

CHEPSTOW SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24



**CHEPSTOW
SCHOOL**
INSPIRING LEARNING



CHEPSTOW SCHOOL

INSPIRING LEARNING
YSBRYDOLI DYSGU

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

1. Letter from the chair of Governors	4
Our Vision 2024:	5
Our Mission:	5
Our Ethos:	5
Our Values:	5
2. Details of Governing Body as of July 2024	6
3. Financial statement and resources	7
<i>Financial summary for 2022/23 financial year</i>	7
4. Summary of school performance 2022/23	8
5. Destination of 2024 school leavers	9
6. Targets for improvement	10
7. Our school in the community	11
8. Extra-curricular and enrichment activities	15
<i>Sport</i>	16
<i>Creative activities</i>	18
<i>ICT</i>	19
<i>Trips</i>	20
<i>Languages</i>	22
9. Chepstow School term dates 2023-24 academic year	23
10. Chepstow School prospectus	23
11. Our curriculum	24
12. Pastoral care	29
13. Welsh language and bilingualism at Chepstow School	32
14. Healthy eating and drinking	34

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

On behalf of the Governing Body, it gives me a great sense of pride to provide this annual update to you and, we hope, you find it incredibly informative and useful.

As a Governing Body, we ensure that you are fully informed on the quality of education your child receives. As part of this report, it gives me pleasure to share our roles and responsibilities that we undertake as a Governing Body.

The last 12 months has seen a period of exciting change within the Governing Body. We have welcomed Paul Lambert, Jonathan Keohane and Ben Nyland as Parent Governors, Kieran Smith as a Local Authority Governor and Nick Langston-Able as a Community Governor. Together, we are working hard to strengthen links between the school, the local community and to enhance the learning experiences of the children of Chepstow School.

We have an incredibly active and present Governing Body, who give up their time, energy and expertise freely and enthusiastically to support the school and its community.

As a Governing Body we are proud of the progress the school has made over the last year and the outstanding results it has achieved. This is great testament to the expertise of the incredible team of teaching staff, who go above and beyond to ensure every child is valued, and able to flourish in their own way. This could not be achieved without the dedication and commitment from our highly-skilled support staff. Together we collectively strive to create an inspiring learning experience for all, for life.

Kate Cliff
Vice Chair of Governors



OUR VISION 2024

At Chepstow School, we will provide the very best environment where everyone is inspired to learn. As a community, we feel safe to learn from mistakes, learn and express ourselves. Excellent wellbeing allows everyone to embrace the opportunities provided. As such, through strong leadership we will ensure that all learners' teaching and learning experiences are inspirational and of a consistently high quality. The whole school community will be supported to develop and demonstrate excellence. This includes learning behaviours, values, and the skills that they will need to be successful in life. An excellent provision will lead to exceptional standards and ensure everyone fulfills their potential, which personify the four core purposes of the CfW, and is underpinned by the school's values and mission statement.

OUR MISSION

Inspiring learning... for all, Inspiring learning... for life

OUR ETHOS

Strong foundations: Chepstow School is a place where every member of our community can feel that they belong, where they are recognised and valued for their particular gifts, talents and the unique contribution that they can make to our school life. We aim to give every member of our school community the unshakeable foundations they need to flourish to their full potential.

Building a bridge to your future: We are an adventurous learning community, constantly looking outwards to the world and ahead to the future; we aim to equip everyone to confidently take the next steps in their own journeys, wherever that may lead them, building bridges to limitless opportunities in the world.

OUR VALUES

POSITIVITY

"It always seems impossible until it is done"
- Nelson Mandela

PERSEVERANCE

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did"
- Newt Gingrich

AMBITION

"Reach for the moon and if you fall short, you will land on the stars"
- Lauren Price

CURIOSITY

"I've no special talent, I'm only passionately curious"
- Albert Einstein

EQUALITY

"Equality is treating everyone the same. But equity is taking differences into account, so everyone has a chance to succeed"
- Jodi Picoult



DETAILS OF GOVERNING BODY AS OF SEPTEMBER 2024

	Term of office End
Parent Governors	
Judith Langdon	04/11/2026
Joanne O'Donnell	24/05/2026
Barry Steele	24/05/2026
Ben Nyland	23/05/2028
Paul Lambert	22/01/2028
Jonathan Keohane	22/01/2028

Local Authority Appointed Governors	
Morgan Baker	19/04/2025
Rev. Philip Averay	15/06/2026
Helen Spittle	14/06/2025
Kieran Smith Kate	18/07/2027
Cliff	20/03/2028

Teacher Governors	
Rachel Tiller-Cleaves	29/09/2025
Emma Martinez	20/11/2023

Community Governors	
Nicholas Langston-Able	29/03/2027
Ruth Frett	12/09/2027
Angela Johns	29/03/2027
Rupert Edwards	06/10/2025
Keith Dunn OBE	20/11/2027

Headteacher	
Kelly Waythe	N/A

Associate Pupil Governors	
Jac Jones	Term of office
Jacon Nicholas	for one year

Name and address of Chair: Mr Keith Dunn OBE, c/o Chepstow School, Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LR
Clerk: c/o Chepstow School, Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LR

Where vacancies for governors exist, they are always advertised.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND RESOURCES FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 202/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

A short summary of the school financial position is as follows:

	2023-2024 Actual
TEACHING STAFF COSTS	£3,278,158
ANCILLARY STAFF COSTS	£792,356
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES COSTS	£615,104
PREMISES COSTS	£564,417
TRANSPORT COSTS	£31,128
AGENCY & CONTRACTED COSTS	£258,656
INCOME GENERAL	-£853,225
INCOME FUNDING	-£4,318,330
END OF YEAR POSITION (DEFICIT)	£500,586
OVERALL POSITION (DEFICIT)	<u>£853,058</u>

Prudent use of financial and other resources is essential in order to provide the school with a stable footing on which to bring about continuing improvements in provision for pupils. Following the 2023 – 2024 academic year, the school finished the year in a deficit position of c.£500,586k, as per the table in this section. Moving forwards, the budget recovery plan, worked on in conjunction with the Local Authority, agreed and supported by the Full Governing Body, will be enacted as per normal school business. This will be a detailed set of figures, assumptions and associated recovery actions to ensure the year end position, following the academic year 2024 – 2025, is as favourable as possible.

The school's income each year is directly connected to the number of pupils in the school; the number of children entering the school in Year 7 continues to increase year on year; a reflection of the school's reputation within the wider community. Strengthening of the Sixth Form offer is also a key driver in terms of our retention of Year 11 students but also in driving higher local authority funding for the school hence this forms part of the School Development Plan for the coming academic year.



SUMMARY OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2023-24

As a school, our main priority throughout the year has been to help our students reach their full potential and achieve their best results. We, as the school governors, are pleased to share that the school's performance has demonstrated consistent improvement.:



Key Stage 5 – A Level and AS Headline Figures 2024

We are extremely proud of our students at Chepstow school, our AS students achieved 24% A*-A, higher than the national average and our 2023 results. 71% achieved 71% A*-C, 10% higher than the national average and 93% of our AS students achieved A*-E grade.

Our A-level results saw 92% of Pupils achieve A*-E grades, 68% of these were A*-C and 15% A*-A. We celebrate their success, with 92% securing their first-choice university.

Key Stage 4 – GCSE Headline Figures 2024

Our GCSE students excelled this year, with 100% of our students achieving A*-G Level 1 qualifications. 90% of our pupils went onto achieve their A*-C Level 2 qualification, and a huge 42% were A*-A, in comparison to the national average of 19.2% A*-A.

These results showcase our steadfast commitment to promoting academic excellence among our students. We are incredibly proud of those who have earned the grades required to follow their desired paths. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.



DESTINATION OF 2024 SCHOOL LEAVERS

In 2024, the majority of pupils from Year 11 chose to stay at our Sixth Form. Those who chose other pathways were supported on these routes to ensure the greatest possible continuity of provision. The data below is provisional while we await the official data from Careers Wales; using data which is currently available we are aware that at the end of the 2023-24 academic year, our Year 11 chose the following destinations:

Continued into Sixth Form:	51%
Stayed in education (college):	48%
Entered employment or training:	1%
Unable or not ready to enter education or employment:	0%
Left the area:	0%

At the end of Year 13, the majority of our students continued onto university leaving to pursue a varied and impressive range of subjects. These included;

University of Bristol	Law
University of Plymouth	Conservation Biology
Oxford University	Biology
Cardiff University	Medicine
Manchester University	Mathematics
University of Nottingham	Psychology
University of Gloucester	Early Childhood Studies
University of West England (UWE)	Aerospace Engineering
Bath Spa University	Creative Writing and Publishing
Durham University	Anthropology and Archaeology

Again, using provisional data held by the school, overall destinations at the end of Year 13 were:

Continued in higher education:	90%
Continued in education (college):	0%
Entered employment or training:	8%
Unable or not ready to enter education or employment:	0%
Gap Year:	2%

TARGETS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Looking ahead to the current school year, the following targets have been included in the School Development Plan for 2023/24:

- 1. High quality teaching and distributed leadership inspires learners and raises their aspirations to achieve their full potential. To ensure an enhanced focus on the development and progression of embedded and integral skills.**
- 2. A very inclusive and supportive school environment and culture ensures highly effective wellbeing across the school community (pupils and staff).**
- 3. Continue to realise the Curriculum for Wales framework across Chepstow School Community.**
- 4. Further develop the effectiveness of provision & intervention for disadvantaged learners (including those with additional learning needs) and ensure that grant funding secures high levels of provision to maximise progress.**
- 5. Chepstow School to thrive as an excellent community hub of learning and experiences.**



OUR SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

Chepstow School thrives by deeply embedding itself within the local community and actively seeking collaborations with the wider network we serve. Our strong partnerships with local primary schools continue to flourish, enhancing our role within the 'Chepstow Cluster' and ensuring a seamless transition from primary to secondary education.

A key element of our success is our ALN Cluster Lead, Mr. Dash, who provides invaluable support across both primary schools and Chepstow School itself. This role ensures that all learners have access to consistent support, fostering continuity throughout the Chepstow community.

The Cluster promotes the sharing of best practices and the efficient use of services and resources. This academic year, Chepstow School has led and engaged in a numeracy review and curriculum professional development for both primary and secondary staff, aligned with the new Curriculum for Wales and Health & Wellbeing. By sharing teaching experiences and methodologies, we strive to offer a comprehensive education that supports every learner's journey, ensuring equity and the opportunity for all students to achieve their full potential.



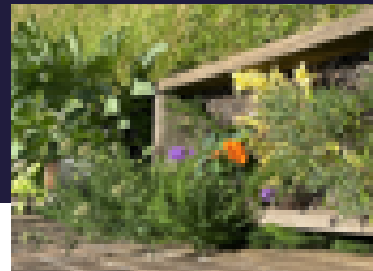
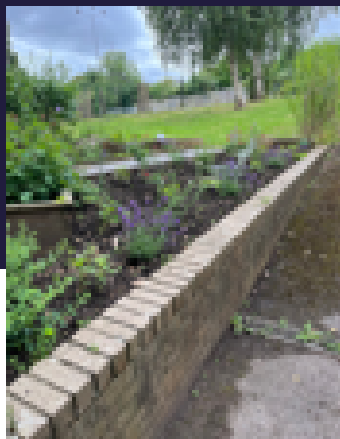
School Production

February 2024 saw our production of Grease, which was an absolute triumph. Hours and hours of hard work by the pupils really paid off and the final production was amazing. The choreography, the costumes and the scenery all came together to create a very professional-looking performance. The orchestra were phenomenal and the acting and singing from all the pupils could not have been better. They made all the staff involved very proud – and they should be too! An enormous thanks to absolutely everyone involved and Archer & Co for their support and sponsorship.

ChOur Alumni network has been growing steadily, with each departing cohort contributing to its expansion. Through Alumni engagement and Careers Wales, we continue to invite individuals and organizations to our school. These guests share their passions, career paths since leaving school, and insights into how their businesses can aid our students' learning experiences. This initiative has provided our pupils with valuable role models and introduced them to career possibilities they might not have previously considered. It has been particularly beneficial for our Year 9 and 11 students as they make important decisions about their future options.

We have seen the growth of our Alumni, and as each cohort leaves school, this develops even further. From Alumni support, as well as through Careers Wales, we have welcomed over 50 different individuals and organisations into the school, to talk to our learners about what they enjoy doing, their journeys since leaving school, as well as how their businesses can support them in their own learning journey. This has enabled pupils to access positive role models, and consider directions they may not have thought of before. This initiative has significantly supported our Year 9 and 11 pupils making their option choices. We would also like to thank our governors who gave up their time to support with this programme.

We invited members of our extended community to assist in the development and planning of our sensory garden, enriching our learning environment. Volunteers have dedicated their efforts to improving the school grounds, and we have strengthened our connections with local businesses to support these enhancements.



A massive 'THANK YOU' to our PTA for running events and raising funds to donate over £5000 which has helped to pay for essential items across several of our departments; Music, PE, Art and Geography as well as supporting key clubs with new kit such as Chess club and Photography club. We also used their funds for whole school items such as new picnic benches and attendance initiatives. Their funding also helped us to invite authors and singers into school to talk about wellbeing.

Please continue to support the good work of our strong PTA by:

- signing up to our school lottery,
- downloading the easy fundraising app or
- follow them on Facebook. (Chepstow School PTA – Public page).



Chepstow School takes immense pride in supporting a range of charities that are important to us, both locally and nationally. This year, we have introduced an initiative to support the following charities for students in Years 7-11: Chepstow food bank, Ty Hafan, St David's Hospice, Teenage Cancer Trust.

Blwyddyn 7 and their families demonstrated remarkable generosity with their donations, resulting in seven large bags of food for the local food bank. A small group of form representatives delivered the food and took a tour of the facility, learning about the sorting process, the food bank's collaboration with local GPs, social workers, and support groups, and the distribution of the food. Once again, Year 7 showed themselves to be a compassionate, kind, and proactive year group, eager to support their local community and promote such a valuable cause. We are incredibly proud of their efforts.



Chepstow School's Blwyddyn 8 students became a vibrant mix of superheroes and mythical creatures for a fantastic cause. The school organized a 5k fancy dress fun run that was not only filled with joy and laughter but also raised an impressive £1,011 for Ty Hafan, a remarkable children's charity.



We are excited to share the recent achievements of Blwyddyn 9 in raising funds for St David's Hospice. Our goal was to support this hospice, which provides compassionate care to patients and their families. A heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers for your generous contributions, and to your family, friends, and community for their support. With the assistance of Head of Year Miss Morgan, Year 9 students have raised a total of £876.50 for St David's Hospice.



We are extremely proud of Blwyddyn 10 for the significant donations they raised for Teenage Cancer Trust. The Whole School Talent Showcase and Charity Movie Event brought the whole school together and created memorable experiences. Pupils enjoyed a variety of musical, dance, comedic and dramatic acts and money was raised through donations and the sale of refreshments.



NOAH'S JOURNEY

In June, we had the honour of hosting a team of Māori teachers who were keen to learn about our Welsh language program at Ysgol Cas-gwent. We were selected as the only second-language school in the country to participate in this study, which was both a privilege and a pleasure. We hope that our Māori colleagues will be inspired to foster a similar positive shift in attitudes and engagement with their native language, as we have experienced with Welsh here in Wales.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The school was proud to be able to offer pupils a wide and varying range of extra-curricular activities and there should be something to suit all interests.



PE@chepstow @PEchepstow1 · Feb 21
 Today this amazing group of pupils won that semi final 3-1 and now look forward to the final. Congratulations to them all @chepstowschool

Luca Goddard @LucaGoddard · Jan 17
 Our year 9 football team have reached the cup semi final after a 3-0 victory vs @KingHenrySchool. The school values of perseverance and positivity were in abundance. Well done! @PEchepstow1 @Cymraeg_SMorgan



PE@chepstow @PEchepstow1 · Feb 21
 League winners bus? Waiting for the official results but we've played all our fixtures and year 8 & 10 remain undefeated 🙌🙌 @chepstowschool



PE@chepstow @PEchepstow1 · Feb 4
 Super Sophie won a Bronze medal at the Welsh U17 Championships yesterday in the 300m. A brand new PB as well. Amazing Sophie @chepstowschool



