



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

Headteacher: Gareth Beynon BA (Hons), MA

Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8QB

Tel: (01275) 332272

Email: enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk

Web: www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

School has been back seven weeks since the holidays and as I write we have not yet had a student or member of staff contract Covid-19, which has not been the case in many of the schools which surround us. As I have commented previously, we are working with Bath and North East Somerset Council, along with the Department for Education, and have plans in place should this arise. I have also spoken with other headteachers who have talked about the clear instructions and support they have received which is reassuring to hear.

Lessons have therefore continued and it has been lovely for myself and other staff to visit classrooms and see some of the quality learning going on. We have very much been in listening mode, talking with many students over the past week or so. Every Year 11 student is in the process of having a 1:1 with a senior member of staff, talking about their learning and their career aspirations. We have also met with the senior students in the Sixth Form, along with focus groups in Year 11 and Year 8, to listen to how learning coming out of lockdown has been. In addition, we are asking Year 7 students to complete a questionnaire in their ICT lessons about how their first weeks at Chew Valley have been and at the same time have asked similar questions of their parents and carers via a survey on Insight - a reminder that this consultation ends on Thursday 22nd October. All of this feedback is really important for us to understand how students are feeling so that we can plan for the future.

The Department for Education has confirmed that **most GCSE and A-level exams will take place three weeks later than usual in 2021** to give students more time to prepare. However, the department have said at the moment that one English and one Maths GCSE exams will still take place before May half term to “help manage potential disruption”, along with some A-level exams in subjects with “typically low” student numbers. All other exams will not start until after 7th June, continuing until 2nd July. As a result of the change, GCSE and A-level results will be handed out in the same week of August, rather than a week apart. **A-level results day will be 24th August and GCSE results day will be 27th August.**

Details have gone out already to Year 11 parents and carers for our **virtual Year 11 Parents' Information Evening** which is taking place **on Thursday 22nd October** with Bilbie and Hauteville House invited at 7pm, followed by Moreton and Rodney Houses at 8pm. If you need any further details, please contact the school.

A reminder that we are moving our bubbles, both this week and straight after half term, in the following manner:

From Monday 19th October (the week before half term):

Year 7 will move from the English block to the Humanities block. This will enable them to have access to the indoor area of the main part of the Hall for breaktime and lunchtime along with the canteen which will be serving food from this period.

Year 9 will move from Humanities to English to include the Library and will be served food from a new position close to the back entrance to the canteen which will include hot food. Their social area will be at the front of the school to the left of the entrance road.

From Monday 2nd November (the day we return from half term):

Year 8 will move to the Science block and have the area to the front of the Library as their outdoor space along with their own food area. Their toilets will be in the Science block.

Year 10 will move to the DT block and the classrooms next to this. They will access food from the permanent catering box which is situated on the corner of the DT block. Their toilet block will be in the Sports Hall and they will have the tennis courts area.

Year 11 will move into the lower school which has four sets of toilets on the ground floor. They will have indoor access to food via the higher level of the Hall, entering from the lower school classrooms. They will use this area for their mock examinations which will take place in the final two weeks before the Christmas break.

The Sixth Form will remain where they are.

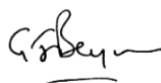
As the school days are getting colder, can I ask parents and carers to think about clothing for school. As the government has recommended, thin layers under a school shirt work significantly better than students wearing outdoor coats in classrooms. Certainly if the weather means that outside coats get damp then sitting in these all day will make students feel very uncomfortable and therefore to be able to take these off for their learning will make their day more enjoyable. As you will understand we are carefully managing the requirements of the government to ventilate rooms whilst at the same time keeping students and staff warm. As a consequence, perhaps not surprisingly, we have turned the heating on earlier this year.

A reminder to all of our Year 11 parents and carers that our **Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 10th November** will give all of the information for those students who are considering joining our Sixth Form in September 2021. Details will follow straight after half term.

Can I finish by saying that this half term has been like no other we have witnessed. The additional requirements placed on students and staff have required everyone to work in a different way with many of the things that make our school what it is, including a full extra-curricular programme and our House system, needing to be momentarily parked. I am therefore so proud in equal measure of the staff and students in the way in which they have approached this and supported each other.

Can I wish you a good half term next week.

With best wishes,



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher