



# Chew Valley School

Learn      Grow      Achieve

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Dear Parents/Carers

## Year 7 students 2019-20

I very much wanted to take the time to write and welcome you and your children to Chew Valley now that the academic year has begun. For some of you I know other older siblings will already be with us whilst for others this will be your first experience of a secondary school as a parent and things may or may not have seemed to have changed since you were at school!

We are really excited to have your children with us and we hope their journey of at least five years will be a strong partnership between yourselves and the school. A good number of you will have heard me speak about the relationship we have between school and home and that we are working together in partnership which is so crucial for the ongoing development of the students. It is so very important that students know that home and school are supporting together.

Visitors to the school feed back time and time again that there is a feeling here for the development of the 'whole child' in our approach and that individuals matter rather than a 'one size fits all' approach that they perhaps have seen elsewhere. We have a house system which, although relatively new, has already given wonderful opportunities for students to participate and celebrate together some wonderful achievements. Our extra-curricular offer is one which we hope students will grab with both hands the many chances that the school affords.

Students regularly hear us talk about having a culture of positive relationships and mutual respect. This is so important in that these are the basis of what we are trying to achieve in developing considerate, contributing and capable young adults who will play such an important role in the future. Because we care about this it is important to intervene when this is not the case so that we can educate students away from situations that will not serve them well. We do this through a range of strategies including sanctions and restorative justice. When we do use a sanction we do so carefully, on the basis of information known and within a structure which has taken time to develop and is regularly reflected on and reviewed. In doing this we want students to learn and to be able to take different choices if they are placed in similar situations again taking on board the consequences of their individual actions and/or protecting other students.

Many parents have fed back to us that they find the school approachable when they wish to raise matters which I have been pleased to hear. I am fortunate in my job to lead a wonderful team of dedicated and passionate professionals who wish to do the best that they can in supporting young people through a period of their life where adolescence is taking place and students are very much working out for themselves what is right and wrong about the world. It is a privilege to do the job we do as teachers to see many young people flourish.

To finish, if you do have any questions then the tutor will be the 'first port of call'. You will have the chance to meet them on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October after school. In the meantime I am looking forward to meeting you at other school events over the academic year.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher