



Chew Valley School

Learn

Grow

Achieve





Welcome



Choosing the right school for your son or daughter is a difficult but crucial decision. I am very pleased to commend to you Chew Valley as a school that offers a high quality well rounded education to all its students.

The school is founded on a commitment to enable all of our students to learn, grow and achieve. I believe this is achieved through our student-centred and personalised approach where the individual student lies at the heart of everything we do. The school is rightly proud of its students and their achievements and we look to continue to provide an environment where they are stimulated and supported in equal measure.

Many visitors to the school comment that it is immediately obvious that people and relationships matter at Chew Valley. It is important to us that students are able to thrive in an environment where ambition and a sense of achieving one's best is harnessed alongside developing the values of integrity and supporting others. The school has a reputation for both its academic performance and for the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which are available for the students to enjoy and at the same time develop the important attributes of confidence, teamwork and leadership.

The school is situated in the countryside eight miles south of Bristol between the village of Chew Magna and Chew Stoke and has a well maintained range of buildings which provide specialist teaching rooms for all subjects. Computing facilities are well developed and our science and technology workshops are equipped with state of the art equipment. We have excellent spaces for drama and music and our sporting facilities include a fully equipped gymnasium and all-weather pitches for school and community use.

I hope as you read through this prospectus you will get a flavour of our school and everything that is offered. In addition I encourage prospective parents to visit during our school day and meet the students and staff at work. We will be happy to outline our philosophy on education and share with you our future plans of which I very much hope you and your child will want to become a part.

We look forward to working with you in partnership over the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gareth Beynon".

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

Learning and Achieving

Chew Valley School is committed to providing our young people with an education that is exciting, relevant and stretching.

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) is a broad one allowing students to find their strengths in a large range of subjects and disciplines. The majority of our students choose to continue their foreign language and humanities subjects to give themselves access to the English Baccalaureate. Students will have lessons in Music, Art and Drama. They will also have specialist teaching in Technology and Computing. It's about getting a grounding in the big picture of learning and beginning to decide what to take to a deeper level later on.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) we still encourage most students to maintain a balance and breadth in their studies. Most of our students choose to continue their foreign language and humanities subjects to give themselves access to the English Baccalaureate. For others the time has come to begin to specialise, and we offer a range of applied subjects including Sport, Computing, Construction and Health and Social Care.

Many of our students opt to stay at Chew for their Post-16 education. The Sixth Form presents a choice of more than 30 different courses providing access to a wide range of Further Education opportunities. The Sixth Form was deemed to be 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2008, 2011, and again in 2015.

Learning thrives outside the classroom too. We are proud of the great range of extra-curricular opportunities available to our students. The choice stretches from school drama productions to a myriad of sports, hobbies and pursuits.

The school is committed to creating the environment where every student can flourish. For this reason, we have the highest expectations of achievement and progress within the classroom, and offer a wide range of additional enrichment and support. We challenge all students to excel every day.



“The curriculum has been developed to include a range of subjects which are well matched to students’ talents and aspirations. Attainment is very high in a wide range of subjects.”

Ofsted 2015

“Teaching in the sixth form is outstanding because teachers use their very strong subject knowledge to plan work that interests and engages students, and therefore motivates them to achieve their best.”

Ofsted 2015

Caring For Our Students

We are a genuinely caring community and the happiness and success of our young people matters enormously to us.

Each year group is supported by a Head of Year and team of tutors. They take responsibility for the academic progress of their students and for addressing issues of behaviour and social development. When problems arise we address them quickly and year after year our surveys show that our students feel supported and happy in the school.

We are proud of the high standards of behaviour, attitude and achievement at Chew Valley School and make every effort to reward our young people for their successes. House points are awarded to students as recognition of good work, progress or service to the school. Students also receive commendations for outstanding work or achievement.

As a comprehensive school our intake will comprise students of all levels of attainment and needs. We have students with exceptional skills and aptitudes and students who experience a range of special educational needs, be they physical, medical or learning difficulties. We value all our students and try to address each individual's needs as positively and effectively as we can.

Students with Special Educational Needs will be supported either within the mainstream classes by the use of additional teachers or Learning Support Assistants, or by being withdrawn from some lessons to follow specific, individual programmes of study. Their progress is carefully monitored and communicated to parents on a regular basis.

“The leadership of pastoral care is extremely strong. Students feel very safe and well cared for when at school.”

Ofsted 2015



“The relationships between teachers and students are strong and this results in high expectations for students’ achievement. Students have good attitudes towards learning because they trust their teachers and know that they want them to do well.”

Ofsted 2015

Working With Parents

Parents' involvement in their children's education is the absolutely essential factor in success at school.

At Chew Valley we greatly value the home-school partnership that exists between us.

We recognise that secondary school can seem less accessible and open than primary school. To address this concern we have a full-time Home School Welfare Manager available to respond to parents' queries and concerns or direct them to the person who can help.

We keep parents fully up to date on their child's progress with frequent interim reports, subject teacher/parent consultation evenings and access to assessment, attendance, behaviour, examination, and progress information through a secure online portal. In addition to this, every week will see a number of meetings between teachers and parents to discuss concerns and identify solutions.

The Chew Valley School Society is a thriving parent/teacher body which raises thousands of pounds every year to enrich our facilities and equipment. As well as fundraising, the School Society provides a lively social programme to bring families into the school community.

“Highly effective leadership.... ensures that all students make rapid and sustained progress. The numbers securing places at university, including Oxford and Cambridge are high.”

Ofsted 2015



Sport At Chew Valley School

The Physical Education curriculum provides opportunities for young people to learn and involve themselves in a great variety of sports in order to establish healthy habits and attitudes to exercise for life.

We compete with other schools in athletics, rugby, football, hockey, netball, cricket, tennis, golf and rounders and offer one of the widest menus of extra-curricular opportunities available anywhere.

Although we are successful and competitive we are not elitist. Very large numbers of students attend practices and we vary our teams and provide opportunities for all who are committed to the squad to compete.

We have long established links with local clubs in football, netball, hockey, rugby and tennis.

In recent years we have enjoyed success at national, county and district competitions in cheerleading where we have been national champions.

Sport offers many opportunities for developing leadership skills and all students are encouraged to participate in the Junior Sports Leadership Award as they progress through the school.



The Arts at Chew Valley School



The school has a reputation for quality in the Performing Arts.

We believe that the creative and performing arts make a unique contribution to the education of young people. At Chew Valley School students discover the value of the arts in their lives. Productions are put on each term, there is an annual dance festival and concerts, cabarets and musical extravaganzas illuminate the school year. 250 pupils are currently registered for peripatetic music lessons in the school and many others have tuition privately.

The self-discipline and self-esteem that young people achieve when they learn to act, dance or play an instrument will be crucial skills and qualities for success in their wider studies and their adult lives. We believe the arts foster creativity in its broadest sense and we are determined that our students become active learners, able to think and act for themselves.



“Students benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which extend learning beyond the classroom and enable students to experience cultures very different from their own.”

Ofsted 2015



Outdoor Education

Outdoor education is one of our passions at Chew Valley. The opportunities are unrivalled.

Students at Chew Valley are able to take part in the legendary Ten Tors, a trek on Dartmoor of up to 55 miles which is run by the army each May. About a quarter of our Year 10 and Year 11 undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award which involves community service, developing skills and fitness and taking part in a 20 mile expedition. Our staff give up their weekends throughout the year to help students train and prepare for expeditions. It is a touchstone for the community nature of our school.

We have a rich tradition of overseas visits too. The Languages Faculty has long established residential visits and exchanges to Normandy, Paris, Barcelona and Bavaria. Sixth Formers can undertake work experience in mainland Europe and the History Department runs a Sixth Form visit to Washington DC to support students' studies at A Level. We have offered students the opportunity to embark upon month long expeditions to Tanzania and Borneo.

In recent years we have twinned with a school in Zambia and have exchanged teachers and developed opportunities for our students to visit. We have a commitment to international citizenship and hope that all the students at the school benefit from the global dimension that these visits and experiences add to our curriculum.



“Young people are very well prepared to meet the challenges of the future and they have the skills, aptitudes and ambition to make a very marked contribution to society.”

The Community & Beyond



Chew Valley School is a resource for the whole community.

The Chew Valley Leisure Centre is open all the year round and boasts thousands of visitors. Our Community Arts programme provides opportunities for people at every age and stage. The Chew Valley Children's Centre is based at the school and we have our own base for outside agencies to support our families and students at Lake View House. We also have plans to build an Arts Centre for the whole community.

One of the most exciting developments in recent years has been the transformation of our school council. It has gone from being a small consultative body to an organisation of more than a hundred students working in teams with real power and responsibility. We call it Change and Create and it's all about young people working with the support of adults to develop their skills while improving our school. Our wind turbine, memorial garden, healthy school menus, and status as a Stonewall Champion school for equalities are evidence of the impact that they are having. Sir Ian McKellen (opposite) was certainly impressed!

For our young people, our aim is to develop a passion for learning which will be a source of interest and joy throughout their lives. Our alumni have won success in every sector and profession. A Chew Valley education is a preparation for life.







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