



## December 2025



Dear Parent or Carer,

I am delighted to share our Christmas newsletter, celebrating our many successes during the Autumn Term.

Thank you to our fantastic Chepstow pupils, families, staff, PTA and governing body for your continued hard work, collaboration, support and kindness. This week alone is a powerful testament to that commitment, with staff providing a wide range of enriching experiences, including achievement and attendance recognition assemblies, health workshops, school trips, our Expressive Arts Showcase, and a live performance to end the week.

On behalf of all the staff and governing body, we wish you a wonderful and restful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready to build on the many successes already achieved in 2025.

Nadolig Llawen!

Keep up to date with the latest news



# A Christmas Message

## From Our Chair of Governors

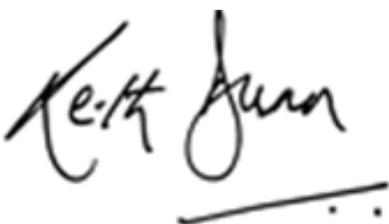
### Keith Dunn OBE

As the Christmas season approaches and we reflect on another productive and successful year at Chepstow School, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Governing Body, our sincere gratitude to every member of our school community.

This year has presented a wide range of challenges, opportunities, and accomplishments. My fellow Governors and I are immensely proud of all that our students and staff have achieved. I would particularly like to express our appreciation to our Headteacher, Kelly Waythe, together with our senior leadership team, dedicated teaching and support staff, for their unwavering commitment and professionalism. Your continued devotion to the wellbeing and progress of our students is truly commendable.

To our students, your enthusiasm, resilience, and determination continue to inspire us. It is a privilege to witness your talents and successes during our visits to the school.

We are also profoundly grateful to our parents and carers for their consistent support and engagement throughout the year. Your partnership with the school is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Finally, I wish everyone within the Chepstow School community a peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.



Keith Dunn

# Key Dates Academic Year 25/26



## Spring Term

05.01.26 - 27.03.26

## Summer Term

13.04.26 - 20.07.26

## February Half Term

16.02.26 - 20.02.26

## Whitsun Half Term

25.05.26 - 29.05.26

## INSET DAYS

02.03.26

13.04.26

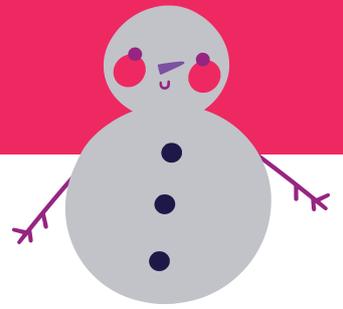
20.07.26

## Early May Bank Holiday

04.05.26

Date	Wellbeing Activity / Event	Groups Involved
w/c Monday 5th January	Start of Term 2	Whole School
Wednesday 7th January	WJEC English Literature Unit 1 Exam	Year 10
Friday 9th January	UCAS University Deadline	Year 13
Wednesday 21st January	Year 9 Full Reports Issued	Year 9
Friday 23rd January	St Dwynwen's Day Celebrations	Whole School
Thursday 29th January	Year 9 Options Evening	Year 9
Thursday 5th February	Sixth Form Parents' Evening	Sixth Form
w/c Monday 9th February	School Production	Whole School

# End of Term Celebrations



To celebrate an amazing first term, pupils who consistently embody our school values—Positivity, Perseverance, Ambition, Curiosity, and Equity—were invited to join our End of Term Christmas Rewards Trip to Ninja Warrior UK and Cribbs Causeway.

This year was truly exceptional, with over 700 pupils and staff taking part—the largest group we’ve ever had! The day began with high-energy fun at Ninja Warrior, where pupils competed on challenging obstacle courses, raced to determine the fastest competitor and bravely took on the legendary Killer Wall.

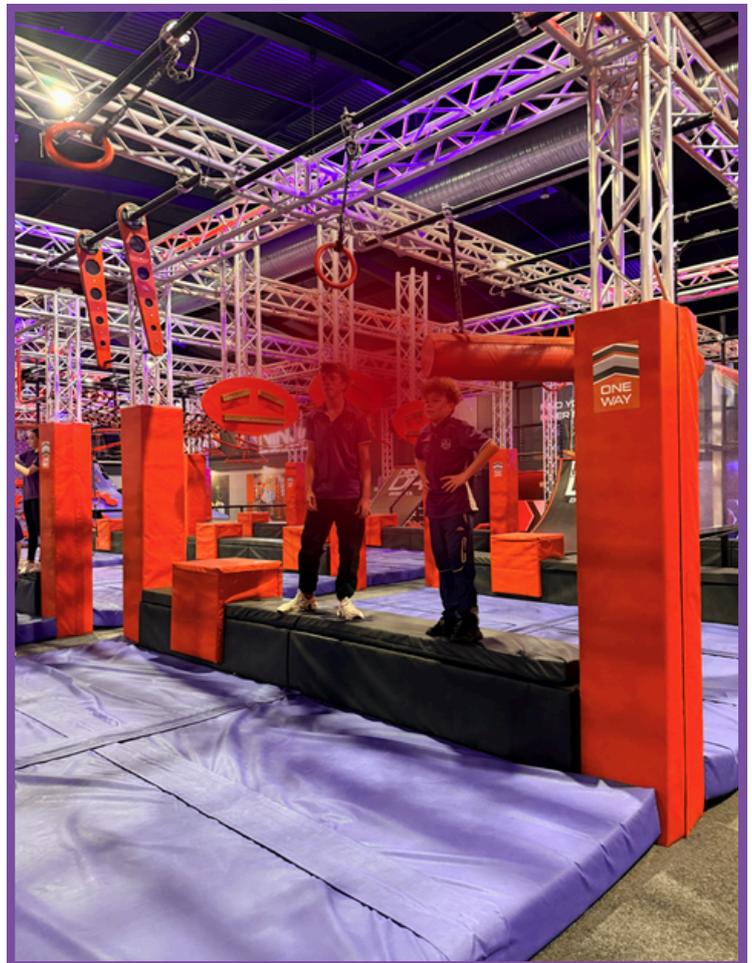
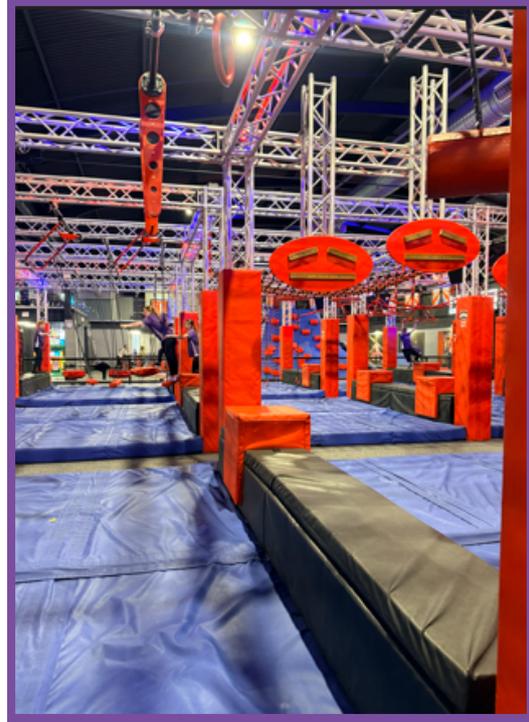
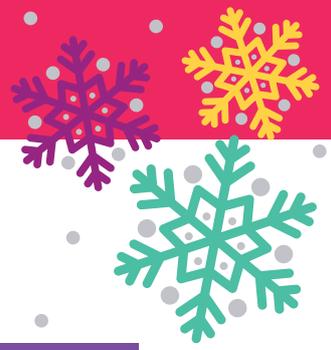
After the action-packed morning, pupils enjoyed the festive atmosphere at Cribbs Causeway, exploring Christmas markets, browsing shops, and sharing a hot chocolate with friends.

Back at school for Period 5, the celebrations continued with a lively End of Term Christmas Quiz, bringing the whole year group together for a fantastic finish to our Wellbeing Day.

We couldn’t be prouder of our pupils for their hard work and commitment this term—what a brilliant way to celebrate success and spread festive cheer! 🎄 ✨



# End of Term Celebrations



# End of Term Celebrations



Chepstow School ended the term on a high note with an unforgettable experience for Years 7–10.

We were thrilled to welcome '**FARON**', an up-and-coming artist, who performed live and shared his incredible journey, including the challenges he has faced along the way. His musical talent and honest storytelling captivated our pupils and created a truly uplifting atmosphere.

But FARON's visit was about so much more than music. After his performance, he led a heartfelt and thought-provoking session on Mental Health, Drug Education, and Peer Pressure, drawing on his personal experiences to empower pupils with practical strategies and advice.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and dedication of our amazing PTA—a massive thank you for making these unique opportunities happen!

This event was a perfect example of how music and meaningful dialogue can come together to support wellbeing and inspire positive change. What a fantastic way to close an incredible term! 🎵🌟

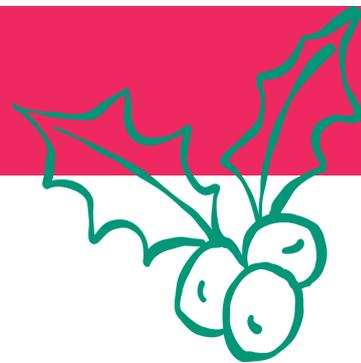
## **An Incredible End to the Term – iPad Winner!**

We ended the term on a truly fantastic high! One of our lucky learners walked away with a brand-new iPad, kindly donated by our valued partners at Definitive Security Solutions.

This generous gift was part of our end-of-term celebrations, recognising pupils who consistently demonstrate our school values and contribute positively to our community.

A huge diolch to Definitive Security Solutions for their continued support and commitment to Chepstow School.

# Christmas Lunch



Pupils at Chepstow School came together for a warm and cheerful Christmas lunch, sharing good food, laughter and plenty of festive spirit. The hall was filled with bright smiles as everyone enjoyed a fantastic meal and celebrated the season together.

A huge thank you to Delphine and her team from Aramark Catering for all your hard work!



# Reward Assemblies

## Celebrating Pupil Success at Our End-of-Term Reward Assemblies

This week, our Heads of Year proudly delivered end-of-term assemblies, shining a spotlight on the incredible achievements of every learner throughout the term. These celebrations recognised pupils who truly embody our school values:

**Positivity, Perseverance, Ambition, Curiosity, and Equity.**

Awards included excellent attendance, most improved pupil, and the coveted Head of Year's Pupil of the Term—always a tough decision with so many worthy candidates! Each award reflects the hard work, resilience, and commitment shown by our learners.

Our Wellbeing Team couldn't be prouder of the kind, respectful, and diverse community that makes Chepstow School such a special place. Every day, our pupils remind us why it's a great day to be part of this school family.



# Reward Assemblies



# Sixth Form Leadership Team

**Eliza** - As part of my role on the student leadership team, I have conducted a learning walk looking into verbal feedback around the school accompanied by the Curiosity student leadership team. I was then able to present my findings to staff and pupils. I have also been able to help create two social media videos encouraging others to attend Chepstow Sixth Form - these were uploaded to our Chepstow Sixth Form Instagram pages and received great feedback!

**Tayla** - During my short time on the student leadership team I have set up a mentoring system for the younger students. This includes reading buddies and maths mentoring. I have personally helped with the maths mentoring and have been supporting year 11 students in preparation for their mathematics GCSE. I believe that this system has been helpful to the students as it tests students on topics they struggle with.

**Toby** - This term has been an exciting one for student leadership, with plenty of opportunities to represent our school community. I was proud to deliver speeches at Open Evening, Sixth Form Open Evening, and the Remembrance Day service. Each event offered a chance to welcome new families, share our values, and reflect on important moments in our school calendar. As we move into the new year, I'm looking forward to taking on new projects, including launching a series of fundraising initiatives. These will aim to bring students together, support meaningful causes, and strengthen our sense of community. I'm excited to continue contributing to school life and helping make a positive impact throughout the year.



## 🎉 Thank You, PTA! 🎉

We're thrilled to announce that our amazing PTA raised £6,631 during the last academic year. Your dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts behind the scenes have made a huge impact to our school community. Please see the below poster showing how the PTA funds have been spent 2024/2025.



If your child has shot up since September and you need new uniform items please reach out to us.

 The pre-loved uniform cupboard is well stocked with all uniform essentials.

 This season is already expensive, so avoid anymore expenses and come to us for your new items. **Take what you need.**

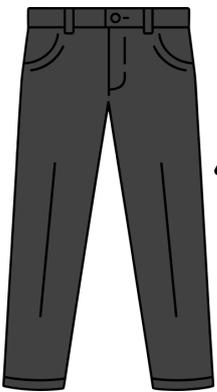
 Contact Amy Kite with requests: [AmyKite@chepstowschool.net](mailto:AmyKite@chepstowschool.net)

 Items will be left with reception for your child to collect.

 Suggested donation of £2 per item, but only pay if you can. Cash to school office or payment direct to PTA bank:

30-98-97

38128562



Our fab PTA all now have pupils at the top end of school and will be stepping back from July 2026.

**We're looking for parents/carers of year 7/8/9 to get involved to hand over the ropes.**

We always need help at events, even an hour to set up, stay and sell tuck, pop in and help put tables away.

Please help us to continue to run fun events for pupils and raise vital funds for school.

An hour is really appreciated.

Contact [chair@chepstowpta.net](mailto:chair@chepstowpta.net) for further information.

# Thank you for supporting the PTA

Here's where the funds have been spent  
2024/2025



£726 PE Sports Equipment



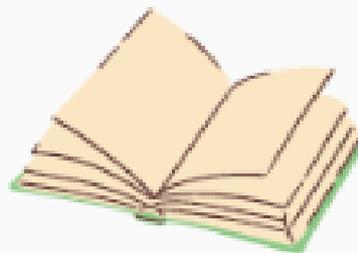
£890 Additional Seating  
for Canteen



£240 Artist Performer



£880 Educake Platform



£288 Thesauruses



£400 Digital SLR Cameras



£160 Sentence Bullder  
Annual Subscription



£390 Golden Hour  
Arts & Crafts



£324 ALN Resources  
for the Hwb



£300 School Uniform for  
Disadvantaged Pupils

# Class Charts Champions

## Year 7

Jemima N  
Florrie K  
Harry M



## Year 9

Casey T  
Phoebe D  
Tori P

## Year 8

Dima F  
Gracie W  
Jack W

## Year 10

Grace A  
Lily M  
Maegan J

## Year 11

Maisy K  
Sasha S  
Gweny M



ClassCharts

# Attendance Raffle



Christmas  
Weekly  
Attendance  
Raffle

Starting  
5<sup>th</sup>  
December  
2025

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

**Students who maintain 100% attendance each week will be entered into a weekly raffle for the chance to win an exciting prize!**

