourselves and the inspection team.

With regards to behaviour, the team were really positive with the report commenting that *'leaders have ensured that there is a culture where high expectations of behaviour are the norm. They skilfully use a range of information, including about learning and behaviour, to develop a clear understanding of pupils' needs.'* The report continues that *'pupils generally get on well with each other and have positive attitudes to their learning. Any form of bullying or discrimination is rare. When it does happen, pupils are confident that it will be dealt with swiftly and effectively.'* This, linked to the data which the inspection team have available

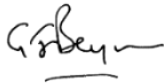
centrally to them with regards to our suspension rates which are very low, would have led to a likely outcome of 'strong standard' if it was measured on its own.

However our attendance data, particularly for certain groups of students, is currently not good enough. We have too many students missing school and this is stopping them from making the necessary progress, particularly when this is over a prolonged period.

The message is clear that the students who are in school are gaining the benefits that other areas of the report highlight, however if students are not attending then this cannot be the case. I know other schools locally with good reputations are facing the same challenges that we face in this area and we must do better, working in partnership with parents and carers to improve this which is where I am asking for your assistance in this matter. We have a clear plan and have made resources available. We will of course continue to communicate around this area as we move forward.

I was left at the end of the inspection process proud of the school and the students in it. The team commented how impressed they were of the young people that they came into contact with and how warm and accommodating the school felt to them as visitors.

With best wishes,

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

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher