



Chipping Sodbury School Newsletter

22nd October 2025

Key Dates:

October

- 23rd Y7 Meet the Tutor Evening
- 24th End of Term 1

November:

- 3rd Start of Term 2
- 3rd Y11 mock exams begin
- 10th Ant-Bullying Week
- 12th Y7 Maths Challenge, BFS
- 13th Y13 Parents' Evening, BGS
- 14th Children In Need - Mufti Day
- 21st Y7-11 Nasal Flu Vaccination

December:

- 3rd INSET DAY—school closed
- 3rd 6th Form London trip
- 10th Y11 Parents' Evening
- 12th Alliance Orchestra
- 17th Christmas Concert
- 19th Mufti Day
- 24th End of Term 2



Headteacher's Message

Ask anyone working in education and they will tell you how important, busy and exciting the first term of the year is. It's a time when we can clearly set out our mission of aiming for brilliance in all we do. It's a time when we remind students of our belief in their potential to achieve great things and set all our students on the path to success. A lot has happened in the first 8 weeks of this academic year! As always, our termly newsletter is aimed at ensuring you stay informed and are able to engage in those powerful conversations at home about the experiences of your children in school and how we aim to instil our core values of Aspiration, Respect, Responsibility and Integrity. I hope you find this term's newsletter useful.

Term 1 is also a time to look to establish and strengthen those links with parents and carers that are so important to a young person's success in school. To enable this, we've had face to face events for both Year 11 and Year 7 families and of course several events for prospective parents and carers through Open Evenings and Open Mornings. Thank you to everyone who engaged in these evenings, we hope you found them useful.

Open Evening this year was themed around leadership, an attribute at the heart of our core value of responsibility. Students have a wide variety of leadership opportunities in Chipping Sodbury School, and we are incredibly proud of how eagerly they step into these roles. The sheer number of students willing to give up their evenings as tour guides or as subject leaders was testament to this and we were inundated with positive comments from visitors. Parents, carers and children from our local primaries were consistently impressed by the maturity of our students and the pride they have in being a member of this community. One of my jobs at Open Evening is to ensure visitors see everything that is great about our school and our students left me with very little to do in this area! Open Mornings have been equally as successful, our guides have continued to impress. A huge thank you to all of them and to any parents and carers that supported with late pickups on the evening.

Our House Council and Senate are another great opportunity for our students to get involved in leading improvements in the school and the House Council met for the first time just last week. More information on exactly what they have been discussing can be found later in the newsletter; they are highly ambitious about the work they can do to benefit both the school and wider society and I know our Heads of House are excited about the potential of this impressive group of student leaders.

At the start of term, I wrote to you all giving some reminders of key aspects of the school including a section on uniform expectations. Visitors to the school regularly comment on how smart our students look in their uniform and over the last few weeks we have focused on ensuring that every student meets these expectations. Getting this right in Term 1 will ensure that uniform isn't a point of conflict moving through the year and that conversations can focus on learning and supporting our students in being brilliant in all they do. We have been hugely impressed by how well our students have responded with only a tiny number of reminders needed. We are confident that these high standards can be maintained throughout the year and thank you all for your continued support in this area.

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Respect

Integrity

Aspiration

Responsibility



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As we look ahead to next term, our Year 11 students will be thinking about their mocks. Our 'Aim High' Evening earlier this term was a great opportunity to explore how we can work together in supporting these students in maximising their success. A key focus of this evening was how students can revise effectively. We revisited the 'Super 7 revision strategies' with students and parents and considered what an effective revision timetable looks like. The strategies are included in this newsletter so that parents of Year 11 can support and encourage them to use these in their revision over the half term break. But it's important to stress that these revision strategies are not only for Year 11! By all means, use them to support your child in any year group with any revision they might need to do.

Next term will also see a focus on attendance and further information on this can be found later in the newsletter. We are particularly excited about our Christmas reward raffle aimed at really encouraging students to be in school as much as possible so they can really thrive.

Thank you as always for your continued support of the school and I hope you all have a great half term break.

Rob Skipp
Headteacher

Key Messages

As we strive to achieve the highest standards in everything we do, this term we have focused on students looking consistently smart, as per the School Uniform Policy. This document was written collaboratively with governors, staff, parents, carers and students. Students are expected to adhere to this policy, so it is fair for everyone.

Tutors and PPLs have been contacting home for support, and the response has been incredible! We always get such positive feedback from visitors on how wonderful our students look, and the pride they take in their appearance within the school community.

As the temperature drops please can we remind you that **hoodies and sweatshirts worn as a coat are not allowed in school!** Students should have a warm, waterproof coat instead. Hoodies will be confiscated if an alternative is not brought in.

Below is a reminder of some key messages we have been communicating with students. Thank you for continuing to ensure these items are not worn or brought into school.

Uniform - a reminder

THANK YOU to you all for looking so fabulous!

- Jewellery is limited to one stud earring per ear
- Nose studs are not allowed
- Acrylic, gel and other false nails or extensions are not allowed
- False eyelashes are not allowed

- Please ensure excessive jewellery, false nails and false eyelashes are removed.
- Tutors will contact home if needed.
- Students who are not following the rules will be in Reset until it is corrected





Attendance Update

Attendance Achievements



It is with great pride that we can announce that our **attendance figures in 2024-25 increased in every single measure** from overall percentage attendance, to lowered rates of persistent absence (those on 90% or less). Our whole-school attendance measures were better than the national average and across South Gloucestershire we continue to rank highly for attendance of students with SEND and those in receipt of free school meals. In addition, the Local Authority's Education Welfare Service continues to feedback that our supportive attendance interventions and collaboration with parents and carers represents best practice. These achievements are only possible due to the incredible resilience of our students, support from our fantastic parents and carers and the hard work of our dedicated pastoral team – thank you!

Values & Vision

At Chipping Sodbury School we want all our students to feel safe and happy so they can thrive and enjoy all the fun and excitement that a day at school brings.

We continue to work hard at promoting the importance of attendance through rewards, assemblies and communication home. Our school attendance mottos are:

“On time, all day, every day” and **“Every lesson counts”**

If your child is absent from school, you can expect their tutor or other lead member of staff to contact home in the same week to see what support they can offer. Early help is key.

Our updated attendance procedure can be found here: [Attendance Procedure 2025.pdf](#)

Contacting School

There is a **dedicated attendance telephone line** to notify school of student absences. Parents/carers should call **01454 862952** each day of absence and leave the following information:

Student's name, tutor group, nature of illness/reason for absence, caller's relationship to student



Alternatively, you can e-mail the above information directly to school on:
attendance@chippingsodbury.school

If your child is ill, we require a description of the symptoms they are experiencing or diagnosis – vague comments such as 'unwell' or 'not feeling right' will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please report absence **every day** your child is absent. We are currently having to send several truancy alert emails and text messages on a daily basis. Based on parental feedback we will no longer be using the truancy call facility and will instead trial using the Class Charts app to prompt communication if a child is absent. This will be in addition to the truancy alert email and text message.

What percentage is 'good' attendance?

There is a common misconception that 90% attendance is good. This is actually not the case – the **national goal set by the government is 96% or higher!**

- 90% attendance equates to having one day off a fortnight
- 80% attendance is equivalent to having a day off a week

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If a child has 90% attendance over the course of Years 7-11 that is the equivalent to missing half a year of school. 80% attendance, over the five years, would mean a student had attended the same number of lessons for four school years, not five – essentially missing the whole of Year 11! The table below indicates how many lessons are missed per year:

Attendance Ladder



Benefits of regularly attending school

Conversations about the importance of attendance run through every single area of our work in school; we want and need students in school to benefit from the wonderful range of extra-curricular activities, House competitions and trips, as well as enjoy a rich and varied curriculum taught in lessons by passionate, highly skilled and subject specialist teachers. **Research shows that strong attendance at school supports students' mental health and wellbeing**, and enables students to achieve positive student outcomes, both academic and pastoral. **Students with strong attendance get higher grades at GCSE** and are more likely to secure employment in a job they find fulfilling. In addition, punctuality is a life skill that students need to develop from a young age in order to be successful in the world of work.



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Students who are absent from school on a regular basis are at risk of feeling socially isolated and will develop gaps in their knowledge, possibly leading to school-based anxiety. The good news is that we have a team of incredible support staff, tutors and teachers who are very experienced in supporting a student's transition back into school. Furthermore, the Local Authority has recently invested heavily in its provision for students suffering from Emotional School-Based Avoidance (EBSA) for the few students who need this additional support and meet the relevant thresholds.

