

Mr Mallett Bids Farewell

I could not forego a final opportunity to send my greetings and best wishes to you and your families as we break up for a long awaited summer holiday.

It's been another busy and successful year and many of the young people have given their all in both academic and extra-curricular activity. Similarly both teaching and support staff have expended so much through the year to ensure we provide the very best education we possibly can for your children. They have my gratitude.



As I prepare to hand over the baton to Mr Beynon, I look back with immense pride and pleasure at the achievements of so many young people over the years that I have been Head of this wonderful school. In my time we have built the Music Block and 6th Form Centre. We have gone through four Ofsted inspections which have consistently graded the school as Good or Outstanding (depending on the particular set of exam results preceding their visit).

Exam results at both GCSE and A Level have significantly improved over the last ten years and, where so many secondary schools seem to have lost their emotional heart and community spirit, Chew Valley has held on to a philosophy and set of values which allow those qualities to thrive.

It has been an immense privilege to lead Chew Valley and to enjoy the confidence of parents, governors and staff. We have been through

happy, sad and challenging times together – but the spirit of Chew Valley School has united us and enabled us to endure and succeed.

Whilst sad to say goodbye, I am excited by the opportunity the school now has, under the leadership of Mr Beynon, to go on to even greater success in the years to come.

My very best wishes to him and to all of you for the future. Have a wonderful summer!

Mark Mallett

Summer Concert 2016

The 2nd of July brought about a beautiful display of talent. From the moment you entered the bouquet ridden, gingham stricken hall, the buzzing of excitement (or maybe the speakers) hit you. Performances were given from all ages, wowing the audience with their music and expression. The bar and hotdogs contributed to the informal atmosphere allowing performers to showcase their individual talents which ranged from ukulele groups to choirs. The Year 7 band gave an astounding performance as did the Year 9s with their Pop song composition. Runaway who surprised the audience with their incredible Coldplay number. Resound and Phoenix showed their choral skills and a beautiful solo from Flora Chamberlain brought about an emotional side to the evening. The finale was the Staff band which gave an energetic and “Happy” performance, inviting all the performers of the evening on stage to join in the fun. Congratulations to all involved, thank you to all who came to support and of course to the Music Staff.

Natalie Ward

Per aspera ad astra – Latin@CVS

There's been a lot of Latin going on in our school and in Chew Valley as a whole over the last few months. Since receiving funding from Classics for All, the school has hosted a training day for primary school teachers in the Valley, exploring ways of using Latin in the primary curriculum. Following this, Mrs Currie and Ms Cornthwaite visited five local primary schools

and worked with their pupils, helping them to learn about Latin and Roman life. Meanwhile a group of almost thirty Chew Valley students from Years 7 to 11 have begun to study for their WJEC Latin Certificate and are looking forward to rounding the year off with a Roman banquet. Any tips on how best to roast a dormouse will be gratefully received....

Breaking Good? A-Level Chemists Extract Some Concentrated Caffeine!

Fifteen Chemistry students from Year 12 spent a day at Bristol University's superb undergraduate teaching laboratories. The laboratories are amongst the very best in the world and gave our students a chance to experience world class facilities.

Having donned the obligatory lab coats, safety glasses and blue gloves, the practical task was to extract caffeine from tea leaves. Each group was presented with a beaker containing ten tea bags in hot water. They used solvents and equipment not normally available at school. The equipment included Buchner funnels, heating mantles, separation funnels and vacuum distillation apparatus. After two hours of intense laboratory work, each group was left with a small amount of solid caffeine which had a familiar aroma. They then tested its composition using an infra-red spectrometer, and its purity using melting point apparatus. In the afternoon there were two lectures. The first looked at amazing research into the creation of anti-cancer drugs starting with simple sugars. The second was a demonstration lecture about the gases in the air. There was liquid nitrogen, exploding balloons, dry ice and Harry Potter-style Chemistry to amuse and educate.

Many thanks to the Chemistry Department at the University for laying on a fantastic day. Following a successful 'Futures Week', the day whetted the Chemists' appetite for the many opportunities that lie ahead.
Mr Brown.



Update on The Valley Performing Arts Centre

We have continued to gain an incredible amount of support this year for our plans to build a new and versatile performing arts centre. The building, which we believe will bring together all of the communities of the Chew Valley, will comprise of one main performance space, a Dance Studio and several smaller meeting and rehearsal rooms. Our belief is that every community needs a large and versatile venue that is open every day; a space that, at its heart, is open to all, providing a range of opportunities for every member of the community. We believe that this centre will become a hub for the local community, helping to bring people together and create a real sense of community through the arts.

