



Chipping Sodbury School Newsletter

20th May 2026

Key Dates:

May:

22nd Mufti Day

22nd End of Term 5

June:

1st Start of Term 6

3rd Y10 Parents' Evening (online)

4th Y9 HPV Vaccine Catch-up Clinic

5th Alliance Orchestra

10th Festival Concert

15th Y10 Work Experience week

17th-19th Enrichment Week

18th Y12 Parents' Evening, BGS

19th-20th Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition

23rd-25th Year 5 Tours

25th Y11 Prom

26th INSET DAY

July:

1st- Y6 Induction Days

1st Sports Personality Evening

8th Sports Day

9th-10th School Production

8th Senate Awards Evening

17th Last day of term as INSET DAYS 20th/21st



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to our Term 5 newsletter! This term has been short but jam-packed and the following pages attempt to capture some of what epitomises Chipping Sodbury School and our students' mission of aiming for brilliance in all they do.

Exam season

The term started with our Year 10 students taking part in their first round of mock exams. Their approach to these was commendable as they demonstrated **aspiration** by pushing themselves to achieve their very best, and **responsibility** by committing to independent revision outside of school. It was great to see so many of them taking on board the guidance from the Year 10 Aim Higher evening earlier in the year and trying out our 'Super 7' revision strategies. If you were unable to attend the link to the presentation is here: [Chipping Sodbury School - Year 10 Aim Higher Evening](#). Following the mocks, I spoke to Year 10 about the importance of listening to feedback and thinking carefully about next steps. Throughout this term, they will have been receiving results from these mocks and whilst for many there will be lots to be proud of, the most valuable things to focus on are the areas that still need work. By paying close attention to their 'Next Steps' and working on these over the coming weeks, our Year 10 students will be laying the foundations for even greater success in future assessments.

Our Year 11 and 13 students have been putting all the feedback they've received into practice as they've started their final exams in the last two weeks. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to supporting them through the final stretch, and then celebrating with them on results day in the summer. We recognise that for some students, this can be a stressful time. Their teachers and wider staff are here to support and I would urge you to check out the advice available in the 'Exams Information' section of the website to assist you at home: [Chipping Sodbury School - Exam Information](#).

Thinking about learning

Understanding how we learn and how to maximise progress has been a focus of Key Stage 3 assemblies this term. We have explored how we learn and how a typical Chipping Sodbury lesson is designed to work *with* our brains, not against it. Ask your child how the human brain is capable of remembering potentially endless sequences of information but might struggle with four things at once!

Celebration

This term been one of celebration. It was an absolute pleasure to spend some time with our Year 13 students as we reminisced on their time with us and wished them all the best for the future. We were able to give out lots of awards some of which came with some very nice prizes thanks to some generous donations from the Townland Charity and the Rotary Club. Further details of this event appear later in the newsletter. We will be ending the term with our leaver's assembly for Year 11s and our annual dress up. I know there will be lots of laughs and the odd tear as we congratulate them on all their achievements and wish them all the best for the final weeks of exams after half term.

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Respect

Integrity

Aspiration

Responsibility



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Important info on Procedures and Policies

For you as parents and carers, there are some key updates that we hope you will take the time to read. One of these is about our approach to mobile phones moving forwards. Please do take the time to read the article in the newsletter about this.

The second is an updated Relationships and Sex Education Policy with an opportunity to provide any feedback before it is finalised by Trustees. This updated policy is attached. Should you have any feedback on this, please email rgy@chippingsodburyschool.com by 12th June.

Thank you as always for your continued engagement with the school and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 6 as we continue to aim for brilliance in all we do.

Rob Skipp
Headteacher

Key Messages

Mobile phone update

Why phones are being banned

As you may be aware, the government is tightening the expectations on a complete ban in schools of mobile phones from September 2026. There is now extensive research that evidences the negative impact excessive phone use can have on a young person's mental health, socialisation and learning. Evidence shows that social media companies are deliberately targeting children with content that is addictive and this can lead to unsafe and unhealthy habits forming. With the exponential increase in the availability and use of Artificial Intelligence, dangerous misinformation and disinformation is freely available and this poses huge risks to young people who are vulnerable and more easily influenced. Schools have a moral responsibility to educate young people in how to stay safe online, whilst providing them with a distraction-free learning environment where they can focus and thrive.

Further information

Below are some interesting links that may be of interest:

[Facebook founding president Sean Parker sounds alarm - BBC News](#)

[Social media apps are 'deliberately' addictive to users - BBC News](#)

[Apple investors urge action on 'smartphone addiction' - BBC News](#)

[How mobile phones guidance is changing for schools - BBC News](#)

The approach at Chipping Sodbury School

The Senior Leadership Team have drafted a new procedure in consultation with staff to ensure we comply with our statutory responsibilities regarding phone use. We have extended the ban on mobile phones to ear pods and smart watches - absolutely no use of these during the school day will be permitted (unless for medical reasons).

Some schools have chosen to use pouches or lock boxes as a way of ensuring classrooms are phone free. At Chipping Sodbury School, we hope to build self-discipline and self-regulation and feel confident that students will demonstrate our values of respect and integrity by following the expectations of having phones off and at the bottom of bags for the entire school day. This new approach will be trialled in Term 6 after Year 11 have left. Students will be informed of this through assemblies and tutor times and given reminders during line up as we look to build good habits.

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NEW mobile phone procedure



- Mobile phones, as well as other smart devices and ear pods should not be brought on site OR be in the bottom of bags and switched off – not in pockets/ears. The only exception is those who use an item for a medical reason and have an Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Mobile phones, other smart devices and ear pods should not be used in the school day at any point between 8:40am and 3:10pm. If a student is attending an after-school club or study support session, items will continue to be banned until they leave site.
- If a banned item is seen or heard by a member of staff for ANY reason it will be confiscated and a **C2** logged. 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**. No detention will be set.
- If any further item is seen for a second time that academic year a **C3 will be logged and a 30 minute after-school detention set**. The phone will be kept securely in the safe (Reception) until the end of the day when it can be picked up by the **parent/carer**.
- If any further item is seen for a third time, in the same academic year, a **C4 will be logged and a full day in Reset with an after-school detention of 1 hour set**. The item will be kept securely in the safe (Reception) until the end of the day when it can be picked up by the **parent/carer**.
- If any item is seen for a fourth time a **suspension** will be issued. The item will be kept securely in the safe (Reception) until it can be picked up by the **parent/carer**.
- Students refusing to hand in their phone/ear pod/smart device to a member of staff will receive a C4 and go to Reset.
- Phones cannot be used in and out of lessons **for any reason** including telling the time, checking a timetable, and contacting home about money for food etc.

Students who have an urgent need to contact home during the day are asked to speak to a member of staff in Student Support.



There will initially be a 'soft start' with no sanctions logged, just the item confiscated. Students need to get out of the habit of using their phone - it is quite a culture change but one that is very much in the interests of our young people and we are not alone in this!

The purpose of the approach is to ensure that we create a distraction free environment so that students can focus on learning. We appreciate that it is an inconvenience for parents/carers to have to collect their child's phone, but this strategy is precisely why it is a deterrent and a successful approach schools around the country have adopted already for several years. If you have any feedback about the proposed approach below, please contact Mrs Howe via jennifer.howe@chippingsodburyschool.com.

Supporting students

New copies of timetables will be printed for students to refer to and large digital clocks will go up in key areas of the school such as the canteen and Student Support Hub to support time keeping. Students will be able to use their phone on site before 8:40am and after 3:10pm, but NOT during lesson or social time. They will also not be permitted during after-school clubs or study support sessions.

From a teaching perspective, nationally, phones will not be allowed in classrooms so we are already considering what further investments in technology we may need to make to prepare for this change.

Students should not be making contact with parents and carers during the school day without our awareness. If students have an urgent need to contact home during the day they must speak to a member of staff in Student Support.

How to stay safe online

It can be overwhelming at times for parents to know where to start to keep their child safe online. Here is a link to our dedicated 'Online Safety' page of our school website [Chipping Sodbury School - Online Safety](#) with a wealth of useful, government-approved information and advice. Our website also includes our '10

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Golden Rules' presentation (https://www.chippingsodburyschool.com/docs/The_10_golden_rules_-_online_safety_advice_for_students_-_May_2026.pdf) that is aimed at students and has been shared in safeguarding assemblies. We strongly suggest you view these 'top tips' together with your child. In addition, we ask that you ensure your child gets into the habit of handing in their phone and other screen devices before they go to sleep. A tired child is a child that will struggle to successfully learn, retain and recall information the next day!

Website Update

A huge thank you goes to Davina Cockram, one of our many amazing school administrators, who has updated every page of the website this term. There is a new layout, new content and new photos!

The website will move to a more user-friendly platform for mobile phones in due course, but for now we hope the website can be a one-stop-shop for useful information and resources that support your child's wellbeing, learning and development.

Please see below for the new menu.

Our School	Curriculum	General Information	Students and Parents	Joining Us
Headteacher's Welcome	Curriculum Statement	British Values	Absence and Attendance	How To Apply
Vision and Values	Curriculum Learning Journeys	Canteen	Diary Dates	Year 6 Transition 2026
Latest News	Sixth Form	Careers Information and Guidance	Free School Meals	Vacancies
Key Contacts	Literacy and Reading	Duke of Edinburgh Award	Lost Property	
Ofsted	Year 11 Revision Support	Exam Information	Wellbeing Support	
Examination Results		Extra-Curricular Offer	Newsletters	
Governing Body		Financial Benchmarking	ParentPay	
The Athelstan Trust		GDPR	Parents' Evenings	
History		Homework & Independent Study	Term Dates	
Endowed School Foundation		House System	Work Experience	
		Music Tuition	Year 9 Options	
		Pastoral Support	Year 10 Aim Higher Evening	
		Personal Development and RSE		
		Policies And Procedures		
		Pupil Premium		
		Rewards		
		Safeguarding		
		Scheme of Delegation		
		School Transport		
		School Trips		
		School Uniform		
		Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)		
		Student Leadership		
		Timings Of The Day		
		Tutor Programme		



Attendance Update

Attend, Aspire, Achieve

I would firstly like to thank parents and carers for their hard work behind the scenes and commitment to getting their children into school on time, every day, wherever possible. When your child is feeling poorly, anxious or is just 'not in the mood' it can be stressful and exhausting to say the least. However, research clearly evidences the positive impact daily attendance at school has on a child's wellbeing, development and education so your efforts are really making a difference.

A 'well done' must also go to our wonderful students who show brilliant dedication to their studies and enrichment opportunities. There are some treats in store for Key Stage 3 during Enrichment Week next term with our highest number of external visitors helping deliver our ambitious programme, alongside an array of exciting trips. From art to Zumba, authors to music bands, plus a mountaineer who has climbed Everest - there really is something for everyone!

We end Term 5 with some celebratory news about attendance:

- we are now ranked 2nd out of six schools in The Athelstan Trust
- nationally we are above average for students with SEND
- across South Gloucestershire we are ranked 3rd out of 16 schools for those who receive Free School Meals and 2nd for those with SEND

These fantastic achievements are recognition of everyone's efforts to improving our students' life chances by making every day count.

We consistently reward students for their resilience through attending school, especially when times are tough. Our new 'Absence and Attendance' page on the website has more information about how you can support your child's attendance and how we recognise and reward students' effort: [Chipping Sodbury School - Absence and Attendance](#).

With just seven weeks of school left, below are the students who still remain on 100% attendance and are aiming for the coveted Headteacher's Award at the end of the year.

7AV1	Holly
7AV1	Tom
7AV1	Amber
7FR1	Millie-Rose
7FR1	Zach
7FR1	Esmae
7FR1	Charlie
7SV1	Teddy
7SV1	Isabelle
7TR1	Ginyahtoo
7TR1	Lottie
7TR1	Jack
7TR1	Alex
7TR1	Samuel


8AV1	Ewan
8AV1	Grace
8AV2	Max
8AV2	Katie
8FR1	Carla
8FR1	Lily
8TR1	Harley
8TR1	Mia
9AV1	Sophia
9AV1	Matthew
9SV1	Evie
9SV1	Chloe
9SV1	Freddie

9SV1	Dhanwin
9SV2	Flo
10AV1	Erin
10AV1	William
10AV1	Katie
10FR2	Ethan
10SV1	Tyler
10TR1	Jacob
10TR1	Darcy
11AV1	Jacob
11AV1	Thomas
11SV1	Riley
11TR1	Jamie

Curriculum & Learning

How students can act on feedback


Now Year 11 and 13 are in the swing of exams, Year 10 have impressed us all with their attitude to their mock exams, and Years 7-9 approach their Summer Summatives, it has been timely to remind students of the importance of acting on feedback from their teacher. Below are the slides Mr Skipp, Headteacher, shared with students so parents and carers can support the same messages at home.


Why is feedback important and what should we do with it?



Aspiration




Respect



Integrity



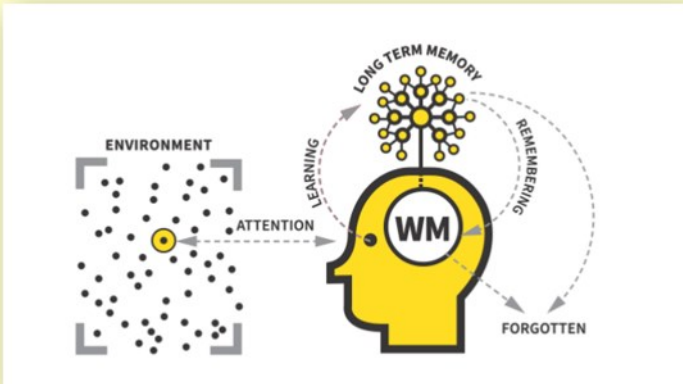
Responsibility



How do we learn and improve something?

Clear examples and guidance

A meaningful order-how it connects to other things




Revisiting it

Practice

Space to think and to forget

Opportunities to make mistakes



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What does feedback look like?



FEEDBACK can take many forms



Scores for individual questions



Specific **next steps** written on your work



Peer Feedback



Whole class feedback on common areas



Verbal feedback

What do you need to do with it?



ACT ON IT!



Developed green pen responses in written work

Clear change in practical work

Longer term:

Practice, practice, practice!

Keep coming back to your NEXT STEPS!



We

ASPIRE

to be brilliant in everything we do by...