Leslie Williams @leslierwilliam2 · Feb 5
 Another fantastic performance tonight by the U13 Newport and District Schools team!! 7-2 win away at @CaerphillySFA and an assist for Fin! 🙌🙌 @PEchepstow1 @SouthWalesGK1 @Year8Chepstow



PE@chepstow @PEchepstow1 · Feb 28
 So proud of our 10 athletes representing East Wales today at the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships in Brecon today @chepstowschool



PE@chepstow @PEchepstow1 · Feb 2
 All our gymnasts smashed it today. Special mention to Bre Trim & Niamh Trott who won individual gold and team U14 gold for our girls. Amazing effort from all @chepstowschool



Beverley Laurie @BeverleyLaurie2 · Jan 21
 Alistair picked up his trophy today for Most Outstanding Student of 2023 from Chepstow Taekwondo Academy @PEchepstow1 @chepstowschool



PE@chepstow @PEchepstow1 · Jan 25
 More new kit, looks awesome. Thanks to @macronebbw

Macron Sports Hub Ebbw Vale @macronebbw · Jan 25
 The striking new Chepstow High School playing jersey completed by Macron Sports Hub Ebbw Vale.

Contact us today for your playing kit and teamwear quotes; sales@macronstoreebbwvale.co.uk



repstow1 · Jan 28
 nivement. Well done Ollie. We can't wait to hear all next week.

Terry Hughes @TerryH77169 · Jan 27
 So proud of Ollie today. Silver medal at The Open Dutch in Holland in a very high quality international field. @PEchepstow1 @chepstowschool



PE@chepstow reposted
 Luca Goddard @LucaGoddard · Jan 17
 Our year 9 football team have reached the cup semi final after a 3-0 victory vs @KingHenrySchool. The school values of perseverance and positivity were in abundance. Well done! @PEchepstow1 @Cymraeg_SMorgan



SPORT

Chepstow School is co-located with Chepstow Leisure Centre and benefits from the use of the facilities including, swimming pool, sports hall, all weather pitch, and sports grounds. We have a fantastic outdoor basketball area and two Netball courts. Chepstow School provides an impressive range of sporting opportunities with a programme that includes rugby, football, netball, athletics, swimming, cross-country, tennis, golf, badminton, fitness, gymnastics, and basketball. Clubs and activities are run both at lunchtime, and after school. Many students represent the school at county and national levels. We are fortunate to have a wealth of experienced PE teachers who represent their sport at a high level, ensuring that they are seen as excellent role models both in terms of their own dedication and commitment to their sport but also in terms of their passion, drive and determination to motivate and inspire all students at all levels and the next potential Olympian. The 2023/2024 season saw a range of league and cup competitions across a range of different sports. There were so many highlights, and all our teams did fantastically well in league and cup competitions alike.

Participation rates were high across all sports and all year groups. We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by all pupils who attended week in and out.

Our annual Sports Personalities Of The Year event was held in July, and we had a fantastic number of students attend. This reflects the hard work and commitment of the students' attending clubs and representing the school across the year. There were awards in a range of sports and these included Coaches player, most improved player, and player of the year.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

What a year it was for our Expressive Arts faculty; Art, Drama, Music, and Media. Here is an overview of some of the inspiring learning that took place:

SUMMER SHOWCASE

In our recent 'Expressive Arts Summer Showcase' held on 2nd July, we had a wonderful evening celebrating the musical and artistic talents of our students. The event featured a variety of performances in the drama studio ranging from singers and rock bands to clarinetists and piano soloists. The artwork on display was created by our talented GCSE, AS and A level students, showcasing their creativity and skill. Additionally, a fashion show was a highlight of the evening, with Art club pupils designing and creating dresses based on the theme 'Recycled'. There were many standout creations including a dress made entirely from recycled popcorn boxes designed, created, and modelled by Honor Leeming in Blwyddyn 7. We are proud of the incredible talent displayed by our pupils, and it was a joy for the Expressive Arts team to share this experience with our school community.

WINTER SHOWCASE AND DANCE-OFF

Our Winter Expressive Arts Showcase in December of 2023 was an enormous success, raising hundreds of pounds for our upcoming production of Grease (Feb 2024). Our amazing staff helped us on our way to our fundraising target by taking part in a dance off, won by Mrs Jones and Mr Parkin with their flips, spins, and twirls! The pupils again dazzled with their talents ranging from rock bands to beautiful carols and solo to band performances. We are so lucky to have a school in which all the pupils support each other, from Year 7 to Year 13.

EISTEDDFOD

For the second time in many years, many of our musicians and performers took to the stage once again in front of their peers and teachers. Year 7, 8 and 9 Drama groups were given a Welsh stimulus to produce a performance piece. Our KS3 artists blew us away with their entries and art was displayed. This year students performed Welsh pieces of music, and the competition were really tight. We look forward to competing again next year.



> ICT

Under the leadership of Miss Bourne, our flourishing girls coding club is continuing to expand and be popular. 'Lovelace Ladies' has witnessed a surge in interest. They are currently working on developing further their skills and knowledge in robot coding, binary arithmetic, and honing their Python programming capabilities.

Captivatingly, four teams of our Year 8 girls showcased their skills in the 'Year 8 Girls CyberFirst Challenge', they all showed determination; developing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

After achieving the distinguished Silver CyberFirst Award, Chepstow School became the spotlight for the CyberFirst team from the University of South Wales. This alliance blossomed into the CyberFirst Adventurers workshop, enlightening our Year 8 students about the multifaceted world of cybersecurity.



