



Chipping Sodbury School Newsletter

12th February 2026

Key Dates:

February

- 13th Mufti Day
- 13th End of Term 3
- 23rd Start of Term 4
- 23rd Y11 Mock exams begin
- 25th Y7 Parents' Evening

March:

- 4th Y9 Maths Challenge, Sir William Romney School
- 26th Y13 Parents' Evening, Brimsham Green
- 26th Y9 MenACWY/Dip vaccinations
- 27th Alliance Orchestra
- 30th Y11 Parents' Evening

April:

- 2nd Mufti Day
- 2nd End of Term 4
- 19th Bronze DofE Training Day
- 20th Start of Term 5
- 20th Y10 Mock exams begin
- 21st/22nd GCSE Photography exam
- 24th GCSE Art exam
- 24th Bronze DofE Practice



Headteacher's Message

As we come to the end of Term 3, I am amazed to think that it was only 12 months ago that I took up post. A new headteacher at a school is a significant change and I am hugely grateful to everyone from the Chipping Sodbury School community; the students, the staff and of course, crucially you as parents and carers, who welcomed me and have worked with me in continuing to aim for brilliance for everyone in our school.

We have achieved a huge amount in this time. From spending time really unpicking our values and what it means to be an Aspirational Chipping Sodbury student, to strengthening our inclusive and caring culture through the introduction of our antibullying ambassadors. Our students have continually impressed me with their willingness to step up and take on challenges as well as being fantastic representatives of our school whenever we have visitors or venture out on trips. It's also been great to see the level of parent and carer engagement at events across the year. Just last week we had our Year 9 Options Evening and turnout was fantastic. We hope that the event will allow families to engage in those really valuable conversations about next steps as our Year 9s consider which subjects they'd like to take in Key Stage 4. Earlier in the term we also had our Year 10 Aiming Higher Evening and again, the hall was packed. We know that the partnership between home and school is so important to the success of students so thank you and well done for being so active in this. Linked to this, please do take the time to complete our annual parent survey – a link to this appears later in the newsletter.

The term, as always, has been full of opportunities that have enriched and improved the education of our young people. From a fantastic stem activity for Year 8 to workshops on knife crime for our Year 9s, we continue to look at opportunities to move learning beyond the classroom as we know this is so beneficial to our students.

All of these great events are not possible without our incredible team of staff. Earlier this term, the dedication and contribution of one of our team, Mrs Bevan, was even recognised in a ceremony at Westminster Palace! (Read on for more info.) We are incredibly proud of Mrs Bevan, not only for receiving this award but for being such an important part of the Chipping Sodbury Community.

As we look ahead to next term, our Year 11s enter a second round of mocks to provide more opportunity to practice and address any areas of weakness identified in the first round. We know that our Year 11s will engage with the revision resources and strategies that have been shared and thank you all for encouraging this over the half term. Please read on for more guidance to parents on how to help your child revise.

We hope that all our families have a great half term and look forward to Term 4.

Rob Skipp
Headteacher



Staff Achievements



We are delighted to share some fantastic news from within our school community.

Rose Bevan (BCAe) has been recognised with a British Citizen Award for her exceptional contributions to education.

This achievement is a testament to her dedication, professionalism, and the positive impact she has on both students and staff. Her commitment to supporting high quality teaching and her passion for supporting young people shine through in everything she does. This award is truly well deserved.

Please join us in congratulating Rose on this remarkable accomplishment. We are incredibly proud to have two amazing Science technicians at Chipping Sodbury School.

Press Release:

Rosemarie Bevan, from South Gloucestershire was among 26 exceptional individuals honoured with the esteemed British Citizen Award (BCA) at the Palace of Westminster. This recognition celebrates their outstanding contributions to society.

The Medal Presentation, held on Thursday 22nd January, saw Rosemarie receive the coveted BCA Medal of Honour for Services to Education (BCAe). Recipients are invited to use the post-nominals to commemorate their achievements.

Rose has been working at Chipping Sodbury School as a Science Technician then latterly Lead Science Technician for 50 years. A strong believer in supporting Science Teachers to enable them to demonstrate the best science education and run the most inspiring practical lessons to engage and inspire learners. Without Rose's wealth of knowledge and sheer dedication there would be far less practical work going on within the faculty. Not only does she prepare resources for the teachers, but she supported the training of many teachers and technicians in the practical skills needed to run these activities in a safe and engaging way. Her service to education is unwavering.

Rose goes above and beyond, completing many hours beyond her paid hours hunting for certain types of flowers or finding the best price for animal organs for teachers and students to dissect, to staying in school to support open evenings and after school clubs.

Rose has been in her role for 50 years so has been a constant in the running of Chipping Sodbury School. She has supported over 100 science teachers, more than 100 trainee teachers, over 10 science technicians and supported over 4000 students in this time.

Dame Mary Perkins, founder of Specsavers and BCA patron, says: Rosemarie is a true unsung hero and a shining example of what it means to be a community champion. Their positive impact embodies real citizenship and shows just how powerful local action can be. At Specsavers, we care deeply about the communities we are part of and we believe people like Rosemarie are vital to helping them thrive. Their story is genuinely inspirational, and this accolade is thoroughly deserved. Thank you for the extraordinary contribution you have made to our society."

The presentation, hosted by TV and Radio presenter Konnie Huq, was attended by BCA Patrons Dame Mary Perkins, Founder of Specsavers, and The Lord Mott. Representatives from BCA supporters, Specsavers, Places for People, Novus Property Solutions and Aldermore Bank were also in attendance. Following the ceremony, medalists enjoyed an Open Top Lap of Honour tour taking in some of Westminster's iconic sights in celebration of their positive impact on communities the length and breadth of the UK.



Key Messages

A note on uniform

It is always timely at the end of a term to remind all our students, parents and carers about our uniform expectations. On the whole, standards of uniform across the school are exceptional and external visitors regularly comment on how smart our students look. A breakdown of our uniform can be found on our website but we wanted to highlight a few things.

1. Hooded jumpers are not permitted in school. Students should wear coats/jackets for warmth when outside and these should be removed when in lessons
2. False nails/eye lashes are not allowed in school. If students choose to get false nails over the holiday, they will be expected to be removed for the start of term.
3. Piercings are limited to one stud per ear, and students will be expected to remove anything outside of this.

Thank you for your support with ensuring these expectations are met.

Mobile phone use in school

You may be aware of the recent government announcement about clearer guidelines and expectations around mobile phones in schools. [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

Importantly it states that 'All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.' We will be reviewing our own policy on mobile phones in school over the next term and will communicate any changes.

For clarity, our current policy on mobile phones in school is below, it is designed to ensure that the focus in school is on learning. Thank you in advance for supporting us in the implementation of this policy.

Mobile Phones

- Phones can be brought to school but **MUST** stay in bags and should not be seen or heard during the school day at all. Make sure phones are **switched off**
- If a phone is seen by a member of staff, or it is causing a distraction because it has not been switched off, it will be confiscated and a **C3 sanction** awarded. The phone will be kept securely in the safe (First Aid office) until the end of the day when it can be picked up by the student
- Students refusing to hand in their phone to a member of staff will receive a C4/C5 depending on the circumstances
- Phones can be used in class **if permission is given by the teacher** for educational reasons
- If a phone is confiscated on 3 occasions or more, a parent/carer will be contacted and arrangements made for them to pick the phone up and there will be a mobile ban in school
- The school reserves the right to issue a phone ban for a fixed time of time if a student refuses to comply with the mobile phone school expectations



Students who have an urgent need to contact home during the day are asked to speak to a member of staff on reception or their PPL.





Parent and Carer Survey 2026

Here at Chipping Sodbury School, we hugely value our partnership with you as parents and carers. We are dedicated to continual improvement of the school as we aim for brilliance in the provision for our students and your views on your child's education are incredibly important to us in doing so.

Please take the time to complete this survey. It will close on 23rd February. The survey is anonymous so please ensure that if you are raising something you want addressed, you make us aware through the usual channels. This is through contacting your child's tutor, PPL or class teacher.

Thank you for sharing your feedback.

[Parent and Carer Survey - February 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Our new outdoor space

If you have visited the school this academic year you will have likely seen that a lot of work has been happening in our internal garden areas. We are pleased to say that this work has now been completed in two of our three quads and our students are now enjoying using these spaces.



The substantial improvements to these areas have been completed as part of a project with Wessex Water looking at managing rainwater in the local area to prevent flooding in the community.

