

Inspiring Learning



March 9th 2018

Message from the Head Teacher

Firstly, a big thank you for your support with our unexpected snow days last week. It certainly tested our procedures! A really big thank you to our site team; Mrs Dutton, Mrs Crossland, Mr Herbert and Mr Goddard who worked really hard to support the school opening safely on Monday morning.

The previous week we held Deputy Head teacher interviews and I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Lindley was appointed to the role. She has a huge amount of experience in teaching and learning as well as pastoral leadership and will be a real asset to our team. Mrs Lindley will be joining us after Easter to work alongside Mr Price.

Thank you, too, for your responses to our surveys on curriculum areas and on our pastoral system. We are using these results to inform our next steps, and I will be writing to you shortly about some changes we will be making as a result of these reviews.

We are looking forward to Student Progress Day at the end of this term, letters will be out shortly to make appointments.

Safeguarding Update

We have had another busy week helping students and staff keep safe and healthy! On Thursday, PC Finister and PC Jones ran workshops on sexting and raising awareness about sharing images safely and appropriately. Several staff completed VAWDASV training to support them in recognising signs of domestic violence and to ensure that relevant and meaningful referrals are made to continue to keep people safe.

Hwb Receptionists

Following their interviews last term, all of the Hwb pupils will be helping in reception on Monday afternoons on a rota system. Jack Scott and Naomi Dunlop thoroughly enjoyed their first duties this week. They enjoyed greeting visitors and taking messages around the school. Mrs. Roberts was very grateful for their help - thank you both.

Student Take Over Day

Student Takeover day is taking place on Tuesday 27th March. This will see students take on prominent staff roles in the school for a day offering them insight into a professional work environment. Students who applied for Takeover Day roles underwent interviews with a range of employers this week including Barclays, Lloyds, Proxima Group, UKSBS and Careers Wales. Feedback on the students' performances was brilliant and the employers enjoyed the interviews immensely. Watch this space for details of those who have been offered roles and for a report on the event itself. Well done to all students involved.

Easter Egg Collection

The school is collecting small Easter Eggs until 15th March. Mrs. Mahoney is leading the drive to collect Easter Eggs (up to 140g) or monetary donations so that we can buy in bulk Easter eggs to be donated to the homeless. Any donations will be gratefully received and can be taken directly to Mrs. Mahoney in MA2 or given in at reception. Thank you in advance for your support.



Sporting Achievements

Our thriving chess team has seen more success in the last couple of weeks. The team of David McIntosh, Rachel McIntosh, George Smith, Madeleine Smith, Neil Stevenson and Sam Goodfellow beat Sir Thomas Rich's by 3.5 to 2.5 in the regional semi-final of the Under 19 Open. They will now go on to play St John's, Cardiff, in the final. Also well done to Madeleine Smith who came third in the Welsh Under 14s Championships. Our B-team of Harrison Postans, Steffan Griffiths, Nathan Bridel, Thomas Davies, Finlay Coleman and Luca Hodgkinson also played last week, unfortunately losing 5-1 to QEH A in another semi-final.

Congratulations to Tom Weeks who competed in the Welsh Schools Cross Country event this week. Tom was placed 12th out of 70 competitors and came 1st in the South East Region which is a fantastic result.

Sports Leaders

Our sports leaders have been very busy gaining extra training and organising events!

In February over 20 sports leaders completed Disability inclusion training run by 'Disability Sport Wales'. In addition, Eleri Davies, Alice Parsons, Rebecca Loock, Lucy Beynon and Heather Dent have completed the level 1 safeguarding and protecting children course.

As well as the very successful Primary netball tournaments which are organized and led by some of our sports leaders, Lucy Barton and Alice Parsons have been independently running hockey taster sessions at The Dell and Pembroke Primary's. Both girls' sessions have been very successful and will be continuing this term. The girls deserve a lot of credit for their dedication and enthusiasm in getting more young people in our community playing hockey.

Teacher Development

Last week we hosted 16 newly qualified teachers from across the EAS region. It was our second professional learning day focusing on teaching, learning and pedagogy. The NQTs reported back on what they took for the precious day in November and how it had impacted in their teaching practice and the learning of their students. They spent the morning in their own subject department areas, observing lessons and finding out more about classroom practices and routines.

