

Inspiring Learning



December 1st 2017

Message from the Head Teacher

This week our year 11, 12 and 13 students have been taking part in their mock exams. Well done to those that have sat exams this week I'm sure you have done great. The mocks continue next week up until Wednesday so good luck to all taking an exam then.

With the launch of our new sixth form area on Monday, we have also been preparing the new music spaces. There will be new classrooms, practice rooms and lovely new office for the music teachers.

Next term we will be running an expressive arts week and plans are already well underway. Our vision is that every child within the school will get to experience at least 1 extended creative activity during the week. I very much look forward to seeing some of the creativity that will be on display I am sure.

The interviews for the Hwb Dysgu students have been scheduled with Mrs Dutton next week. Good luck to all, I look forward to seeing you in your assigned roles very soon!

Unfortunately we have had to change the date of our Christmas concert at St Marys church. Gwent Music have scheduled their concert for the same day so in order to ensure that all our students that wish to participate are able to do so our event will now take place on Tuesday 12th December at 6.30pm. I look forward to welcoming you to experience what is always a very festive evening.



Lab in a Lorry

The Science Department were lucky enough to welcome "Lab in a lorry" this week. All of year 8 and 9 students visited the lorry during the 4 days. The students were all excited to visit the lorry and had great fun whilst exploring experimental science for themselves assisted by volunteers from the Institute of Physics.

Inside the lorry were 3 experimental areas for students to explore, these were: a resonating wine glass, optoelectronics in medicine and light scattering. The resonating wine glass was popular, in the experiment students used vibrations to try and get the wine glass to resonate so violently it shattered. Unfortunately we were unable to smash the wine glass this time. During the optoelectronics experiment students investigated optical fibres and used inspection cameras to explore a 3d maze and an "ill patient". Students were very excited to extract the battery from the patient. In the light scattering experiment students recreated their own blue sky effect using Dettol in water. They used infra-red cameras to investigate the temperatures of different things in the lab and ultra violet light to see secret messages on the walls.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed their lab in the lorry experience; students, teachers and support staff alike.

School Advent Calendar

As per school tradition we will be creating a school advent calendar this year on our website showing a clip each day. It is guaranteed to entertain so make sure you sneak a peek in the run up to Christmas.

The first clip went live today, this is a quick glimpse of some of our favourite entries in our advent calendars in previous years so go online and see what we have been up to. There will be brand new entries from Monday onwards so make sure you keep updated.

Christmas Charities

Over the past couple of weeks, students and staff have been very busy filling shoeboxes for charity. Year 7 and 8 students have collected items for the rotary club shoe boxes which get sent to those in need in Romania.

The rest of the school has been helping Mrs. Mahoney fill shoeboxes for the SLS Homeless appeal. Thank you everybody that has donated items, as a school we have filled 30 shoeboxes for this appeal alone as well as collecting a variety of selection boxes to the approximate value of £400. Next week, these will be transferred to Cyfannol refuge, who are incredibly grateful for our continued support, as well as some being distributed to shelters and outreach in our immediate area.

In addition to the shoebox campaigns Mrs. Mellen has launched the food bank challenge. She has pledged that together as a school we will collect 1000 items over the next two weeks to donate to the Chepstow food bank. Through liaising with the food bank, Mrs. Mellen has identified the items they are most in need of and allocated them to different forms.

Success in Gymnastics

We are very proud of Heather Dent 10S2 for competing in the Welsh Tumbling Championships and finishing with a silver medal. Well done Heather.

Also, congratulations to Erica Denby for getting through and representing Chepstow School at the Welsh Schools Trampoline competition

New Sixth Form Study Room and Café

The move to the new sixth form area continued this week. The painters have been in to put the final touches on the sixth form café and we have been busy moving offices from the old sixth block up to the new area. The café will be officially launched on Monday serving fresh coffee and food items from 9.15.

Educating our Peers in Caldicot

On Tuesday 28th November, Cyro Phipps, Jess Sariaak and Katherine Hicks - members of the Invisible Army and LGBT team - visited Caldicot School along with the Monmouthshire Youth Service team. They joined one of the weekly meetings they have and discussed what we do here in Chepstow, to encourage inclusivity. Whilst at the school, they promoted our Invisible Army and encouraged them to introduce a similar team to tackle bullying in their school. The Invisible Army has members from Year 7 to Year 13, which the students at Caldicot thought was fantastic.

They mentioned how successful our teams have been at Chepstow School, particularly the LGBT team who were published in the official Stonewall guide and discussed how our school has pushed forward student leadership. They were surprised to learn that many events that have happened in our school have been student led, such as the Respect March we held last year.

Feedback from Caldicot School was amazing and they are actively looking to introduce their own group in school after hearing from our students.

Rotary Award

Mr Burr, Chair of the Rotary Club presented Cyro Phipps (year 13) with the Rotary School Award in assembly on Tuesday. When asked by the Rotary club to nominate a student that deserved recognition we really didn't have to think very hard before putting Cyro forward. Cyro's selflessness and efforts to help and support others as head of the Invisible Army as well as being part of the wellbeing team make us all here at Chepstow School incredibly proud. Well Done Cyro!

Students of the Week

This week's students of the week are awarded for exceptional effort, they go to;

Naomi Dunlop (Hwb Dysgu)

Carys Cook 8U2

Heather Shilling 10U2

Grace Hall 9U2

Abbie Morgan 9S1

Cyro Phipps 13M4



Important Dates

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| Friday December 1st | Good Food Show Trip to NEC |
| Monday 4 th December – Wednesday 6 th December | Mocks continue for years 11,12 & 13 |
| Tuesday 5 th December | Auditions for Christmas talent show |
| Thursday 7 th December | Choir singing in Tesco Chepstow |
| Monday December 12 th (new date) | Christmas Carol Concert at St Marys Church, Chepstow—6:30pm. |
| Monday December 18th | Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day. Sixth Form Alumni Evening |
| Tuesday December 19th | Christmas Talent Show Last Day of Term — school finishes at 3:15 |
| Wednesday December 20th 2017 to Sunday January 7th 2018 | Christmas Holidays |
| Monday January 8th | Start of Spring term |