TRIPS



Chepstow School provides a wide range of opportunities for students to improve their learning experience outside of the classroom. Whether they're educational, activity-based, residential, or just a fun day away, trips are a great way to maintain children's motivation towards their studies, support social and emotional development and help learners to engage practically with their subjects.

Chepstow has an Education Visit Lead and staff are encouraged to consider how trips can be used to support studies and enhance pupil's school experiences. In July the Year 7 'Footsteps of Conquerors' trip provided a group of students a fantastic opportunity to see the Bayeux Tapestry, as well as visit the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. Year 7 also had a Castle Trip which combined Geography, History and Art.



In April a group of Year 8 students got to experience the thrills of a Premier League Football match watching Fulham Vs Liverpool! There is also a biannual PE Ski trip and in 2025, years 8, 9 and 10 will embark on a multi-year and multi-sports tour of the Netherlands.

In Year 10 students have an annual trip to the Science Museum and the V&A in London and next year GCSE students will visit the trenches in Belgium. This year they also enjoyed a day of exploration at the RAF Museum and the Harry Potter Studios.

Alongside these significant national and international trips there were a number of local visits and regular Reward Trips to recognise and celebrate student behaviour.



LANGUAGES

The languages team offered a variety of opportunities to support and develop language learners at the languages team offered a variety of opportunities to support and develop language learners at school.

in 2024 year 8 pupils explored aspects of Japanese life and culture with the opportunity to participate in online meetings with pupils from Tsurumidai Junior School in Beppu City, Oita, Japan. Ukranian pupils also delivered a fantastic session on Ukranian to pupils who learned how to write their names in Cyrillic.



CHEPSTOW SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR

TERM	TERM STARTS	HT STARTS	HT ENDS	TERM ENDS
Autumn	2 nd Sept 2024	28 th Oct 2024	1 st Nov 2024	20 th Dec 2024
Spring	6 th Jan 2025	24 th Feb 2025	28 th Feb 2025	11 th Apr 2025
Summer	28 th Apr 2025	26 th May 2025	30 th May 2025	21 st Jul 2025

Confirmed Teacher Training (Inset) Days:

- 2nd September 2024
- 3rd September 2024

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The current school prospectus was launched in 2021 and puts the school's mission 'Inspiring learning' front and centre of the pupil experience. The prospectus showcases a rebranded Chepstow School with the school's ethos and values running as a unifying theme throughout. It's available on the website at the following link:

<https://www.chepstowschool.net/prospectus/mobile/index.html>



OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum has been designed, as per government guidelines, to be bespoke to our learners and our community. Using their expertise, our staff have curated the curriculum to ensure that every learner progresses in line with their own capabilities. Our staff continue to evolve our curriculum so that it meets the needs of all learners and continues to inspire them to learn for life.

Learners are at the heart of the curriculum. In keeping with the school's mission statement "inspiring learning for all, for life" it ensures that they are inspired, inspirational and able to thrive as they move onwards to their next steps. It provides a broad learning experience, enables deep and meaningful learning and secures excellent progress. A big part of our curriculum is ensuring that all learners have access to a range of experiences throughout their time at the school. To this end, we created our Chepstow Charter (below). This was created alongside pupils, parents, staff and our governing body.

Our curriculum is underpinned by our values. These were chosen by our pupils and stakeholders, and are woven into every aspect of school life. They are reflected in our student leadership structures and provide the themes for our assemblies and our thoughts for the day. They provide a frame of reference for our learning environment, defining what we value, expect and even the things that we praise and thank each other for.

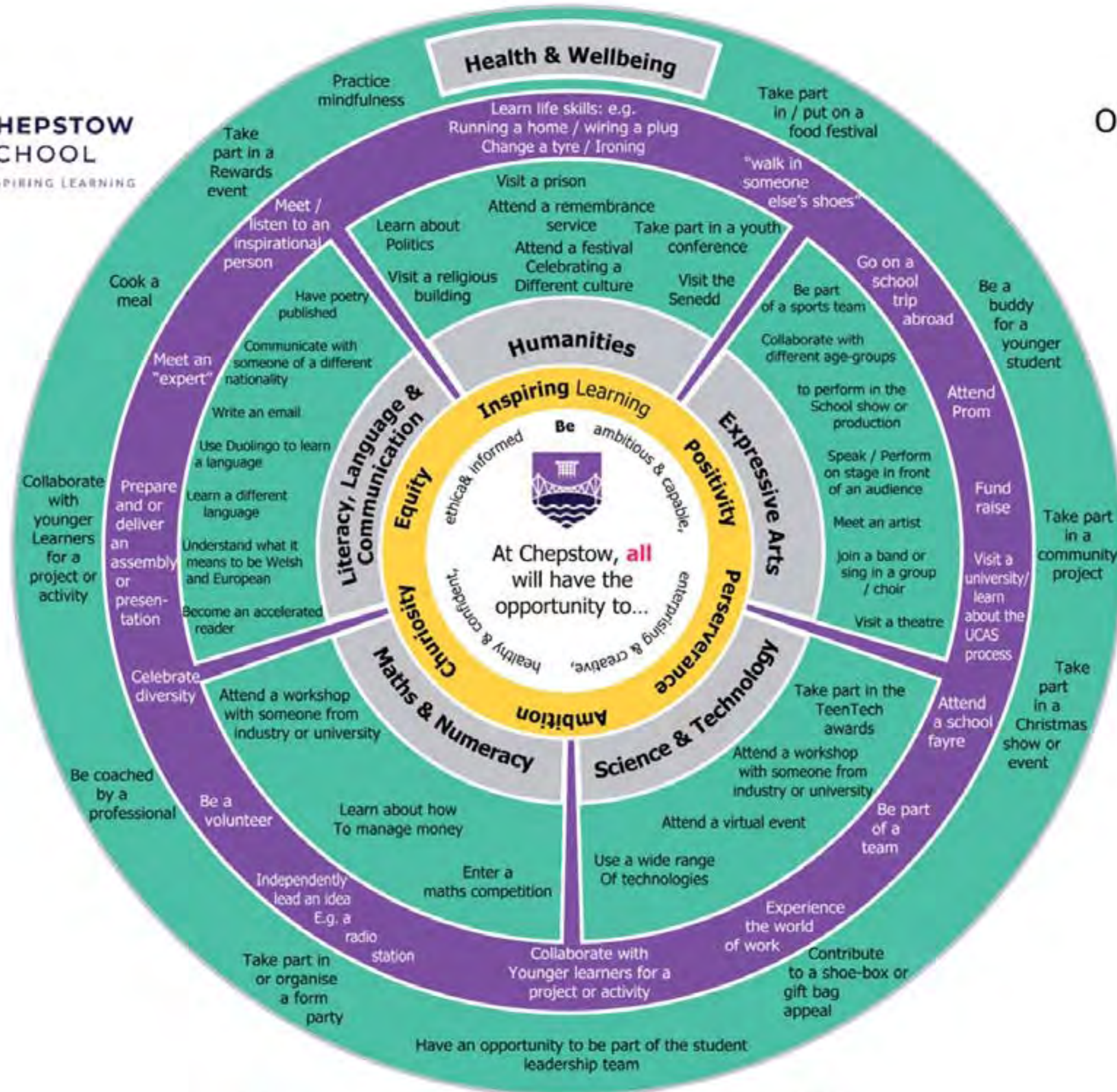
Our curriculum is realised using our Teaching and Learning philosophy (DR ICE) and is framed around 5 principles of outstanding teaching:

- D** – Deepening Thinking
- R** – Role-modelling
- I** – Having Impact
- C** – Challenge
- E** – Engaging learners actively

We have strived to develop a range of innovative teaching and personalised learning that ensures our learners personify the four core purposes that are at the core of the New Curriculum.

1. ambitious, capable learners who: set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge; are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts; are questioning and enjoy solving problems; can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English.
2. enterprising, creative contributors who: connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products; think creatively to reframe and solve problems; identify and grasp opportunities; take measured risks.
3. ethical, informed citizens who: find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views; engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values; understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights; are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past.
4. healthy, confident individuals who: are motivated, resilient and show empathy to themselves and others; empowered and motivated decision makers who are ready to learn throughout their lives.





To ensure our curriculum is innovative and excellent we have:

Conducted Educational Reviews: Comprehensive reviews of our Curriculum have been conducted in line with the school's formal review cycle. These reviews focused on lesson delivery, student engagement, and academic progress. Pupil feedback indicated very positive progress and engagement levels in learning. Pupils are also now using our 5 key questions to articulate their progress in lessons. Our staff have also worked tirelessly during INSET days and through our professional learning sessions to evaluate and continue to develop our curriculum.

Professional Development and Networking: The school held a Cluster INSET in May to work with our primary colleagues on what every learner in our Chepstow cluster should know about the area by the end of their time in education. Parents, pupils, staff and the governing bodies of all the schools were invited to share what they thought was important that pupils should know. Our school is also part of a variety of networks that keep us up to date on the latest governmental developments so that we can share the latest research with our staff to make sure our learners are receiving the highest quality education.

Student Wellbeing and Career Guidance: A new reporting template for Year 7 and 8 pupils, enabling reflection on their progress, wellbeing has been implemented. We have also sent out a parental link asking for feedback on the reporting system. An innovative career guidance program was well-received by Year 9 and 11 pupils, aiding them in their option choices.

Health and Wellbeing Focus: Health and Wellbeing lessons continue to support the delivery of cross-cutting curriculum themes that are integral in aiding learner's physical and mental health. Learning in this area is shaped using the School Health Research Network (SHRN) which has been set up by the Public Health Wales.

Partnerships and Community Engagement: Strong partnerships continue with Microchip and Airbus as our Schools Values Partners. We have also developed strong links with the Dick Lovett Group and Rolls Royce through our Alumni and parental network. Additionally, the PTA has played a crucial role in forging community links and securing funds for various school needs including rewards and school equipment. They continue to be proactive in their approach and would welcome any additional members.

PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral care and guidance of pupils are the business of every member of the teaching and wider support staff. We know that children cannot learn well if their social and emotional wellbeing is not properly nurtured and seek to create a closely-knit pastoral organisation. On entering, pupils are placed into a form of approximately twenty-eight pupils. Their first point of contact with the staff is their Form Tutor who, in regularly scheduled periods, will be able to help and advise as necessary. Any cases of special difficulty are referred by the Form Tutor to the Head of Year who works closely with the senior management team. The Head of Year's concern is with the well-being of pupils within the year-group and they keep a watching brief over pupils' academic and social progress.

The school's points-based rewards system means that positive learning behaviours are consistently recognised and enables children to choose from a range of rewards that mean the most to them – including a reward breakfast with the Headteacher

HWB

The school has a HWB (Health and Wellbeing Area) where pupils can access support at any time of the day. The facility is made up of a kitchen and dining area, a private dining area, sensory garden, intervention room, nurture classroom, separate toilet facilities, disabled toilet and wash facilities. The area is staffed by Cath Evans as Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Co-ordinator, ALN Administrator (Clare Roullier), Vulnerable Learner Lead (Amy Kite), Intervention Lead (Ruth Barnes Richards) and Nurture Lead (Ceri Pini) as well as 6 Teaching Assistants.



ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

All pupils at Chepstow School have converted to the new ALN Code for Wales. There are currently 18 pupils classed as "Specific", who have Individual Development Plans (IDPs), have additional learning needs (ALN) and require additional learning provision (ALP). There are 136 pupils classed as "Targetted". These students have an additional learning need (such as dyslexia) that requires adaptations to learning or interventions to support their learning, but otherwise function well in a mainstream classroom.

There are 94 learners who are classified as "Universal Plus". This means they have a recognised wellbeing need or are having a wellbeing intervention, such as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (Elsa) or the Thrive approach.

The remaining 566 learners are classed as "Universal" and access mainstream education with little additional support.

SENSORY ROOM

Chepstow School have just invested in a new state of the art Sensory Room that has been designed to support young people with Autism. The room uses light, sound and touch to regulate young people who are in sensory overload, thereby preventing Autistic meltdown in school. The added advantage of this space is that it can be used to regulate pupils experiencing emotional dysregulation for a multitude of reasons, whether they have ALN or not. Thereby, preventing emotional dysregulation that leads to behaviour incidents and therefore reducing exclusion, and improving wellbeing and attendance.



INTERVENTIONS

Interventions that run in Chepstow are Breakfast Club, ELSA, Face 2 Face Counselling, Nurture, Draw and Talk, Mindfulness, Handwriting, Touch Typing, SPLD, Rainbow Readers, School Health Nurse, Compass, Inspire to Achieve and Reflexology. All interventions are reviewed for cost effectiveness and success using pre-entry and post-intervention questionnaire and tracked by our Intervention Lead.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Chepstow School regularly works in partnership with other agencies to support pupils, such as SPACE Wellbeing, SPACE Neurodevelopment, Building Stronger Families, Children's Services, Youth Service, Young Carers, CAMHS, Education Welfare service, Education Psychology Services and the NHS.

VULNERABLE LEARNER LEAD

This new post was created last academic year for the purpose of Inclusion and reducing exclusions. There are a number of pupils in school that are young carers, on free school meals, Child Looked After (CLA), on the Child Protection (CP) Register or Capacity and Ability to Supervise and Protect (CASP), and all require extra support. The VLL has been trained by Keeva McDermott, the VLL for Monmouthshire and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and uses data captures to identify pupils who are vulnerable and underperforming. This support helps them to achieve academically and improves their wellbeing.

SAFEGUARDING

As ALNCo and Safeguarding Lead, all staff are L1 Safeguarding trained annually. Concerns are reported to the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) by Safeguarding Forms, which are tracked and monitored for outcomes. DTRs (Duty to Report Forms) may be submitted to Child Duty, which may result in STRATEGY meetings, Section 47 investigations, Toolkit Meetings, Care and Support Plans, Child Protection Plans or even a pupil becoming CLA (Child Looked After).



WELSH LANGUAGE AND BILINGUALISM

Chepstow School proudly embraces its location at the gateway to Wales. We seek every opportunity to promote bilingualism across the school in order to increase the potential of our students. We are in English-medium school where Welsh is compulsory to GCSE. Although English is the first language of our school, we try to utilise the Welsh language as much as possible, with the aim of improving our pupils' everyday language skills in an increasingly bilingual modern Wales. Our work reflects our vision to create 'ambitious and capable learners' that fully understand the value and importance of using Welsh as a living and working language. Further to this, we offer Welsh for A Level after a 9 year hiatus and we're striving to build on its success moving forward. We received funding for the course from Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. There are several pathways available for children to continue or even to start learning Welsh as the transition from primary into secondary education, and there is a lot of support available for parents who don't speak the language themselves.

In the Autumn Term of 2022, Angharad Jones was appointed as Head of Bilingual Development in Chepstow School. This role evidences that the school values the promotion of bilingualism, additionally to a Welsh Department and a Head of the Welsh department role, held by Mr. Joe Woodland. Angharad Jones is working in Chepstow School and all cluster schools to promote Bilingualism, Welsh culture and heritage and "Cymreictod", which means Welshness. This year, Chepstow School has achieved the Bronze Siarter Iaith award as part of a commitment to raising the standards of bilingualism. Angharad Jones has also been nominated for a National award for the most inspirational promotion of the Welsh language.

Cynefin is a Welsh term defined by Curriculum for Wales as 'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable'. This year we also held a Cluster INSET day where Dr. Mererid Hopwood and the Chepstow Society presented about the importance of a bilingual environment and the importance of students feeling like they have a positive identity as part of belonging to the local area. At Chepstow School we want our students and staff to feel that they belong to an increasingly bilingual community. This involves our Head of Bilingual Development visiting our Primary Schools and our Head of Year 9 and Welsh Teacher Samantha Morgan working with organisations such as the Urdd and Menter Iaith to develop bilingualism further and support our students that are fluent in Welsh.

Did you know? Welsh is the fastest growing minority language in the world today. Dead language, hihi?

Did you know? Between 60% and 75% of the world's population is bilingual. People who only speak one language are in the minority.

Did you know? There are lots of advantages with evidence of better results and children who are able to use two languages; being more versatile and creative in their thinking.

Did you know? The latest figures show that around just over 30% of the Welsh population speak Welsh fluently. This does not include Welsh learners like us here at Chepstow School of course.

Did you know? Being bilingual can improve a person's multitasking skills, attention control, problem solving and creativity as it promotes outside-the-box thinking. It can also help improve your memory.

