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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

Monday 2nd September Tuesday 3rd September Wednesday 4th September Thursday 5th September Thursday 26th September Friday 27th September Bilbie Celebration Evening
Moreton Celebration Evening
Hauteville Celebration Evening
Rodney Celebration Evening
End of the Summer Term (12.05pm finish)

INSET
INSET
Years 7, 12 and 13 return
Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 return
Open Evening
INSET