



Dear Parents and Carers

August 2018

Year 7 start at Chew Valley School

With the start of term rapidly approaching, we are looking forward to the new Year 7 cohort joining us. We are aware that they will be wearing our new school uniform for the first time and starting with our new house system and vertical tutoring which we are all excited about.

On the first day, Tuesday 4th September, we have asked Year 7 students to arrive at school for 8.30am so that their tutors can spend some time with them before the rest of the school arrive a little later in the morning. We are asking for all other students to start on this day at 9.30am **with Year 7 starting at 8.40am**. Therefore we are asking Year 7 parents and carers on this one day to make arrangements to bring students in (which is often what happens on the first day of school) as the buses will run one hour later than usual on that morning to coincide with the 9.30am start for the rest of the community.

We have a new school day beginning this year with a slightly earlier start; however, from Wednesday 5th September, the buses will run at the same time in the morning as they have done previously as they arrive by the time that the new school day begins. In the evening they will run about ten minutes earlier, leaving school at 3.25pm.

Our first day back on Tuesday 4th September coincides with the Tour of Britain cycle race passing the school with the main road being closed for part of the day. BANES have put a blanket closure together for all of the roads involved between midday and 4pm. This would cause us disruption at the end of the day; however we have been in contact with the office of the Chief Executive and his staff have assured us that the police are operating a rolling programme and they are expecting to open the roads soon after the race passes which is due to happen soon after 2pm. We will monitor this situation should any timings change.

There will be much that we will cover about our expectations of students and the opportunities that will be available in the first few weeks. We however thought it would be useful to highlight two key areas in advance which are the equipment we ask them to arrive with and our thoughts on work away from lessons that can be supported by home.

Our expectations with regards to equipment

In order for all students to be focused on learning from the minute they enter the classroom, we advise that each student has a well-stocked pencil case and that this is brought into school every day. Many students already have this but below is a checklist for you to refer to.

As a minimum, a student's pencil case must contain:

- 2 black/blue pens
- 2 green pens
- 2 pencils
- A few colouring pencils (blue, red, green, yellow, brown)
- A ruler (15cm is fine)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Highlighter
- Gluestick

- A scientific calculator
- A protractor
- A compass

If students do not have the correct equipment, they will need to sign out a school pencil case from Student Services. They will be asked to leave an appropriate item of value as a deposit to ensure a return by the end of the day. This will also be logged as a level 2 SIMS behaviour log for “lack of equipment”. Should this become a recurring pattern, we may need to meet with parents/carers to discuss wider organisational issues.

Our expectations with regards to independent study

At Secondary school it is advisable that all students should be doing an average of two hours a night of independent study Sunday to Thursday during term time.

Here is a suggested checklist of activities that can be carried out during study time each evening with some ideas for students to think about where appropriate:

- Homework – specific tasks set by teachers.
- Continuing with coursework or assessment tasks that have been set previously.
- Re-capping – looking at the student timetable, is there any work that was completed in a lesson that is needed to do more on, complete, re-draft or understand better by reading it over again or completing more examples?
- Preparation – looking at tomorrow’s timetable. Is there a need to re-read work to help get ready for tomorrow? Has anything been forgotten from last week? – if so look at it now. Check homework is ready for handing in tomorrow – could it be improved?
- Extra research – the school planner has recommended websites that could be visited to help get ahead and boost grades.
- Tidy and organise – sort out workspace, tidy out bag or pencil case.
- Make sure all school equipment needed is ready.
- Pack bag so it’s ready for the morning. Put out uniform ready – tonight!
- ‘Read around’ – good students do this. Read extra about work that interests or there is a need to know more about.
- Watch TV – Yes – but choose an excellent documentary about something you are currently working on at school!

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you as your children pass through the school.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher