

Chipping Sodbury School

Newsletter



Forthcoming Dates

October

10th Camp International Launch meeting

11th-14th Berlin Trip

11th Y11 Parents' Evening

November

7th Y11 Cotswold Edge

Information Evening

8th Y12/Y13 Learner Consultation Evening

15th Cotswold Edge Open Evening

Term 1 has started really well as we welcomed back all our students and staff from the summer holidays. Our new Year 7 cohort have settled well, they look smart and are already very much embedded as part of our school community. We have also welcomed a number of new staff this September as colleagues moved into promotions, retirement and other exciting opportunities last term. We are fully staffed with specialist teachers and teaching assistants to support our young people with their learning. A warm welcome to:

Mr Allen – Head of PE
Miss Bleaken – Acting Assistant Curriculum Leader, English
Mr Coleman – Science
Miss Ellis – PE
Mrs Gray – Head of History and Life Co-ordinator
Mrs Griffiths – English
Mr Lewis – Maths
Mr Mason – TA
Mrs McGrath – TA, AS Centre
Mrs Palmer – TA
Mr Taylor – Maths
Ms Timmer – Geography and Science
Mr White – Science
Ms Wilson - TA

My commitment is to ensure classes have great staff delivering excellent lessons. Over the summer we celebrated much success with A-level and GCSE results. We are one of the top performing schools in the Local Authority for our 6th Form students and the most improved school at Key Stage 4. This is testament to all the hard work and commitment to improve standards at Chipping Sodbury School. Students have been awarded the top grades in the new grading system with:

Year 11 – 10% year group achieved at least 1 x grade 9
Year 10 - 17% year group achieved at least 1 x grade 9 or 8, A* or A, D*
Year 9 – 6% year group achieved 1 x grade 9 or 8, A* or A

Congratulations to all those students who have secured success and moved into the next phase be it university, apprenticeships, college, 6th Form or work. Many of our Year 13 students who sat their A levels this summer are about to depart to university and we wish them every success in this next exciting phase.

Our Greenpower teams have already been out participating in races, most recently at Castle Combe with great success. Congratulations and well done, thank you as always to Miss McMorrow and all our supporters. We have also seen one of our Year 13 students represent Great Britain in Target Sprint in Korea. During the competition he achieved a record and has returned home safely ready for his next competition to be held much more locally. We are incredibly proud of him.

During July and early August Ms Jarvis along with four students participated in a four week tour of Peru visiting incredible landmarks and participating in community projects to support remote and vulnerable communities.

Much work was done on the school site during the summer including the laying of a new floor through the science block and significant work on our roof. We continue to work hard with the local authority in securing funding as our buildings do create challenges.

As part of the school development plan to improve standards across the school, we have a focus on improving attendance and raising standards through challenge both in the classroom and at home. Please set very high expectations for your son or daughter regarding study time at home. Reading around topics, practising maths skills or French vocabulary and wider learning will support your child. To assist your son/daughter with their own attendance, please be mindful not to take holidays during term time and encourage him/her to attend school even if a bit tired. Clearly if someone is very unwell, he/she should not be in school.

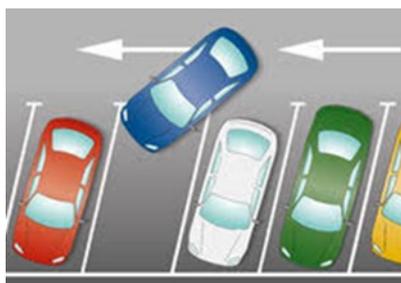
Already this term we have welcomed many families to look around Chipping Sodbury School to assist making that important decision regarding secondary school. Our Open Evening was very busy and vibrant. Many students returned to school for the evening and as always, really did us proud. Senior Students looked very smart and acted as guides. Visitors commented on their maturity and helpfulness when conducting a tour of the school. We continue to run additional tours of the school for those families who were unable to attend.

Ms K Turner
Headteacher

School Uniform

The majority of students look very smart and follow our dress code. Well done! A very small number of students have returned to school wearing black jeans – these are not part of our uniform. Some girls are wearing skirts that are far too short. The guidance is no more than 8cm above the knee. If any parent/carer has a query regarding the uniform, please contact your son/daughter's tutor.

Thank you for your support



3.15pm collection: We continue to experience problems at the end of the school day when many cars arrive to collect students. Please could you use the parking bays and not stop on double yellow lines or the bays for the buses? The driveway is frequently blocked preventing traffic from moving and causing a potential hazard for students.

Thank you for your help in keeping our young people safe.

PE News

Netball Matches v Brimsham – Wednesday 19th September

Year 7 won 13-6, player of the match was Ruby
Year 8 won 12-9, player of the match was Alex
Year 9 won 11-8, player of the match was Millicent
Year 9 B lost 6-10, player of the match was Evie
U16 won 30-13, player of the match was Rosie

Well done on a terrific start to the season and hopefully we will see some sunshine against Patchway next week.