The high quality of arts events at Chew Valley School also deserve a performance space that we can be proud of. Chew Valley School has just been re-designated as an Artsmark Gold for an unprecedented third time. We run over 25 lunchtime and after school clubs per week with over 300 students regularly take part in extra-curricular performances and workshops this year, creating a wide range of work of an extremely high standard.



In addition to allowing all members of our community to create and watch exciting work, we believe that The Valley will also attract new business to the area. It will be a space for all to come together to talk, listen, watch and perform. A space that will allow all members of the community to learn new skills and to express themselves creatively. A view echoed by one of our patrons, Michael Eavis (pictured above at the proposed site) who commented that 'This centre will not only further promote the vibrant performing arts tradition at Chew Valley School but will also create a versatile and much needed community performance venue for the enjoyment of the wider area'.

We have a number of energetic supporters on board but are always looking for more help. If you would like to find out more about The Valley or join the team who are making our vision a reality, please contact Mr Conway.

Performing Arts Award Evening

On Tuesday 5th July, the Performing Arts faculty hosted its third annual awards evening. During the course of the evening, we celebrated the many successes that students in Music, Dance and Drama have achieved this year – including being asked to close the Bath Dance Umbrella and being invited to perform as part of The National Theatre Connections programme at The Bristol Old Vic.

45 students were recognised for their outstanding contributions and achievements both in and out of school in the three subjects and, what was especially pleasing, is that these were students from every year group represented, showing just how strong the commitment to Performing Arts is across Chew Valley School.

The evening finished with Natalie Ward a Year 12 student being awarded our top honour of The Performing Arts Award, Natalie has taken part in almost every event that we have put on this year and is an incredible ambassador for all that we do. She is pictured below receiving her award from Mr Mallett.



Congratulations to all of those who were nominated and thank you for all that you have done to support Performing Arts at Chew Valley school this year:-

Ben Angell 7L , Myiah Barker 7E, Athene Miles 7C, Maisie Hasell 7W, Henry Hicks 7H, Ruby Jones 7W ,Bow Masters7H, Ashley Moore 7W, Lucy Payne 7W, Eva Rooney7W, Meg Sayer 7W, Isabelle Webb 7E, Peter Booker 8V, Grace Davies 8E, Fred Gentle 8V, Tilda Hawken 8V, Chloe Perrett 8E, Ella Phillips 8E, Ben Adams 9E, Ruby Burgin 9V, Olivia Coombs 9E, Jack Davies 9A, Kaia Hannan 9H, Freya Harding 9C, Ellis Molinghen 9C, Ben Norton 9E, Abbie Sebright 9W, Natasha Stewart 9A, Jonny Streatfeild-James 9A, Lizzie Stuckey 9A, Mollie Bale 10V, Mia Barlow 10C, Toby Daw 10V, Abbie Delves 10V, Dan Finch 10A, Louisa Hill 10E, Sol Kuseri 10C, Anya McGauley 10C, Poppy Moore 10C, Kirstie Pope 10V, Katie Riches 10E, Tia Simmonds 10E, Jess Willmott 10E, Zoe Downey 11E, Tom Hope 11C, Corinne Bowen 12H, Gabriella Kemp 12E, Sam Mulholland 12H, Conni Tinmouth 12H, Rosie Pope 12C

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

On Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th July, the Performing Arts faculty finished off the year in style with our lower school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Involving over 50 students on and off stage the story was beautifully told by our Year 7, 8 & 9 performers. Aply supported by our Year 12 'Grumpy Loompas' and a Year 10 Stage Management team, the whole group created some magical moments. It was a pleasure to work with such a fantastic group of students for the last few months and to watch them perform so confidently on stage. It was also great to stand at the back of the hall and watch (and listen to) the audience's reactions each night.



Pete Booker, Abbie Sebright & Tilda Hawken as Grandpa Joe, Charlie & Willy Wonka

Well done to all involved and watch out for the Bugsy Malone auditions in September!

Lenny Montague shines again for Languages

Having stormed through the Regional Heats of the South West MFL Speaking Competition back in March, Lenny was looking to go one better than last year in the Finals and was aiming to get the top prize. With all the preparation work done, Mr Cordle and Tom Hope were there once again to cheer him on. The Finals took place at the University of Bristol and around 15 schools, both state and

private, were represented altogether. The judging panel was the largest to have graced this event and with a packed room the pressure was really on.

Lenny was entered into the non-native KS4 category for Spanish and had to speak for a few minutes on the topic of 'Holidays'. In true Lenny fashion, he stayed away from giving a discourse on anything resembling a normal holiday. Instead, he regaled the audience with a fictional piece about a visit to Planet Gliebe 5182 with two Spanish friends. Their adventure ended with an encounter with an alien, and thankfully Lenny was there with his gun (or hairdryer in this case) to save the day. Full of wit, props and intrigue, Lenny's highly original and engaging speech went down a storm. The judges had to award marks equally for the language content as well as the presentation itself. Lenny knew that he had done his best and was over the moon when his name was announced as the overall victor. To be crowned the winner is a huge achievement and in a category that had so much talent between them, the big trophy and £50 prize money was fully deserved. The victory is even more poignant given that Routes into Languages, who run this competition, sadly does not have the funding to continue next year. Lenny is continuing Spanish into A-level and we wish him all the very best in his future languages career!



Stonewall 2016

At 6:30am on July 8th, Mrs Pope, Lizzie Howie, Libby Thorne and I (Kirstie Pope) got on the train to London. We arrived and immediately got on the underground. We arrived at the QEII Conference Centre and received badges with our names and packs containing various things we'd need for the day. We went up to the

drinks and refreshment area for about half an hour before going into the main conference room where we had our opening keynote given by Ruth Hunt, Yvette Cooper MP, who was really interesting, and Dr Masuma Rahim who spoke passionately about the need for good mental health care for LGBT+ people. Next we went to our first sessions. Libby and I went to the Trans* Identity talk, which had author Juno Dawson, Fox Fisher and Jacob Sabo-Dutton. We heard their coming out stories and then had a Q&A sessions. It was good fun and useful too as it gave us some advice on helping trans* students in our school.

After lunch Mrs Pope went off to speak at a session on Inclusive Sex Education and Lizzie, Libby and I had the youth panel which consisted of several LGBT+ role models who talked about the sexualities and gender identities beyond Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and had a Q&A at the end. Then we went to the Bisexual talk which was led by Alex Gwyne, Liam Bale and Leanne Smith who did a similar talk to the Trans Identity talk in which they told us their coming out stories and then had a Q&A session afterwards.

We joined back up with Mrs Pope for some more refreshments before going to the closing session role model panel with special guests Jonny Benjamin, Juno Dawson, Leo Waddell and Gok Wan. First Ruth Hunt went through the winners of various achievements in which B&NES came second. There was a rather lengthy Q&A session which gave a lot of good advice to especially the youth group. It finished and we went to talk to the people on the panel before leaving and coming back on the train to Bristol. All in all it was a great day for meeting new people and learning!



CATERING ASSISTANT Required from September

To assist in the kitchen and dining areas with food preparation, cooking and service, general cleaning, supervision of students during the lunchtime period, dish washing and tasks associated with catering in a very busy and progressive unit.

Term Time only, plus 4 cleaning days
Hours: 10 per week
Salary: B&NES Grade Q (£3,476 actual salary)

If you consider yourself to be both practical and flexible with a sense of humour please see further details on our website www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/staff/vacancies or contact Julie Seeley, Head's PA, telephone 01275 334211.

Closing date: Monday 29th August 2016

Fin's Cycling Challenge

Fin Hicks, Year 11, will be spending two weeks of his summer cycling with his family from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK. This is a distance of over 1000 miles, averaging 86 miles per day, leaving Lands End on 25th July and hoping to reach John O'Groats on the 5th August. If you would like to help with this fund raising effort please visit the following Just Giving page, <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rideforGerry>.

CVS at Bristol Pride March

On Saturday 9th July we – the Equalities Team – went to the Bristol Pride march representing Chew Valley School, and as we were the only school there, we felt very proud and were honoured to say that we go to Chew Valley School. Thousands of people turned up to the march, and it felt amazing to see the huge love and support for the LGBT+ community from the people doing the march, to the people who stopped to cheer us on by the side of the road. It was a great opportunity for people to be able to express themselves, as the atmosphere was

so welcoming; everyone was accepted. We are looking forward to be able to repeat this experience next year, hopefully with more students (and teachers) representing our school!



A big thank you to anyone who has donated materials to the Textiles department, the resources have been well used by all year groups.

The year 9s have just completed a Recycled Fabric Container project using the donated materials which has been very successful.

If you are having a clear out over the summer and have any of the following items the Textiles Department would be very grateful for them:

Fabric, Thread, Ribbon, Wool, Buttons, Lace

Home contact information

Please remember to keep school up-to-date with your contact details via the Parent Portal in case we need to contact you during the school day.