



Chipping Sodbury School Newsletter



13th February 2025

AN UPDATE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At the start of the term, I wrote to you all to introduce myself, my key areas of focus and to invite you to share your thoughts with me via an online form. I'd like to start by thanking everyone who took the time to do this. Your comments have been really insightful and will help inform future actions in the school's commitment to aim for brilliance in all we do. I would also like to thank all the parents and carers who I have had the pleasure of meeting in person at the numerous events we have ran over the past 6 weeks. It's reassuring to have a parent body so clearly engaged in their child's education and you have made me feel incredibly welcome in my first term.

And what a term it's been! Both Year 9s and 10s have been very much looking to the future and being supported in aiming high when doing so. For Year 9s this has been through the launch of our options process. For Year 10, who are now on the paths they chose in Year 9, we held an Aim High event where, together with parents and carers, we explored strategies to support students in being as successful as possible. Turn out for these events was high and we hope everyone who attended found them useful.

We have continued this focus on aiming high through our Aspiration challenge that has ran throughout the term for all year groups. To say students stepped up to this challenge is an understatement and we have been blown away by the level of aspiration students have shown when faced with this challenge. We have rewarded students this week and they should be incredibly proud of stepping out of their comfort zones and pushing themselves.

Of course, we are also in the season of mock exams. These are crucial in providing students with exam practice but also in identifying areas of focus during revision in the run up to the real thing. A huge well done needs to go to our Year 13 students for their approach to their mocks earlier this term.

Outside of our main curriculum, students have engaged in a wide range of activities. Whether winning the cross-trust Maths challenge beating 4 other secondary schools, engaging in talks on mental health and resilience from 'I can I am', applying their detective skills in figuring out who stole the ducks, or cheering on performances from the up and coming rock band 'Entitled Sons', we are proud of how our students have grabbed these opportunities and made the most of them.

It has been a great term and we are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back after the holiday. Until then, I hope you all have an enjoyable half term.

Rob Skipp
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24th February 2025
– Start of Term 4

24th February –
7th March 2025 –
Year 11 mock
exams begin

3rd March 2025 –
Year 9 Maths
Challenge (SWR)

20th March 2025 –
Year 13 Parents'
Evening

25th March 2025 –
Year 9
Vaccinations

27th March 2025 –
Year 11 Parents'
Evening

31st March –
4th April 2025 –
Year 11 GCSE
French Speaking
mock exams

1st April 2025 –
Year 7 Parents'
Evening

4th April 2025 –
Non Uniform Day &
End of Term 4



SIXTH FORM NEWS



We have had a really busy term again and finally completed all of our UCAS applications. Well done to all of the students who have applied to university this year and we have some excellent offers as you can see in the table below.

University	Course offer received
University of Bath	Criminology
Bath Spa University	Criminology
Bristol, UWE	Criminology
University of Gloucestershire	Criminology
Coventry University	Motorsport Engineering
Loughborough University	Automotive Engineering (with placement year)
Oxford Brookes University	Motorsport Engineering
Oxford Brookes University	Motorsport Engineering
University of Southampton	Mechanical Engineering
Bath Spa University	Wildlife Conservation
Bristol, UWE	Integrated Wildlife Conservation
Bristol, UWE	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science
Bristol, UWE	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science (with Foundation Year)
University of Gloucestershire	Ecology and Environmental Science
Liverpool John Moores University	Nursing (Adult)
University of Worcester	Assistant Practitioner
Bangor University	Creative Writing
Bristol, UWE	Creative and Professional Writing
De Montfort University	Creative Writing
University of Essex	Creative Writing
Falmouth University	Creative Writing
University of Worcester	Paramedic Science
Bath Spa University	Criminology
Cardiff University	Criminology
University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)	Criminology
University of Gloucestershire	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Hartpury University	Sport and Exercise Nutrition
Hartpury University	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Royal Agricultural University	Business Management
Royal Agricultural University	Real Estate
Bath Spa University	Primary Education (5-11) with QTS
University of Derby	History and Law
University of Essex	History and Literature (Including Year Abroad)
University of Hertfordshire	History and Creative Writing
University of Leeds	History and Philosophy

Loughborough University	History (with placement year)
Bristol, UWE	Business and Human Resource Management
Bristol, UWE	Business and Management
University of Bristol	History
Cardiff University	History
University of Exeter	History
Bath Spa University	Film, Television and Digital Production
BIMM University	Content, Media and Film Production
University of East London	Film
Lancaster University	Film Studies
University of Staffordshire	Film Production
University of Sunderland	Film and Media
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Conditioning, Rehabilitation and Massage (SCRAM)
University of Gloucestershire	Sports Therapy
Hartpury University	Sports Therapy
University of Bristol	Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour
Wrexham University	Canine Behaviour, Training and Performance
Hartpury University	Animal Behaviour and Training (Clinical)
Hartpury University	Veterinary Nursing
SGS (South Gloucestershire and Stroud College)	Media Production
Bristol, UWE	Business and Management
Bristol, UWE	Business Management and Marketing
University of Gloucestershire	Business and Management (with placement)
University of Leicester	Film Studies
University of Winchester	Film Studies
University of Worcester	Media & Film Studies and Screenwriting
University of Gloucestershire	Occupational Therapy
Aberystwyth University	Early Childhood Studies with Early Years Practitioner Status
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Early Years Education & Professional Practice
Swansea University	Early Childhood Studies with Early Years Practitioner Status
Swansea University	Early Childhood Studies with Early Years Practitioner Status with a Year Abroad

We are so proud of all our students in Sixth Form.