Miss Ellis and Miss Winter PE Department

Greenpower News

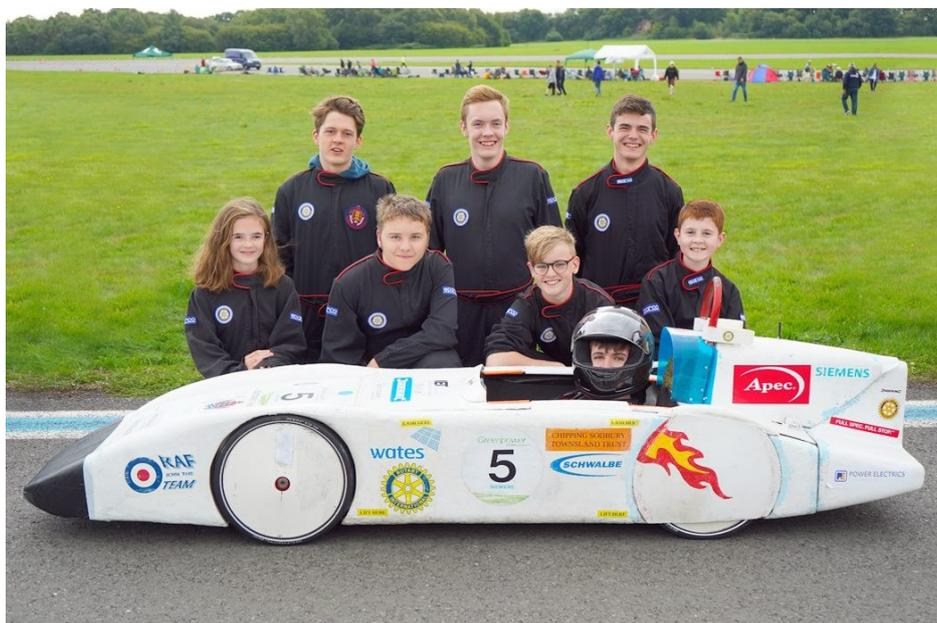
Race report for Rotary Racer at Dunsfold

In the first race, we got off to a good start, with Tom in the car first, making a clean first lap and holding 3rd position. We stayed roughly in this position until the timing loop was unfortunately caught by another car, leading to a red flag. After the restart we had a good race, with 2 quick pit stops, changing to Will second and Alfie third, allowing us to finish in 4th position, even though we had partially lost the telemetry during this race, meaning we were unable to see the battery power and warp for part of the race. However, we were pleased with the race result and now had a break until the second race.

In the second race, we again made a clean start and held position for most of the race, with Daniel driving for the first stint. Fiona, our newest driver drove the second stint and Will drove the third stint. We stayed in the top 3 for most of the race and finished in 2nd place, which the team was very pleased about.

Overall we were very pleased with the results and all the drivers did very well considering the difficult circumstances.

Tom Member of Rotary Racer Team



Music Department News

GCSE Music Workshop

We were very pleased to welcome back tutors from BIMM (British & Irish Modern Music Institute) to run a workshop with 13 of our Year 9 & 10 musicians. We put together a very credible sounding performance of 'Don't Stop Believin' and it was a really good opportunity for our students to experience a professional style of rehearsal.

Ensembles

Choir & Orchestra rehearsals have started for the term. Orchestra is on a Tuesday morning and Choir on Wednesdays. Both groups rehearse during tutor time. We will be starting up a group for guitars and ukuleles on Tuesday lunchtimes. Joining a music ensemble is a great way to make new friends, develop your skills and play a more active part in the life of the school.

Instrumental lessons

All instrumental lessons have now started. Students should check their timetables carefully so that you don't miss your lessons. Make sure you do lots of practice at home - this is the way to becoming a great musician. Any students who would like to start learning an instrument in January should speak to Mrs Boulton.

Mrs Boulton
Music Department

English News

It's been a busy first few weeks in the English faculty as we welcome the new Year 7s to Chipping Sodbury School, as well as welcoming back the remainder of KS3, 4 and 5. The English summer results in Year 10, 11 and 13 continued to show great year-on-year progress, and I'd like to thank students, parents/carers, and of course the staff for all of their hard work last year.