**Every Friday, two students with 100% attendance (per week) will be randomly selected from each year group - GOOD LUCK!**

*A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for funding the weekly prizes, and to Definitive Security Solutions for generously donating a brand-new iPad for our overall attendance winner!*

# Attendance Raffle

**A huge Llongyfarchiadau to the following pupils who won attendance raffle prizes...**

## **Year 7**

Jacob M  
Millie C  
Alexis B  
Robert N

## **Year 8**

Izzy S  
Alfie B  
Kesha dB  
Iwan O

## **Year 9**

Archie M  
Lucy F  
Jia C  
Philip J

## **Year 10**

Iestyn J  
Hollie S  
Samuel E  
Emma T

## **Year 11**

Brooke H  
Jaydon L  
Olivia J  
Owen R

## **Sixth Form**

Amy E  
Sam D  
Phoebe H  
Matthew T

# Attendance Highlights

136 Year 7 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th December

126 Year 7 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

140 Year 8 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th December

143 Year 8 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

136 Year 9 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th December

130 Year 9 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

116 Year 10 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th  
December

115 Year 10 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

112 Year 11 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th  
December

120 Year 11 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

33 Year 12 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th December

58 Year 12 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

17 Year 13 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 1st to 5th December

25 Year 13 Pupils Achieved 100% Attendance from 8th to 12th  
December

# Attendance Highlights

Thank you to all our families for helping us reach the top ten percent for attendance of FFT secondary schools in Wales last year. Your support made this possible.



## National School Attendance Award

2024/25 Academic Year



*Chepstow Comprehensive School*

*Top 10% of all FFT Secondary Schools in Wales*

# Elf on the Chepstow Shelf



Pupils have enjoyed seeing what our cheeky Chepstow elf has been up to throughout December. Particular highlights have been seeing him fly on the flagpole, zip-lining across the Arts Hall, joining in with Christmas Jumper Day and hiding in the Christmas tree.

Pupils have had to find him everyday and tell their form tutor what mischief he's been getting up to. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, each tutor group had a final riddle to solve. The winning form group from each year group then received a yummy prize. Well done, everyone!



# Mathematics & Numeracy



## Celebrating Success in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge 2025

We are delighted to share the achievements of our students in this year's UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge. This prestigious national competition, designed to stretch and inspire mathematical thinking among students aged 16–18, saw incredible participation and remarkable results from our learners.

Silver Awards were achieved by Alex B (Best in School) and Archie J, while Bronze Awards went to Sofia M, Joel A, Dylan H, Jack L, Miles R, and Theo H. A special mention to Sofia M, who earned Best in Year 12. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and enthusiasm, and thank you to the mathematics department for inspiring and supporting our learners.





Diolch to all the parents and carers who joined us for the Blwyddyn 7 Bore Coffi morning to celebrate Diwrnod Shwmae! Your support made the event truly special. Thanks to you, we raised an amazing £288.25 for Macmillan – together, we're making a real difference.



 **CHEPSTOW SCHOOL**  
INSPIRING LEARNING

**HEDDIW, RYDYN NI WEDI CODI  
£288.25. DIOLCH O GALON!  
TODAY WE HAVE RAISED  
£288.25  
FOR MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

*Thank you*



# Year 7 Skills Evening

## Year 7 Skills Evening

On Thursday, 13th November, we were delighted to welcome parents and carers to our Year 7 Skills Evening at Chepstow School.

The event was very well attended, and it provided an excellent opportunity to share strategies and resources to support pupils in developing key skills in literacy, numeracy, digital competence, and Cymraeg.

Parents engaged with staff leads for each area, explored practical resources, and gained insights into how these skills are embedded across the curriculum.

For those unable to attend, all resources have now been shared via ParentMail, ensuring every family can access guidance to support their child's learning journey.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to making the evening such a success. We look forward to continuing this partnership to help every learner thrive.

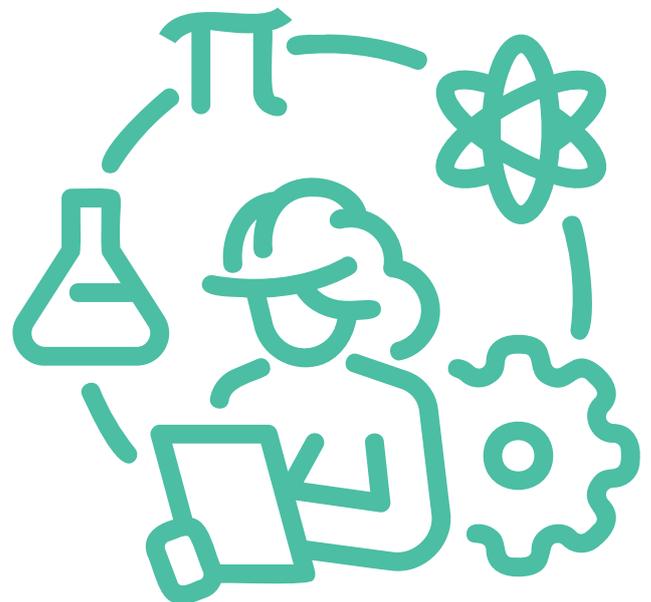
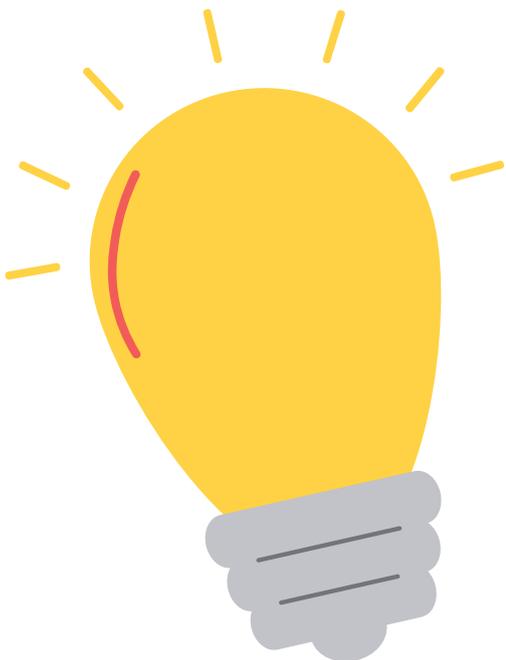


# Science & Technology

## Equinox

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Equinox STEM sessions, where the excitement of discovery and innovation was brought to life for young minds. These sessions were expertly delivered by our dedicated STEM Ambassadors, who shared their passion and knowledge to inspire the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

Designed with a focus on developing a comprehensive set of essential skills used in STEM fields, these sessions provided pupils with not only education but also inspiration. Participants were introduced to a wide array of STEM careers, offering them a glimpse into the vast opportunities that await in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Through this exposure, students gained valuable insights into potential future paths and the exciting challenges they could pursue.



# Welsh Water Network Challenge

## 💧 Year 7 Take on the Water Network Challenge. 🌍

A huge diolch to Welsh Water for delivering an engaging and hands-on workshop for all our Year 7 learners.

Pupils stepped into the role of engineers, planning, designing, costing, building, and testing a network of pipes using a practical table-top kit. This interactive experience provided authentic learning and gave learners a real insight into problem-solving and teamwork. It was the perfect activity for a inspiring creativity and collaboration while highlighting the importance of sustainable water management and protecting our planet.