What if my child is ill?

If your child is not feeling very well but you think they could make it through the day, **please do send them in**. If they become too poorly later in the day, we will assess them in First Aid and call home for them to be collected. Please do not send your child into school if they have vomited or had severe diarrhoea within the last 48 hours. Do seek support from your GP if there is a pattern of illness.



We appreciate that children, even with good sleep habits and a good diet, cannot help getting ill. We ask that you contact the school **every day** they are off ill so we know exactly where they are. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot accept any more the statement 'my child will be ill for the week/until day XXX' as there could be a situation where they recover quickly and they are sent into school but we are not expecting them.

There have been some occasions where a child has chosen to contact home directly and asks to be collected. If this happens, please ask your child to go to First Aid at breaktime or lunchtime. Urgent care is available during lesson time, and a teacher will send a student accompanied for support.

If a child is assessed to be too poorly to be in school or needs further medical attention, then parents/carers will be contacted. **If they are collected without our permission this will be recorded as unauthorised absence.**

Lateness to school



The vast majority of students wake up early, have good routines in the morning, leave earlier to avoid traffic and, therefore, get into school on time to line up with their tutor group at 8:40am. However, a small minority of students give poor (and sometimes creative!) excuses for lateness and, as a result, are missing out on important messages, themed assemblies, whole-class reading and other activities during tutor time. **Students who are late to school make up the number of minutes they are late on a Friday.** There are always some exceptions, and we will use our knowledge of the child and their home situation to show compassion in difficult circumstances. Please do get in touch with the school if you need to update us.

Celebrating attendance

The vast majority of students are attending school regularly. We recognise and praise students' attendance through termly letters home, sweet treats in the canteen, House Points and Amazon vouchers during celebration assemblies. We also have our top 5 randomly picked students who have achieved 100% over a week and are celebrated on social media!

For the small minority of students who struggle to attend school due to mental and/or physical illness, every day is a fresh start. 'Every lesson counts' and they should be very proud of their hard work and resilience to come into school, even if just for a morning. Students who have significantly improved their attendance will also be recognised and rewarded for their efforts.



At the end of Term 2 we will be holding a new GRAND RAFFLE in each year group with some extra special prizes for students to enjoy with their families over Christmas – fancy winning cinema tickets or restaurant vouchers?! Students will receive one raffle ticket for attendance over 96% in Term 2 and two tickets for 100%! ... continued



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Reaching out for support—don't delay!

If you are worried about your child's attendance please email or call the school and ask to speak to their tutor, PPL or Mrs Howe via jennifer.howe@chippingsodburyschool.com. We have a team of dedicated Student Support Workers that have a remit to work with parents and carers to help improve attendance. They usually invite parents/carers in to attend supportive School Attendance Plan Meetings to discuss, identify and agree a plan to address key barriers to your child coming to school. In some instances, they can do a supportive home visit as part of our ongoing outreach work.



Absence from school is a habit that can quickly develop, and so early intervention and support is crucial. We aim to enable children to attend school by building resilience, teaching self-help strategies and making in-school adjustments to help them overcome a bad day, a worry or feeling ill. **In summary, the quicker we know about an issue the quicker we can help.**

Curriculum & Learning

Year 11 Aim Higher Evening

This term we hosted the Year 11 Aim Higher Evening for our students and their parents/carers. It was great to see such an amazing turnout. All the resources and the presentation can be found on the school website by clicking here: [Chipping Sodbury School - Year 11 Revision Support](#). Below are the Super 7 revision strategies.

The Super 7 revision methods

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



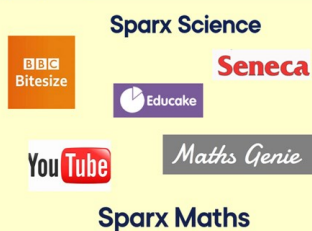
1) Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

- Look
- Say
- Cover
- Write
- Check



**"Double, double toil and trouble:
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble."**

Method 2 – Video Tutorials (from 'online' to 'on paper')



2) Video tutorials (from 'online' to 'on paper')

- 1) Get your workbook and **equipment** ready
- 2) **Write** the date and topic (and video number)
- 3) **Watch** the video, stop when needed
- 4) **Take notes** of key facts and formulae
- 5) **Copy** key examples down
- 6) Attempt the **questions**, showing clear workings out where necessary
- 7) **Mark** your work



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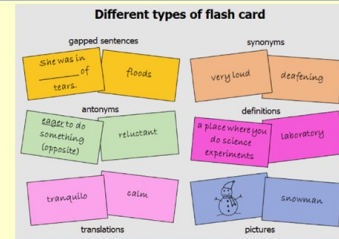
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Method 3 - Flashcards



- ✓ Ready-made ones can be purchased online for all subjects at every age level
- ✓ Check Parent Pay for GCSE sets including Mathematics, or purchase online

Flashcard approaches



English flashcard example

AN INSPECTOR CALLS - ERIC BIRLING

Eric suddenly quitted. His parents look at him.

When? -> response to Sheila wanting Gerald to "be active" about spending all his time away at work and her response with "Oh - I will!"

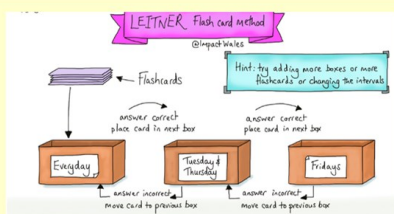
Analysis: Eric's awkward laughing in response to the expression of love (Gerald) of his parents. This may be because Eric knows Gerald's affair -> hides it so he feels he has become part of his family's hypocrisy because more power over female power and hides the truth from Sheila. Perhaps Eric is nervous as he is just drunk, but what comes + tensions out he tries to hide.

Steps to making a flashcard

- 1) Write the topic at the top (number them if there are multiple ones)
- 2) Summarise key facts and formulae
- 3) Include an example
- 4) Add questions and answers on the reverse for others to quiz you!



Flashcards for quizzing



Method 4 - Quizzing

There are so many amazing websites that have in built quizzes!

Sparx Science



Seneca

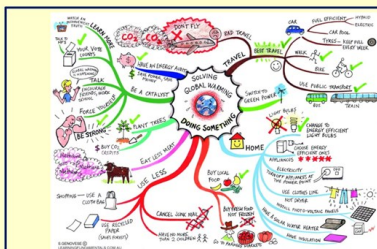


Watch the video and make notes first :)

Sparx Maths



Method 5 - Mind maps



- ✓ The key themes are the main branches
- ✓ Break them down into mini topics
- ✓ Use picture and colour
- ✓ Include words/phrases for prompts

Method 6 - Knowledge Organiser

- ✓ A topic on one page to bring knowledge together
- ✓ Broken down into sub-topics
- ✓ Include key words
- ✓ Can be written by the student OR used by the student



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Cell Biology			
Section 1- Cell Structure			
Structure	Function	Eukaryotic Cells	Prokaryotic Cells
		Animal Cells	Plant Cells
1. Nucleus	Contains the genetic information that controls the function of the cell.	Y	Y
2. Cell Membrane	Controls what enters & leaves the cell.	Y	Y
3. Cytoplasm	Where many cell activities & reactions happen.	Y	Y
4. Mitochondria	Provides energy from aerobic respiration.	Y	Y
5. Ribosomes	Make proteins- site of protein synthesis.	Y	Y
6. Chloroplast	Where photosynthesis occurs.	Y	
7. Vacuole	Use to store water & other chemicals as cell gets large.		Y
8. Cell Wall	Strengthens & supports the cell (made of cellulose in plants).		Y
9. DNA Loop	A loop of DNA. NOT in a nucleus.		Y
10. Plasmid	A small circle of DNA, may contain genes associated with antibiotic resistance.		Y

Section 2- Specialised Cells			
Specialised Cell	How structure relates to function		
11 Sperm Cell	Acrosome contains enzymes to break into egg, tail to swim, many mitochondria to provide energy.		
12 Nerve Cell	Long to transmit electrical impulses across a distance.		
13 Muscle Cell	Contain protein fibres that contract when energy is available, holding the cells together.		
14 Root Hair Cell	Long extension to provide a large surface area for water & mineral absorption. Thick cell wall.		
15 Xylem Cell	Waterproofed cell wall, cells are hollow to allow water through.		
16 Phloem Cell	Some cells have a lot of mitochondria to give energy for active transport. Some cells have little cytoplasm for sugars to move through easily.		

Section 3- Microscopy	
17 Magnification	Tells you how many times bigger a microscope makes an object. $\text{Magnification} = \frac{\text{length of magnified object}}{\text{length of actual object}}$
18 Resolution	The ability of a microscope to distinguish between 2 separate points.
19 Light Microscope	A basic microscope using light. Can magnify objects x1500
20 Electron Microscope	A microscope which uses electrons, to magnify images more than a light microscope. Gives greater detail. Can magnify objects x2,000,000

Section 4- Orders of Magnitude	
Unit Prefix	Size in Metres
Centimetre (cm)	0.01m = 100 cm = 1m
Millimetre (mm)	0.001m = 1000 mm = 1m
Micrometre (μm)	0.000001m = 1000000 μm = 1m
Nanometre (nm)	0.000000001m = 1000000000 nm = 1m

Method 7 - Past papers

- ✓ It is best to revise a topic THEN attempt an exam question!
- ✓ Make sure you find out the correct exam board first
- ✓ Use the mark schemes to mark your answer
- ✓ Lots of websites have worked examples including help videos

Maths Genie GCSE Revision GCSE Papers A Level Revision A Level Papers KS2 Revision Resources

Grade 4

Videos	Exam Questions	Exam Questions Booklet	Solutions
Compound Interest and Depreciation	Exam Questions	Compound Interest and Depreciation	Solutions
Indices	Exam Questions	Indices	Solutions
Prime Factors, HCF and LCM	Exam Questions	HCF, LCM	Solutions
Real Life and Distance Time Graphs		Real Life Graphs	Solutions

Maths Faculty Update

Sparx Maths, Maths Homework Versus AI & Year 11 Homework and Revision

1. Sparx Maths

Our students continue to make good use of Sparx Maths to work independently, whether that be for homework or exam revision. Our students have completed almost 2,000 hours' worth of work on Sparx this academic year already, which includes 89,605 questions answered correctly. Homework continues to be set every Wednesday, due in the following Tuesday. Our homework rewards are:

- 3 house points = 100%, 30+ minutes and some/all of the optional tasks completed
- 2 house points = 100%, 30+ minutes completed
- 1 house point = 30+ minutes completed, or really good work based on previous efforts

Our homework consequences are:

- C1 awarded if no homework completed without a valid reason
- C2 awarded for every subsequent non-completion with a lunchtime detention on the Wednesday
- Continued non-completion means either the teacher or the Head of Faculty will contact home

Our Top-20 Sparx Leaders to date are:

Name	Tutor	Total XP
Henry P	8FR1	7,163
Grace D	8AV1	6,787
Chloe P	9SV1	6,525
Jasper C	11SV1	6,515
Adelaide H	8FR1	6,367
Jacob L	10TR1	6,202
Jamie M	11TR1	5,675
Conor D	8AV2	5,649
Finley S	9TR1	5,604
Ellen S	10TR1	5,590

Name	Tutor	Total XP
Keira G	7FR2	5,577
Finley W	9FR1	5,573
Harvey D	7FR2	5,504
Frankie S	7FR2	5,455
Harvey B	11TR1	5,422
Erin K	11SV1	5,414
Luca B	10AV1	5,385
Zach W	7FR1	5,284
Max B	9AV1	5,179
Ethan S	9SV2	5,078

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2. Maths Homework versus AI

To try to combat the rise in students using AI to complete their homework, this academic year we will be asking our KS3 students to lay out their Sparx homework in orange exercise books which should include workings and answers. We are checking these books every Week 1 Wednesday to ensure students are correctly modelling their answers.

It is imperative that students gain the skills needed from independent practice such as laying out workings and trying challenging questions. This is essential practice ahead of assessments including in-class tests and GCSE exams.

Sparx Maths does include video hints for every question; this is what we'd like every student to be using rather than AI as we can monitor which questions they have sought help on.

