

Chipping Sodbury School

Newsletter



Forthcoming Dates

February

25th Start of Term 4

27th Parents' Eve Y10 Core

March

7th Y9 Men.ACWY Vaccinations

11th Y11 Leavers' photo

20th Parents' Evening Y7

28th Y13 Learner Consult. Eve

Thank you for your understanding when the school was closed on Friday 1st February due to the heavy snow. The decision to close a school is never taken lightly, but the safety and well-being of all members of our school community is always of paramount importance.

This term has seen many students participate in a wide range of enrichment activities, including meeting Lord Mervyn Davies of Abersoch CBE who made an entertaining presentation to the Sixth Form and our GCSE Business Studies group. Lord Davies is keen to continue to support our school and will be hosting a visit to the Houses of Parliament for afternoon tea for a group of students in the near future. Sixth Form students have also visited one of our local universities to help with preparation beyond school. These students are busy attending interviews and are in the process of receiving offers for university; exciting times. We have just had our first cohort of students return from a week of work experience to support their studies. Students were clearly enthused by their week in the world of work and it has helped to shape future plans.

At the end of January, a number of students joined Ms Jarvis on a training walk for the next Ten Tors expedition. It is fantastic to see two teams of students already committed to this challenge. Over half term, we will be seeing our ski trip travel to Austria to enjoy the snow and exhilarating winter sports. Without such commitment from so many members of staff, these great activities could not take place; thank you to all staff who give so generously of their own time to enable these enrichment activities to take place.

Year 11 students are participating in a wide range of after school activities to support their preparation for GCSEs this summer. During mental health week, we promoted strategies to support mental and physical well-being. Thank you to Mr Pugh and Mrs Vallis for arranging this programme and to all members of staff who are ran bespoke activities. This week Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard on their supported revision programme. Very well done to everyone who has shown commitment to try new strategies to support learning and build confidence in the forthcoming examinations.

Year 11, Year 13 and OPV classes have now had their pre-public exam results. This is valuable feedback to identify strengths and specific areas for further improvement in preparation for the final exams. I encourage all students to make sure a rigorous revision programme is in place to pace the work in hand. Support and help is always at hand should anyone require it. There are great resources and I encourage students to use the English and Science revision hubs – links are on the website.

Staffing update: At the end of January we said farewell to Mrs Barbara Huband, our Examinations Officer. Mrs Huband has worked tirelessly ensuring all exams ran smoothly. Her attention to detail and calm approach have been invaluable. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her retirement.

Mrs Tracy Green has been appointed as our new Examinations Officer and we will be welcoming her to Chipping Sodbury School after the February holidays. This term we have also welcomed Mrs Davina Cockram and Ms Tracy Vaughan who work on Reception. Mrs Sally Dunn has also been appointed as our Work Experience Administrator and is busy supporting students in securing their placements for the summer. All students in Year 10 should be ensuring they are well underway in making contact with companies and organisations. Help is available should anyone require it.

We have welcomed back Miss Stacey Joyce on her return from maternity leave and Miss Lauren Ellis will now be part-time to share this PE post. We are delighted that Miss Ellis is able to continue working at Chipping Sodbury School. This week we have welcomed Mr Charles Reed who will work with us until the end of this academic year as Interim Assistant Headteacher, Student Support. Mr Reed is a very experienced Senior Leader and will add capacity to this important part of our school.

I trust everyone can enjoy a well earned half term break this coming week.

Katherine Turner
Headteacher

Sixth Form News

Where can a qualification in RE lead me?

As a long-standing teacher of RE, I have had this question posed on countless occasions in the past, "Why do I need to do RE? I don't want to be a priest." With our A level in RS growing at Cotswold Edge, I thought this was a good time to write a short piece on the advantages employers and universities see in this qualification. The obvious career is teaching, but RE can lead to so many more future jobs that on the face of it have nothing remotely to do with the subject of "religion". Most careers where you have to interact with other people benefit from knowledge gained in RE; empathy and understanding of a different point of view to your own and proposing an alternative are skills gained at all levels of RE. Many universities find the cultural awareness and written balanced argument skills a massive benefit in almost all disciplines.

Qualifications we teach at Chipping Sodbury include elements of Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. I have had students go on to study a variety of subjects that include law, criminology, physiotherapy, medicine, retail and when we have seen each other on the other side of this, students have said how valuable the skills they had developed in RE were to them. Team building, analysis, debating, good communication skills, interpersonal skills and time management are all disciplines we work through to reach the end goal.

Below is a website with case studies of people who have found their RE qualifications to be useful in their careers, I hope you enjoy watching them as much as I did. I look forward to watching the subject grow across Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge.

http://casestudies.reonline.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR1LsTl1ibRL_F4ggrf_wwRfReqY-quv7avK8K7gFDTkWMMoS98oGn3Gnfis

Leilah Boyce
Head of Religious Education.

“The word from the library”

Hello from the library. It’s been an incredibly exciting and amazingly awesome term.

The students have enjoyed using the facilities; reading and accelerated reader lessons, lunchtime clubs and homework club. “Doing our homework at school is so much better. Mrs Vallis is helpful and the computers and books are useful” and “There are less distractions here than at home so I can focus...” and “The library is a great place to socialise and work together with other students in my year. It’s a really friendly place.” are a few comments from our students.

The Library Leopard Gecko

A couple of weeks ago, **Viaduct Animal Sanctuary** based in Coalpit Health, appealed via Facebook desperately looking for a new home for a 12 year old, female leopard gecko. Having noticed the students’ nurturing traits and wanting to give them some responsibility, the delightful decision was made that CSS Library would be the perfect place. Students worked tirelessly at Art Club, Homework Club and even at home designing and creating bookmarks, running a naming competition and a holding a cake sale. The adoption fee was raised and I am proud to say the library and our students are the new owners of “Luna” the Leopard Gecko. Already, the students have shown great respect, responsibility and integrity and we hope that Luna continues teaching them many more valuable lessons.



Christmas Chess Tournament

Following on from the article in the December newsletter, I’m pleased to announce that after a nerve wracking and intense final, Kurtis Jones in Year 10 (FR3) became our new Chess Champion winning the CSS Winter Chess Tournament. Daniel Cronin Year 9 came an admirable second, with Cain Young in Year 8 an impressive third place. Students have already put their names down for the Summer Tournament in anticipation. Many thanks again to D&D Shoe Repairs in Chipping Sodbury for the tournament trophy and shield.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid MELTDOWN competition

Year 7 students were invited to write about their ideal snow day in the style of Greg from DOAWK. The National Literacy Trust are running this national schools competition for KS2 and KS3 students with the prizes on offer of signed copies of Jeff Kinney’s new DOAWK book, The Meltdown. So far we have half a dozen entries.

Visit from Chris Robertson, Licensed Aircraft Engineer

On Monday 4th February, selected students from the Yr11 **On Track** interventions group grilled helicopter engineer, Christopher Robertson. Looking to inspire the next generation of mechanics and engineers, Chris was keen to answer questions and encourage students to aim high; raising aspirations and introducing them to potential career prospects. Chris shared his experience of further education, apprenticeships and on the job learning.



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

Mrs Vallis
HLTA

Dynamites Dance Crew

Congratulations and well done to Chloe Hitchings, Y13 student who competed on Sunday 3rd February at UDO Wiltshire Streetdance Championships, as part of the Dynamites Dance Crew.

They were placed 3rd in over 18's intermediate. This has qualified them for UDO World's and Europeans.