Traditionally, rainwater is taken from roofs directly into the sewage system. With a changing climate, this is no longer sustainable as during heavy rain, water piped into sewers often overloads the system and increases the risk of flooding.

Our new rain gardens are designed so that water soaks slowly into the ground, simulating nature.

We are incredibly pleased with these spaces and grateful to Wessex Water for their investment in the school. As part of the project, we are also organising some educational experiences for some year groups and look forward to the educational value of such work in the school. Work on the final quad will begin this half term.



Curriculum & Learning

Teaching and Learning

Last term I wrote about the importance of questioning to aid learning, an area of focus for us across the school as we encourage students to ‘think hard’ and push themselves to take on challenging ideas, I included some advice to parents on how to engage students in more challenging questions about their learning at home; rather than ‘What have you learnt?’ try questions using words like How or Why - ‘How did you get to that answer?’ or ‘Why do you think that happened?’ are good starting points to ensure students really understand the information they are learning.

This term, we have spent time exploring the importance of students acting on feedback. Here at Chipping Sodbury School we provide students with ‘next steps’ of how to improve and build time into lessons for students to act on this advice. We ask students to respond to feedback in green pen as we want them to make these efforts to close gaps in their understanding explicit. We are really pleased with the work that is happening with this and the improvements we are seeing in student progress as a result.

We have also had a real focus on revision and how important it is to review learning to ensure it moves into long term memory. This has been a real focus for our Year 11s but also for all other year groups. Lots more information on this appears in another section of this newsletter and we hope it’s helpful in supporting you to support your child at home.

2026 National Year of Reading

You may be aware that this year has been made a National Year of Reading across the UK. Multiple studies have shown that rates of reading for pleasure in all age groups – but especially amongst 11-18 year olds – are falling. Couple this with research that proves the link between regular reading and better life chances for young people and it’s clear that we need to do all we can, as schools and in partnership with parents, to get our young people reading.

Here at Chipping Sodbury School we run a very successful whole-school reading programme called Literacy Legends. Twice a fortnight, tutors read a challenging, age-appropriate, book to their group. There are often discussions linked to what is happening in the story and opportunities to cover some of the themes within the text in more detail. We have just added two new titles to the selections available in Year 7 and Year 9.



Year 7:

When Fran goes to stay with her aunt and uncle, she discovers that her cousin Imogen has vanished and her parents seem to have no recollection of her existence. Although Fran had never much liked Imogen anyway, she just can’t let the mystery lie and begins exploring nearby Stillness Hall and its grounds in the hope it will shed some light on what’s happened to her annoying cousin.

Year 9:

Set in Wales after a nuclear catastrophe ("The End"), the novel is told through alternating diary entries by fourteen-year-old Dylan and his mother, Rowenna, as they try to survive in isolation. Documenting their daily life, the book examines the impact of lost civilization and explores their evolving but tense relationship. The Blue Book of Nebo has received multiple awards, including the 2023 Carnegie Medal.



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“But how do I get my child to read?!”

As a parent myself, I absolutely understand the frustration of knowing that reading is good for young people but struggling to get your own child to read. My daughter is a bookworm but my son, in Y8, isn't interested in any of the books I've shared with him that I loved at his age. In fact, me having loved a book is more likely to have his eyes glazing over! This is where intrinsic motivation comes in. Basically, we need to meet students where their interests are in terms of what they read. Online match reports of their favourite team, non-fiction about a musician they love, even fan fiction about a TV show they're hooked on; these are all texts, often with challenging vocabulary. Graphic novels and Manga are also great ways to engage more reluctant readers.

Here in school, we continue to signpost students to books we think they will enjoy and we share our own love of reading by displaying our “Why I read” posters, here we can share what we're reading as well as the reasons why we read. Look out for more updates on how we are celebrating the National Year of Reading in future newsletters.

The final countdown to Year 11 exams

With the first exam-hall exam due to take place on Friday 8th May, only 8 school weeks away, several supportive strategies are currently in action to ensure that the ‘Class of 2026’ are supported in this, THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

Study Support

Phase 2 of the after-school revision sessions is already well underway. Students are working hard and earning those all important ‘prom-points’ through their regular attendance and great attitudes to learning in these sessions. For a small number of students there is still room for improvement in terms of attendance at these sessions. Analysis of results in previous year groups has shown a strong correlation between progress in exams and attendance of these supportive sessions.

Developing our approach to the ‘CSS super-7’ revision strategies

This term, all students in Year 11 have been benefiting from 14 tutor-time lessons showcasing 7 key revision activities that they can use at home to support them in their independent revision. During Wednesday and Friday tutor sessions students are being shown exactly how to use each of these strategies and getting the opportunity to practise each strategy. By making use of all 7 strategies, students can ensure there is variety in their revision program and that the hours they are spending revising at home each week are as effective as possible. The [7 CSS revision strategies](#) are:



1. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check
2. Video tutorials (online to on-paper!)
3. Flashcards and Post-its
4. Quizzing
5. Mindmaps
6. Knowledge organisers
7. Past papers

Power Hour

In addition to the compulsory Tuesday and Wednesday subject specific afterschool study support, many students are choosing to earn additional prom-points through attendance at Thursdays' after school ‘Power hour’. Computers and resources are available in a supervised classroom to facilitate independent revision at the end of the school day. It's been fantastic to see so many students take advantage of this, if your child hasn't yet made it along please encourage them.

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Exam Stress Sessions

We recognise that exams are a stressful time for all students, with this in mind during the run up to exams assemblies and tutor-time discussions will continue to share strategies to support with this. For some students additional support may be required, with some small group workshops planned to support those students who are finding this particularly tricky. All students are encouraged to speak to their tutor if they feel they are finding things difficult. Some information and advice for parents on this subject can be found with the ["Parent guide to Exam Success"](#) (available within the exams section of the website).

SLT Battle

Members of our senior leadership team are also working with some key groups of students, identified through analysis of the attitude to learning information in the last progress review, to encourage a more aspirational approach to learning. At the time of writing "Ellis' Elite" were heading the league table, but ownership of the associated gold medal is being fiercely contested by other SLT-team-leaders. These members of staff are working behind the scenes to encourage the students in their teams to earn themselves aspiration points and push their own teams into first place!



Year 11 February Mock Exams

Please be aware that the second set of Year 11 mock exams are due to take place between 23rd February and 6th March. The exam timetable is still available in the [Exams Section of the school website](#).

Coming Soon: Year 11 Revision Padlet

Finally, in response to parental and student feedback, the school is further developing our bank of online revision resources. Alongside the existing 'revision hub' (available to all Year 11 students by logging into their school Microsoft account) at the end of this half term we are pleased to release our new centralised "FINAL COUNTDOWN REVISION PADLET". This online resource contains 30-minutes revision activities for every subject for the 10 weeks leading up to the start of the external exams. This bank of resources is available through a website known as 'padlet' which, unlike the existing revision-hub, does NOT require a password to access. In response to parental feedback, we are hoping that this will enable parents to monitor, encourage and reward their child's engagement in independent revision tasks at home as well as making it quicker and easier for students to find these valuable revision resources.

Note: The Provisional Summer Exam Timetable is available in the [Exams Section of the school website](#).



Student Achievements

Year 7 Update

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to take the opportunity to share some positive highlights from Year 7. It has been a pleasure to see how well our students continue to settle into secondary school life and rise to new challenges.

We are delighted to report that **attendance is continuing to climb, student engagement is noticeably up, and punctuality has improved across the year group.** Our Year 7 sports teams have also been performing strongly, showing great teamwork and resilience, and participation in **House competitions has increased significantly**, helping to build a strong sense of belonging and school spirit.

Looking Ahead: Summer Summatives

As we look ahead to our end-of-year assessments, known as the **Summer Summatives**, we have been using assembly time to explicitly teach students effective revision strategies. These are known as our **Super Seven revision techniques**, and students are being encouraged to practise them regularly:

- Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check
- Video tutorials (moving learning from online to paper)
- Flashcards and post-it notes
- Quizzing
- Knowledge organisers
- Mind maps
- Past papers

A key message we are reinforcing is the importance of students becoming independent and responsible for their own learning. Developing strong revision habits now will be essential in helping students achieve their full potential, secure the best possible grades, and keep their future options open when their time with us comes to an end. More importantly, these skills lay the foundations for becoming confident, lifelong learners.

