



# Chew Valley School

Learn

Grow

Achieve

Newsletter December 2016



## From the Headteacher

As we approach Christmas it is a good time to look back on a packed time of activities and experiences at Chew Valley School which have already happened this academic year. Students have visited the German Christmas markets, taken part in night navigation exercises, visited sporting events, taken part in swimming galas, visited the Clothes Show and much more. As I write this we have just experienced the wonderful evening Autumn Concert in the hall where we all witnessed tremendous performances from our students showing the real talent here.



We had a lovely evening when Year 11 students from last year received their GCSE certificates and subject and other awards were given out. It was a pleasure to welcome my predecessor, Mark Mallett, back to the school as the guest speaker. Mark talked about successful people who did not always get it right first time! It was a lovely evening where students, staff and parents were all able to celebrate the achievements of this wonderful year group.

Much learning has been happening in the classroom and we have welcomed visitors to the school who took part in lessons or helped students by giving them mock interviews for university or the world of work. All of them have been really positive in how well the students have done and what a good impression they have given. Staff and students have all been working hard in lessons and much progress has been made which has been lovely to witness.

I would just like to take this opportunity to formally thank everyone who has been involved in supporting our students in whatever role this year.

Can I finish by wishing you and your families and friends a very happy Christmas.

*Gareth Beynon*

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 – Term 3 begins

Wednesday 11th January – Year 9 Options Evening, 7pm

Thursday 19th January – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 2nd February – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 3rd February – School Society Band Night

Monday 6th - Thursday 9th February – Dance Festival

Thursday 9th February – Term 3 Ends

Friday 10th February – Staff Inset Day (Term 3 Ends)

Wednesday 22nd - Saturday 25th February – School Production 'Bugsy Malone'

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## Sixth Form News

As we head towards the end of a very busy and successful term, it's a good opportunity to celebrate the Sixth Form's many sporting successes in recent weeks. Our First XV earned a good win against St Brendan's Sixth Form College, running out 33-26 victors. Meanwhile the football team has been in excellent form as well, reaching the fourth round of the National Cup with victories over Backwell (3-2), Wellsway (2-0) and Norton Hill (6-3). Progress has been strong in the County Cup as well with a 6-0 victory against Churchill. In cross-country Izzy Twiggs and Phoebe Dunsmore have both been selected to represent B&NES in the Avon Championships after Christmas, while the boys' team are again district team champions with George Bazley also selected to represent B&NES. We have also had success in hockey with the girls' team beating Churchill and the boys' team winning against Wellsway.

In terms of trips outside the classroom, Geography students had a great time during their fieldwork trip to Skern Lodge in Devon, while our Philosophy and Religion students were praised for their wonderful contributions to a study weekend on the topic of Buddhism. Art and Photography students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Liverpool earlier in the term while Chew students also got fully involved in the United Nations Association's debate on nuclear disarmament in Bath.

We have also welcomed back Dr Helen Campbell consultant at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, and former Chew Valley student who spoke to students on the topic of 'Life as a Doctor, and How to Get into Medical School'. This was a great opportunity for students interested in applying for medicine or medicine-related careers in the NHS to find out more from a senior doctor about the realities of modern healthcare. We also really appreciated the visit of Dr Emma Crewe from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London who worked closely with a number of our Year 13 students to support their university applications.

Moving towards the end of term we had a superb performance from A level Drama students in their examined piece 'Hats'. This was a performance that they had devised, written and directed themselves and it was of the very highest quality – congratulations to Corinne Bowen, Gabes Kelly, Connie Thorne, Connie Timmouth and Nat Ward (and everyone involved behind the scenes) for this fantastic piece of work! On that same day the fundraising team put together a murder mystery evening with all the suspects coming from the staffroom! As the end of term draws closer preparations for the Sixth Form debate are in full swing, and at the end of a year that has seen victories for Brexit and Trump the main motion that voting should be made compulsory is bound to promote plenty of lively discussion!



*Year 13 Drama students performing 'Hats'.*

## Year 8 Celebrate Acts of Kindness

Year 8 have been celebrating acts of kindness by being kind to others each day of advent. Those who achieve the most acts of kindness are being rewarded by a party on the last day of school.

## Parent Governor Election

I am delighted to inform you that Annabelle Gay has been elected to stand as Parent Governor at Chew Valley School.

Mr Beynon

## Synchro Swimming Success

Congratulations to Beth Osbourne, Year 10, who was part of the team who won gold at the National Championships last week in the 15-18 event.

## ICT Technician Vacancy

37 hours per week, all year round

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

We currently have a vacancy for an ICT Technician at Chew Valley School.

Please see our website [www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/staff/vacancies](http://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/staff/vacancies) for full details.

## German Christmas Markets 2016

At the end of November, 24 students from Year 9 - Year 12 participated in a 4 day visit to Boppard on the Rhine in Germany. The group visited 4 different Christmas Markets in Bonn, Koblenz, Cochem and Boppard and were able to utilise their language skills in a variety of situations. The Year 11 and 12 students were also set the challenge of interviewing local people at the markets and we're pleased to report that they managed to find willing volunteers and they successfully completed their mission!!

In addition to the markets, the students also demonstrated their skills on the ice, at Bonn outdoor Christmas Ice Rink, learnt about the geography and history of the area close by, with visits to the "Deutsches Eck" and "Cochem Castle" and they also enjoyed a relaxing cruise down the river Rhine, whilst listening to mysterious mythical tales about the "Lorelei Rock", on the banks of the river.

The students became fully immersed in the language and the German culture and were great ambassadors for the school! For some students, it was their first trip to Boppard, whilst others were returning for the second or even third time! That, in itself, is testament to the fact that a great time was had by all!

"Frohe Weihnachten!"

## Calling All Former Students

If you're a former student of Chew Valley School, we'd love to hear from you!



Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire our current students to feel more confident in making decisions about their future. We'd love you to join our alumni network.

We've partnered with the national education charity, Future First, who specialise in helping schools like ours to stay connected with former students.

In order to sign up, just follow this link and fill in the online form – it will only take a couple of minutes, we promise!

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/ChewValley>

## School Production



**Wednesday 22nd - Saturday 25th Feb 2017**

Tickets for Chew Valley School's eagerly awaited production of "Bugsy Malone" will go on sale early in the New Year from [www.yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.yourboxoffice.co.uk).

Over 100 students from Year 7 to Year 13 are involved on stage and off and we even have a few special guest appearances from members of staff to look forward to.

It promises to be a thoroughly entertaining and very messy evening with tickets being sold at £7 for adults and £4 for concessions.

Watch this space for further updates!