



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

Headteacher: Gareth Beynon BA (Hons), MA

Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8QB

Tel: (01275) 332272

Email: enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk

Web: www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk

12th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Recent weeks have involved a packed agenda of wonderful Performing Arts events, Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and induction days for our incoming Year 7 and 12 students. We have held our Sixth Form Celebration Evening which was lovely to be at and are looking forward to our House Celebration Evenings next week.

NatureFest

Congratulations and thank you to the staff and students who took part in the recent NatureFest event on Sunday 30th June here at Chew Valley School. The event on our site was organised by the local community and the feedback around the input of our students was superb.

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction

Continuing on from above, it is wonderful to see the tremendous work that our Climate Action Change and Create Team have done, acknowledged through the awarding of the Eco-Schools Green Flag award which was given 'with distinction'. The parameters for this are stringent and the fact that this has happened is testament to the work put in by the team who were supported by Mrs Wilson.

WRONG SHOES DAY Monday 22nd July - Climate Action Team Fundraising for MEER charity

Again a reminder to please donate £1 on ParentPay to wear non-school shoes/trainers on this day (normal uniform still applies). This day is one where all money will go to our link charity MEER - making homes habitable using mirrors to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable people in different locations. There will also be an opportunity to pay on the day with cash during tutor time.

Finishing on Tuesday 23rd July

A reminder that we finish at 12.05pm on Tuesday 23rd July. Buses as ever are timed for pick up soon afterwards. Our food outlets will be open for an extended period of time between 11.10am and 11.40am on that day. The school main office will be closed from 12.30pm on that day.

Returning to school in September

As commented on in my previous letter, we have two days of INSET on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September. We are asking the new Year 7 students, along with new Year 12 and 13 students, to join us for the day on Wednesday 4th September with the rest of the school returning on Thursday 5th September. A full bus service will run from Wednesday 4th September. Full details of other key dates for the next academic year are available on our website.

Transport to and from South Bristol

We have a number of families who, as of yet, have not been able to sort transport from South Bristol as the bus provision is full. If anyone has any space within their transport (where parents/carers have come together to support) then can you let us know via enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk and we can pass this on.

Attendance at Chew Valley School 2024/25

Along with this communication, you will have received a letter from Natalie Wilcox, Director of Secondary Education at the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP). Natalie has a remit over ourselves, Backwell, Churchill and Gordano as well as having an overview of all 30 or so primary and secondary schools around students' attendance. We follow the LSP Attendance Policy and their procedures, which has been agreed with Trustees, and decisions are taken in line with this. Natalie has offered to speak to any families who would like to about the areas she has raised in her letter.

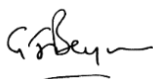
Finally,

Can I take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the staff in whatever capacity they hold for the work that has gone on for the benefit of the students. Our teaching staff are brilliantly backed-up by our teaching assistants, site team, support staff in the office and around our pastoral and curriculum provision and we are incredibly lucky to have them all.

At this time of year, we say goodbye to staff who have all added significantly to our school. A particular thanks go to them all and we wish them all the best for the future. Can I also thank you all for your support of the past academic year. It is really important that we work in partnership so that we can do the very best we can for the young people in our care. Our students have just one attempt at an education in these formative years and we need to give them every opportunity to learn, grow and achieve together.

May I wish you all the best for the Summer, whatever you are up to.

With very best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

Selected Key Dates

Monday 15th July

Tuesday 16th July

Wednesday 17th July

Thursday 18th July

Tuesday 23rd July

Bilbie Celebration Evening

Moreton Celebration Evening

Hauteville Celebration Evening

Rodney Celebration Evening

End of the Summer Term (12.05pm finish)

Monday 2nd September

Tuesday 3rd September

Wednesday 4th September

Thursday 5th September

Thursday 26th September

Friday 27th September

INSET

INSET

Years 7, 12 and 13 return

Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 return

Open Evening

INSET



LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

New Department for Education Attendance and Penalty Notice Regulations and updated Lighthouse Schools Partnership Attendance Policy

I am writing to you with important information about the changes to the national approach to school attendance and the subsequent changes to our trust-wide attendance policy which applies to all schools within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP).

Some of you may be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) has issued new, statutory guidance for schools and local authorities entitled '[Working together to improve school attendance](#)', which comes into effect from Monday 19 August 2024. The document talks about the importance of school attendance for all children and for schools, and other partners, to work in collaboration with pupils and parents to secure good attendance. I am really pleased to say that overall attendance across our LSP schools has remained good, particularly in comparison to national figures. We also recognise the importance of positive relationships in maintaining good levels of attendance and this is something that we are keen to strengthen further with you as parents/carers.

In line with the new national guidance, we have updated the our trust-wide Attendance Policy which will be available on our website ready for the new academic year when it comes into effect. Each LSP school will personalise this policy with specific contact details and timings relevant to their setting and structure.

In advance of our updated policy being published I do want to bring to your attention the changes that will come into force (from Monday 19 August 2024 onwards) for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised term time absence as there are significant changes to the severity of these with the introduction of a 'National Framework for Penalty Notices'.

From August this year, Penalty Notices will continue to be issued for term time, unauthorised absence of five or more days but **finer will also now be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period** (currently it is 10 sessions within a six-month period); please note that each school day contains two sessions.

The other change relates to the recurrence of unauthorised term time absence and the severity of the consequence of this for parents. Each local authority will publish a Local Code of Conduct for issuing fixed penalty notices as per paragraph 195 of [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#). The codes of conduct for North Somerset, BANES and Bristol will be linked in our policy so you can refer to the specific local authority relevant to you, but they will follow this structure:

- If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days. This is per parent and per child and is for Term Time Leave or for Irregular Attendance. These are detailed in paragraph 190 of [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)
- If a **second** penalty notice is issued (within three years) to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days. This is per parent and per child and is for Term Time Leave or for Irregular Attendance.

- > A **third** offence and any further offences within three years will result in legal steps such as the case being presented to the Magistrates' Court. This is likely to lead to a substantial fine per parent, per child. The details of this are published at local authority level as detailed above.

Please be assured that any Penalty Notices already issued (either this academic year or in previous years) will not be included in this new framework.

However, these changes do emphasise the importance that the Department for Education is placing on regular school attendance, particularly in relation to term time holidays. These will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances as listed in the new guidance and referenced in our upcoming Attendance Policy.

As well as changes to the framework for penalty notices, there are also a number of changes to the codes used for absence and you will find a list of those in the appendix to our Attendance Policy.

We want our young people to be happy, safe and successful and to leave school ready for the next stage of their lives. Attendance is a crucial element to this success: to make the most of education, pupils need to be present. I am happy to [answer any questions](#) you have about the Attendance Policy when it is published and if you have specific questions about your child or their school, the Headteacher or Attendance Lead will be able to help.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours sincerely



Natalie Wilcox
Director of Secondary Education