3. Year 11 Homework and Revision

In addition to 30 minutes of Sparx Maths homework, Year 11 also receive a "Hot Topic" homework sheet every week. Each week is a different topic and these topics have been selected because they are frequently examined; most of them every year. For the "Hot Topic" homework, students are expected to make detailed notes on the front from the Maths Genie website or other resources such as revision guides and then complete the 3 or 4 exam questions on the reverse.

As well as this, we are completing half a past paper a week in the classroom on a Thursday. While these are marked in class, students can finish them off at home. Each paper has a QR code on the front which students can scan to watch a video of the model answers being explained by a teacher.

Our study support program is also designed around the hot topics and where our students have struggled in the past. Maths runs every Wednesday after school and appears on students' timetables on Class Charts.

Student Achievements

Head Teacher's Awards

Every term we ask staff to nominate students who have gone above and beyond in demonstrating our core values of Aspiration, Responsibility, Respect and Integrity. These students meet with Mr Skipp and receive a certificate and school badge.

All of these students should be incredibly proud of this achievement.

This term the following students were awarded:

Phoebe R	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Nia M	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Jamie D	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Isabelle S	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Imogen A	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Teddy G	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Connor J	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.

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Alana C	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Henry M	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Stevie W	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Kenzie T	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Ollie C	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Albie P	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Tahlia W	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Sam W	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Hattie S	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Winter C	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Samuel W	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Kyra D	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Lottie C	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Joseph S	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Robyn J	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Jack E	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Leon P	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Riley B	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Willow T	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Alex F	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Devon B	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Caleb S	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Isla W	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Emily H	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Zia W.W	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Amy M	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Cassie G	Year 7	Excellent Aspiration shown completing all of their Tutor booklet to an excellent standard.
Thomas S	Year 7	Out of school incident - Helping a young boy who had been knocked over by an e-bike and who was bleeding. They showed kindness, maturity and made a real difference.
Jenson G	Year 9	Out of school incident - Helping a young boy who had been knocked over by an e-bike and who was bleeding. They showed kindness, maturity and made a real difference.
Samuel H	Year 9	Out of school incident - Helping a young boy who had been knocked over by an e-bike and who was bleeding. They showed kindness, maturity and made a real difference.
Finley H	Year 9	Out of school incident - Helping a young boy who had been knocked over by an e-bike and who was bleeding. They showed kindness, maturity and made a real difference.
Charlie M	Year 9	Out of school incident - Helping a young boy who had been knocked over by an e-bike and who was bleeding. They showed kindness, maturity and made a real difference.
Riley H	Year 9	Out of school incident - Helping a young boy who had been knocked over by an e-bike and who was bleeding. They showed kindness, maturity and made a real difference.

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Ollie G	Year 10	Ollie has really impressed me in Literacy Plus this term. He is punctual, polite, and very hard working. As a result I can see real progress in his work. Best of all, I have seen Ollie helping other students but explaining the task really clearly and effectively.
Beatrice K	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Nevaeh F	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Dylan L	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Layton G	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Eva B	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Freddie L	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Daniel F	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Darcy R	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Jay R	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.
Jacob L	Year 10	SUPERB first GCSE performance, some of the most impressive initial explorations of devising I've ever seen.

Student Leadership

On Wednesday, the Heads of House hosted the first House Council meeting of the year with the representatives of each of the tutor groups from across the school. During the meeting there were many lively discussions and debates linked to the roles and responsibilities of the House Council.

The meeting began with Mr Pugh welcoming the House Councillors and outlining the roles and responsibility of the students for the Year 7s and any students who were undertaking the role for the first time. Once this was established the students were then headlong into discussing some key issues. First up was the school charity for this year which is Oxfam. Each group of students worked collaboratively in their house groups thinking of different ways we could raise funds for Oxfam. These needed to be linked to the key ideas of everybody eat, everybody drink, everybody earn and everybody learn. Many interesting and amusing ideas were thought up (but these are still currently top secret and will be revealed in the future!!). After all the groups had fed back to the rest of the Houses, each House was then assigned their theme to promote.

The next item on the agenda was Anti-Bullying Week and the future Ally Leaders. Year 10 will have the opportunity over the upcoming weeks to apply for these roles and become leaders of our Anti-Bullying Alliance. Mr Hallett will be discussing this further with Year 10s in assemblies in the following weeks. There were many interesting ideas about what the roles of these students should be and how they can help build relationships between students across the school.

Finally, we discussed what we can do to make the school brilliant. There were lots of interesting ideas and these will be put forward by the Senate to the Senior Leadership Team in the coming weeks during their first Senate meeting. On which note, all the Heads of House would like to thank all the new incoming Senators and everyone who ran in the school elections. We had a brilliant turn-out and our students clearly relished the opportunity to vote for their representatives.

Working with the House Councillors was a real highlight for the Heads of House and it is amazing to see these future leaders working so well with each other within our school community.

The Heads of House - Mr Pugh, Mr Evans, Mrs Moore & Mr Atkinson



House Updates



TUG^{of}WAR

We were due to hold our first House Tug-of-War competition in the third week of term, but bad weather meant we had to postpone this to Monday 29th September. All students in Years 7-11 filed onto the all-weather pitch after lunch to compete against each other in a show of teamwork, mental toughness and sportsmanship – these things always prove to be more important than physical strength.



Whilst our House Mascots got the crowds cheering, Ms Ellis and Mr Hallett refereed in the centre, assisted by our Year 11 Sports Leaders. Each year group played a semi-final, 3rd place play-off and final, with the results as:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1 st	Frome	Avon	Frome	Frome	Avon
2 nd	Trym	Frome	Severn	Severn	Frome
3 rd	Avon	Severn	Avon	Avon	Severn
4 th	Severn	Trym	Trym	Trym	Trym

It was fantastic to see everyone pulling together (literally!) in their tutor groups, with staff getting involved and motivating their teams. Whilst Frome may have won the competition, the real winner was the building of community spirit.



Netball Tournament



Approximately 250 students took part in the lunch-time tournament, every day from Monday 6th – Friday 10th October, many of whom had never played competitive netball before, with impressive skills, great sportsmanship and a great atmosphere!

A special thank you to our umpires:

Eva and Lily (Year 11 Sports Leaders)
Mrs J Davies (qualified netball umpire)
Mia Williams (ex-CSS student, coach at SGS Netball Academy)

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As always, taking part is far more important than the results. Nevertheless, the tournament does contribute to the House Championships - each tutor group played twice, and after 25 matches, the result was decided in the very last two games, when Avon's goal difference slipped and Frome snatched a dramatic 4:0 victory:

Goal Differ-	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total	Overall Position
Avon	0	0	2	1	-1	2	2 nd
Frome	0.5	0	2	0	5	6.5	1 st
Severn	2	-2	-2	-1	-3	-6	4 th
Trym	-1	2	0	0	-0.5	0.5	3 rd

Sixth Form Update

The Sixth Form has had a busy start to the year. Year 12 students, fresh from their success at GCSE, have been settling into their new courses. As the term has progressed, they have been starting to think about the next stage in their education or chosen career. On Wednesday 8th October we had a successful trip to Ashton Gate to a Universities and Apprenticeship Fair. Students were able to see the variety of options available to them and have a chance to talk to employers and university representatives.



Year 13 students have also started the year with renewed enthusiasm to get working towards their goals. They are in the middle of applications for apprenticeships and universities, and some are already booked in for interviews.

Our amazing Site Team have been helping to tidy up the environment around the building and the courtyard is looking a much more inviting place for our Sixth Formers to relax at break and lunch. This adds to the fabulous work completed by some very talented students who, last summer, painted the common room and put up a world map made with wood from Ukraine. This has inspired some interesting conversations and aspiration for broadening horizons.

Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening is taking place on 13th November. Students will be making appointments with their teachers in the first week back and we look forward to seeing as many parents and carers there as possible.

Earlier this week you will have received a letter from our Chair of Trustees confirming the decision to request the closure of post 16 provision here at Chipping Sodbury School. Whilst this will be disappointing to some in our community, we remain committed to ensuring that students attending Sixth Form with us are fully supported in achieving their very best. We have a fantastic team of Sixth Form tutors and teachers who will continue to support these students through their studies, and they will continue to receive high quality provision in lessons.

In planning for the closure of Sixth Form in July 2027 we are excited by the opportunity to build the very best provision for students in Years 7 to 11. Exposing them to a wide range of post 16 opportunities, including those that continue to be on offer at our neighbouring schools, will ensure they are inspired to be truly ambitious and aspirational in their goals. We continue to work closely with both Brimsham Green and Yate Academy and will ensure our students are fully informed of the provision on offer at these schools.

In addition, our continuing work on developing truly ambitious curriculums and the very best teaching practice will mean that our students leave with fantastic outcomes that open doors for them at the end of Year 11 to all manner of post 16 pathways.



Careers Update

Annual Careers Fair — Wednesday 1st October

We welcomed over 20 businesses and further education colleges, apprenticeship providers and universities to the school. Students from Years 9 to 13 had the opportunity to talk to the visitors to discuss their future careers and gain inspiration and insight into their next steps.

Some of the comments from visitors: -

“I thought it was a lovely event, students were really engaged!”

“I was impressed with the level of engagement and attentiveness of the students capitalising on this opportunity to speak directly with post-16 providers and prospective employers. Keep up the good work, CSS Careers.”

“Thank you, really enjoyed the event and hope the students gained from it.”

“The event was very enjoyable and engagement was strong.”

Students were engaged and enjoyed the event and were a credit to the school. We look forward to hosting this event again next year with more visitors planned!

Work Experience — 15th to 19th June 2026

Year 10 Work Experience has been launched. All students should have now received their WEX pack with information and forms. If you require any information, please contact Mrs Callaway via email:

emma.callaway@chippingsodbury.school.

All students will be required to find a placement and should be actively looking for this. The deadline for getting placements is Monday 23rd February 2026.

If you or your place of work can help the school with Careers Fair attendance or WEX placements, please get in touch!

Sport Updates

Chipping Sodbury School Netball Season

We have made a positive start to the netball season where this year, we have a new league system which means that all schools in the north side of the county will play fixtures against each other. This will result in many more netball fixtures giving more students the opportunity to play.

Our first fixture was against Castle School where all teams demonstrated great resilience and determination against some very strong teams. The strongest performance was from the Year 7 team who narrowly beat Castle 10-9 with Emily H being voted player of the match.

This fixture was followed up with some fantastic results against Brimsham Green School:

Year 7 – Won 19-12, player of the match was Eva C
Year 8 – Won 20-1, player of the match was Olivia E
Year 9 – Won 20-6, player of the match was Sophia C
Year 10 – Lost 10-9, player of the match was Bea K

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Our next fixture was against Bradley Stoke Community School and once again, the girls put in some fantastic performances against them.

Year 7 – Won 16-0, player of the match was Joscie J-R

Year 8 – Lost 18-8, player of the match was Olivia E

Year 9 – Won 20-4, player of the match was Maisie C

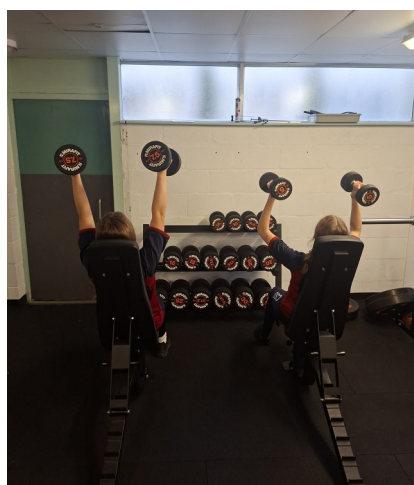
Year 11 – Won 15-10, player of the match was Eva DS

Good luck in your remaining fixtures, especially Year 7 who are currently unbeaten.

Ms Winter & Ms Ellis

New Fitness Suite

Chipping Sodbury School are delighted to announce the opening of our brand new fitness suite. Staff and students have been making use of equipment including an air bike, rowing machines, Cable machine and a Smith machine. We are looking forward to including this fantastic facility in our PE lessons and will be advertising when it can be used by students during their extra-curricular time in due course.





Health & Wellbeing

Below are our 'Winter Wellbeing' tips to help us all stay well over the colder, darker months:



At Chipping Sodbury School we recognise that the holidays can be a difficult time for many families without the structure and routine of school. Below are some details of useful support services that you or your loved ones may benefit from reaching out to whilst school is closed.



childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

shout
85258
here for you 24/7



Social Media

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



Chipping Sodbury School



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