Asking and answering questions



Stretching ourselves and supporting others



Presenting ourselves and our work with pride



Independently practising



Resiliently tackling challenges



Engaging with 100% effort

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

In History, Year 8 students were asked to research their or someone else's ancestry linked to past conflict, and produce an overview of their person's experience. The quality of research was excellent and below is one of the many outstanding examples created. Students really enjoyed reading about and learning from other people's sacrifice, commitment and service to their country. By Reuben P, Year 8



THOMAS YOUNG VC

★ A WORLD WAR ONE HERO ★

"For exceptional bravery under fire"

WHO WAS THOMAS YOUNG?

- Thomas Young VC was a British soldier.
- He was born in 1895 in Ryhope, County Durham, England.
- He came from a mining family and worked as a miner before the war.



EARLY LIFE

- His real name was Thomas Morrell.
- His father died in a mining accident.
- His mother remarried, and he took the name Young.
- He left school early to work in the mines.



JOINING THE ARMY

- He joined the army at 18 years old.
- He served in the Durham Light Infantry.
- He fought in major battles including Ypres, the Somme and Passchendaele.



HIS INCREDIBLE BRAVERY

- In March 1918, in France, Thomas Young was a stretcher-bearer.
- He went out into No Man's Land 9 times under heavy enemy fire.
- He rescued wounded soldiers and saved at least 9 lives.
- He showed extraordinary courage, selflessness and determination.



RECEIVING THE MEDAL

- Thomas Young was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V.
- A huge crowd gathered in his hometown to celebrate his bravery.
- He was a local hero and a source of great pride.



THE VICTORIA CROSS CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during operations. He went forward on nine separate occasions through a heavy barrage and rescued nine wounded men. On each occasion he displayed a fine disregard for his own safety and was an inspiration to all."



LIFE AFTER THE WAR

- After the war, Thomas Young returned to civilian life.
- He suffered from poor health and found life difficult at times.
- Despite this, he remained respected for his bravery.



HIS LEGACY

- Thomas Young died in 1966.
- He is remembered as a true war hero.
- A statue and memorial in South Shields honour his bravery and sacrifice.
- His name lives on as an inspiration to future generations.



A True Hero

BRAVE. SELFLESS. INSPIRING.

Thomas Young risked his life to save others. His courage will never be forgotten.



WHY HE IS IMPORTANT

- He showed incredible bravery and selflessness.
- He saved many lives during one of the world's most brutal wars.
- He is an inspiration to us all.
- He is part of our history and will never be forgotten.



SOURCES

- Victoria Cross Online victoriacrossonline.co.uk/thomas-young-vc/
- Wikipedia [Thomas_Young_\(VC\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Young_(VC))
- Shields Gazette: Victoria Cross winner honoured with lasting memorial

He is my great great great uncle Tommy. ❤️

★ ONE MAN'S COURAGE ★ COUNTLESS LIVES SAVED ★ NEVER FORGOTTEN ★



Student Achievements

Top 20 Winners

We are proud to celebrate the students who have achieved the top 20 House Points in each year group on Class Charts. Their consistent effort, positive attitude and commitment to our school values set a fantastic example for others to follow.

Year 7

Holson	S	7SV1
Lola	W-D	7TR1
Sophia	S	7SV1
Azura	L	7TR1
Sam	W	7TR1
Jess	M	7AV1
Liam	S	7SV1
Isla	W	7AV1
Letty	P	7TR1
Ginyahtoo	C	7TR1
Dylan	C	7AV1
Samuel	W	7TR1
Eva	C	7SV1
Caleb	S	7TR1
Nia	M	7SV1
Winter	C	7TR1
Isabelle	S	7SV1
Thomas	S	7AV1
Elsa	C	7FR2
Amelia	G	7AV1
Emily	H	7AV1
River	S	7TR1

Year 8

Daniel	C	8AV2
Grace	D-L	8AV1
Reuben	P	8SV1
Imogen	S	8SV1
Annabelle	L	8FR1
Cassie	A	8AV1
Olivia	E	8AV1
Adelaide	H	8FR1
Evie	L	8FR1
Ceri	W	8SV1
George	R	8SV1
Harry	B	8AV1
Martin	V	8FR1
Teddy	H	8AV2
Nathan	O	8SV1
Lexi	M	8SV1
Sasha	N	8AV1
James	E	8TR1
Max	C	8TR1
Sam	B	8AV2

Year 9

Charlotte	G	9TR1
Ethan	W	9TR1
Zainah	A	9FR1
Erin	P	9TR1
Riley	W	9AV1
Matthew	M	9AV1
Nancy	P	9FR1
Tenzin	L	9TR1
Paige	R	9TR1
Imogen	H	9SV2
Rosie	R	9AV1
Sebastian	K	9FR1
Audra	N	9SV2
Max	M	9TR1
Holly	J	9TR1
Jax	M	9TR1
Edward	G	9TR1
Georgina	B	9SV2
Jack	P	9TR1
Freddie	R	9SV1
Bella	S	9AV1
Amelia	W	9AV1

