



# Chew Valley School

Learn      Grow      Achieve

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The last few weeks have continued to be busy with a variety of events and visits taking place. The Drama department had an external theatre production come in and work with the students, the Art department have visited London Galleries and students in Years 9 and 10 have taken part in the UK Maths Challenge. In addition, students from Aspire along with Design Technology have visited The Community Farm and the History department have taken Year 11 students to The Doctors Show, looking at how medicine has changed over the years. We have received some lovely comments on how brilliant the students have been whilst away from school. A big thank you to all of the staff who have accompanied them.

### **North Somerset Debate – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

The much loved North Somerset Debate returned last week with Clevedon School hosting the first round. Chew Valley entered three teams amongst the eight competing on the evening and the topic under consideration was whether solar panels and heat pumps should be mandatory on all new builds. Local MP Sadik Al-Hassan chaired proceedings and our Sixth Formers rose to the challenge, delivering impassioned, insightful and compelling speeches awash with personality. Two of our teams were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and these students will now represent Chew Valley in the final, which will take place in the last week of March at Gordano School. Our third team also offered a formidable pairing for what was their first formal debating appearance. The school is hugely proud of all of our debaters' efforts to date and excited about what lies ahead in the final.

### **Knife Crime Awareness at Chew Valley School – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 6pm**

Students have received, in their House assembly this week, a presentation around the dangers of knives from Mrs Shuttleworth. In conjunction with this, the Bath and North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership are running a session for parents and carers on Monday evening in the Hall. We have previously sent this information out but I have again attached the details of how to sign up for this session. As I am writing this letter, we are all reading in the news about another tragic event involving the loss of life linked to a school in South Yorkshire and this is an area that we need to keep working together to educate and support our young people.

### **Our School Production after Half Term**

*'The war is over. Don Pedro Prince of Aragon, with his followers Benedick and Claudio, visit Leonato, Duke of Messina. Living with Leonato are his daughter Hero and niece Beatrice.'*

This year's Chew Valley School Production is William Shakespeare's **Much Ado About Nothing**. The play, focusing on the love stories between Hero & Claudio and Beatrice & Benedick, features students from Year 7 to Year 13 and will be performed in the Main School Hall from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It promises to be a fantastic evening, full of fun, joy and energy. Visit [www.yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.yourboxoffice.co.uk) and search 'Chew Valley School' for tickets.

### **Our School Values around Mutual Respect and Positive Relationships**

Working with young people is a real privilege and we are fortunate to witness the interactions of the vast majority of our students with each other on a daily basis being friendly and appropriate which is so positive to see. Having said this, through social media the young people in our care perhaps often hear messaging and views which are not perhaps in line with this and part of our work is to educate and work through this with them. I have spoken to staff around making sure they are listening and calling out anything where they feel the conversations are not of the nature we would wish. We are going to reinforce our messaging during our Expectation Assemblies which will be delivered to students when we return from half term.

### **Parents and Carers Visits to Chew Valley School during Working Hours**

Can I make the offer once more to all of our existing parents and carers to come and look around Chew Valley School during the school day. I am lucky enough to show so many visitors around Chew Valley School during our normal school hours and they all feed back about how purposeful and calm the school is with the students being warm and approachable. I would encourage any parent or carer who is able to come and see what Chew

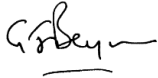
Valley School is actually like on a daily basis and we would welcome the chance to show you around. If you are interested, please contact my PA, Mrs Lane, on [nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk).

A reminder that **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** is an **INSET day** and **we will therefore be closed to students.**

Please do contact us with any questions you might have or visit our website at <https://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/> for further information.

Can I wish everyone a good half term when it arrives.

With best wishes,

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

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher