

Inspiring Learning

January 12th 2018



Message from the Head Teacher

Blwyddyn newydd dda! I hope that you all had a restful holiday, and enjoyed, what felt like, an extended break. It is good to welcome our students back in ready to learn, and we have had a series of assemblies looking forward to the new term.

This is a busy term for students to think about their next steps. Year 11 students will be having interviews for their post-16 progression routes. These interviews will focus on all of the post-16 options available to them, as well as our 6th form. Year 8 options presentation to parents was very well attended, and we are looking forward to the options fayre on Thursday 15th from 5pm-8pm.

We have launched our rewards system this week to students and parents. We are looking forward to celebrating with those students who do the right thing every day. We also celebrated our maths and English GCSE results on Thursday for students who sat GCSEs in November. We are delighted with our results; nearly two thirds of our year 11 students have already achieved both maths and English GCSEs which is an excellent springboard for the exams in June.

Over the holidays, Ms Thomas and I spoke at a national event about diversity in education. Ms Thomas gave a talk about our LGBT+ student group, and how the school supports students' wellbeing. I spoke about values-led leadership; and how important it is to retain your values despite external pressures. The event was really well attended and received, and it is always a privilege to be able to speak about the work we do here to a national audience. I have also been asked to give a presentation and engage in a discussion with Policy Forum Wales at the beginning of February. The Cabinet Secretary for Education will also be part of the group, the focus of the event is on next steps for raising school standards in Wales. This month, I am part of the Jisc and Education Foundation judging panel for the best EdTech of 2017, which is timely as Mrs. Crossland and Mr. Herbert and I are going to BETT, the schools' educational technology showcase, to support writing of our school's vision for 21st century learning this half term.

Our next newsletters will feature a safeguarding briefing from Mrs. Mellen. We are all aware of the issues that young people face in the 21st century, and whilst some of these are very familiar: the dangers of crossing the road for example; others are less familiar to parents. The aim of the briefings is to disseminate our knowledge of any wellbeing concerns in the community and to highlight the different ways that we can all support young people. We know that working together to safeguard young people and to support their emotional wellbeing will help to keep our young people as safe as we can. We also welcome contact from parents and carers if there are any issues troubling you. Our designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs. Mellen, and Mr. Robson, Mrs. Back, Miss Jones, Mr. Knight, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Martin are all members of our safeguarding team you can contact to discuss issues..

Sporting Achievements

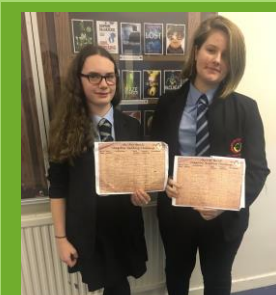
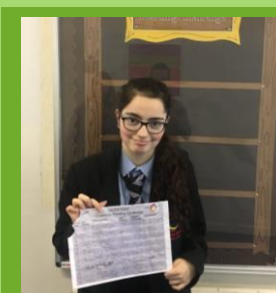
Before Christmas we saw fabulous achievements in chess again. Madeleine Smith won the Welsh Under 14s Rapidplay Championship in Cardiff scoring an amazing 5.5/6. In addition, 10 players from Chepstow School have been selected to play in the Gwent under 14 side on Saturday so good luck to them.

Congratulations to Richard Hole and Jack Scott (HWB Dysgu) who have both passed their Gold swimming award this week.

Lily Williams (852) came 4th in the Welsh Cross Country championships over the Christmas holidays, she was running in the u15 category so an even more amazing achievement.

TV Appearance

It was great to see Luca Goddard on Dr. Who on Christmas Day. We are incredibly proud here at school and sure that he has amazing things in his future.



New Rewards System

We were delighted this week to introduce a new Rewards system to Chepstow School. Students will be awarded Chepstow House Points (or CHiPs!) for every lesson where they arrive on time and are ready to learn. Simply for doing this, every child in Year 7 to 11 should be able to achieve 150 points per week; with Sixth Formers collecting a few less due to smaller timetables.

Students will be rewarded with CHiPs in these ways:

5 CHiPs – for arriving READY to every lesson

5 CHiPs – for showing RESPECT to other students, your teachers or members of the community through brilliant work, behaviour or interactions

5 CHiPs – for helping keep yourself or others SAFE in school or the community

5 CHiPs – for participating in clubs or events – such as a sports team, choir, chess club, visiting primary schools, etc.

5 CHiPs – for attending revision or study sessions out of school time

As students accrue their CHiPs they will be celebrated through achieving a series of awards:

Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond – with a pin badge for their blazer and a certificate to take home.

As they reach each stage, students will also be able to choose a special privilege that they have a say in – it may be an early pass to lunch, a friends only game of football, playing computer games or a special trip such as ice-skating. We are currently asking students for their ideas as it is important to us that they are working towards something they want.

Our aim is that every student should, by the end of this academic year, have achieved Gold.

In addition, in two special assemblies this year – one in February and one in July, we will be identifying one student per year group per subject that has really stood out for their amazing attitude to learning and being consistently ready to learn. Again, students will be recognised with a badge for their blazers and a certificate, and we hope to invite parents/carers into these assemblies to share the successes of our young people. In the July Rewards Assemblies we will also be recognising our students with 100% attendance.

We hope to share weekly CHiPs with you as we pit the House against one another – and hope you will find these assemblies as joyous as we will.

Year 8 Options

We had a great turn out for the year 8 options talks on Wednesday. It is a very important time for our year 8 students as they begin to think about what they want to do in their future. Course booklets and options forms were given out on the night which we hope will be invaluable to all our students and their parents/carers as they begin to discuss their choices. Please remember that we have our year 8 options open evening between 5-8pm on Thursday 18th January where you will be able to chat with the subject leaders and get more information on specific subjects before making the final decisions.

If you were unable to make the options talks, or will not be able to attend next Thursday then please do not hesitate to contact us at school and we can assist you and your child in gaining the right information to make a clear, informed choice.

Summer School

We have been approached with an exciting opportunity for our year 12 students. The Sutton Trust are running a summer school where students can experience university life, attend lectures in 40 different subjects and receive support with UCAS applications. Applications close on Thursday 8th March if you want more information or wish to apply please see Mrs. Gosling.

Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Rhiannon Craig who has completed her Silver award in the 'Go for Gold' reading challenge reading an astounding 28 books since starting the challenge in October. Also, well done to Abigail Morgan, Jenna Owen and Rebekah Bale who have all completed their bronze awards.

Students of the week

Iris Bell

Matthew Hereford

Matilda Birkett

Saffron Shilson

Staff Star of the week

This week we have two staff stars of the week. The first goes to Sharon Giddy for her hard work and devotion to Welsh Baccalaureate. We would also like to thank Allyn Lewis for the excellent support he gives to students at all times.

BRONZE

SILVER

GOLD

PLATINUM

DIAMOND

100%



Important Dates

Monday 15 th January	GCSE Drama Trip to Blake Theatre
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th January	Year 8 CAT Tests
Monday 15 th – Friday 26 th January	Science GCSE Practicals
Thursday 18 th January	Year 8 Options Evening 5pm -8pm
Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th January	Year 9 CAT Tests
Monday 29 th January	Regional finals of the ECF under 19 Open Chess Championship (playing against QEH Bristol)
Friday 9 th February	Student Take over Day
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February	Half Term
Thursday 1 st March	World Book day
Friday 2 nd March	Eisteddfod
Thursday 8 th & Friday 9 th March	Year 11 Speaking & Listening Exams
Monday 19 th March	Expressive Arts Week
Thursday 22 nd March	Spring Concert
Friday 23 rd March	Year 8 & 9 Girls HPV Vaccinations
Friday 30 th March – Sunday 15 th April	Easter Holidays