



10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to my first letter and accompanying video for 2025.

Expectation Assemblies

As ever, we have started our term with an assembly for each year group, led by Mr Cocks with Year 11, Mrs Rowlands with Year 10 and myself with Years 7, 8 and 9, where we talked about the term ahead as well as praising each of the year group's contribution and commitment so far this academic year; it is really useful to have ClassCharts which enables us to show how many positive points each year group has accumulated.

With Year 11, Mr Cocks was able to talk about the plans between now and the summer examinations and Mrs Rowlands and I focused on the mantra of each student being the very best version of themselves going forward, along with highlighting all of the many co-curricular opportunities there are at Chew Valley for students to engage with.

Absent Staff and Cover

As many of you are aware, we have been running a different arrangement when teachers are not able to be with their classes for lessons since September with the introduction of our new Cover Room. Traditionally, schools have brought external supply staff into schools who are often not subject specialists and also importantly do not know the students they are working with. The result of this has been that although subject specific work has been set, in practice this has needed to be revisited when the teacher returns.

We have been reviewing and developing our work further and you will receive a letter from one of our Assistant Headteachers, Mr Henley, which will talk through in some detail the rationale of our work with students and how we are differentiating our approach with students in Years 7 to 9 to those in Years 10 and 11 as we move towards Easter. Rest assured, if staff are off for a longer period then we would always look to get a subject specialist in front of students wherever possible.

Key Dates this Term

I have added selected key dates to the bottom of this letter for your information. Can I highlight **Friday 14th February** which is the day before half term where we, along with other schools in the Trust, have an **INSET day and we will therefore be closed to students.**

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

With best wishes,

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

Key Dates

Tuesday 14 th January	-	Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday 21 st January	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 29 th January	-	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 13 th February	-	Term 3 ends for Students
Friday 14 th February	-	INSET day
Monday 24 th February	-	Term 4 begins