# Welsh Water Network Challenge

## Thank You to Welsh Water for Supporting Our Healthy Eating Policy

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt thanks to Welsh Water for their generous donation of water bottles to our pupils. This thoughtful contribution plays a vital role in promoting hydration and healthy habits as part of our Healthy Eating Policy.

By providing reusable bottles, Welsh Water is helping us reduce single-use plastic waste and encouraging pupils to make sustainable choices every day. This initiative not only supports our commitment to environmental responsibility but also reinforces the importance of drinking water as part of a balanced lifestyle.

On behalf of our school community, thank you Welsh Water for your kindness and partnership in creating a healthier, greener future for our pupils.



# Giving Back

A massive thank you to everyone who donated to our **Rags2Riches** collection!

Together we collected an incredible 422 kg of items and raised £211! 🙌

Your generosity helps make a real difference — we couldn't have done it without you! ✨



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## 9E's Santa's Sweet Shop Success!

As part of Year 9's chosen charity for this academic year, St David's Hospice, 9E took the lead in organising a festive fundraiser: Santa's Sweet Shop. The students showed incredible dedication in planning and preparing for the event, from designing the stall to managing sales. Their hard work paid off, as the shop was a huge success and created a wonderful buzz around school. Thanks to their efforts, 9E have raised **£125 to donate to St David's Hospice**. A fantastic achievement for a worthy cause—well done, 9E!

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## Spreading Christmas Cheer in Our Community

This week, our amazing Equity Team came together at lunchtime to support pupils in creating beautiful Christmas cards. These heartfelt cards will be delivered to St Anne's Nursing Home and the Alzheimer's Ward at Chepstow Hospital, bringing joy and festive spirit to those who need it most.

We are so proud of our pupils for their creativity and compassion, and grateful to our Equity Team for making this wonderful initiative possible. Together, we're spreading kindness and Christmas cheer throughout the Chepstow community! 🎄 ✨

# Giving Back



# Anti-Bullying Week



## ♥ Chepstow School Stands United Against Bullying! ♥

We fully embraced Anti-Bullying Week 2025, empowering our learners to take the power to make the right decisions in line with the national mission.

Every day, assemblies delivered powerful messages – not just for this week, but for every week – because creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive community is always our priority. Together, we are building a culture where kindness and respect thrive, making Chepstow School the best it can be. ☀



# Mental Health Day

🌟💖 Hello Yellow Day at Chepstow School! 💖🌟

On Thursday, our school community came together to mark World Mental Health Day 2025 by taking part in #HelloYellow — a powerful symbol of hope, positivity, and unity.

It was incredible to see so many pupils and staff wearing yellow to show their support for mental health awareness and to remind each other: you are never alone.

In true Chepstow spirit, we also extended our support beyond the school gates. **Pupils and families donated generously to Chepstow Food Bank and Community Fridge**, with shelf-like items pouring in to help those in need. As you can see, the response was overwhelming — and so gratefully received by the community.

💖 Diolch to everyone who contributed!



Hello

# OddBalls

## ♥ Promoting Men's Health Awareness at Chepstow School ♥

We were proud to welcome the OddBalls Foundation to deliver workshops to all our male pupils, focusing on raising awareness of testicular cancer and the importance of understanding early warning signs.

These sessions were engaging, informative, and vital in breaking down barriers around men's health. A huge thank you to OddBalls for supporting our commitment to pupil wellbeing and education.

#ChepstowSchool #OddBallsFoundation #MensHealth  
#TesticularCancerAwareness #WellbeingMatters



# Health and Wellbeing

## **What a fantastic start to the year!**

We've had an incredibly busy first term, and it's been amazing to see such high levels of engagement from our pupils. Every club—whether after school or during lunch—has been buzzing with activity and enthusiasm.

## **Student-Led Initiatives**

We're thrilled to announce that some of our Year 9 students have taken the lead by running a Boxing Club every Wednesday lunchtime, open to Year 7 & 8 pupils. Could we be nurturing the next Rosie Eccles? Time will tell!



## **Fixtures & Competitions**

This term has been packed with fixtures in football, rugby, and netball, with both cup and league matches for girls and boys.

There have been plenty of successes and, as always, lots of valuable lessons learned along the way.



## **Basketball Success**

We were proud to host the East Wales Qualifiers for basketball here at Chepstow School. Our Year 7 & 8 team performed brilliantly and have qualified for the next round later in the academic year—well done team!



## **Cross Country Achievements**

Our cross-country athletes had a fantastic season, with many finishing in the top 20. Special congratulations to Seb C, Dougie W, and Heidi C, who represented South East Wales at the recent Welsh Championships in Newtown.

# Health and Wellbeing



Congratulations to Milana who participated in the Open Wales Taekwondo Championship and won a silver medal in sparring.



🎉 Huge congratulations to Finn for an incredible weekend on the U14 international stage! 🏆 He came 4th in the Ski Club of Ireland International Slalom on Saturday, followed by an impressive 5th place at the Irish Open Slalom Championships 🏂



A huge congratulations to one of our amazing Year 7 students who has brought home gold in a recent boxing championship! Over three days, he fought three tough bouts and won them all. This is an incredible display of skill, determination, and resilience.

We're especially proud to share that Welsh Boxing has named him Best Boxer in East Wales — what an honour!

# Health and Wellbeing



Congratulations to Oliver who has been selected for the Cricket Wales East U13 Winter Pathway Programme, which is part of the national talent development structure for Welsh cricket.

This is a highly selective programme, with only around 20 players chosen across the entire East Wales region for each age group, following a competitive nomination and assessment process. This selection recognises his hard work, dedication, and growing potential as a left-arm pace bowler.

Oliver will now be training through the winter with regional coaches as part of the Cricket Wales performance pathway.

🎉 Huge congratulations to Toby! 🎉

Toby has climbed his way to an amazing 2nd place overall in the Welsh Youth Climbing Series! He's now off to represent Wales at the British Grand Finals in Manchester 💪

We're so proud of all your hard work, determination, and passion — good luck at the finals, Toby! 🌟



# Health and Wellbeing

## Individual Highlights

Evie C has been selected for the Welsh Cycling Squad and Alistair L will represent Wales in the Netherlands in January in track cycling—an incredible achievement!



Bre T and Holly represented Wales in Portugal for gymnastics—what an experience!



Ollie H continues to shine in taekwondo, winning medals at the British Championships.



Tom D qualified for 7 races in Swim Wales National championships in December.



We are so proud of all our pupils for their dedication, resilience and sporting spirit. Here's to an even more exciting spring term ahead!

# Children in Need

**Together, we raised almost £500 for Children in Need – what an incredible achievement! 🎉**

From rocking non-school uniform to hosting our very first Staff Bake Off and the unforgettable Masked Teacher, the day was packed with fun and community spirit.

🍰 Outstanding culinary creations were showcased in the Arts Hall at break time and judged by our very own celebrity panel.

🥰 At lunch, pupils were blown away by the talents and confidence of our staff, who sang and danced their hearts out before revealing their disguises!

The hall was buzzing, smiles were everywhere, and it truly reflected our inclusive culture. Thank you to everyone who contributed – you've made a real difference for an amazing cause. ❤️



Thanks for joining us,  
Paul & Prue!



# Children in Need



# Golden Hour

## 🍁🌟 Golden Hour Rewards at Chepstow School! 🌟🍁

To mark the end of a fantastic first half term, pupils who had consistently embodied our school values were rewarded with a Golden Hour of wellbeing activities of their choice! ❤️

From football ⚽, Just Dance 🎮, basketball 🏀, arts & crafts 🎨, ICT 💻, board games 🎲, reading 📖 and more—there was something for everyone! Pupils had so much fun engaging with friends, in a celebration that truly reflects our school's culture and community.

A huge thank you to our amazing staff for facilitating these enriching sessions and making them so special for our learners.



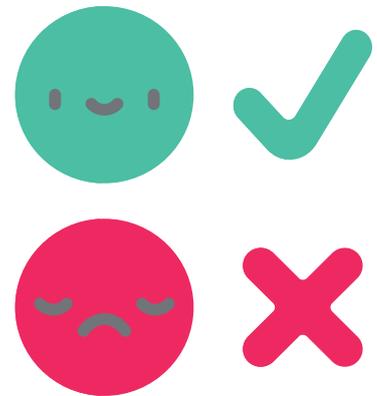
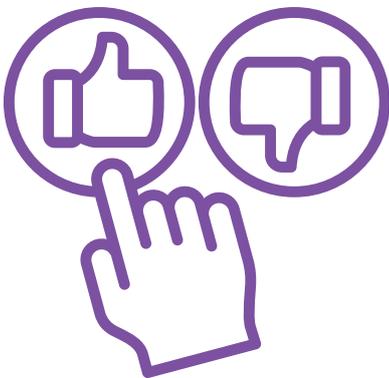
# Smashed Live Experience

## 🎭 Year 7 & 8 – Smashed Live Experience! 🌟

Our Year 7 and 8 students were lucky to watch the Smashed Live theatrical performance, an inspiring and thought-provoking show that explored the effects of alcohol and the importance of making positive choices.

This was an excellent enrichment opportunity that combined drama with powerful learning, helping students understand real-life consequences in a creative and engaging way.

Thank you to the performers for delivering such an impactful message! 💙



# NHS Smoke Ambassadors Programme

🌟 Congratulations to our amazing Year 8 pupils! 🌟

Selected Year 8 pupils attended offsite training at Chepstow Rugby Club as part of the NHS Smoke Ambassadors Programme. Their enthusiasm, ideas, and contributions were absolutely fantastic – we are so proud of them! This programme empowers young people to lead the way in promoting healthy, smoke-free lifestyles within our school and community.

Da iawn pawb! 🙌



# Y10 & Y11 Expectations Evening

🎓✨ Diolch ✨🎓

A huge thank you to all our wonderful Parents/Carers and pupils who joined us for our Year 10 and 11 Expectations Evening. It was fantastic to see such strong support as we set the tone for the year ahead—one that prioritises wellbeing, academic success, and working together to help every student thrive.

We believe in our pupils.

We believe they can succeed.

And we believe that success comes from a powerful combination of effort, support, and wellbeing.

Let's make this year a year of achievement, growth, and personal fulfilment 🍌🌱



# Llamau Workshops

## Empowering Futures – Llamau Workshops at Chepstow School

This week, Year 9 and Year 10 pupils took part in impactful workshops delivered by Llamau as part of their Empowering Futures programme.

These sessions focused on early intervention and prevention, addressing important issues such as domestic abuse, unhealthy relationships, and gender-based violence.

Through interactive discussions, pupils explored:

Healthy relationships, consent, respectful communication, challenging stereotypes and the influence of media and understanding societal issues that can negatively impact young people.

The initiative also raises awareness of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), promoting positive values and empowering young people to make informed choices.

We are proud to offer these opportunities that not only educate but also provide support pathways for those who may need them. A huge thank you to Llamau for delivering such meaningful sessions that help shape a safer, more respectful future for all.



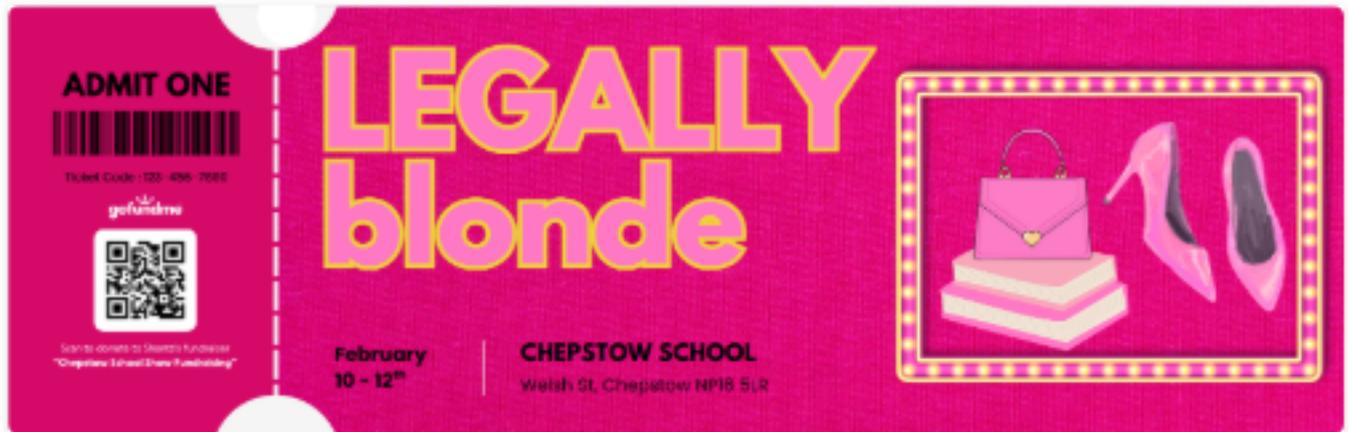
# Year 6 Open Evening

☀️ **THANK YOU** to everyone who joined us at the Year 6 Open Evening and Open Morning ☀️

We thoroughly enjoyed welcoming you all and sharing what makes our school so special. Highlights included science experiments and the 12 hour music marathon. We look forward to seeing many of you again soon! A huge thank you to our amazing staff and student volunteers who represented Chepstow School, making the Y6 Open Evening and Open Morning a success. Diolch!



# Expressive Arts



🌟 Don't wait—tickets are selling fast! 🌟

Legally Blonde is just around the corner, and while Early Bird prices have ended, there's still time to grab your seats!

💖 Ticket prices (from 1st November):

👤 Adults – £12

🎓 Concessions – £10

👨👩👧 Family Ticket – £40

📅 17 Show Dates: 10th – 12th February 2026

📍 Chepstow School

🌟 This show is going to be **PINK-tastic** and packed with energy—don't miss out on the fun!

🎫 Get your tickets NOW before they're gone:

🔗 [ticketsource.co.uk/chepstow-school/e-agajvk](https://ticketsource.co.uk/chepstow-school/e-agajvk)



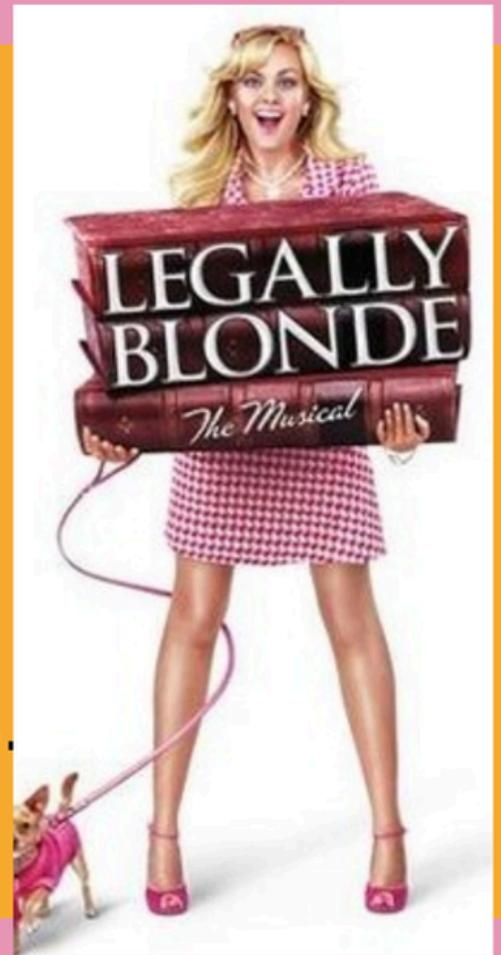
# RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED



Please drop  
off at school  
by January  
31st

We are looking for  
donations of  
**pink items**  
to create delux  
hampers for the  
upcoming Legally  
Blonde Performances.

**Thank you!**



**SHOW DATES 10 - 12 FEBRUARY**

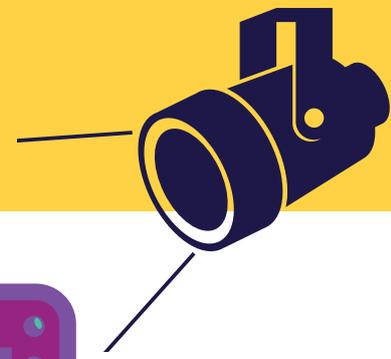
# Expressive Arts



Huge congratulations to George, Ben and Alex for their fantastic performance with the Gwent Senior Winds at the National Concert Band Festival in Cardiff University. The band sounded absolutely superb and were awarded Gold for their performance — a well-deserved result!

All the hard work, including a full weekend of rehearsals, has clearly paid off, and it's wonderful to see your dedication recognised at such a high level.





# Winter Showcase

Our Winter Showcase was a truly wonderful celebration of creativity and talent. It was inspiring to see such a wide range of pupils confidently putting themselves forward to perform in both music and drama, showcasing their skills and passion. As a department, we are incredibly grateful for their dedication and hard work, which shone through in every performance. We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you at home for joining us, supporting the performers, and helping us celebrate their achievements together. Together, **we raised a total of £444.54**, which will go straight back into supporting our pupils' in the expressive arts. Thank you.

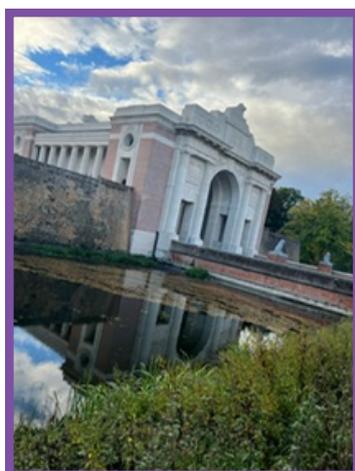
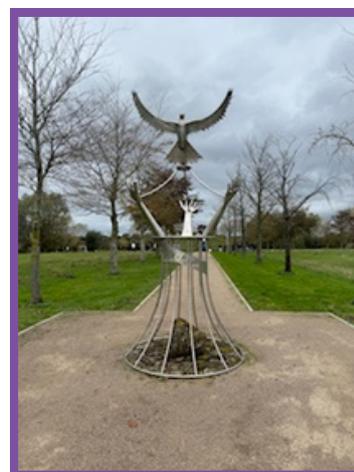


Pupils busy rehearsing for the showcase!



## Trenches Trip

During October Half Term, 70 Year 11 pupils visited France and Belgium to deepen their understanding of the First and Second World Wars. The itinerary included poignant and historically significant sites such as Ypres and the Menin Gate service, as well as the site of the Christmas Truce. Students also laid a wreath on behalf of Sophie Plowman at her great uncle's grave. The trip continued with visits to the V2 launch site at La Coupole and the beaches of Dunkirk, bringing classroom learning to life through powerful and unforgettable real-world experiences.



# Humanities

A range of enriching visits have taken place this term, from the Geography NEA fieldwork trip to a fascinating Crown Court visit as part of Criminology studies. In addition, four Year 13 History students had the **incredible opportunity to visit Auschwitz**, on behalf of the school, through the Holocaust Educational Trust. The students gained a profound and moving insight into one of the most significant events in history.



## Year 13 Cardiff Crown Court Trip

On Wednesday, 12th November, our Humanities & Social Sciences students had the unique opportunity to visit the Crown Court for an insightful and engaging experience. The day was designed to deepen their understanding of the judicial system and provide real-world context to their studies.

Students explored the historic Crown Court building, learning about its layout, the roles of different courtrooms, and the significance of each space in the justice process.

A key highlight was an interactive session with a sitting Judge. Students asked thoughtful questions about the role of judges, career pathways in law, and the challenges of delivering justice in complex cases.

To conclude the visit, students observed a live case in progress. This experience offered a rare glimpse into courtroom procedures, legal arguments, and the gravity of decisions made within the justice system.

### Student Comment: Mya M

'Getting to see the Crown Court was an insightful experience. We met a range of personnel including an array of Judges and ushers and given the opportunity to ask questions about their roles in the court room.

We also watched a real case and developed our understanding of how the prosecution and defence operate in a court room.

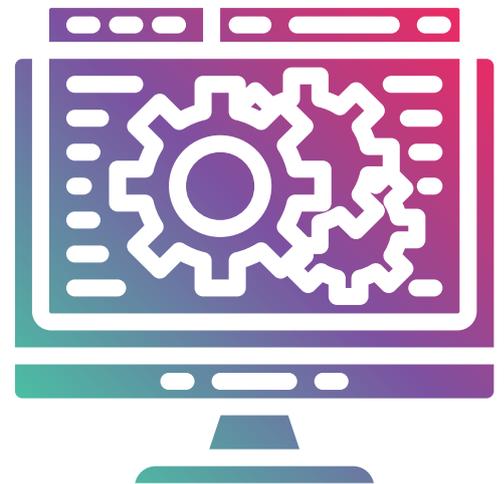
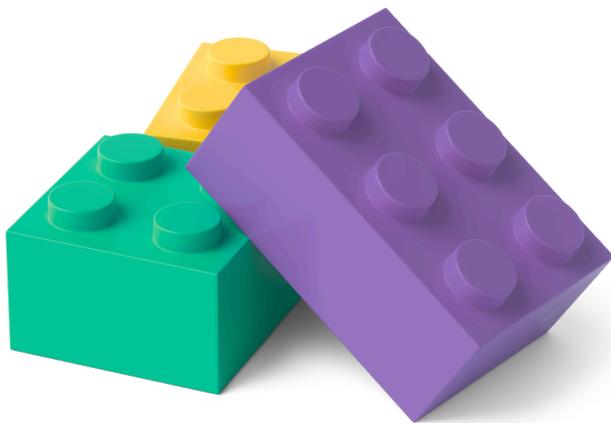
I feel so glad and lucky that I got to be involved in the day and deepen my understanding of the court and the justice system.'



Our ICT provision continues to go from strength to strength, with a strong focus on digital literacy, coding, and online safety. This term, we're proud to share some exciting developments in both our curriculum and extracurricular activities.

Our Coding Clubs, led by Miss Bourne, have become a hub of creativity and innovation. Participation has grown significantly, with both mixed and girls-only groups thriving. Students have been exploring: Robot coding and LEGO programming as part of collaborative STEM projects with other secondary schools

Binary arithmetic  
Python programming  
Complex coding challenges



These sessions not only build technical expertise but also develop essential skills such as teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving skills that preparing our learners for future careers in technology and engineering.

We're also delighted to be working with partner schools on STEM projects involving LEGO robotics, giving students the chance to apply coding in real-world contexts and collaborate beyond the classroom.

# Literacy, Languages and Communication

Here's Year 7 Spanish soaking up the vibes at the British Council Webinar for European Day of Languages! 🎉 They heard from a real-life GCHQ “spy,” an Army colonel, and a British Council pro, who shared how languages play a crucial role in their exciting careers.

**Who knew language learning could be this cool? 🌍🌟**



# Literacy, Languages and Communication

## Scholastic Book Fair Success!

We're delighted to share that our recent Scholastic Book Fair was a wonderful success. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed exploring the wide range of books on offer—everything from exciting new stories to inspiring non-fiction. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm for reading, and the buzz around the fair showed just how much our pupils love discovering new books.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Your involvement helps us continue to foster a love of reading throughout our school community.



# Poetry Competition

## Chepstow School Celebrates Success in Young Writers' Empowered Poetry Competition

Chepstow School is thrilled to announce that our talented learners have been chosen as the overall winners in Young Writers' Empowered poetry competition, winning £1,000 and receiving a trophy. This remarkable achievement highlights the creativity, passion, and dedication of our young writers in Chepstow School. Out of 492 schools entering from across the UK, Chepstow School stood out with its engaging and thought-provoking submissions. The competition challenged learners to explore something that was important to them, empowering them to use their voices and be heard. Astonishingly, over 100 learners had their poems published in the 'Empowered' anthology, revealing the vast talent and creativity of all learners.



# Poetry Competition

Miss Manship, teacher of English who led the competition, expressed pride in the students' accomplishment, stating "Winning the Empowered Poetry Competition is a proud moment for our learners, the quality of their writing is outstanding. Their ideas, voices and passion are truly inspiring."

The competition judges first praised our school for the impressive number of submissions, with over 100 entrants. Inspiring so many students to be excited and engaged with writing is a real testament to the teachers' passion and commitment. The learners' entries were selected as the overall winner for their creativity and skilful use of language on a range of subjects, producing a collection of original, thoughtful and well-crafted poems.

This achievement underscores the importance of encouraging creative outlets in education and is a proud moment for the entire Chepstow School community. Congratulations to the young writers on their success!

For more information, please contact Miss Manship at Chepstow School.

## About Young Writers

Since 1991, Young Writers has been on a mission to ignite a love for poetry and creative writing in young minds, giving them both a purpose and a platform for their voices. Through award-winning resources and engaging competitions, young writers are inspired to dream big and unleash their potential. You can find out more:

[www.youngwriters.co.uk/about-us](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/about-us)

Young Writers can be contacted at [creatives@youngwriters.co.uk](mailto:creatives@youngwriters.co.uk)

# Pupils' Poetry

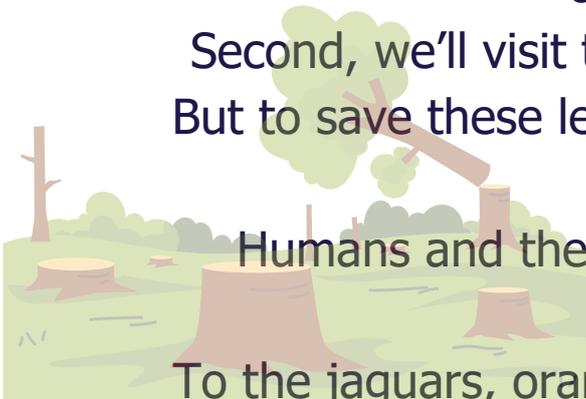
## The Climate is Crying

If you're reading this poem, I hope it finds you well,  
Get ready, I have a very important story to tell,  
This is a tale full of sorrow and dread,  
But also, the prospect of brighter days ahead,  
First, we'll start with our oceans, so blue and vast,  
But all the life, cleanliness and vibrancy are in the  
past,

Plastic now fills them as far as any can see,  
The coral is bleached, fish are dying: this is the  
ocean's plea.



Second, we'll visit the forests, so large and green  
But to save these leafy havens, we must work as a  
team.



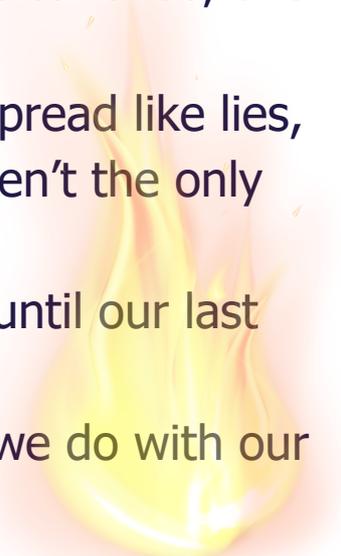
Humans and their machines, destruction and  
smoke.

To the jaguars, orangutans, and tropical birds, this  
is no joke.

Finally, to the land, where wildfires spread like lies,  
Hope, animals and even people aren't the only  
things that die.

Our time is ticking down: a timer until our last  
hours.

I hope we can look after Earth, like we do with our  
flowers.



**Leila-Avril F**

# Pupils' Poetry

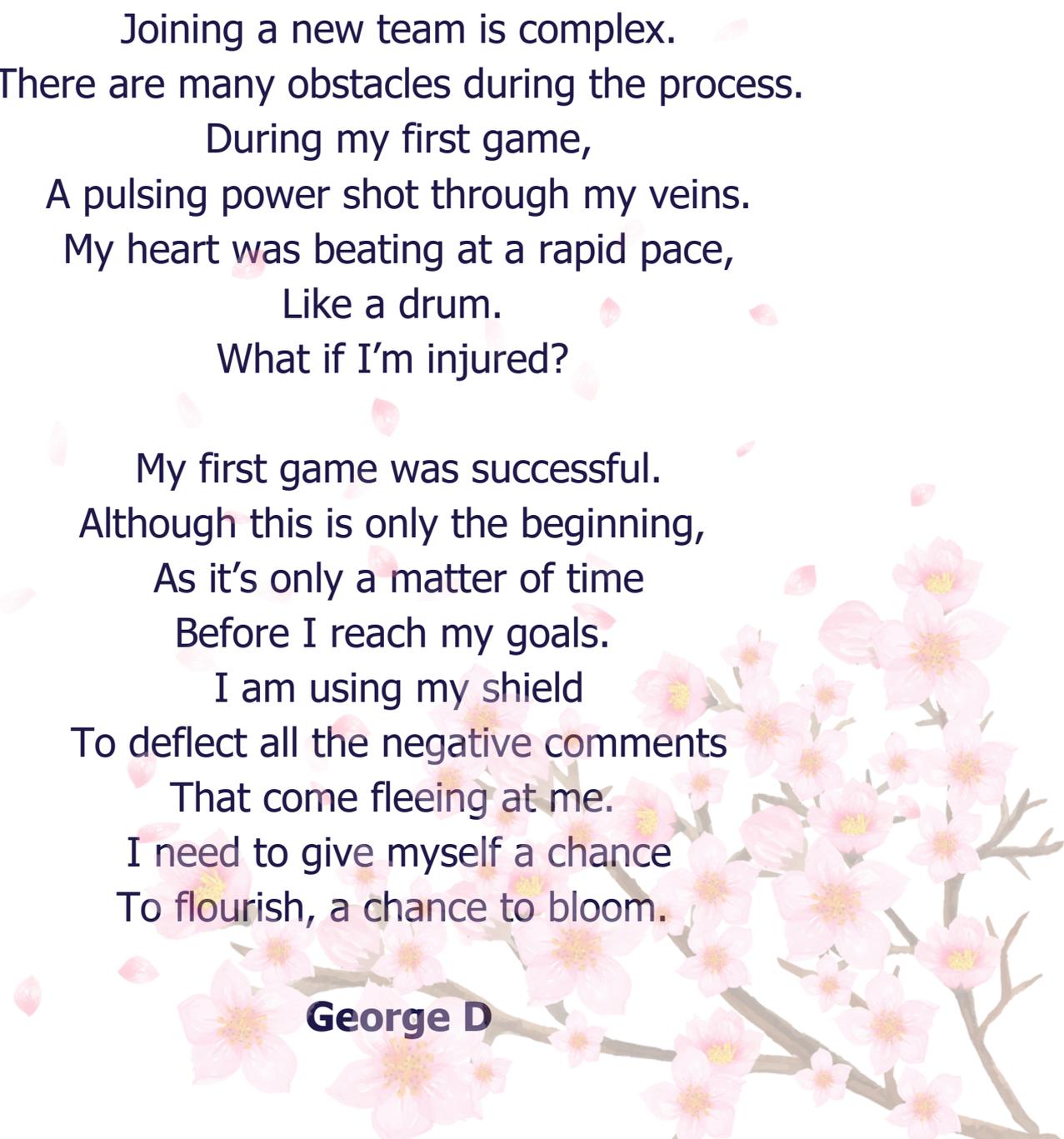
## Blooming Abilities

A clean slate, a fresh start.  
New seeds have been planted.  
Starting a new sport,  
Aiming to achieve new goals.  
Working hard to develop my abilities.

Joining a new team is complex.  
There are many obstacles during the process.  
During my first game,  
A pulsing power shot through my veins.  
My heart was beating at a rapid pace,  
Like a drum.  
What if I'm injured?

My first game was successful.  
Although this is only the beginning,  
As it's only a matter of time  
Before I reach my goals.  
I am using my shield  
To deflect all the negative comments  
That come fleeing at me.  
I need to give myself a chance  
To flourish, a chance to bloom.

**George D**



# Pupils' Poetry

## Persevere

The wind may howl, the storm may rage  
But within, a flame ignites.  
A whisper soft, a steady gaze,  
Never surrender to the night.

The path ahead, a maze unseen,  
A journey fraught with doubt and fear.  
Yet, strength within, a vibrant green,  
Whispers "You are holding me near."

Each fall, a lesson learned,  
Each stumble, a chance to rise.  
The spirit forged, forever burned.  
To meet the dawn with hopeful eyes.

For even when the darkness hides,  
The light within will find its way.  
The unyielding spirit ever abides,  
And shines to brighten a new day.

**Sidney C**



# School Uniform

## **Celebrating 65 Years of Service – Pretty Miss Becomes Global Uniform**

For over six decades, Pretty Miss has been a trusted name in school uniforms and embroidery, proudly holding the title of the longest-running independent shop in Cwmbran Town Centre—and, in fact, across all M Core sites in the UK.

Now, the business has taken a bold step into a new era with a complete rebrand. Pretty Miss is now Global Uniform, reflecting its growth and global partnerships. To mark this incredible milestone, a huge celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Monday, November 24, honouring 65 years of dedicated service.

Lucy Ford, Director of Global Uniform, shared:

“It’s a huge honour to have had the privilege of serving a wonderful community for the past 65 years. A huge thank you — I don’t know where we’d be without their support on this journey. Pretty Miss has evolved and matured; we’ve developed global partnerships and now have customers all over the world whom we supply and partner with — hence Global Uniform.”

Chepstow School is incredibly fortunate to have such an amazing business supporting our pupils and their families with quality uniforms. We were thrilled to be invited to the relaunch and look forward to seeing the exciting future plans for Global Uniform.





CHEPSTOW  
COMMUNITY  
FRIDGE

*-saving food from waste-*

**We are open:**

**Mondays 5.30 pm – 6.15**

**Wednesdays 11.00 – 12.00**

**Fridays 11.00 – 12.00**

*We may close a little early if the food runs out*

**All welcome!**

**Find us at 38 Moor Street Chepstow NP165DF**

**[chepstowcommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:chepstowcommunityfridge@gmail.com)**

*Supported by Chepstow Town Council*





**Chepstow & District Swimming Club**

## **Come join our fun and competitive Swimming Club!**

### **Why join?**

- Swim better
- Swim faster
- Make new friends
- Learn focus
- Learn commitment

### **When is training?**

- 3 sessions per week:**
- Tuesday evenings
  - Thursday evenings
  - Saturday mornings

### **Where?**

- Chepstow Leisure Centre

**Ages 8 -  
18**

**Register  
now!!**



**Contact Us**    [membership@swimchestow.co.uk](mailto:membership@swimchestow.co.uk)

## 12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

### 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.



### 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometimes people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

### 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.



### 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.



### 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.



### 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.



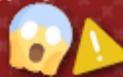
### 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.



### 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.



### 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.



### 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.



### 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.



### 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.



## ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



**It's currently against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement.**

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

### HOWEVER, THE CURRENT LAW IS CLEAR

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

### WHY IS THIS?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEV's), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- MOT
- Licensing
- Tax
- Insurance



As e-scooters do not have numberplate's or signaling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF I'VE BEEN STOPPED BY GWENT POLICE?

Section 59 of the Police Reform Act allows police to give road users a warning if they are reported to have used their vehicle in a manner which **causes alarm, distress or annoyance**. Gwent Police also have the **powers to seize vehicles**.

Please make sure you keep your e-scooter on private land so this doesn't happen to you.

Whether purchased by yourself or received as a gift, all e-scooters are illegal and can be seized.

### SHOULD YOU NEED FURTHER ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT

  @GWENTPOLICE



# Talk to your children about Water Safety!

Flooding and ice in winter can be dangerous for children. Keep your children safe and talk to them about water safety.



## STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE



- *Keep back from slippery banks.*
- *Never walk or play on ice.*
- *Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks during daylight.*
- *Avoid walking or driving through floodwater.*

## KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS CLOSE



- *Teach children to stay off the ice and avoid floodwater.*
- *Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.*

## IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE



- *Keep calm and call for help.*
- *Float on your back until you feel calm, then try to climb out.*
- *If you cannot climb out, continue to float and keep your head clear of the water.*

## IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE – CALL 999



- *Do not enter cold water, ice, or flood water to rescue someone.*
- *Assist from a safe distance. Use rescue equipment, something that floats or something that could help such as a rope or tree branch.*

## ENJOY THE WINTER SAFELY!



## FLOOD SAFETY UPDATES

Signup for flood warnings on the [Natural Resources Wales](https://naturalresources.wales/) website

Stay informed about weather conditions and flood warnings.

