



14th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a **busy few weeks following half term** with students away last weekend on Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions along with the Year 8 Healthy Living drop down day which took place on Tuesday 11th June. This covered a variety of areas for all students including first aid training along with information on vaping and alcohol. My thanks go to Mrs Pope and her team of staff and visitors who delivered this really important material.

On Thursday 6th June, students in **Year 9** saw their **History lessons** focus on the **80th anniversary of the D-Day landings**. Stepping away from the curriculum for a moment allowed students to understand the significance of the heroic efforts of allied servicemen on the largest amphibious invasion in military history. The lesson tied with national events to commemorate these events and allowed Chew Valley students the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of this crucial event in military history.

In **Year 10** we have been interviewing potential prefects and I am pleased to report that we have appointed our largest number of students to this role since we began this programme three years ago. We are looking forward to working alongside them.

We are looking forward to next week's **Enrichment Week** where there are lots of activities taking place. It has a different feel than normal with Year 10 carrying out Work Experience and Year 12 focusing on their 'Futures Week' where they will be preparing for the world of work, apprenticeships and university applications. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have a range of activities and trips which will be fantastic. Once again, my thanks go to all staff involved but particularly Mr Jones who has co-ordinated the week for us.

Following this, **students will return to school on Monday 24th June with four and a half weeks' work ahead of them**. Senior staff, including myself, will be taking Expectation Assemblies on the first day back where we will be clear on how we would like the school to be during this period and into the new academic year starting in September. I thought it would be useful to highlight some of these areas with you so that you are fully aware in advance:

Uniform

Full uniform will return in all aspects from Monday 24th June as examinations will have finished for older students. In order to support this, I have given the link to the school website where our expectations are carefully explained; please click on [this link](#) to remind yourself if need be. We will be talking to students about trousers, shoes and jewellery and will also be speaking to people at home if needed so that we can work together to do the best we can for our young people.

Attendance in Lessons - 'Every Minute Matters'

An area that is often talked about by adults is a view on whether students are able to leave lessons freely whilst they are taking place. I have seen linked with this in the press and on social media comments about young people's 'rights' being infringed when they wish to use toilets or fill up water bottles mid lesson and have not immediately been released on request.

I would want to give our take on this as it is something we will be talking to students about. As a school that places much emphasis on building positive relationships and mutual respect, it is completely against our values not to give young people their voice and work with them. I am aware however that our students get just one chance at an education and it is really important that they are in lessons as much as they can be – as we say to them regularly 'every minute matters'. We are also getting our young people ready for life after school and there are plenty of situations where as an adult we need to manage our time to go for a comfort break or get a drink. If there is an

emergency or a medical condition which requires a student to leave the room then of course the member of staff will support and let this happen. Students are often given a card for this purpose that they can show any adult involved.

Students leaving a classroom miss out on learning as the teacher at the front will continue with the lesson, covering vital information. Within a school day there are six breaks where students can fill up water bottles or go for a comfort break with some self-discipline and thought. We will continue to work sympathetically with all of our students to make sure they are in as much of their lessons as they can be. I hope that as parents and carers you will understand our position here.

Termly Curriculum Summary

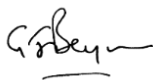
One of the areas that came through from the recent parent survey was a request to know more about what the students are learning in lessons. We have therefore looked to put together a document which will be sent out each term covering this and the first edition will be sent to all parents and carers next week.

Climate Action Team

I have, with this letter, attached a copy of the latest edition of the Climate Action Team Newsletter which highlights some of the important work they are doing.

To finish, we have much to look forward to over the coming weeks with Sports Day, Performing Arts Week, Celebration Assemblies, Year 11 Prom and Sixth Form Ball along with Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions taking place to name but a few of the events. It is going to be very busy but we are looking forward to the culmination of a successful year at Chew Valley. Below I have added some of the key dates for your information.

With very best wishes,



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

Selected Key Dates

<i>Thursday 20th June</i>	<i>Year 12 Information for Parents' Evening</i>
<i>Tuesday 25th June</i>	<i>Summer Concert</i>
<i>Wednesday 26th June</i>	<i>Sixth Form Ball</i>
<i>Thursday 27th June</i>	<i>Sixth Form Induction</i>
<i>Thursday 27th June</i>	<i>Year 11 Prom</i>
<i>Friday 28th June - Monday 1st July</i>	<i>Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, North Wales</i>
<i>Monday 1st July</i>	<i>Performing Arts Awards Evening</i>
<i>Tuesday 2nd July</i>	<i>Year 6 Parents Induction Evening</i>
<i>Wednesday 3rd July</i>	<i>LAMDA Evening</i>
<i>Thursday 11th July</i>	<i>Sixth Form Celebration Evening</i>
<i>Monday 15th July</i>	<i>Bilbie Celebration Evening</i>
<i>Tuesday 16th July</i>	<i>Moreton Celebration Evening</i>
<i>Wednesday 17th July</i>	<i>Hauteville Celebration Evening</i>
<i>Thursday 18th July</i>	<i>Rodney Celebration Evening</i>
<i>Tuesday 23rd July</i>	<i>End of the Summer Term (12.05pm finish)</i>