



# Chew Valley School

Learn      Grow      Achieve

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1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

School life continues toward what is going to be a really busy Christmas period for us. In compiling this letter, I am aware of the many activities and events that have been happening recently. I have tried to highlight a number below and am conscious that sporting activities, Change and Create teams and rehearsals for Performing Arts activities are happening all of the time with support from our staff which we certainly do not take for granted.

### **Sixth Form RAG Week**

The students in the Sixth Form have been working really hard this week and have been really high profile around the school site, raising money for their chosen charity which this year is UNICEF. Each day had a different theme and they have engaged in a variety of events to promote this. They have organised everything themselves and it has been brilliant to see how well this has gone. Well done to them all.

### **Autumn Concert**

It was wonderful to be able to attend the Autumn Concert on Tuesday and see the talent that we have amongst the students. It was also lovely to see the staff choir perform at the same time. A big thank you to the Music Department for all of their work in this area.

### **English Schools Chess Championships**

I was lucky enough to accompany our two chess teams to the first round of the English Schools Chess Championships which were held at Bristol Grammar School earlier this week. Many local schools had teams entered and the students played really well. Congratulations to them.

### **School Forum**

I met with the Student Forum on Friday and discussed the use of the school planner, the new toilets, catering at the school and uniform. It is important that the students are aware of the real impact that their voice can have on the school and I briefed them on some small changes we will be making to the uniform on the basis of their feedback that we will be announcing in the new year to the whole community.

### **External Visitors Working with the School**

The school has welcomed some external visitors in recent weeks as part of our own quality assurance process. Members from the Lighthouse Schools Partnership Central Team carried out a review of our safeguarding work which included interviewing staff and students. We have also welcomed back Challenge Partners as an organisation who have carried out a three day visit looking at all aspects of school life. During this process, five external reviewers, who are made up of senior staff from a variety of schools around the country, come and work alongside our own staff to review the school. Both experiences have been really useful and we have been really pleased with the positive feedback that we have received.

### **Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations**

Year 11 mocks are now underway and will run for the next two weeks. Year 13 will return from the Christmas break to sit theirs too. I know that the students will have prepared themselves well bearing in mind the time which has been available and that they will gain much from the experience in preparation for next summer. Good luck to them all.

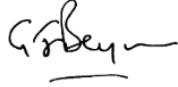
**A reminder of the End of Term Arrangements**

We finish on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 12.05pm. Transport is arranged to coincide with this.

**Returning to School in January**

Staff will be in on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January on INSET training with the rest of the school community returning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Beynon', with a horizontal line underneath.

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher