



# Chew Valley School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to everyone ten days ago and since then as a country we have moved to tighter conditions to respond to the increase in Covid cases. A good number of institutions have been influenced by Covid cases with both of the other secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Gordano and Backwell, already having to send year groups home. Our thoughts go to their students, families and staff along with those at East Harptree Primary School, one of our feeder schools, which has also needed to close.

The staff here at Chew Valley have been working hard to move learning forward in the classroom and we have been planning today in our Inset Day for different eventualities. We have been constantly reviewing our practice which is reflected in some of the following areas below that I would like to draw to your attention:

### **Tutoring**

Whilst our initial plan was to maximise learning time, we have looked to slowly integrate some tutor time which will start next week. Every student once we begin will get two sessions a week in the morning for twenty five minutes. These will be in House groups by year rather than in a vertical nature.

### **Plans for Closure**

Again can I reiterate our plans for closure which are attached to this letter. It is important for families to be aware that we will move to Microsoft Teams where we have a large number of students self-isolating at home. I have therefore attached the link to a presentation we have produced inhouse, and already used with the students, around the use of Microsoft Teams which can also be found on our website. <https://www.loom.com/share/fc6bb5b1c2bd4d32bb6f6db584e92519>

### **Bubbles**

We have reviewed our bubbles and through intentional planning are looking to move some year groups around:

#### **From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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. They will also use the toilet facilities in the main Hall. Their outdoor space will slightly alter.
- 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 is likely to include hot food. Their social area will be the grass to the left of the entrance road as one drives into the school.

#### **From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 school, 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.

- 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.

With regards to food produced on site, we are working with our catering company, Aspens, to move to having a hot offer available for each year group.

### **Extra Curricula Activities**

It is our intention to slowly re-introduce extra curricula activities over the coming weeks, particularly for our new Year 7, although the offer will not be as full as would normally be the case at this time in the academic year. More details will follow.

### **Year 7 Parents' Information Evenings on Zoom**

My thanks to all of the parents and carers who took part in these. We hope that the information that was conveyed during these sessions was useful. A copy of the presentation can also be found on our website.

### **Year 13 Parents' Evening - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Year 13 are the first year group to experience a Parents' Evening this academic year and as such will be first to do this on Microsoft Teams. Instructions have already been issued.

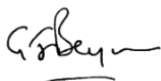
### **Student Attire and Jumpers**

We introduced the opportunity for students to come to school in their PE kit on the days when they have PE lessons. For comfort in classroom lessons, we have encouraged students to wear black tracksuit bottoms over the top of their shorts, or black leggings, on PE days. As the weather gets colder and potentially wetter, we are keen to ensure that all students are well equipped to be able to continue with PE lessons outside as much as possible. With this in mind, we would stress the following points :

1. Students will be asked to remove their tracksuit bottoms at the start of their PE lessons and do the lesson in their shorts. This will enable them to have something warm and dry to wear at the end of the session. If students are currently wearing leggings, they may wish to wear or bring tracksuit bottoms to wear before/at the end of the session.
2. PE school sweatshirts or school rugby shirts can be worn for warmth over House tops. We understand that there is currently a supply issue with these so in the short term, a plain black sweatshirt or sports jumper with no significant logo present, can be worn until the PE sweatshirt has been purchased.
3. A lightweight rain jacket can also be worn during the PE lesson as an extra layer for warmth and dryness in wet/damp weather.

As I said at the beginning, the country is moving into a period of further short-term lockdown as the winter approaches. If our situation changes with regards to students attending school then I will of course be in direct contact with you. I have also added as an attachment a leaflet from BANES entitled 'Covid-19 Information – A Quick Guide for Parents and Carers' for everyone to read.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher