

Chipping Sodbury School Newsletter



Forthcoming Dates

December

18th Awards Evening
19th Christmas Concert
19th Christmas Lunch
21st End of Term 2 at 1.10pm

January

7th Start of Term 3
21st INSET
23rd Parents' Evening Y8 subjects
31st Parents' Evening Y8 OPV

As we approach the end of another busy term, there continue to be many highlights and much to celebrate. We have been very impressed with students in Years 10 and 11 with the manner in which they have approached their mock exams during these past two weeks. The Sixth Form have been working hard and engaging in a variety of projects to broaden their experiences including successes in Access to Bristol. Year 13 students have now completed their UCAS applications and many are already receiving offers for places next academic year.

On Thursday 29th November a number of students plus two members of staff joined me at the South Gloucestershire Secondary School Awards evening hosted at the Aerospace Museum. Each school in the local authority had nominated two students from key stages 3, 4 and Post 16 plus two members of staff. As always with these occasions it was very difficult to identify nominees as so many of our school community could be worthy winners. However, it was a delightful evening and a fitting tribute to everyone's hard work, dedication and achievements. Congratulations to all our winners, we are very proud of you; there are more details on the website.



There will be many more awards made during our forthcoming Awards Evening (details below). This will be when we will celebrate the vast array of successes from last summer's examinations and recognise the tremendous efforts of our current cohorts of students. Invitations have been posted to award nominees. I am delighted that Kate Grey, paralympian will be our guest of honour to make many of the presentations.

To inspire and assist our Year 11 students with their Post 16 choices, on Wednesday 14th November, a group of students attended a Key Stage 4 Conference at Bristol University. The students started in the impressive Wills Memorial Building hearing an aspirational talk about the benefits of attending university and making their choices after Year 11. This was followed by a tour of the Bristol University campus to see a variety of the campus buildings. In the afternoon the students attended either a STEM lecture on astrophysics or a non-STEM lecture on medieval French literature.

We held our popular Cotswold Edge Post 16 Open Evening in November and now have many applications ready to interview students in the new year. If your son/daughter has not handed in his/her application, please ensure it is submitted as a matter of urgency so we can book in an interview.

We have recently said goodbye to a small number of staff, two of our administrative staff have moved to well-deserved promotions. We will greatly miss Mrs Anna Fox, our student support administrator and Miss Sam Mountford, our receptionist. We have welcomed Mrs Nikki Wood to replace Mrs Fox and Mrs Sally Dunn will be joining the team in January as our work experience administrator. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new receptionist but have had the pleasure of working with Mr John Rea on reception for these past few weeks. In addition, Mr James Lewis in the maths faculty has decided to pursue a career outside teaching. Mr Dan Potter has fitted very well into the maths team and we welcome him to Chipping Sodbury School. As always, I wish to thank our departing colleagues for their hard work and commitment to Chipping Sodbury School and welcome new staff to our community.

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As we approach the end of term 2, we have the following Christmas activities planned:

Tuesday 18th December from 6pm - Annual Awards Ceremony in Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, by invitation. Please note the dress code is 'smart' (not trainers and jeans); school uniform **does not** need to be worn.

Wednesday 19th December - Christmas concert at 7.30pm in St John's Church.

Wednesday 19th December - Christmas lunch.

Friday 21st December - Mufti Day £1 contribution towards Wallace and Gromit The Grand Appeal.

Early finish to the term on **Friday 21st December** – you should have received a letter home informing you of these arrangements, a copy is on the website should you need to refer to it. If your son/daughter is not able to safely get home at 1.10pm, please inform the school in advance.

I do wish you all a very Happy Christmas once we break up on 21st December, term 3 starts on **Monday 7th January** for all students, which will be week 2. Our next Inset day is on Monday 21st January.

With very best wishes and season's greetings,
Katherine Turner
Headteacher

Christmas Concert

Come along and support our school Christmas Concert next Wednesday 19th December at St John's Church, Chipping Sodbury, beginning at 7.30pm. Students from Years 7 - 13 will be performing a selection of solos and ensembles to help you get into the Christmas spirit. Tickets are available from the Music Department or on the door at a cost of £3 each. We look forward to seeing you there.

Music for Youth Regional Festival

Congratulations to the following students who performed at Hayesfield School in Bath as part of the Music for Youth festival: Heidi Collins-Beckett, Sophie Greenslade, Jack Hegarty, Keiffer Hermoza, Logan Kettle, Niamh Red, Nick Whittles. There was a high standard of playing throughout and represented some of the best young musicians in the county.

Instrumental Lessons

Any students wishing to begin instrumental lessons in January please see Mrs Boulton as soon as possible.

Sixth Form News

All year 12 students are expected to complete some work experience during the summer holidays so that they gain some experience in the area which they wish to pursue at university or into a career straight after 'A' Levels. Our current year 12 will soon be applying for work experience placements for next summer. Aiden Bulmer, current year 13, successfully gained a place on a Nuffield research placement following an application. He has written a report following his experience:



“Through my summer holiday I spent four weeks completing a Nuffield research project. This entailed being assigned to a research group, working with them and then creating a poster and report on the research to be presented at a poster evening. I went to UWE to research hydrology, drought and its effects on mycorrhiza – the relationship between a fungus and a host plant's roots. Specifically I studied the rainfall to see if there was a drought. I decided to look at the rain gauges to see how the data could be distorted based on where they were placed under the roof panels. Using GCSE maths I calculated how much rain would fall into the gauges as a percentage of the total rain. I found there was a significant effect on the recorded rain depending on where the gauges were placed which gave the research team a new important factor to consider when looking at their data. The project gave me an insight into university life and developed my understanding of what a research project entails. Additionally I further developed my computing and teamwork skills. It is a rare experience that I value for the lessons I learnt.”

“The word from the library”

“Getting wrapped up in a good book”

How fantastic it is to see so many students borrowing books from the library. The new layout and computer system has made the library a vibrant yet relaxing and user friendly space. There is a real big buzz about books and reading, as well as homework and the extra-curricular clubs like art club and board games club.

Students have their own logins for ECLIPSE, (the new library system) which enables them to independently and responsibly manage their lending; looking up due dates and requesting to renew titles. I have attended assemblies this week to give all students a step by step on how they use ECLIPSE in school and at home. Students will also be able to review books and recommend favourite books to their peers. All students are invited to borrow a book from the library – especially for the Christmas holiday break.



#Thankyou100



During November, Chipping Sodbury School Art Club participated in the Royal British Legion’s #thankyou100 celebrations. Students made a plastic bottle poppy from the school’s plastic bottle recycling, which were displayed on the railings at the front of the library.

Along with the poppies, several students wrote a poem to say #thankyou or to express their feelings about war, soldiers and sacrifice.

Mrs Jackie Robertson from Yate and Chipping Sodbury District Royal British Legion came to see the display and talk to our students. She expressed her pride in the students for their work and was moved by the amount of interest from students with the campaign. Mrs Karen Bramwell also visited the students to share stories about her father, Mr Les Hemmings, who fought in WW2. Les was captured

by the Germans; escaping twice from Stalag Luft III. Students were able to get hands on with history; hearing the trauma and tales from Mrs Bramwell along with touching and looking at medals, coins, photos and books from the time.



Christmas Chess Tournament

The Christmas Chess Tournament is being held at lunchtimes in the library this week (10th December until 14th December). Sixteen participating students (plus reserves) have been battling it out to see who will be crowned CSS Chess Champion. Summer term’s triumphant winner Maisy Caswell is returning to see off contenders. It’s wonderful to see both boys and girls, from all year groups, enjoying the game together.



Tournament sponsored and trophies kindly donated by Declan from D&D Shoe Repairs. Thank you.

A reminder that homework club runs in the Library, Monday to Friday 3.15pm-4.30pm.

Many thanks and wishing you all season’s greetings.

Mrs Vallis – HLTA

Parents' Information Page

A new addition to our school newsletter - information and support for parents.

Email enquiries@chippingsodburyschool.com if you have any items you would like raised.

Online and Mobile Phone Safety

As parents, are we aware of what our children are accessing online? Below is a current list of the top ten Apps teenagers are using in 2018



The Internet and Mobile Phones – THE POSITIVES!

Staying in touch; families and friends that cannot always be together share video chats and photos.

Being creative; Young people who are interested in music, writing or art can find loads of useful resources and ways to practise online.

Finding support and help; young people can access support forums, asking the questions they find difficult face to face.

Staying organised and learning; using the calendar App or accessing Show My Homework or similar pages support with moving forward with technology.

The mobile phone combines numerous useful applications in just one device.

In an emergency situation, mobile phones are vital!

The internet is amazing; our teenagers can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities. However the digital world and mobile phone is changing all the time, so how can we ensure we keep our young people safe?

- * Learn about Social Media and what is out there, research the latest Apps & online games are they safe? NSPCC has a great page to support parents with this <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- * Check the privacy settings on your child's phone and the Apps they are using. You need to be 13 to access Facebook for example. Ensure only friends can see their posts.
- * Another website to support with any concerns <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- * Keep the computers/laptops at home in a communal area.
- * Establish an age limit; are the Apps/websites age appropriate?
- * Set a time limit for use of mobile phone and online activities.
- * Using the NSPCC website, talk about the dangers of online and social media and why not protecting their privacy can put them at risk.
- * Ensure that your children understand we are not against technology, but we want to ensure they are using it safely and understand the risks if they are not.

Access to Bristol

The Access to Bristol scheme is an opportunity for A-level students to gain an insight into life at the University of Bristol and to experience studying at a higher level. Over the course of eight weeks we have done six academic sessions (2pm to 4:30pm) in our chosen subjects whether it be maths, physics, history or sociology and then two further support sessions. In these support sessions we were not only given a tour of our chosen department, but we were given advice on years abroad, accommodation, personal statements and interviews, which can be applied to any university.



Whilst some people have been reinforcing their current studies at Access to Bristol, I have enjoyed finding out more about my course, Classics and Ancient History, which is not offered at A-level here but I am considering doing at university. Although some people have had one teacher throughout, my group have had a range of subject specialists from the department which has given us an insight into which areas we are the most interested in. We have looked at a variety of topics from Aristotle's speculations about Comedy and Tragedy to Ancient Politics and Propaganda. My favourite session has been on myths where we looked at the story of Pandora and how she came to be and then compared her to modern day AI Robots.

Each subject stream has an ambassador who is taking that subject and they are happy to offer further advice on uni applications, having had friends go to other universities and also having applied to them themselves. We have also been able to meet other Year 12 and 13 students who are interested in similar subject areas and therefore have been able to us offer suggestions about work experience placements and other Uni courses.

Emily Welsby, Y13 student

Sixth Form News

Congratulations to Year 11 for handing in their Cotswold Edge Course Choice Forms, we have a large number of Year 11 students who have selected their choice of subject to study with us. Look out for your letters with the appointment times for you to have your personalised discussions regarding your choices and next steps. It is a real privilege to know we will be working with you in the Sixth Form.

Sixth Form have been busy in the run up to the Christmas holidays supporting The Wallace and Gromit Grand Appeal by wearing their Wrong Trousers on Friday 7th December. We are also looking forward to seeing the variety of Christmas Jumpers on Friday 14th December where the students will be supporting Save the Children. Alongside this we have organised a reverse advent calendar where the students have brought in a variety of items in support of The Listening Ear, a homeless charity. Thank you to all students who have been involved.

Sophie Greenslade and Andrea Willis attended a five day Rotary Youth Leader course in July 2018 and on Monday 26th November they presented to the Chipping Sodbury Rotary members about their time on the course. The feedback I have received from the Rotarians was their presentation was absolutely brilliant. Congratulations to both of you.

We are down to the final few students to complete their UCAS applications. 75% of our year 13 will be applying to university this year and we wish you all every success with your applications.

On Thursday 20th December we will be welcoming back our class of 2018 to collect their certificates and we are looking forward to hearing about their tales from their first term at university and how they are progressing in their apprenticeships.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all the Sixth Form students a happy and safe Christmas.

Gill Hilleard, Head of Sixth Form