Next term we are focusing on the students who are looking to apply for apprenticeships with workshops from ASK Apprenticeships, students can register on the following websites to help with their searches.

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#)

[Job Search | Indeed](#)

[www.notgoing to uni.co.uk](#)

[Search and apply for apprenticeships | Apprenticeships, 16-18 Choices | UCAS](#)

Year 13 have been receiving their mock exam results. Well done to those students who have demonstrated their hard work, keep going with the final push to the summer exams. Remember, the more work put in now will help in the long term. You can discuss your son/daughter's progress on Thursday 20th March at the Year 13 Learner Consultation Evening held at Brimsham.

Advanced warning for Year 12 students, mock exams will take place 12th – 23rd May. The sooner the revision starts, the better prepared students will be for their exams.

We are aware a number of students have been experiencing mental health problems and we are supporting all the students of whom we are aware. If your son/daughter is experiencing low mood or you are concerned about them, please do get in touch and we will endeavour to support you. Some good ACCESSIBLE resources which you can access can be found on the following links.

<http://www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/relaxation.asp>
<http://www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/problemsolving.asp>
<http://www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/stress.asp>
<http://www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/anxiety.asp>
www.mindyou.org.uk

In addition, here are some practical things for your son/daughter to do if stress is becoming a problem for them:

- Plan time for study and time to relax.
- Cut back on part time work.
- Eat properly.
- Get some exercise (even just a short walk).
- Get enough sleep.
- Spend time with friends.
- Ask for help if you are not coping.
- Have a revision plan for study periods and stick to it.
- Take the advice given by your teachers (they have years of experience).

Planned for June: Year 12 will be attending the UCAS exhibition on Friday 13th June. Students will be able to find out more about the courses universities have to offer. Apprenticeship providers will also be present and gathering information about degree apprenticeships is really important. We will be making sure students are prepared for the exhibition next term.

To help parents understand the UCAS process and the options available to students post Sixth Form, we are hosting a Higher Education and Apprenticeship evening on Thursday 22nd May, more information will be sent home next term.

Cotswold Edge are celebrating the end of term at our annual Winter Ball on Friday 14th February. Thank you to the social committee students from CSS, BGS and YA who have been busy organising this.

Gill Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form



SPORTING NEWS



Under 16's County Football Finals – 3rd February 2025

Our under 16 girls football team took part in the County Finals on 3rd February and their performance was amazing.

They faced some very tough competition from across the districts which included grammar, private and specialist sport schools. Our girls got to the final where they were narrowly beaten.

Silver medallists - absolutely brilliant.



MUSIC NEWS



Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Workshop

Our Year 10 GCSE music students participated in a workshop this term run by members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. It was a great opportunity for us to hear some of our set works performed live, including Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and Defying Gravity from Wicked.

The workshop leader also took us through a composition masterclass, and selected melodies composed by Chipping Sodbury students and Backwell students to demonstrate the process of producing a completed music composition. It was amazing to hear the end result featuring our own students' musical ideas.



MATHS NEWS



This term, some of our Year 8 mathematicians represented the school in the Year 8 Trust Maths Challenge. This was hosted at The Dean Academy over in Lydney with all 5 Trust secondary schools in attendance, competing for the prized title. The students completed maths problems and challenges over a series of rounds and all of our students performed brilliantly. When the results were announced, CSS had come 1st overall! The students met with Mr Skipp who wanted to congratulate them in person (see photo). Bragging rights at the next Trust Head Teacher and Trust Head of Maths meetings respectively has been secured for another year. Well done to all those who took part.



CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Should you have any questions, ideas or concerns about anything relating to the school and your child's education, we want to hear about it. To contact us, please contact your child's tutor, head of faculty or use the email enquiries@chippingsodburyschool.com

Staff will endeavour to get back to you in a timely manner. We aim to respond to an initial communication within 2 working days. (If the matter is urgent or of a safeguarding nature, please mark it as such and we will of course respond as soon as possible). Thank you for your understanding that for part time staff it may be longer, as there is no expectation that they check or respond to emails outside of their working hours. It is not always possible for staff to respond immediately due to teaching commitments and meetings and some questions will not be able to be answered in the first response. Rest assured, your comments are important to us and we are committed to working with you to support our students.