Did you know? Recent studies reveal that bilingual people's brains age more slowly and therefore they live longer and more satisfying lives. It is now widely recognized that being bilingual can delay neurological diseases like dementia and

Prosiect Pontio: Cymraeg at



YSGOL
CAS-GWENT
YSBRYDOLI DYSGU

Chepstow School proudly embraces its location at the gateway to Wales. We seek every opportunity to promote bilingualism across the school in order to increase the potential of our students. Even in an English-medium school such as ours, Welsh is a compulsory curriculum subject up to GCSE level. As you might already be aware, Welsh is introduced as a second language in nursery, and is typically given more weight than a second language would be in an English school just over the border. Although English is the first language at our school, we try to utilise the Welsh language as much as possible, with the aim of improving our pupils' everyday language skills in an increasingly bilingual and modern Wales. Our work reflects our vision to create 'ambitious and capable learners' that fully understand the value and importance of using Welsh as a living and working language.

"Shwmae pawb! My name is Mr Woodland and I am the Head of Welsh here at Chepstow School. My aim is to develop our school's bilingual identity. We pride ourselves upon our strong sense of 'Cymreictod' (loosely translated as 'Welshness') and are excited to welcome you to our very own 'Criw Cymraeg'. Like many of you, I come from a non-Welsh speaking background too and understand the worries and anxieties of all second language learners - my team and I are ready to fully develop your linguistic skills further!"



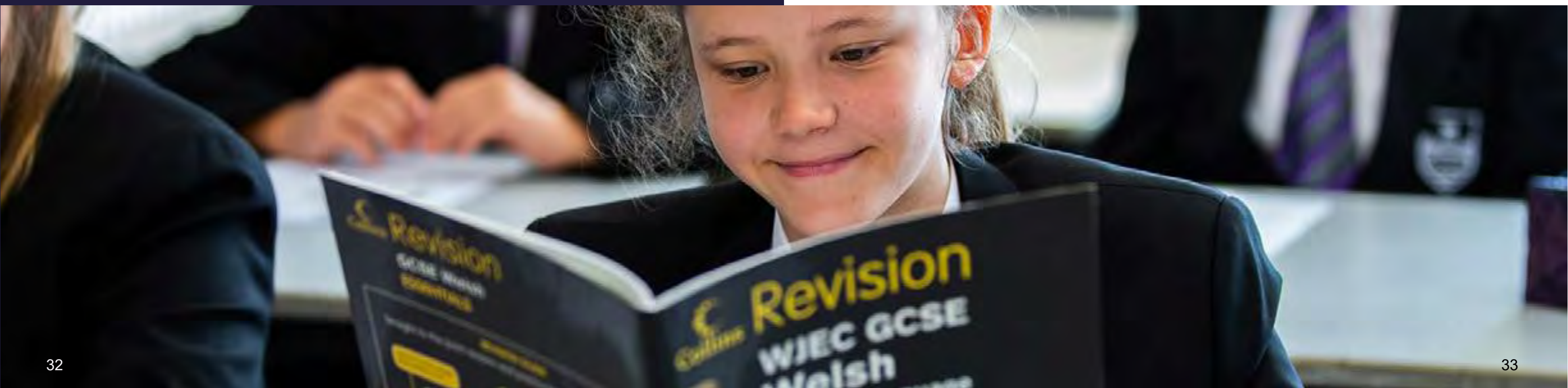
There are a number of options available for your children to continue or even start learning Welsh as a second language, and there is a lot of support for parents who don't speak the language themselves. We are eager to ease any anxieties that you may have as parents and have outlined some below.

Will learning Welsh affect my child's English?

No! In fact, it may even help your child's English. By learning two languages at the same time, children become aware of how languages work in general. Recent results suggest that children who receive an education with focus on a secondary language do better in subjects across the curriculum - including English!

How do I support my child if I don't speak Welsh?

You don't need to be able to speak or even understand Welsh if your child attends secondary school in Wales. As a parent, the biggest help you can give your child is to encourage and praise them.



HEALTHY EATING AND DRINKING

Making healthy choices is an important aspect of learning and as part of the curriculum, pupils develop an understanding of the 'Eatwell Guide' to inform these. Pupils learn to plan healthy balanced meals and understand how budget, seasonality and sustainability can have an impact on these choices. Pupils have been developing their knowledge and understanding of food provenance (farming in Wales), carbon footprint and food miles.

Students learn food preparation skills, using them to produce a range of nutritious meals. In the Spring term we were joined by 'Multiply' who ran cooking sessions aimed at giving some of our learners the opportunity to cook with a parent, creating one pot dishes that were healthy, affordable and suitable for four people.



The outdoor growing space continues to thrive and this year with the help of a community volunteer, a group of Year 7 pupils have grown a range of produce including lettuce, broad beans, leeks and herbs.



Catering in school is outsourced to Aramark and offers a wide range of eating options throughout the school day. Lunchtime menus run on a rolling four-week rotation and feature 'themed' days. Meals are prepared on site and salads, healthy snacks, fresh fruit and vegetarian dishes are available daily. Menus for the day are displayed on screens in the dining area so that pupils can see the options available.

The canteen operates a cashless payment system with pupils using their fingerprint to purchase food or drinks. Parents and carers can view the items that have been purchased via The Chepstow School app.

Drinking water is available via several hydration stations located throughout the school where pupils can fill up their own water bottles.

Further information about eating and drinking at Chepstow School along with some recipe ideas, tips for healthy lunchboxes and information about free school meals and how to apply can be viewed on the website here:

<https://www.chepstowschool.net/en/parents-students/eating-at-chepstow>

