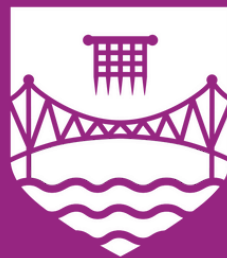


SPRING TERM 2024 NEWSLETTER



**CHEPSTOW
SCHOOL**
INSPIRING LEARNING

CHEPSTOW SCHOOL'S EISTEDDFOD


On 1st March, we hosted our second annual Eisteddfod to celebrate St. David's Day and our pupils' talents. Pupils from across KS3 competed in singing, dancing and instrumental competitions to win points for their houses. This also included a Welsh Cake eating challenge (won by Miss Walters!) and all pupils in Year 7 and 8 competed in a house karaoke competition alongside their Heads of House on stage.

Our 'Chairing of the Bard' award was given to Artem M of Tŷ Campbell for his incredible short story written about Chepstow and our pupils were also treated to a guest performance from our Head Student, Morgan Jones, who performed a 7-year anniversary performance of his Urdd National Eisteddfod song from 2017. Da iawn everyone!

DAILY REMINDER :

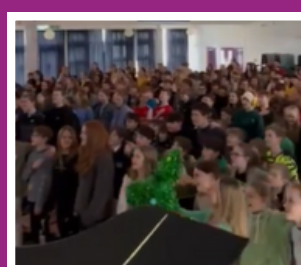
Please ensure that a child's absence is reported every day before 9am. The absence line number is 01291 635795

Contact Us :

 01291 635777

 Chepstow School, Welsh St

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EVENTS :

- **Monday 8th April**
All pupils return -
Week 2
- **Thursday 11th April**
Year 8 Parents'
Evening
- **Monday 22nd April**
Year 12 UCAS
Convention trip
- **Thursday 25th April**
UKMT Junior Maths Challenge
(Years 7 & 8)
- **WC 29th April**
Year 7, 8 & 9 NRT
testing
- **Monday 29th April**
Year 11, 12 & 13 Art and
Photography exam

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**CHEPSTOW
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HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE CHEPSTOW SCHOOL APP?

At Chepstow School, we are always looking for even better ways to keep our parents informed and engaged in their child's learning journey. Therefore, we are very excited to announce that we have partnered with Reach More Parents by Weduc to create a custom Chepstow School App. This is a digital communication platform specifically designed to make it easier for us to send parents relevant updates concerning their child and to interact with the updates we send.



This new system has replaced Parentmail and will be our only means of communication moving forward. You will be able to book Parents' Evening appointments, top up your child's account, pay for trips, receive reports and more! If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact Reception.

NEW **CHEPSTOW SCHOOL APP**

Key Features of the Chepstow School App:

- Access to your child's progress reports
- Booking for parent's evening appointments
- Reporting your child's absence
- Receiving important communications from the school
- Viewing the school calendar
- Managing your personal contact details
- Viewing your child's timetable and daily attendance

Search
Chepstow school

in your app store

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01291 635777

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**CHEPSTOW
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MADRID



On a late-Winter, day forty year 10, 11, Sixth Form students and staff left Chepstow for Madrid. Ahead of them lay a busy week. Over the next five days, we ate incredible tapas in three authentic local restaurants, we learned how to dance flamenco, we scoffed churros with thick chocolate in the most famous churrería in Madrid, we explored the city with our knowledgeable tour guides, we shopped on a rainy day on the Gran Vía, we wandered around famous food markets, stood before Picasso's anti-war masterpiece Guernica and contemplated Las Meninas, putting ourselves in the place of royalty. We then ate calamari sandwiches in Plaza Mayor, learned Spanish in the language school, glimpsed at the Royal

Hola!

Palace with its beautifully manicured gardens and devoured mouth-watering croquetas in Casa Julio. We marvelled at the modern Santiago Bernabéu, played one touch one bounce in Puerta del Sol and relaxed in Retiro park with ice creams. We put in 20,000+ steps a day, ordered McDonalds for everybody in Ópera and enjoyed fun-filled evenings together. It was a pleasure to see our students behaving themselves so well around the city, and moreover, see friendships form between year groups. Thank you to everybody who came along for making it such a memorable trip, to all the staff who attended and all the staff who facilitated the mammoth amount of work which went on behind the scenes – Mr Walsh is already looking forward to going back in another two years!

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MADRID



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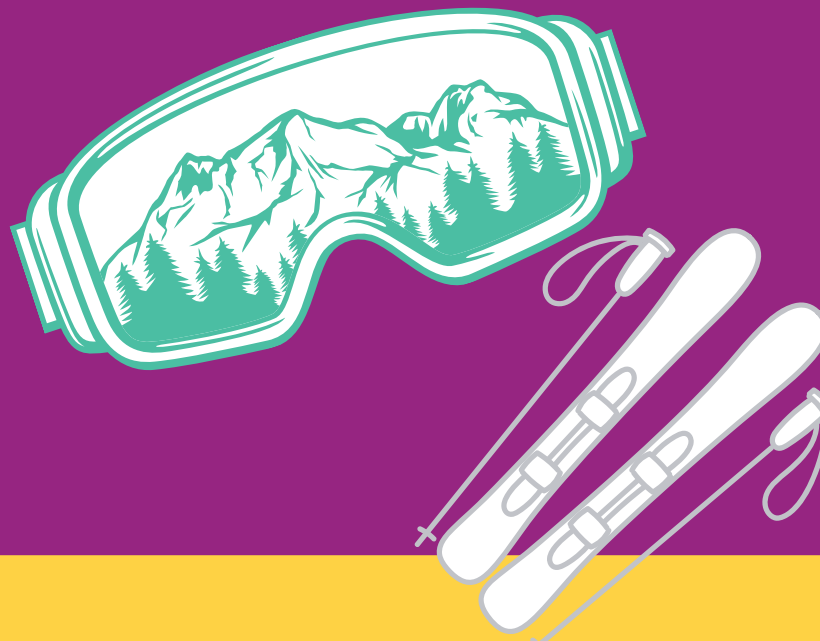
ANDORRA 2024

In a fun-filled adventure over February half term, Chepstow School students embarked on a thrilling ski trip to the picturesque slopes of Arinsal in Andorra. The trip was not only an opportunity for students to develop their skiing prowess, but also a chance to forge lasting memories and friendships against the stunning backdrop of the Pyrenees.

The trip was nothing short of a triumph, with students and staff alike embracing the spirit of adventure. The crisp mountain air and snow-covered landscapes provided the perfect setting for an unforgettable experience. From novices strapping on their ski boots for the first time, to seasoned skiers honing their skills, everyone found their place on the slopes.

Ski school offered a unique chance for students to enhance their skiing abilities under the guidance of experienced instructors. From mastering the basics to conquering more challenging runs, students saw remarkable progress in their skills throughout the week. The collective enthusiasm of everyone involved promoted an atmosphere of strengthened friendship, with students having fun and supporting each other both on and off the slopes.

Beyond the thrill of skiing, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich culture of Andorra. The evenings were filled with exploration of the county's capital city La Vella, delicious local cuisine provided by the hotel as well as team building challenges in the competition and awards evening.



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**CHEPSTOW
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ANDORRA 2024

The ski trip was filled with memorable highlights from start to finish, that will undoubtedly be etched in the minds of the all students who went. Whether it was conquering a particularly challenging run, enjoying a breathtaking panoramic view from the mountain tops, or simply sharing stories during their evenings, each moment added a unique flavour to the overall experience.

As the Chepstow School students returned from Andorra, they brought back more than just souvenirs and snow-covered gear. They returned with a sense of accomplishment, a trove of memories, and a strengthened sense of community.

The success of the ski trip is a testament to the school's dedication to offering enriching learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom, combining physical activity, cultural engagement, and the celebration of individual and collective achievements on this remarkable adventure.



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FREE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Periods are not a choice and period products are not a luxury.

The Welsh Government has created this map, powered by DataMap Wales, so that wherever you live in Wales you can locate free period products as and when you need them.

<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/map-to-free-period-products/>



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DO YOU FOLLOW US FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS?

We are very active across our social media platforms, and it is here where you will find the latest news and updates from our school:

@chepstowschool



EVENTS :

- **Monday 6th May**
May Bank Holiday
- **WC 13th May**
Mental Health Awareness Week
- **Tuesday 14th May**
Dylan Thomas Day
- **Wednesday 15th May**
CyberFirst Trailblazers - Year 8
- **Friday 24th May**
INSET Day
- **WC 27th May**
Half term for all pupils



WELSH IN THE WORKPLACE

As part of a project with Careers Wales, a Welsh in the Workplace event was organised for Year 9 pupils on 27th February. Pupils had the opportunity to talk to providers about how Welsh is used in a variety of workplaces. This included Airbus UK, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Digital Healthcare Wales and Screen Alliance Wales.

Our pupils were an absolute credit to us and asked really pertinent questions. Here is an example of the questions that they asked:

- Please can you give me an overview of your company.
- What are the main skills you use for your job?
- Is the ability to speak Welsh an advantage when you're looking for work?

- How much Welsh would be required at your company/organisation?
- What are the main areas within your organisation/company which would benefit the most from using Welsh?
 - As an employer, do you value the ability to speak Welsh as a skill?
- Is the demand for employing Welsh Speakers increasing?

Da iawn pawb!



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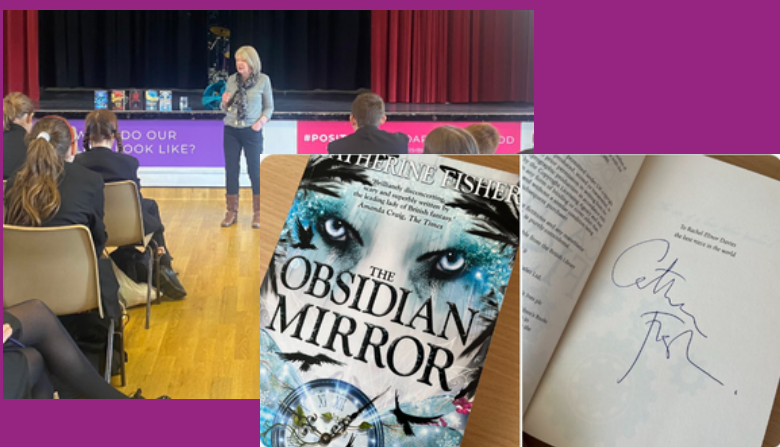


Year 8 Author visit

On 5th March, we were very lucky today to host local author, Catherine Fisher, writer of the Clockwork Crow series and other wonderful novels. We teach the Clockwork Crow in our Year 7 Scheme. Our current Year 8 pupils were the first cohort to read the novel and enjoyed listening to Catherine today. It was wonderful to hear insights into her novel and our pupils asked her some fantastic questions - da iawn everyone.

'I was speechless when it was announced that Catherine Fisher was coming to our school for World Book Week because I loved her books, The Clockwork Crow and The Velvet Fox. I thoroughly enjoyed both books and cannot wait to read the final book (The Midnight Swan) in the trilogy. Catherine explained The Clockwork Crow, her ideas for the story and why she wrote it. It was interesting to hear from an author's point of view about writing your own book. She is such an inspiration; I came out wanting to write my own book! Additionally, she explained some of her other books such as Incarceron a book about a living jail! Catherine also answered questions about other people's book ideas and gave writing tips and feedback, as well as talking more about the backstory of Seren and The Clockwork Crow. On top of that, I brought my own copy of The Midnight Swan in that I got recently; I was incredibly happy when she signed the book as I really enjoyed the first two books of this trilogy, and I would love to read more of her books.'

Maddalena P 8E



Contact Us :



World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March, World Book Day was a huge success and a wonderful day for the school community. In every lesson, there were opportunities for students to have a reading-rich day. Students spent the first 10 minutes reading and listened to their teachers discussing their favourite book. In lessons, students were given the opportunity to practise their reading skills and deepened their thinking as they read, discussed and wrote about exciting fiction and non-fiction texts chosen by their teachers. In addition, the LLC department hosted a whole school book swap in break and lunchtime. An amazing total of 305 books were donated and swapped. Diolch to everyone who donated books!



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SPRING TERM 2024 NEWSLETTER



**CHEPSTOW
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GREASE!

We are thrilled to announce the resounding success of Chepstow School's recent production of 'Grease'. Taking centre stage for three electrifying nights from February 6-8th, the school's rendition of this beloved classic proved to be an unforgettable experience for all involved.

From the moment the curtain rose, audiences were transported back to the 1950s, immersed in the nostalgic charm of Rydell High. The talented cast, comprised entirely of Chepstow School pupils, delivered stellar performances capturing the essence of each iconic character with flair and authenticity. Every member of the chorus brought their A-Game, dazzling audiences with their stage presence and vocal prowess.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated crew worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth transitions and flawless execution, while the lights and sound team created an immersive atmosphere that brought the world of 'Grease' to life.

Adding another layer of depth to the production was the school orchestra, whose stirring melodies provided the perfect accompaniment to the on-stage action, elevating the entire experience to new heights.


None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our sponsor, Archer&Co. Their unwavering commitment to the school has played a crucial role in making this production a reality, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their support.

As the final curtain fell on our sold-out performances, the resounding applause and standing ovations were a testament to the talent, dedication, and passion of everyone involved in bringing 'Grease' to the Chepstow School stage. We couldn't be prouder of our students and their incredible achievements.



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German Club

On Friday 8th March, we hosted our first ever German Club in LA1. 33 students attended and they learned how to introduce themselves in German, as well as finding out some interesting facts about the German language and culture. Some students were horrified to learn that, in Germany, school often starts at 7:30am and the longest German word is 63 letters long. German Club will be continuing each week on a Friday lunchtime in LA1 with Miss Cotten. If you are interested in learning how to speak German or want to know more about a new culture, come along!



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SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS AT CHEPSTOW SCHOOL



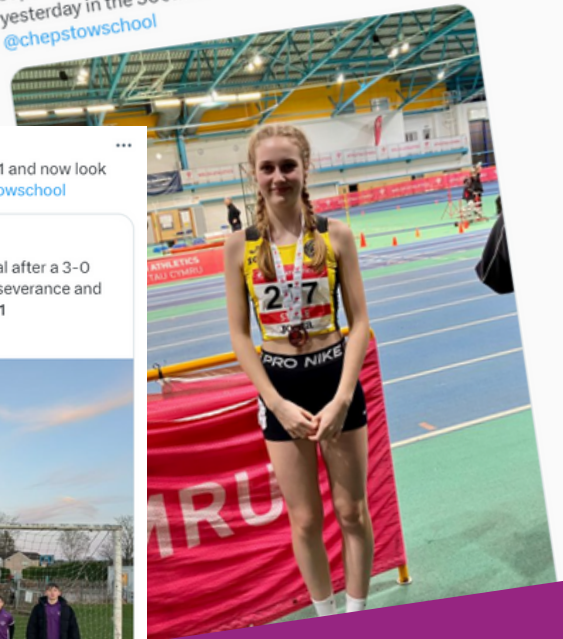


SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS AT CHEPSTOW SCHOOL

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 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



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





KS3



KS4



KS5



DT NEWS

News sheet Spring 2024

We have continued to be a busy and creative department across the board. Students have been working hard to develop and progress in the set projects and are now looking forward to the Easter break.

Primary Pizzas

The local year 6 pupils have been visiting the Food and Nutrition department to make their dream pizza. A great experience for all and a great chance to develop life skills.

KS3 Product Design

Pupils have been working hard developing their practical skills and creating some high quality outcomes, making them very proud individuals.

KS3 Food and Nutrition

All pupils have been creating a wide variety of nutritious dishes whilst deepening their knowledge of a healthy balanced diet.

KS3 have also enjoyed a visit from the Royal Navy, who gave a detailed presentation outlining the job opportunities and experiences available for a Naval career. This gives real life experiences to pupils and enables them to make informed decisions in the relevant aspect of their life.

KS4 & KS5 Product Design

Students have just completed the practical elements of the NEA and are finishing off their critical evaluation. Next term brings the delights of exam preparation to ensure all are ready for the written summer examination.

Lunchtime and after school sessions

Sessions will continue for KS4 & KS5 every week to support pupils in their exam preparation. Sessions occur every lunchtime and Wednesday after school with Mr Anthony, Mrs Heath and Mrs Davies. (Meetings permitting)

KS4 Food and Nutrition

Year 11 pupils have completed their coursework and are now focusing on examination content to be prepared for the summer examinations. Year 10 pupils have done a practical mock examination to develop a wide range of skills in preparation for their actual practical exam in the Autumn term.

London Museums Trip

A large number of year 10, 11, 12 and 13 pupils were able to enjoy a day in London visiting The Science Museum and The V&A Museum. This gave them a great opportunity to explore the progression of technology and products from around the world to support their creativity when completing the coursework element of their qualification.

As always, we would like to thank parents for their support in providing ingredients and materials needed in continuing to make this subject enjoyable, creative and as practical based as possible to support all our learners on our journey to excellence.



JustB Smoke Free

Public Health Wales run a smoking prevention programme with schools, aiming to cut-down and stop people from smoking in the future through the influence of peer pressure and friendship groups. Alarmingly, research has identified that young people are most likely to try out cigarettes in Year 8.

PHW delivered an assembly to the whole of Year 8, after which they voted for pupils to become ambassadors for the programme. This selection process has proven to be the best way to find influential pupils - it helps get ambassadors that the pupils in the year group see as influential role models. The 26 ambassadors then undertook 2 days of off-site training at The Rock and Fountain, giving them important skills and confidence to help them pass on information about smoking to their friends. The JustB programme fits in to the PSE curriculum and involves activities to help communication skills. The programme also works around making good choices and increasing self-confidence.

After the training days, the pupils will have four follow-up sessions in school to help them in their role as ambassador. A huge thank you to all 26 Year 8 pupils who are supporting the school with this important message - da iawn.





Year 7 Crucial Crew

Recently, our Year 7 pupils attended a morning of Crucial Crew workshops, dedicated to equipping them with vital life skills and knowledge. Throughout the morning, pupils embarked upon a series of engaging workshops facilitated by esteemed organisations such as RNLi, South Wales Fire, Resolve It and the National Grid. Each session provided the pupils with invaluable lessons that will serve them well both in theory, academic and personal journeys. Crucial Crew exemplifies our commitment to holistic education, empowering our pupils with the skills and confidence they need to navigate the complexities of the world around them.



Lifeboats



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru

South Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

nationalgrid





Year 7 egg-rolling

The Astro was filled with excitement on Wednesday 20th March, with over 100 Year 7 pupils bringing in decorated hard-boiled eggs. Just under £50 was raised which will go back into our PTA. Prizes were given for the best decorated and furthest rolled eggs in each form. Egg-cellent, Blwyddyn 7!

SALSA - Global Communications

Global Communications recently experienced an exciting fusion of culture and education as a Year 7 class delved into the world of Salsa dancing. Led by Miss Mahesan, students embraced the vibrant beats of Cuban music while learning the fundamental Salsa steps. Beyond the dance floor, this experience celebrated cultural enrichment, offering a dynamic departure from the traditional classroom setting. Through Salsa, students not only explored a fantastic style of dance, but also immersed themselves in Spanish and Cuban heritage.



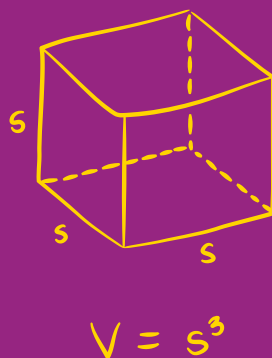


Numeracy

This term has been busy with many enrichment activities across Mathematics and Numeracy. Lots of KS3 pupils entered our Eisteddfod competition to calculate how many welsh cakes it would take to fill The Senedd in Cardiff and Pi day on the 14th March held lots of Pi related activities across the school!

The Intermediate Maths Challenge also took place with our largest number of entries ever, 77! Lots of gold, silver and bronze certificates awarded. One of our Year 9 pupils has even been invited to compete in the next stage. Good luck Lauren!

Counting on Success - Maths made easy at home; has been a fantastic opportunity for our Year 7 parents to come and get fresh ideas on how to make maths more fun and engaging at home. The feedback from these sessions has been so overwhelmingly positive that there will now be further sessions in October run by Lottie from Multiply .





Attendance



Chepstow Round Table

Diolch yn fawr to Chepstow Round Table who donated 40 Easter eggs to the school to support our Easter attendance incentive. They have been very well received by pupils.

Pupils who achieved 100% attendance for each week leading up to Easter were put into a year group raffle and one lucky winner each week received a certificate and an Easter egg.

We believe excellent attendance to school is so important for wellbeing and academic success. We are proud to have the highest attendance for secondary schools across Monmouthshire and we are also significantly above the Welsh national average.





Poets' Corner

Echoes of Desolation

Eyes fuzzy and glossy,
a fixated gaze on the violence portrayed before me.
They scream and shout,
while I beam and pout.

As if I'm floating,
I sink into the deep depths of dread
with a spinning head, feeling half dread,
my sorry stare shifting into oblivion.

I feel myself drown, down into my thoughts.
My feel of uselessness and scold expands within,
filling me with envy and despair,
until I can take no more.

Shallow thoughts smearing my head become deep,
weighing me down into a lone box,
a box covering my mind with distain.

The distain will never let up.
The fears will stay forever.
As the feelings get larger,
the box gets smaller, tighter.

The heart held in my chest,
once full and bright,
now shattered and dropped,
dimmed like the night.

Kaizal (Year 9)