Year 10

Tyler	R-T	10SV1
Erin	G	10AV1
Charlie	S	10SV1
Erin	G	10AV1
Ethan	D	10FR2
Phoebe	L	10SV1
Ralphie	C	10FR1
Katie	O	10AV1
Finley	A	10FR2
Eva	B	10AV1
Ellen	S	10TR1
James	E	10AV1
Daniel	F	10TR1
Jacob	L	10TR1
Brody	J	Base
Jay	R	10TR1
Darcy	R	10TR1
Annabelle	E	10SV1
Kacie	W	10FR1
Zac	M	10FR1

Year 11

Jamie	M	11TR1
Kirsty	A	Base
Zach	G	11FR1
Kyla	S	11TR1
Josh	M	11FR1
Megan	L	11TR2
Molly	L	11TR1
Riley	T	11SV1
Stanley	W	11SV1
Emily	B	11TR1

Year 11

Lily	B	11TR2
Jasmine	H	11FR1
Khloe	B	11TR2
Jacob	S	11AV1
Clarice	M	11FR1
Jasper	C	11SV1
Carson	L	11TR1
Amy	L	11TR2
Lacey	P	11TR2
Harry	S	11AV1



SLT Battle

The Senior Team Battle saw our Year 11 students go head-to-head in a friendly competition to earn aspiration points, helping to motivate and support them in their final months at school. A huge congratulations to Ms Ellis' team for their fantastic win, and to the top-performing students from each team who showed great effort and commitment throughout. Their determination and positive approach to learning have made this a brilliant success.

Aflie P	11TR2	Korey D	11AV1
Maisie W	11TR2	Jamie P	11FR1
Mason CM	11TR1	Frank FA	11TR2
Harvey B	11TR1	Doug H	11SV1
Alfie L	11FR1	Corey M	11FR1



Year 10 Double Exposure Photography Competition Winners judged by Mr Skipp

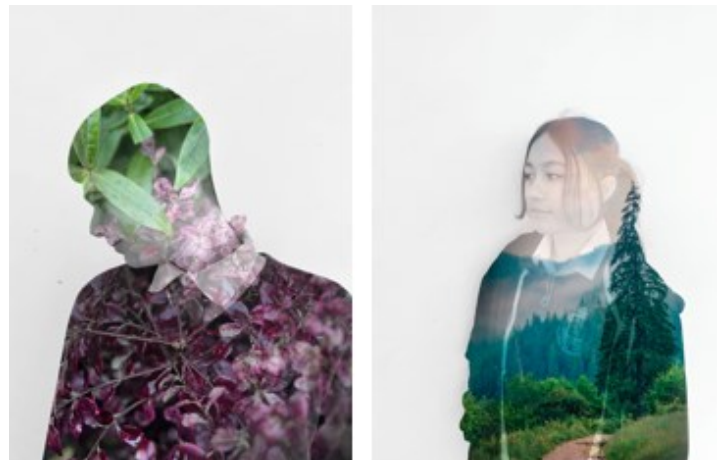
First place Jay R



Third place Hamid S



Second place Will C



Honourable mentions Evie B & Mya H



Football success



Congratulations to Lottie on an excellent set of football achievements. She recently helped her South Gloucestershire team secure an impressive win during JPL Nationals trials, earning Player of the Match and qualifying for the JPL Nationals in June. Lottie also enjoyed success with her St Nick's team, winning the St Nick's Tournament. She scored a crucial equaliser to take the match to penalties and then confidently converted the winning penalty. A fantastic achievement that highlights her dedication, resilience and teamwork.

Student Leadership

We are excited to introduce our Senate Awards Evening, taking place on 14th July at Chipping Sodbury School. This special event will celebrate the achievements and successes of our students across the school community. Nominations are currently underway, with teachers recognising those who have demonstrated our four school values: Responsibility, Respect, Integrity and Aspiration. We look forward to an evening of celebration and recognition for our deserving students.

House Updates

House Councils



Doughnuts and Bingo

A huge thank-you and well-done to Severn House Council, who successfully organised and ran a Doughnut Sale and Charity Bingo session in the Drama Hall on the last day of term before the Easter Holidays...



... and raised £102.10 for Oxfam.

Look out for our next events in Terms 5 and 6.

Please ensure that contributions for Mufti Days are up to date.

Next Mufti Day: Friday 22nd May.

House Championships

As we approach the last few weeks of this year's House Championships, we are wondering if **Avon** can repeat their double winning exploits of last year... or if **Frome** can re-claim the top spot... or if **Severn** can build on their victorious Sports Day success two years ago... or if it will finally be **Trym**'s chance to lift the trophy.

All House Points awarded up until Enrichment Week count towards this year's totals – there is still time to make a difference!