It was a great chance for them to take part in collaborative practice and to share ideas of what makes successful teaching.

The third day is in March and will continue to help develop our newest teachers in Wales.

Invisible Army Competition

Before half term the invisible army launched a competition to design a poster advertising the invisible army and what they are about. We had some wonderful entries; the winners were decided by Mr. Anthony and members of the invisible Army Team. Well done to the winners; Preston Weldon, Jessica Morrow, Jack Scott, Filip Chitnis, Zara Chapman and Noah Herniman. All the winners received certificates and their designs will now be used on posters around the school.

Student Voices and Peer Support

In order to ensure that all students' voices are captured, our Head Student team are leading a project, beginning next week, whereby they will meet with the Year Councils to discuss and celebrate school life. Watch this space for Year Council messages in forthcoming newsletters!

A group of 6th formers interested in wellbeing and the healthcare professions have undertaken C-Card training with the NHS this week. This has empowered them to support students with sexual health as well as providing them with key safeguarding information when working with vulnerable young people.

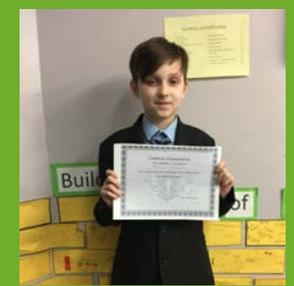
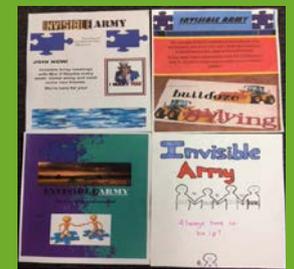
Chepstow Youth Council

The Town Council are establishing a Chepstow Youth Council, for young people to be able to have a say on local issues. It's a great opportunity for our students to express their views and to help make a difference in the community. The first meeting took place on Thursday 8th March in Bulwark Community Centre for young people between the ages of 13 and 25. If you require any further information or want to know more information about the next meeting you can contact

john4stchris@gmail.com or cllrburrett@gmail.com.

Technology Competition

For all of our post 16 technology enthusiasts we have been informed of an exciting competition by ESTnet NG with the chance to win an award of up to £2000. The ESTnetNG Tech Prize aims to help young people who have shown outstanding commitment, enthusiasm and interest in the technology field to fulfill their talent and ambitions. Entry is via the ESTnet Next Generation website at www.estnetng.co.uk, applicants should upload a video or written application of no more than a 1000 words to tell us why they deserve to win the ESTnetNG Tech Prize. All entries should be submitted on or before 29 March 2018. Applicants must be between 16 and 24 and living, studying or working in Wales on the 29 March 2018. The winner will be awarded with their Prize at the Wales Technology Awards, which will take place on Thursday 3 May in Cardiff City Hall.



Students of the Week

Ruby Richards – for organizing the forthcoming NHS C card sexual health peer mentoring training.

Sultan Ali - for being proactive in researching so keenly his post 18 future.

Jake Lewis – for obtaining an unconditional offer to Aberystwyth University and a merit award.

Megan Brown – always being brilliant.

Emily Powell – always being amazing.

Emily Power – consistently being amazing and always doing the right thing.

Evie Pasifull – always doing the right thing without fail.

Jack Woodman – for always being ready to learn and having an impressive amount of ChiPs.

Staff Star of the Week

This week we have two staff stars of the week; Miss Martinez and Mrs Wilks. Thank you both for coming back in after the snow and enduring lesson observations and also helping with the visiting NQTs. Miss Martinez and Mrs. Wilks are always going above and beyond.

Important Dates

Monday 12 th March	ECF Junior Team Chess Challenge
Tuesday 13 th March	Gwent Music Spring Showcase
Friday 23 rd March	Year 9 boys & girls school leavers vaccinations
Tuesday 27 th March	Student Take Over Day
Wednesday 28 th & Thursday 29 th March	Student Progress Days
Friday 30 th March – Sunday 15 th April	Easter Holidays