



Dear Parents and Carers,

July 2017

We have reached the end of another very successful school year, with so much to celebrate. I hope you enjoy our recent newsletter sharing our news. As ever, the work of the school has been recognised in a number of ways. I am delighted that our work in professional learning has been recognised as a hub of excellence, and that we have been identified as a lead school for initial teaching education and training. We are continuing to act as a lead school for professional development across the region. In addition, we have been involved in organising an education policy summit for Wales with the national organisation of the Ed Foundation. Mrs Thomas is a member of the strategic group for SEREN in the region and Mr Goddard is on the strategic board for MAT learners in the region.

We have been enhancing our student leadership strategies this term. We held a series of hustings where form reps presented each form's manifesto for change at hustings. All students voted for the manifesto that they wished to see implement. This was a superb piece of citizenship education, and as a result we now have our new members of the Student Senedd who will be working to implement their manifesto pledges. New Year Councils have also been set up and these will be working on issues that came from their year group concerns or pledges. The Senedd and year councils will also be part of our Students' Union, which was launched last week.

We have conducted a series of Parent Focus Groups, and these will now be formalised into a Parents' Council, which will be launched in the new school year.

Changes to Lunch times

We are proposing to hold 2 lunch sittings from October half term in order to minimise queuing and to provide more social spaces at lunch time. Students, staff and the parents' Forum have all been consulted on this and agreed to the changes. We will be working with students and staff to implement this change smoothly prior to October half term.

Form time

Following requests from year 11 staff, we trialled a change to form time. After a full evaluation we have decided to revert to the original form time of 8.45am from September, followed by period 1 at 9.15am.

Parents' evenings

From September, parents and carers in all year groups will have the opportunity to meet subject teachers to discuss their child's progress. This will be supplemented with a Student Progress Day meeting in the Easter term. These changes have been made so that all academic progress can be discussed whilst retaining the valuable relationship with your child's tutor. Dates will be published in September.



Fence around the school grounds

As you may be aware, for a number of years we have been concerned about the open nature of our school grounds and the difficulties this presents in keeping students safe, especially during break and lunch times. We are vulnerable to people accessing our site from the Wye Valley Walk, form behind the Leisure Centre and form people being able to walk straight on to our fields. The Local Authority has agreed to provide us with some fencing which will enable us to ensure that students on site are safe. The fence will enclose the areas to the back of the school, and will enable us to manage all access to the site through the front entrance. The front entrance will also be gated and have high definition CCTV. The work for this will be completed over the summer holidays.

Term dates for the school year

School starts on **Tuesday 5th September** at 8.45am. All students will go straight to their forms.

Term	Start Date	Half Term Start	Half Term End	Term Ends
Autumn Term	Tuesday 05/09/17	Monday 30/10/17	Friday 03/11/17	Tuesday 19/12/17
Spring Term	Monday 08/01/18	Monday 19/02/18	Friday 23/02/18	Thursday 29/03/17
Summer Term	Monday 16/04/18	Monday 28/05/18	Friday 01/06/18	Tuesday 24/07/18
May Bank Holiday is Monday 07/05/18				

Inset Days:

Monday 4th Sept 2017
Friday 27th October 2017



School uniform

A reminder to parents who are buying school uniform for September that the uniform is as follows:

Do Wear	Don't Wear
A black blazer with the school badge on the top pocket - compulsory	
Black tailored trousers worn to the waist	Hipsters, jean-style, frayed, clingy, lycra, decorated or casual trousers or leggings.
A black skirt, not shorter than 8cms above knee	Skirts made of stretch material that are too short or too tight.
Plain black shoes, leather or leather look, low sensible heels	Trainers or sports style shoes Slipper-style shoes that may slip on and off High heels Boots No logos
Light blue shirts worn smartly, i.e. tucked in and buttoned to the neck	
School tie in house colours - compulsory	
Plain black acrylic or wool V necked jumpers – optional	These jumpers should have no logos or markings, cannot be cotton or sweat shirt material.

I have agreed to allow **plain black acrylic or wool V necked jumpers** to be an **optional** item of our uniform during cold weather. Jumpers can be worn under blazers, but cannot be worn in place of blazers. Students who wear jumpers that do not conform to this will be asked to remove them. Students may, if they wish wear light coloured vests or light coloured T Shirts under their shirts.

There is information about uniform on our website www.chepstowschool.net/uniform including photos of appropriate items of uniform and information on how to order.

PE kit comprises:

PE T-Shirt (available from Initially Yours)

Black shorts/skort, skirt or shorts

School rugby shirt

Optional hoody

Black hockey socks, white ankle socks red football/rugby socks

Training shoes

Appropriate swimwear



Jewellery

A single stud in each ear is allowed for boys and girls. All other visible Jewellery is not allowed.

Make up

Appropriate make up may be worn; this should be suitable for a work environment.

Excessive make up will be removed at the request of staff.

False nails are not permitted.

Hair

Hairstyles should be appropriate for school and should not be of an extreme style.

Neutral hair colours only, brightly coloured hair is not permitted.

Staff Changes

At the end of the school year it is time to say goodbye to some of our colleagues. Mrs Cole, Curriculum Leader for languages and Mr Jenkins, Head of RE are both retiring this year. In addition, Mr Williams, Curriculum Leader for Applied Learning is leaving this year. These 3 teachers have worked in education for their whole careers, and I am sure you will agree with me that each of them have brought so much to the school and our community. We wish them well, and know that they will not be strangers to our school. Mr Hine (PE) is leaving to joining Cwmbran High School as Assistant Head of Year, Miss Phillips is joining Islwyn School as Head of Languages and Mr Abbott is leaving to relocate to a school in Manchester. We wish them all the very best in their new roles.

In addition to the new staff joining us, Mr Knight has secured internal promotion and is now Head of Year 7, and Mrs Thomas has been promoted to Assistant Head 14-19.

Staff joining

We are delighted to welcome the following new teaching staff to join us next year.

Andrew Bringham – Curriculum Leader for MFL

Samantha Arnold – Teacher of Humanities

Ben Horne – Teacher of ICT & Computer Science

Daniel Jones – Teacher of Maths

Hari McCormack – Teacher of PE

Kurtis Parkin – Teacher of PE

Sarah Thomas – Teacher of English

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of our school community over the past year, and I look forward to working with you during the next school year. I wish you all a safe and restful summer.



If you have any concerns or issues, please do not hesitate to contact me via patstevens@chepstowschool.net.

Best Wishes

Claire Price
Headteacher