Employability Awards

- It is always a pleasure to see how students have matured through their time at secondary school and grown from just-out-of-primary school to being ready for the adult world of work.
- One of the ways we track this is through the coveted 'Certificate of Employability', where teachers of students in Years 10 & 11 consider the work-place skills that students show across the range of subjects they study, and nominate students for the award.
- The headings link with the trackable skills listed in Careerpivot, and are exemplified by the descriptions below:



- Certificates of Employability are kept in students' blue 'Personal Profile' folders, alongside other awards accumulated during each student's time at school, such as Leadership Certificates for Anti-Bullying Allies, House Councillors, Senate representatives, Sports Leaders and Well-Being Ambassadors
- Students should also keep their Curriculum Vitae in this folder, as well as GCSE certificates and any other formal qualifications
- Personal Profiles are presented to students at the Year 11 Celebration Assembly, and are very useful for taking to interviews and for recording ongoing personal development



Speak clearly and confidently	Manage time	Cope with setbacks	Use technology safely
Listen actively and intently	Be reliable and punctual	Learn from mistakes	Research and communicate online
Write appropriately and accurately	Meet deadlines	Respond positively to challenge	Understand digital security
Adapt communication for audience	Manage workload and stress	Persevere	Read instructions accurately
Work effectively with others	Identify problems	Take ownership	Behave respectfully
Take responsibility in a group	Think logically and creatively	Show enthusiasm	Dress and behave appropriately
Respect different viewpoints	Make decisions	Be proactive	Understand expectations
Contribute to shared goals	Reflect on success and failure	Generate ideas and solutions	Follow instructions and policies

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Log on to the Careerpilot website for information, ideas and tools to explore your future career options.

Careerpilot
Careerpilot : Plan your future work & study

Senior Student Applications

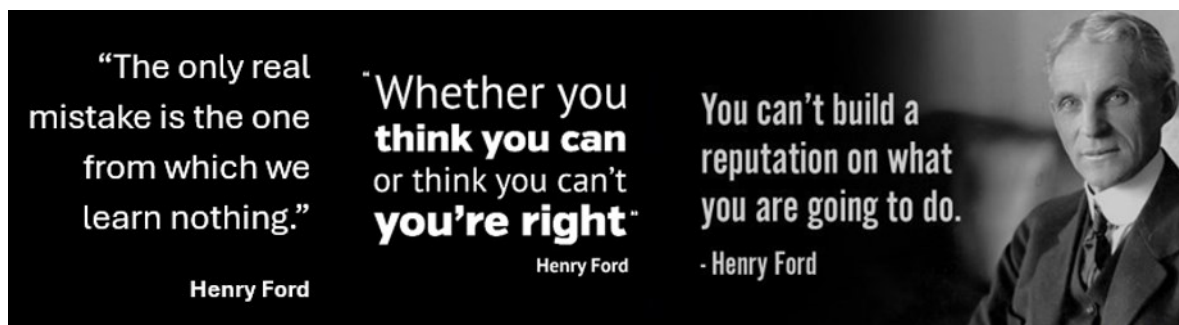


Terms 5 and 6 are a demanding time for Year 10 students! After the first round of GCSE Mock Exams, they are busy getting ready for Work Experience and thinking more about their futures beyond education.

Alongside this, all Year 10 students are invited to apply to become Senior Students in Year 11. This involves a formal application with a completed Curriculum Vitae, and a formal interview, where they need to demonstrate their commitment to the school values of Respect, Integrity, Aspiration and Responsibility.

Whilst the industrialist Henry Ford stated that “You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do”, we recognise that students at school will make mistakes and need opportunities to prove themselves – when we appoint our new cohort of young leaders, past performance at school is taken into account, but is not a barrier to becoming a Senior Student. We are looking for students who aspire to be role models to others during their last year of school.

The application process will be launched by Mr Hallett (PPL for Year 10) and the Heads of House in Term 6, and we very much look forward to reading the applications and to conducting the interviews, and then to awarding the gold Senior Student ties to our aspiring leaders.



Maths Faculty Update

Year 10 Maths Team Challenge

Chipping Sodbury School recently hosted five of the other Trust secondary schools, with each school bringing 12 mathematicians along, split into three sets of four teams.

The students faced three rounds:

- “Group” where students worked as a 4 to answer 10 challenging questions
- “Cross-number” which is like a crossword, just with numbers; they were split into pairs and half had the across clues and the other had the down
- “Shuttle” where they again worked in pairs but had to pass their answer for their other team pair to use for their question

Huge congratulations to our Year 10 Mathematicians for completing “the double”!

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Heidi, Bea, Hannish and Charlie's team came first out of 15 teams! Combining their score with our two other teams consisting of Erin, Ellen, Eva and Katie with Jacob, James, Ethan and Joe meant Chipping Sodbury School also came first overall out of all the Trust secondary schools.

We are very proud of them all for the brilliant maths and teamwork skills they showed.



Junior Maths Challenge

64 Year 7 and 8 students recently sat the Junior Maths Challenge. While we await their results, here is one of the questions they were given to answer.

