



Chew Valley School

Learn

Grow

Achieve

Newsletter March 2017



From the Headteacher

It has been a busy time at Chew Valley School over the past few weeks. I thoroughly enjoyed *Bugsy Malone* as my first school production which was tremendous and showed both the quality of talent that we have in our student body and the dedication and commitment of our staff who supported the students throughout. This followed on from the Dance Festival which showcased both our own students and those from some of our feeder primary schools which received rave reviews. During our half term break students from Chew Valley were fortunate to visit both Washington DC and Salamanca and again thanks to the staff who gave up their holiday time to accompany these trips. Just before the break the staff spent the INSET day working on key areas for us including reviewing work, questioning during lessons and inclusion and we look forward to these areas being focused on in and around lessons.



We have recently launched a series of parent events which in addition to our regular parent evenings give the opportunity to come and spend time looking at areas such as literacy, revision and the wellbeing of young people. It is really important to us that we work in partnership with parents and carers and we very much hope that you will come and join us on these evenings if at all possible.

I have had the chance recently to show a good number of visitors around Chew Valley and they have all been really impressed by the students themselves and the learning environment that they have seen which has been pleasing. As we move into the second half of the academic year and external examinations for some years become closer it is important that the students remain focused on their work with the self confidence that they can achieve their individual goals.

Gareth Beynon

Diary Dates

- Thursday 9th March 4.00pm-6.30pm – Year 12 Parents' Evening
- Friday 31st March 2017 – Staff Inset Day. School closed for students.
- Monday 13th March, 7.30pm, *The Pelican* – School Society Meeting
- Tuesday 4th April – School Society Quiz Night
- Friday 7th April – Term 4 Ends
- Monday 24th April – Term 5 begins
- Wednesday 26th April – Battle of the Bands

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Chew Valley Dance Festival 2017

Dancers from across the Chew Valley once again came together to put on an impressive and energetic display of dance in the annual Chew Valley Dance Festival. 150 Chew Valley School students were joined by enthusiastic children from Chew Magna Primary, Chew Stoke Primary, Dundry Primary, Bishop Sutton Primary, Stanton Drew Primary, East Harptree Primary and Ubley Primary, as well as dancers from Rhythm 'n' Shoes and Fae McIntyre's classes.

The audience members were treated to an exciting array of dance styles and genres including a beautiful duet from Year 8 students Henry Hicks and Bow Masters, a Musical Theatre performance of 'You can't stop the Beat' from Hairspray by the Year 10 GCSE Dance class and a return of the magical 'Wonderland' performed by the Chew Valley Dance Company. Other praise worthy performances include the Street Dance clubs' 'Thriller' and exam work from the GCSE and A level Dance students.

Mrs Loynton is extremely proud of every dancer who took part in the 6 sold out shows, across four evenings and was particularly impressed with the professionalism and commitment that was on display.



Street Dance Club Performing 'Thriller'.



Daisy Dymond - A2 Dance Solo.



CVDC performing 'Alice in Wonderland'.



Mia Barlow - GCSE Dance Duet performed with Josh Pilgrim.



Bow Masters and Henry Hicks Duet.

Washington Trip February 2017 (the 22nd history department trip to DC!)

On our first day in Washington D.C. we had good weather as we made our way towards the Capitol building where the House of Representatives and the Senate (all part of Congress: America's governmental system) reside. This is the very same place where Donald Trump had given his 'record breaking' speech only days before. After an in depth tour of the whole building, we visited Ford's Theatre, notable as being the site of assassination of the 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Here it was even possible to see the hole that had been drilled into the wall of the box by Booth, his assassin. To end the day we decided to experience some American sport, in the form of basketball (Washington Wizards vs Indiana Pacers). On the second day we visited the National Archives, an impressive selection of famous documents from around the world, including a copy of the Magna Carta, The Declaration of Independence and the American constitution. After this, we visited the American History Museum and walked to both the Washington and Lincoln memorials, ending the day by visiting the famous Arlington Cemetery; where we were able to see where JFK was buried, and watch the extremely elaborate 'changing of the guard' ceremony.



Day three began with a sobering visit to the Holocaust museum, which stunned us all into reflective silence – the museum was very respectfully done. We then went to look at the White House but were prevented from getting close to it as the Japanese Prime Minister was visiting the President, who then flew over our head in his private helicopter. After this, we walked around the city's tidal basin (which in the summer is surrounded by cherry blossom trees), to the Jefferson memorial, which was an impressive structure across the river from the main city. Our next day was filled with a trip to an out-of-town outlet mall where we all picked up a few bargains! Then it was back to history, and we were able to have a look around the brand-new African-American museum, which had lots of amazing exhibits. The final few days were 'free time', and we all had a chance to spend time at attractions such as the National Portrait Gallery, Zoo, Air & Space and Natural History Museums. Many of us also had the chance to go ice-skating, which everyone really enjoyed.

We had reached the end of our trip to Washington, and after a final meal out at the Cheesecake Factory, we headed home; tired, educated and having loved our time in the USA!

A-level Spanish students went on a trip to Salamanca

This February half term our group of A-level Spanish students went on a trip to Salamanca to explore its history and culture. We spent 5 nights in the centre of the city where we attended a language school and learnt about Spanish traditions and how they compare to our own. We were then able to spend a whole day exploring Madrid before our departure back to Bristol. One main highlight of the trip was when we spent a day visiting the historic towns of Segovia and Ávila. In Segovia we explored the ancient Roman aqueduct that ran through the city and dated back to the 1st century; it was spectacular! We also had a guided tour around 'El Alcázar de Segovia' which is one of Spain's most famous castles due to it being the inspiration for the Cinderella Castle in Disneyland. Throughout the week we went on a scenic bike ride around the city, searched for clues to our scavenger hunt about the history of Salamanca, enjoyed a Latin dance class, went to the cinema to watch a Spanish film, went out for tapas and much more. The trip helped immensely to improve our level of Spanish and give us more confidence when using the language in the country.



¡Lo pasamos bomba!

Sophie Collins (Yr12)

PE News

Chew Valley School was visited by Sports Leaders UK to apply for Leadership Academy status in recognition of the work done in PE with both Sports Leadership and Outdoor Leadership. Over the Christmas Holidays, we were awarded this status. Sports Leaders UK only gives this award to a small number of centres, and they were particularly impressed with the work done with our sporting festivals for local primary schools. As a result Sports Leaders UK will be showcasing our success to other organisations throughout the UK as a model of best practice. We are extremely proud of our young leaders and the award reflects their hard work in PE lessons and in their Sports Leadership episodes.

Sports Teams

The highlight of 2017 so far has been the performance of the KS3 Badminton teams, all of whom won their tournaments to become BANES champions. They were also inspired by a visit from Bristol Jets Badminton team. The teams went on to represent BANES at the Wesport Winter Games with the KS4 boys finishing as runners up and the other three teams gaining 3rd place. Close links to Chew Valley Badminton Club have had a really positive influence on the school teams.



'Storm' crowned champions

The two cheerleading squads have been working really hard since September on their competition routines and they have been joined by a third squad who have produced a brilliant team stunt routine. All three teams competed in the BCA South West event in Exeter at the end of February. The performances were fantastic and really reflected the trust and team work that the cheerleaders need for their routines to work. Our Level 2 team 'Storm' were crowned champions, the group stunt team 'Cyclones' were placed second and the youngest team 'Lightning' were placed 6th.

Football, Netball and Hockey teams continue to play weekly in local leagues, cup and friendly fixtures. The Year 10 Rugby team have reached the final of the BANES district cup. Both boys and girls hockey teams have also gained success at district level. The Year 10 girls and the 6th Form mixed teams are BANES champions

Ten Tors training is well underway. The students have been attending briefing sessions on a Thursday lunchtime, which are often delivered by the Year 13 Expedition Leaders group. We had a cold but successful day walk on the Mendips at the beginning of February and 45 students are looking forward to the first overnight training on Dartmoor at the beginning of March.



Ten Tors 45 mile training walk

Our exam groups have also been benefitting from Outdoor and Adventurous Activities by participating in Mountain Biking and Orienteering as part of their coursework and a new 6th Form sailing group has been active on Chew Valley Lake.



Tyler Brain, Luke Parfitt - check point



Group 2 mountain bike safety

Bugsy Malone

Four sell out audiences were wowed last week by the 100+ students who took part in Chew Valley School's production of Bugsy Malone.

Set in 1920's New York, the musical follows the fortunes of Fat Sam's gang of hopeless hoods, as they try to outwit rival gang boss Dandy Dan. Poor Bugsy finds himself entangled in all kinds of trouble (often literally, with Dandy Dan's gang's new splurge guns creating havoc) as he tries to protect himself and Sam.



For the first time in many years, this was a whole school production, with students from Year 7 to Year 13 taking part both on stage and off. After five months of hard work, it was an absolute delight to watch this incredible group perform each evening. The quality of both the band (how many schools can boast a band made up entirely of students?) and the soloists was nothing short of astounding, with standout-performance after standout performance making it impossible to identify a favourite. What was so stunning about the four performances, however, was that whilst individuals certainly shone, it was the energy of the ensemble created by the whole company which made this production such a success.