Sporting Achievement - Lily Greenslade

Well done to Lily who has been selected to represent England Under 15 women's football team in Switzerland in February. She attended various training camps last year and clearly impressed coaches with her commitment, attitude and footballing ability. Lily flew out to Switzerland in February where she was involved in two fixtures. These fixtures were available to live stream for both pupils and parents to watch. This is a fantastic achievement for Lily and we wish her well in her debut for England.

National Citizen Service

Representatives from the National Citizen Service (NCS) came and spoke to our Year 11s about taking part in an amazing experience in the summer holidays.

NCS is a government-funded programme for 15-17 year olds. Working through physical, personal and creative challenges, this once-in-a-lifetime experience empowers young people to build skills and confidence to get ahead in work and life, whilst engaging with their local community.

So far, we have had 18 students sign up, but there is still time. You can go online and sign up on www.ncsyes.co.uk or you could give the South Gloucestershire team a call on 0203 589 5050.

As a school, we see the positive impact NCS has on young people and their personal development. We would recommend that this unique and valuable opportunity is considered and encourage all Year 11 students to take part.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Did you know

16 million people in the UK experience a mental illness

Three in four mental illnesses start in childhood (75% of mental illnesses start before a child reaches their 18th birthday)

10% of school children have a diagnosable mental illness

20% of adolescents may experience a mental health problem in any given year

50% of mental health problems are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24

75% of young people with a mental health problem are not receiving treatment

Parenting can be the most rewarding and the toughest of jobs. We all want our children to be healthy and happy.

Thinking about your child's mental health and helping them to develop their ability to cope with life's challenges is one of the most important things you can do.

Children with positive mental health are more likely to have good physical health and achieve academically, and are less likely to misuse drugs and alcohol.

Ensure your child has a well-balanced diet, some form of exercise and good sleep patterns, this will aid them to feel healthy and happy

For more support for your child and help in South Gloucestershire:

- Mind You website - <https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/mind-you/>
- OTR - www.otrbristol.org.uk call 0808 808 9120 or text 07896880011
- GP – you can visit your doctor or nurse to talk about your worries & concerns
- www.help-counselling.org.uk or call 01179 502511
- www.Kooth.com for online advice, support and counselling
- Mobile app - www.sam-app.org.uk
- Mobile app - <https://calmharm.co.uk/>
- School Health Nurse - call 01454 338804 – or drop in clinic at school during Tuesday lunch break
www.childline.org.uk or call 0800 1111
- **In an emergency or if there is risk to anyone's life call 999**



Sixth Form News

On Wednesday 23rd January the Sixth Form and OPV Business Studies group had a highly inspirational talk from Lord Mervyn Davies CBE, Partner and Chairman, Corsair Capital. The students listened to him talk about his time as a board member for Tottenham Hotspur, becoming a Member of Parliament and his current role. The students had the opportunity to ask questions and talk informally with Lord Davies. A group of students were fortunate to win an invite to the House of Lords for the day and we are in the process of liaising with his secretary to organise this.

The talk was arranged through Speakers for School Programme where each year the Sixth Form are contacted to host a talk. This year was truly inspiring for the students and it will be good to see the students acting on Lord Davies' advice.

Year 12 are very busy starting their research for their Extended Project Qualification and to help them with this we spent a very informative morning at UWE learning hints and tips about research. Alongside this the students found out about how they are able to borrow books for the UWE library which will help them with their research at home.



Each year Yr12 students have the opportunity to apply for a Summer Residential at 13 universities in the UK. The residential is completely free and travel is paid for. It is a good opportunity for students to gain an insight into life at University prior to making their application. More details can be found <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>

Year 13 have been sitting their mocks and results are in. Congratulations on all of your hard work; it has really paid off. Keep up the momentum now for the summer exams. I have been really proud to talk to Year 11's about their Cotswold Edge course choices; the discussions have been extremely useful. If any Year 11's are still unsure of their next steps please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Finally on 4th February, Sixth Form supported World Cancer Day by wearing blue and red; £1 donations made to Teenage Cancer Trust.

Gill Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form