The Salisbury Cathedral clock is thought to be the world's oldest working clock, dating from about 1386. It was restored in 1956. Since its restoration, the clock strikes once on the hour every hour. Which of these is the best approximation for the number of times it has struck since its restoration?

- A 25 000 B 200 000 C 300 000 D 600 000 E 1 200 000

Further materials can be found on the UK Maths Trust website at ukmt.org.uk if you want to try your hand at some more questions.

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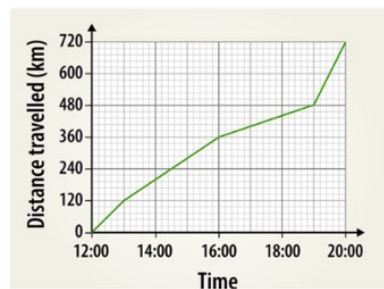
Revision Resource

We often get asked how is the best way to revise maths. The best answer is “to practice lots of maths”. Here are three websites that are really good for revision. Please note we follow the EdExcel exam board for maths at Chipping Sodbury School.

Sparx Maths GCSE Exam Practice – for Year 10 and 11 students, lots of exam practice.

This distance–time graph shows the journey of a train.

Calculate the speed of the train between 13:00 and 16:00
Give your answer in km/h.



Maths Genie – lots of videos and practice exam questions broken down by approximate grade.

Welcome to Maths Genie
Learn maths for free.

GCSE Revision
Video tutorials, practice exam style questions and answers.

Edexcel GCSE Papers
Edexcel GCSE past papers with model solutions and video explanations.

First Class Maths – Again, almost every topic but includes how often the topic has appeared in the past which is helpful when trying to prioritise revision.

The Ultimate Foundation Revision Booklet PDF

The Ultimate Higher Revision Booklet PDF

Search for topics here...

Filter by Grade

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Topic	Video Explanation	Exam Questions	Solutions	Grade	Past Series Appearance*
Algebraic Fractions (Equations)				8+	64%

Junior Maths Challenge Answer

- D** As the Salisbury Cathedral Clock strikes once every hour, it strikes 24 times every day. Therefore, in the 70 years since 1956, the number of times it has struck is approximately $24 \times 365 \times 70 \approx 24 \times 350 \times 70 \approx 24 \times 25\,000 = 600\,000$.



Sixth Form Update

We hosted a Higher Education and Apprenticeship Information Evening for Year 12 parents on Thursday 14th May. The presentations gave information to parents and students about the progression from Sixth Form, whether this is university or apprenticeships. If you were unable to attend you can find the presentation on the Cotswold Edge website.

Our farewell to Year 13 parents and students took place on Thursday 7th May. Congratulations to the award winners.

Subject Awards

Economics – Lexi B	History—Lexi B
Art – Daisy P	Health & Social Care—Lillie H
Mathematics – Arun M	Chemistry -Joe M
Religious Studies – Lucy G	Sociology – Lexi B
Psychology – Ollie B	Physics - Tom H
Photography - Evie R	Applied Science – Caitlin R and Ollie B
Biology – Arthur H	English Literature – Tom C
Film Studies – Chaya H	Geography – Evie R
Sport – Ollie B	

Townland Charity Awards sponsor

Academic Achievement – Tom H
Contribution to School Life – Lucy G

Endeavour Award sponsored by The Rotary – Evie R

Thank you to Tony Woodbury from The Rotary for attending.

I would like to wish Year 13 every success in their exams; you have all worked so hard. We are fully aware of the stresses of the exam period and if you have any concerns please do get in touch. We are looking forward to celebrating with you at your Prom on Wednesday 24th June.



Year 12 reminders

Mock exams have taken place, your review will be sent home during the week of 15th June, and students and parents will have the opportunity to talk to teachers at the Learner Consultation Evening held at Brimsham Green School on Thursday 18th June 4.00pm – 6.30pm.

Gill Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form

Sport Updates

The 2025-26 football season has seen more games than ever, with boys' teams from all five year groups competing in the South Glos Championships, in addition to local and national cups. Furthermore, girls' football has been going from strength to strength, with strong representation in all ages.

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This year, only the Year 8 boys progressed through to the semi-finals. Sadly, the Year 7s and 9s just missed out on qualification in tightly contested groups. The Year 8s played against a well drilled and physical Abbeywood side in the semi-finals. While playing some fantastic football, they sadly lost 3-1. Well done to all the students who attended training and games. You have all represented the school with integrity and resilience. Roll on next year's football season!



Enrichment & Extra Curricular Updates

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award is well underway for our current Year 9 students as they work towards achieving their Bronze Award. As part of this programme, students must complete four key sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition.

It has been fantastic to see the wide range of activities our students have been involved in. Below are some examples we have been impressed with in the past:

Volunteering	Physical	Skill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping lead a Parkrun event • Supporting a Scouts / Guides group • Helping run a sports club e.g. football • Working at a local charity shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive sport • Yoga • Gym • Running 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking new recipes • Learning Sign Language • Completing a woodwork project • Learning to play a new instrument

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At the start of Term 5, students took part in their practice expedition near Royal Wootton Bassett. This provided an excellent opportunity to develop essential skills such as navigation, campcraft, cooking outdoors, and teamwork. Students showed great enthusiasm and resilience, working together to overcome challenges and build confidence in the outdoors.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts so far and look forward to seeing them continue to progress on their DofE journey with the qualifying expedition next term.



Practice
expedition
campsite

Miss Macdonald
DofE Leader

Health & Wellbeing

In response to parent and carer feedback from the last parent voice questionnaire, we have developed a comprehensive 'Wellbeing Support' section on our website with different sections outlined below. We really encourage parents, carers and students themselves to use the website as a new 'go-to' hub for useful guidance, advice and links to other specialist agencies who can support in times of need.

If you have any concerns about your child's health and wellbeing please use the support of your GP, as necessary. You can also contact your child's tutor, PPL, or the Student Support Team via their dedicated email address safeguarding@chippingsodburyschool.com. We are always here to help!

Below is an overview of the new 'Wellbeing Support' section of our website:

1. **First Aid** ([Chipping Sodbury School - First Aid](#))

Find out more about how students are supported if they are ill or injured in school, how to give consent for your child to have medicine in school, and who to contact if you have any worries.

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Administering medicine

Students are allowed to carry their own inhalers and other devices wherever possible and safe to do so. Students are permitted to carry **one** dose of pain relief (ibuprofen or paracetamol). Students should not carry more than one dose of medicine in their school bags, as this is a safeguarding risk to themselves and others. Excess medicine will be confiscated if found in a student's possession.

Medicine can be stored and locked away in the First Aid room, for use when needed, provided a parent/carer has completed a **medicine consent form** – copies can be collected from reception. For headaches/colds/sore throats/period pains First Aid can only help if we have medicine in school. If your child is unwell, please give them a dose before school.

Further information regarding how we care for students with medical conditions can be found [here](#).

2. Help and Advice ([Chipping Sodbury School - Help and Advice](#))

A new A-Z list of useful websites for students and parents to refer to. From drugs and debt to sleep and self-harm, we have every topic covered.

Area of need	Useful website	Helpline
General support	Childline	0800 1111
	Shout	Text 85258
	ChatHealth	
Addiction	Addiction Helper	
Anxiety	Anxiety UK	0300 606 1174 10am-10pm
	Kooth	
	No Panic	
	SAM	
Bereavement	Bereavement	

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3. Mental Health Support ([Chipping Sodbury School - Mental Health Support](#))

A section on how to support your child's mental health, what to do if you are worried and details of our tiered mental health support.



4. Online Safety ([Chipping Sodbury School - Online Safety](#))

A one-stop shop for advice on how to keep your child safe when online as well as top tips for students and a link to the Childline approved 'Report Remove' tool if you need to report abuse.

The golden rules – No. 1

Do not give out personal information

Check 'find your location' is off!



Check your privacy settings – make your posts private

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5. School Health Nurse ([Chipping Sodbury School - School Health Nurse](#))

An overview of our invaluable School Health nurse service at school with details of their 'Chathealth' text messaging service.

ChatHealth Text Messaging Service

For students who may find face-to-face conversations more difficult, ChatHealth, provided by Sirona Health Care, offers confidential support via text message.

- Available for 11–19-year-olds
- Support with mental health and other health-related concerns
- Simply text: 07312 263093

Social Media

Here are our top 5 most popular posts from our social media channels this term.

1st



css.sch Congratulations to Evie for winning the Endeavour Award at the Year 13 leavers celebration this evening.

Thank you to Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club for sponsoring the annual award.

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2nd



css.sch A huge congratulations to our Year 10 Mathematicians for completing "the double" in today's Trust Maths Challenge.

Heidi, Bea, Hannish and Charlie's team came first out of 15 teams!

Combining their score with our 2 other teams consisting of Erin, Ellen, Eva and Katie with Jacob, James, Ethan and Joe meant CSS also came first overall out of all the Trust secondary schools.

We are very proud of you all for the brilliant maths and teamwork skills you showed today.

3rd



css.sch After celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday on Friday, it was so appropriate to receive a video showing some birds using one of the bird boxes that students have made in our afterschool DT club.

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4th



css.sch Here's a snippet of what our talented students have been making at our DT After School Club!

From bird boxes, storage boxes and plant pot holders to stylish jewellery stands, a handmade solitaire board game, created as a birthday gift, and even a custom wooden bin for a bedroom — the creativity has been incredible! We love seeing ideas turned into real products... what a fantastic showcase of student talent!

5th



css.sch A reminder that the astro pitch is closed from Tuesday 5th May for approximately 6 weeks. This is so that a new pitch can be laid, exciting!

The grass at the back will be open on a rotation.

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Please follow us on social media!



Chipping Sodbury School



CSS.SCH