



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Congratulations to all of the students and staff who have been involved in **our production 'Sisters'** which came to an end on Saturday evening after a run of four nights. The students on stage, in the band and backstage were amazing and were ably supported by our Performing Arts staff amongst others. We are very proud of them all.

Thanks and well done also go to the staff and 80 students who took part in the **ski trip to Austria** over half term; they were a credit to the school and looked after each other throughout. This is a big undertaking and particular thanks go to Miss Kenyon for her leadership and organisation.

Good luck to all of the students who are spending this coming weekend on **Dartmoor in preparation for the Ten Tors annual event**. Two weekends later they are joined also by those **students training for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award**. We look forward to hearing all about it!

I have attached with this letter a copy of the document that the **Department for Education** has published for all schools on how we manage **mobile phones** which has been a **major national announcement** in recent weeks. I have talked before about how it is important that phones do not get in the way of learning whilst we are at school and also the fact that we often have to spend time working with students unpicking disputes which have originated online away from school. We have reflected on our policy and we will continue with the option where we trust students to keep phones off and in their bags during the school day. It would be wrong for us to follow the option given by the government to ban them totally as we know that students and families rely on making contact during journeys to and from school. We have also chosen not to follow the route that other local secondary schools have adopted which is to have them handed in for the day and stored centrally. Again we want to continue to trust our students to work alongside us in a sensible manner. The guidance as you will read is clear on the roles the school, parents and carers play in making this work.

We have a busy four weeks leading up to the Easter holidays with expeditions and a trip to Spain taking place alongside our normal work both in the classroom and through our co-curricular offer. We have an opportunity for parents and carers to come and **meet the tutor on Wednesday 27th March** which is an important part of our communication with yourselves. More details will follow and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that evening.

As ever, do make contact with us at any stage if you feel you would like to.

With very best wishes,

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

Key Dates

Thursday 7th March

Wednesday 27th March

Thursday 28th March

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April

Thursday 2nd May

Wednesday 22nd May

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

Monday 17th June to Friday 21st June

Thursday 20th June

Thursday 27th June

Tuesday 2nd July

Tuesday 23rd July

Year 12 Parents' Evening

Meet with Tutors in School

INSET Day

Easter Holidays

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Half Term

Enrichment Week

Year 12 Information for Parents' Evening

Sixth Form Induction

Year 6 Induction

End of the Summer Term