Congratulations to everyone involved with the Bugsy Malone. Thank you also to all of those who came to see it and, if anyone still needs convincing that the Chew Valley deserves a proper showcase (in the form of The Valley Arts Centre), then surely this was it?



Valley Arts

Valley Arts' vision is to create a purpose-built, versatile performing arts centre, bringing local and professional performers together with our enthusiastic local audiences. The new centre will be built on a site on the Chew Valley School grounds, so the multi-purpose 250-seater auditorium, rehearsal rooms, dance studio, café/bar and flexible exhibition space will be a huge benefit to the school as well as to the whole Chew Valley community. We are coming towards the end of the development phase, designs and plans are coming along well and we have a full year of events planned!



Valley Arts events for your diary:

Instant Wit

Friday March 10th at 7pm: a hilarious evening from Bristol's talented comedy team, with improvisation, sketches, games and general silliness up at the luscious Yeo Valley Canteen. Tickets via www.eventbrite.co.uk: search for "Valley Arts Instant Wit"

The quick fire comedy improvisation show

instantWIT!

70" 66" 60" 56" 50" 46" 40" 36" 30"

Instant Wit the **Unusual** Suspects

www.instantwit.co.uk @instantwit

The next line-up will be held at:

Yeo Valley HQ, Rhodyate, Blagdon, N Somerset BS40 74E
Friday 10th March 2017, from 7pm
£12 ticket, book via Eventbrite.com (search Yeo Valley)
Food + Drink available from the Yeo Valley Canteen
Even better- it's a 'fun'draiser!

Valley Arts
Chew Valley Performing Arts Centre

Yeo Valley
Years

A fundraising event for Chew Valley Performing Arts Centre
www.valleyartscentre.co.uk

www.valleyartscentre.co.uk

The Valley Arts 200 Club

We've set up a lottery with a maximum of 200 tickets which could bring us in more than £13,000 a year to really start motoring with our plans. Donors committing just £10 a month will be in the monthly draw with a chance of winning prizes worth from £25 to £600 every single month. All details, and application forms on our website: www.valleyartscentre.co.uk

Run for us in the Chew Valley 10k

Last year, four runners raised an amazing £3,000 for us. If you're thinking of running in the 10k in June this year there's still time to get fit and get sponsorship support Valley Arts!

Sammy and the Snow Leopard

On Friday April 21st we will be staging this critically acclaimed and absolutely charming family show at Chew Valley School. Travelling Light Theatre Company are well known locally for making quality, thought-provoking shows for young people (they're one of Mr. Conway's favourites!). Tickets will be on Eventbrite.

Dr Phil's Health Revolution

On Saturday May 6th at Ubley Village Hall, Valley Arts Patron Dr Phil Hammond (NHS doctor, BBC broadcaster, Private Eye journalist, activist and whistle-blowing comic) combines his two sell-out Edinburgh Fringe 2016 shows in a fundraiser for us: Dr Phil's Health Revolution. It will be a rousing and topical comedy evening – keep the date in your diary: tickets will be on Eventbrite.



"lots of fun at our recent Ceilidh!" taken by ex CVS student Rachael Hutchinson.

Join the fun

We're a welcoming and creative group of activists, and the more people who get involved the sooner we'll get this centre built. Find out how you can get involved via the website www.valleyartscentre.co.uk or email geraldine.hill-male@valleyartscentre.co.uk

Y7 Literacy Evening

Mr Kenny, Dr Holland and Mrs Rowlands were delighted to invite selected Year 7 parents to attend a Literacy event on Tuesday 28th February.

The evening was about developing, with parents, a literacy rich environment and how the school works on literacy skills, to aid children's progress and build their love of reading.

Staff were delighted with the uptake of the event and the really positive conversations afterwards with parents.

A huge thank you to all of those who attended; the children's book selections will be arriving very soon.

Vacancies

ICT TECHNICIAN

Required as soon as possible, an ICT Technician to join our team. 37 hours per week, all year round. Knowledge and experience of Windows AD, Group Policy, MS Office 2013 and MAC required.

Salary: B&NES Grade N (£19,939 rising to £21,745)

Further details of the post are available on our school website

www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/staff/vacancies

CLOSING DATE: Monday 20th April

TEACHING ASSISTANTS (Term time only)

Required as soon as possible, Teaching Assistants to join an experienced team within the Learning Support Department, to work with both Statemented and other students. Hours negotiable, up to 32 hours per week, term time only.

Salary: B&NES Grade O or P (depending on experience)

Further details of the post are available on our school website

www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/staff/vacancies

CLOSING DATE: Monday 10th April