



# Chew Valley School

Learn      Grow      Achieve

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6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

## The Start of Term

Our school buildings are once again full of students as we have now all returned following the summer break; it has been wonderful to be able to welcome our new Year 7 cohort into our community. If this is your first child through Chew Valley then the welcome extends to yourselves as well and we look forward to working alongside you in the future.

## Examination Results

During the holidays we have celebrated the results of those young people who were with us last year either studying GCSEs and other Level 2 courses or A Levels along with other Level 3 courses. It was great to see so many gain the results that they wished after all their hard work and use these to take their chosen next steps. A good number as ever have entered a range of universities, both in the UK and overseas, following a variety of different courses, or have taken up prestigious apprenticeships along with joining the world of work.

## Work Around the Site

The summer has once again enabled us to make some significant changes to our school site. We are in the process of changing all of our lighting which will have the effect of reducing our energy bills significantly. Amongst other projects taking place, we have created Marmion House as a centre for the wellbeing of our students. Ruth Marmion worked at Chew Valley School for over thirty years as a Science teacher focusing on supporting young people before she was tragically taken from us following a short illness. So many students and staff wanted to remember Ruth by creating the centre which bears her name. Mr Stirling-Turner and Mrs Tantram will be based there along with other agencies who come in and work with our young people.

## INSET Days

Our two INSET days this week were busy with staff focusing on safeguarding and teaching and learning. We have a **third INSET day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September** following our Open Evening on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Other dates for subsequent INSETs and other events are available on the school website.

## Expectation Assemblies and Uniform

As we usually do at the start of each term, every year group will have an assembly where we will communicate our expectations of them with regards to the values that we hold close. Mr Stirling-Turner wrote to everyone in July around the alteration in our uniform with regards to allowing certain pleated shorts to be worn all year round if students would like. We spend a considerable amount of time focusing on uniform which is an important part of belonging to our school and can I ask that we are supported in this regard.

## Co-Curricular and House Activities

Working hard in our five one-hour lessons everyday along with tutor time is a vital component of a student coming to school and something we rightly focus on. Having said that, our school community gives the chance to get involved in so much besides this. We have our 'Change and Create' teams which enable students to engage in a range of areas, our Performing Arts activities, sports clubs and fixtures along with outdoor education opportunities. Chew Valley School is also built around our four houses which enables, through a variety of activities and leadership positions, the opportunity to get involved. Can I request that parents and carers spend some time at home talking through where their children might take advantage of what is on offer in the year ahead.

## Working Alongside Parents and Carers

At the start of this new academic year, can I reiterate my view that the best way to support our young people is for home and school to work closely together. I am very aware of course that parents and carers passionately know their children better than anyone else. I am also clear that as professional educators with a wealth of experience, we are very familiar with context that school brings and get the privilege of seeing the young people during the school day which often influences decisions we take. I can reassure parents and carers that any decisions that have been taken linked to the education of a young person have been carefully thought through and often discussed by a number of professionals. Over the many years of being lucky enough to be the

Headteacher of Chew Valley School, I have seen on countless occasions the partnership between home and school prosper with the obvious benefit and we look forward to this continuing.

### **Communication with the School**

Linked with the detail above around working alongside parents and carers, I have added as an attachment to this letter a reminder of how this can take place for your reference. Please do continue to use **ClassCharts** as an important way of working with the school around communication but at the same time please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at any stage if you feel you would like to. We will be publishing once more termly curriculum overviews so that you can see what the students are studying in each individual subject.

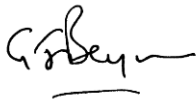
### **Cover when Staff are Absent**

I wanted to let you know that we are introducing a new cover room as one of the strategies we have to support students when their teacher is absent. We will continue to have cover lessons with staff as well but the room will enable senior staff to supervise more than one class at a time in a productive manner. Through all of our cover lessons at KS3, students will have some dedicated reading time fitting in with the literacy strategy of the school as well as some Maths recall activities. Students will therefore need to have a book with them at all times which will also be used during tutor time.

### **House Fun Run/Walk around our Site on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the Afternoon**

A heads up that, as we have done in recent years, one of the first House events of the academic year involves the whole community taking part in a run/walk around our site during the afternoon of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September which is always really enjoyable. All students will need their PE kit with them on this occasion please.

With very best wishes,



Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher

# Communication at Chew Valley School – a guide for parents and carers

Class Charts is our main method of communicating to you, covering:



- Day-to-day academic information (timetable, behaviour records, attendance)
- Announcements regarding important school matters and direct outward communication
- Attendance messages to and from our Senior Attendance Administrator



Academic reports and examination timetables are sent out via Insight.

Email [enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk) for all general enquiries. This is a centrally managed email address and can be forwarded to specific staff.



Please avoid emailing staff directly in the first instance, unless you have had consistent or prior contact in this manner.

01275 332272 is the school telephone number. The school switchboard is open from 8:00 to 4:45.



The absence line should be used to inform the Senior Attendance Administrator of any attendance concerns.