As we look to build on this success, I'd like to take this opportunity to offer parents/ carers of students in Year 9 and 10 the opportunity to purchase a discounted revision bundle for English Literature at £14.75 (An Inspector Calls Revision Guide and Workbook, Macbeth Revision Guide and Workbook, A Christmas Carol Revision Guide and Workbook, Power and Conflict Poetry Revision Guide and Workbook). I'd also like to offer students in Year 11 the opportunity to buy a revision bundle for English Language at £5.50 (Revision Guide and Workbook). These are now available through the school's Parentpay system.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to tell you about our continuing and developing relationship with the Royal Shakespeare Company. We will be streaming the current production of Romeo and Juliet live from the RSC on 21st November for all of our Year 8 students in the Drama Hall. We also have a number of exciting school trips planned to visit the RSC for workshops and performances for students across the Key Stages during this coming academic year.

Mr Lewis
Head of English

'The word from CSS Library'



Wow, what a busy summer holiday it was here in the CSS library. With the students away, myself and my team of trusty library assistants undertook a massive re-fresh of the library. Out of date and duplicate books (over 1000) were boxed up and sent to School Aid who sent the books onto African schools. With this extra room, we've managed to extend our fiction section adding a comic and anime bookshelf, plus we've installed a Post 16 library. Feedback from students so far is positive and we look forward to lending books out very soon.

Please can I ask that all students **return library books** to the library as soon as possible. Currently, we have over 1000 books out on loan to students and I would appreciate all of them to be returned. If your child has a sibling who was a student in Year 11 and they have now left, please can you search your bookshelves for any forgotten Chipping Sodbury School library books and return them to main reception. I appreciate your cooperation in assuring our students enjoy a wonderful variety of reading materials.

As previously mentioned, **David Walliams Week** in June was **hugely successful** with over 20 entries for the Revolting Recipes, a crowd of students completing Gangsta Granny's missing jewellery maths challenge as well as the Whimsical Quiz. With this, I entered a competition for the school, letting 'The World of David Walliams' hear about our **Wonderful and Wacky Week** and we've won three limited edition Walliams books for our library. WOW!

On 13th September we enjoyed **Roald Dahl Day**, celebrating the popular children's author's birthday. As well as dressing up as Matilda for the day, I also organised a treasure hunt and quiz for the students to complete. Dozens of entries were received and many house points were given out to participants.



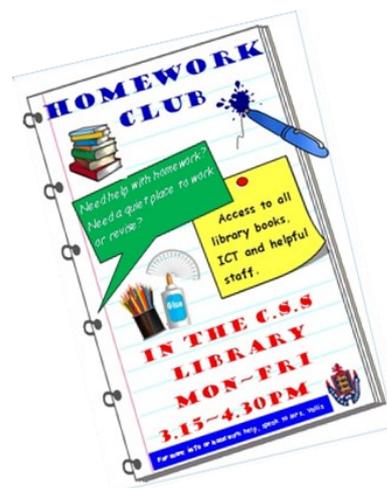
"A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS"

Students are invited to join in our photography competition, snapping with either phones or cameras, photos representing book titles. Entries must be entered by email to me via the school email including the image, name, tutor group and year group plus the title of the book. Judging will be on w/c 15th October 2018 by our art teacher Ms Hilleard, a 6th Form art student and local photographer Rich McD. House points given to all participants and prizes for the top 3 photos.

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

Many thanks and wishing you all a wonderful term.

Mrs Vallis – Higher Level Teaching Assistant
CSS Library



Sixth Form News

Being Head of Sixth Form is such a rewarding role; seeing the students on results day in August seems like such a long time ago now but the smiles and celebrations of all the hard work and commitment to studies really paid off. 71% of our year 13 applied to university and the majority secured their first choice of course and university.

We have some excellent apprenticeships this year with local companies Renishaw, Hanson and Broadway Infants School taking on our students. As well as this, students have gone on to take Art and Design courses at college and some are taking a gap year to go travelling. We are always so proud of the student's achievements and wish them every success.

Our year 12 students have started their studies well and to help their transition into A Level studies, we had an excellent day at UWE where Future Quest ran a Step up to A Levels day for the students. They had a series of workshops which they will be able to draw on the information during their time as Sixth Form students.

We have another busy term with lots of opportunities for the students to get involved with. The Berlin trip will run in October and year 12 have an Apprenticeship and University Fair coming up on 11th October. Cambridge and Oxford shadowing schemes have been passed onto the year 12 students and I have had several applications in already. Access to Bristol Scheme and On Track Bath University are both open for applications.

Camps International Peru trip was a huge success and we are going to be launching our 2020 expedition to the students on 3rd October. Please look out for more details about the information evening to parents.

A date for your diary is Cotswold Edge Open Evening which is taking place on Thursday 15th November, more details will be sent home soon.

Gill Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form

Safe Cycling

We continue to receive complaints and concerns from members of the public regarding the dangerous riding of bikes to and from school. Please could you ensure your son/daughter wears a cycle helmet if he/she is riding their bike and reinforce the need for safe cycling? Reports of students cycling on the wrong side of the road indicate individuals are at high risk of an accident.