House Competitions and Tutor Time

House competitions continue to go from strength to strength, with Year 7 showing fantastic enthusiasm and turnout. Lunchtimes have been particularly lively with the **Dodgeball Survival competition**, where all tutor groups performed incredibly well and showed great bravery in the face of a mass of flying (soft!) projectiles. While numbers eventually prevailed, we are delighted to congratulate **7Tr1 as the Year 7 winners**, achieving this with almost all in attendance at the event – a brilliant effort.

In tutor time, students have also been getting creative by writing love poems as part of a Valentine's competition led by our Heads of House. Parents may wish to thank Miss Grinham if your child has come home singing "*What's Love Got to Do With It*" by Tina Turner! Alongside this, tutor groups are nearing the end of their Literacy Legends book, *Wolf*, and have shown excellent commitment to reading and discussion.

Staff Bushtucker Trial

Thank you to all parents who supported the Staff Bushtucker Trial, both by allowing your sons and daughters to vote for staff participants and by purchasing tickets to watch the event. As I write this, I am not yet aware of the outcome or who was selected, but I can confirm that Mr Pugh was ordering mealworms and locusts from the Head of House Office early this week, so we can be sure the stakes were high!

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Looking Forward

Looking ahead, we will continue to practise the **Super Seven revision techniques** in tutor time using general knowledge activities. This will not only reinforce revision skills but also help to broaden students' awareness of the wider world.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a fantastic term for Year 7, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the weeks ahead.

Kind regards,
Mr White

Headteacher Awards

As we reach the end of another successful term at Chipping Sodbury School, we are delighted to celebrate the students who have been recognised with a Headteacher Award. These awards are presented termly to honour exceptional effort, achievement, and personal development across our school community. The students who were awarded for these awards this term are:

Oscar B – 7SV1 – 'Found a phone in the park and ensured it was returned to its rightful owner. Great integrity shown.'

Grace D.L – 8AV1 – 'The quality of Grace's home learning in history this year has been outstanding. She puts so much effort into her research, explanation and presentation. This is in addition to her consistent efforts in class. A real example of a student who challenges themselves to excel at every opportunity.'



Student Leadership

School Senate

Our School Senate continues to do a fantastic job representing the voice of our students and driving meaningful improvements across the school community. This dedicated group has worked tirelessly to champion student wellbeing, strengthen communication, and lead initiatives that make our school a more inclusive, vibrant, and supportive place to learn. Their commitment, teamwork, and creativity shine through in every project they take on, and we are incredibly proud of the positive impact they are making each day.



House Updates

Interhouse Quiz

One of this term's interhouse competitions was the Oxfam quiz based on different countries Oxfam works in and the theme of Eat, Drink Earn and Learn. An aspect of each country was shown and tutor groups had to figure out which country it was. The final result was very close with Avon being the winning house with an average of 14.83 with 4th place only 0.55 points behind. The tutor group with the overall highest score and bragging rights across the whole school was 8Av2, with 18/21, well done to them. Question 7 (letter G) caught out quite a few tutor groups and only 7 of the 25 groups successfully got the answers correct, can you get the answer using the image on the next page.

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Answer: Did you get it right? The correct answer is Great Britain (this is using Oxfam's classification list on their website) and the picture is of Chipping Sodbury School!!!!

Sixth Form Update

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

University	Course applied for
University of Bath	Physics with Theoretical Physics
University of Bristol	Theoretical Physics
University of Exeter	Theoretical Physics
University of Southampton	Physics
Boomsatsuma	Filmmaking: Production
Bristol, UWE	Filmmaking
Coventry University	Film Production
University of Gloucestershire	Film and TV Production
University of South Wales	Film
University of Bath	Sport and Exercise Science
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
University of Gloucestershire	Sport and Exercise Sciences

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University of Gloucestershire	Sport, Coaching and Physical Education
Hartpury University	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Bristol, UWE	Sport Rehabilitation
Coventry University	Sports and Exercise Therapy
University of Gloucestershire	Sports Therapy
Hartpury University	Sports Therapy
University of South Wales	Sports and Exercise Therapy
Bath Spa University	Fine Art
Bristol, UWE	Fine Art
Bristol, UWE	Fine Art (with Foundation Year)
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Fine Art
Falmouth University	Fine Art
University of Bristol	Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour
Hartpury University	Bioveterinary Science
Hartpury University	Equine Dental Science
Hartpury University	Equine Performance and Rehabilitation
Hartpury University	Equine Science
University of Bristol	Business and Management
Bristol, UWE	Business and Management
University of Exeter	Business and Management with Industrial Experience
University of Gloucestershire	Business and Management (with placement)
University of Reading	Business and Management with Placement Year
University of Bath	Sport and Exercise Science
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
Loughborough University	Sport and Exercise Science
Newcastle University	Sport and Exercise Science
University of Surrey	Sport and Exercise Science
University of Bristol	Physics and Philosophy
King's College London, University of London	Physics and Philosophy
University of Lincoln	Physics with Philosophy
Royal Holloway, University of London	Physics with Philosophy
University of York	Physics with Philosophy
University of Bristol	Cancer Biology and Immunology
City St George's, University of London	Paramedic Science BSc
University of East Anglia UEA	Biomedical Science with a Placement Year in NHS
University of Gloucestershire	Paramedic Science
Keele University	Medicine with Foundation Year
University of Bath	Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science
University of Bristol	Economics and Mathematics
London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London	Mathematics and Economics
UCL (University College London)	Economics and Statistics

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University Centre Askham Bryan	Canine and Feline Behaviour and Training
Hartpury University	Animal Behaviour and Training with Canine (Clinical)
Hartpury University	Animal Behaviour and Training with Canine (Clinical) (with Foundation Year)
Hartpury University	Human-Animal Interaction with Psychology
University Centre Reaseheath	Canine Behaviour and Training
Bath Spa University	Media Communications
Bristol, UWE	Media Production
University of Gloucestershire	Communications and Media
SGS (South Gloucestershire and Stroud College)	Media Production
University of South Wales	Media Production

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

Information regarding accepting offers can be found on the UCAS website [How To Accept Or Decline University Offers & Deadlines For Your Replies](#)

Next term we are focusing on 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](#)

[Alternatives To University | NGTU](#)

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

Year 13 have been receiving their mock exam results and well done to those students who have demonstrated their hard work. Keep going with the final push to the summer exams and remember the more work you put in now will help you in the long term. You can discuss your son/daughters progress on Thursday 26th March at the Year 13 Learner Consultation Evening held at Brimsham Green School.

Advanced warning for Year 12 students, mocks exams will take place 11th – 22nd May. The sooner the revision starts, the better prepared students will be for their exams.

We are aware several students have been experiencing mental health problems, and we are supporting all students we are aware of. 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 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

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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 April: Year 12 will be attending the UCAS exhibition on Tuesday 28th April where 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 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 21st May. More information will be sent home next term.

Cotswold Edge are celebrating at the February Formal on Friday 27th February. Thank you to the Social Committee students who have been busy organising this.

Gill Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form

Sports Update

Year 7 South Gloucestershire Netball Champions!

Congratulations to this amazing netball team. In their first year at Chipping Sodbury, they have remained unbeaten and are now officially South Gloucestershire Champions. They played 7 netball matches before Christmas, winning every fixture and topping the league. As league winners, they qualified for the play off finals to determine who would be victorious and earn the title of South Glos Champions! They showed fantastic grit and resilience in their play off final against John Cabot School winning 13-6, with only 6 playing on court at times due to injuries sustained during the game. Winter was voted player of the match for her fantastic link up play between defence and attack and the team now progress forward to the next stage. We are very proud of you all.

Ms Winter





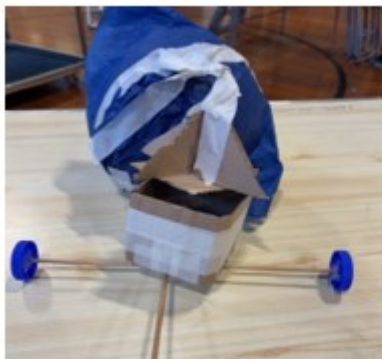
Enrichment & Extra Curricular Update

Year 8 STEM Days: Engineering in Action

The Science Department was delighted to host two exciting STEM Days for our Year 8 students, giving them the chance to experience real-world engineering first-hand. Across the two days, students were split into two groups, working alongside professionals from Airbus and the Royal Air Force (RAF) on engaging, hands-on design challenges.



The Airbus group took on the task of designing and building a balsa wood aircraft, while the RAF group focused on creating a space lander capable of withstanding a safe landing. Throughout the activities, students explored the full engineering cycle – from initial ideas and design through to testing and evaluation. They demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills, worked effectively within a set budget, and practised clearly communicating their ideas as part of a team. The enthusiasm, creativity and resilience shown by our Year 8s were fantastic to see.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to The Smallpeice Trust for hosting and supporting these inspiring STEM Days, and to their partners at Airbus and the RAF for providing such memorable and motivating experiences. Events like these play a vital role in bringing science and engineering to life and inspiring our students to consider future careers in STEM.

Year 8 Opera Competition

Those of you who have been keeping up with the newsletters, may recall that in Term 2, we were one of 12 schools nationally selected to participate in a project run by English National Opera. All of our Year 8 students worked individually or in pairs to compose the final song for an unfinished opera and schools were invited to send their best 3 compositions in for judging by a team at the ENO. We have received the final results, and out of 22 entries submitted nationally, not one but TWO of our Chipping Sodbury entries were shortlisted into the top six and received very positive feedback from the judging panel. This is an amazing achievement and reflects the hard work and creativity of our students. Congratulations Sasha & Reuben and Katie & Leon - we are very proud of you!



CSS Drama & Music Departments present: *Aladdin!*

This will be our whole school musical production in July. Featuring all the well-known hits such as 'A Whole New World' and 'Friend Like Me', it's going to be magical! Auditions are open to all students from Years 7 - 13, offering a variety of parts to suit everyone, whether you want to be a lead character, a supporting role or a member of the all-important chorus. There will also be opportunities for back-stage crew at a later date. Come and join the show!



AUDITIONS: Wednesday, 25th February from 3.15 - 4.00 in the Drama Hall

If you would like to be considered for a leading character, please come prepared to sing something (it doesn't have to be from Aladdin). For smaller roles or the chorus, no preparation is necessary - just turn up and be willing to join in and have fun.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Mrs Boulton and Mrs Donnelly

Term 3 Co-Curricular Clubs

Below is the Co-Curricular Clubs timetable for Term 3. This can also be found on the school website:

<https://www.chippingsodburyschool.com/Extra-Curricular-Activities-Timetable/>

Co-Curricular Clubs: Term 4

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch Time	Year 10 GCSE PE Sports Hall	Year 11 GCSE PE Sports Hall	School Band (A6) 8:45-9:10	Year 11 Fitness Suite	Years 10/11 Fitness Suite
	Year 10 Fitness Suite	Year 11 Fitness Suite	Years 9/10/12/13 Fitness Suite	Year 8 Sports Hall	Year 7 Sports Hall
After School	Choir (A5) 3:15 - 3:45pm	Sparx Maths support (M1)	Sparx Maths support (M1)	Girls Football (all years)	Fight Club (all years)
	Boys Football (all years)	KS4 Girls Fitness Club	DT 'Make & Fix' Club 3:15 - 4:15pm	Warhammer Club	

Homework Club: Every lunchtime in C3

Health & Wellbeing



The Blunt Truth Workshop



Recently, Year 9 students at our school had the opportunity to participate in The Blunt Truth Workshop, an engaging and thought-provoking presentation focused on the negative effects of knife crime and to teach our students lifesaving first aid skills. The workshop aimed to give students honest, straightforward information while encouraging them to think critically about the choices they make and the impact those choices can have on their futures.

The Blunt Truth Workshop connected with students through real-life scenarios, interactive discussion and first aid demonstrations. The Police and NHS staff present, emphasised the importance of being informed, understanding peer pressure, and recognising how they can make a difference by anonymously reporting concerns safely through channels like fearless.org.

Many students found the workshop informative and eye-opening, especially because of its direct and realistic approach. Rather than using scare tactics, the presentation focused on facts, consequences, and empowerment — helping students feel more confident in supporting someone during a medical emergency.

Workshops like The Blunt Truth support our school's commitment to student well-being and education beyond the classroom. We really appreciate the A&E and Police staff giving up their valuable time to make the workshops possible and we hope to repeat the workshops again next year.



0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Give information anonymously

What is Fearless? More Info News Parents/Guardians Professionals

**Get info.
Give info**

Pass on information without giving any personal details.

Give information anonymously

Quick Exit



Social Media

Follow us on social media for school updates and photographs of trips and events.



Chipping Sodbury School



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