



our children · our school · our future



**ChepstowSchool**  
and Sixth Form Centre

# ChepstowSchool

We are a popular and highly successful comprehensive school, located in the historic town of Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

We excel in academic achievement, sports and performing arts. Our students develop the knowledge, skills and personal qualities that they need in a rapidly changing world.



## we offer...

- a safe and happy community in which students work hard and enjoy learning
- teaching that stimulates and stretches students of all abilities to achieve their best
- a well equipped school
- partnership with parents and our community

## our school has....

- suites of rooms for each subject
- 8 science laboratories
- 7 computer suites
- Business Studies Centre
- 7 technology rooms
- Drama Studio
- music suite with music practice rooms
- Arts Hall
- Sports Hall
- swimming pool
- astro-turf pitch
- multi-use games area
- Dance Studio
- Fitness Suite



# Curriculum



## Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

All students follow the National Curriculum through a balanced programme of study in English, Mathematics, French, Welsh, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, ICT, Art, Music, Drama and Physical Education. They also have one lesson per fortnight in PSHE (Personal Social Health and Education).

Students are taught in sets determined by their ability in English, Maths and Science.

Students who have done well in Maths in Year 8 begin their GCSE in Year 9 and complete the course by Year 10. They then embark upon an AS Mathematics module in Year 11.

Students start GCSE Science courses in Year 9. Students who have done well at Key Stage 3, follow a course leading to 3 separate science GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry & Physics). Other students continue to follow a Double Award Science Course leading to 2 GCSEs.

## Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

### Core subject courses in GCSE:

English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science.

Students follow compulsory Short Courses in Welsh and Religious Studies. Two Short Course GCSEs give the equivalent of an extra full GCSE qualification. Both subjects can be taken as full GCSEs in the Option Choices. All students will also follow compulsory courses in PHSCE, Careers Advice and Games.

**Options:** Option choices include GCSE, BTEC & NVQ. Students pick four further subjects from:

**Languages:** French, Welsh **Creative:** Art & Design, Drama/Theatre Studies, Music, Physical Education.

**Technology:** Food, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Textiles, I.C.T. **Humanities:** Geography, History, Religious Studies, GCSE Business (Applied)

We also offer vocational qualifications as follows:

**BTEC 1st Certificates:** Business, Sport, Hospitality

**BTEC Diploma:** Digital Applications **NVQ LI & L2:** Construction, Salon Services, Animal Care, Motor Vehicle Technician, Catering

## Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13)

A sixth form prospectus is available for parents and is issued to students in Year 11. Copies are available from the school.

Students can choose from a wide range of courses at AS, A2, BTEC National and BTEC First Certificates in subjects including: English, Maths, Psychology, French, Sciences, Computing, Technology, Paralegal Law, Performing Arts, Hospitality, Hairdressing, Business Studies, Retail and Sport.



# Partnerships & Support

## Curriculum Links

We have many links with businesses and industries, both locally and nationally. These allow us to broaden the learning of our students. We frequently participate in national competitions, with great success.

In partnership with Careers Wales, we hold events in school where our students experience work-related activities with the support of business people.

Gwent Police, Gwent Area Health and the Youth Service, are frequent partners in learning.



## Use of Welsh Language

All teaching is done in English. We seek every opportunity to encourage bilingualism to increase employment potential of our young people. Cwricwlwm Cymreig forms part of the work of all curriculum areas. Full details of all procedures can be read in our School Handbook and is available on the school website.

## ICT

Our school is fully networked for computers with over 300 workstations. Because we believe that our students should be equipped with the skills for using modern technology, ICT is taught to all year groups leading to a range of possible qualifications. All students have their own password to the system and use ICT extensively across the curriculum. We are developing electronic learning. Our system has high security and firewalls and we teach safe use of the Internet.

## Work Experience

All Year 10 and Year 12 students undertake a period of work experience. Students studying AS French in Year 12 will also spend a week's work experience in France.

## Special Educational Needs

Some students need particular support due to learning, physical, social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. Our SENCO (Special Needs Co-Ordinator) works closely with all staff and other external agencies to find ways to help.

Support may be in class, withdrawal from lessons or by using a range of other intervention strategies.

We have the Basic Skills Quality Mark Support for Literacy and Numeracy. Our Sixth Form students run a Better Reading Partnership with younger students. We make sure that our more able and talented students are also well catered for.

## Security, Health & Safety

- Access to the school building is strictly controlled.
- All visitors report to reception.
- Students are not allowed to leave the site without permission.
- CCTV surveillance is in place.
- We have a fully equipped first aid room, manned daily by our principal first-aider. Many of our staff are trained to carry out first aid.



## Sports

We have an unrivalled reputation locally and nationally for the quality of our sports programme, which includes rugby, football, cricket, netball, hockey, athletics, cross-country, basketball, swimming, racquet sports, weight training, fitness training and dance. Many students represent the school in county and national teams.

The 5x60 programme works alongside the existing school sports system. The 5x60 clubs give students the opportunity to perform in physical activity for 60 minutes, 5 times a week. The clubs run during lunchtimes and after school. The activities are chosen by students and are mainly non-traditional sports. We currently have clubs in sports such as fencing, flag American football and trampoline as well as more familiar clubs like badminton and basketball. For more information there is a website for you to visit. [www.5x60.org.uk](http://www.5x60.org.uk)



We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities and encourage all students to participate in and enjoy as many as possible.

## Trips and Visits

These opportunities enhance learning and broaden students' experiences. As part of our curriculum, as well as for recreation and reward, we organise many trips and visits. All trips are carefully planned and full risk assessments are carried out.

## Music & Drama

Productions and performances thrive at Chepstow. We have a large orchestra, choir, jazz and other musical groups. We offer individual tuition in piano, keyboard, acoustic (classical) guitar, bass guitar, electric guitar, drums, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, steel pans, saxophone, violin, viola, cello, double bass, voice, trumpet, trombone, french horn and tuba. Each year we hold at least 2 concerts, a large stage production and two major student-managed charity concerts. Our students frequently perform with Gwent Young People's Theatre and the County Orchestra.

# Extra-Curricular

## Charging

For activities in the school day, parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost. For residential trip and trips outside school time, appropriate charges will be made. Additional music tuition is charged at a termly rate.



# Guidance



## The Year System

Students are placed in mixed ability tutor groups who stay with the same form tutor from Year 7 to 11. They are taught in these groups for some subjects. Each year group is led by a Head of Year.

Year teams work with subject teachers to:

- Monitor and support the academic progress of students.
- Support students in their social development.

Years 12 and 13 are led by a Head of Sixth Form, Head of Year 12, a Learning Mentor and are assisted by their own team of tutors.

## Assemblies

We have an annual calendar of planned assembly themes. Students attend regular Year and Key Stage Assemblies. Parents may withdraw their children from religious assemblies if they wish, but should discuss this issue with us further.

## Home School Agreement

Parents are asked to sign a Home School Agreement, which outlines the partnership between home and school.

## Equal Opportunities

Our policies and procedures mean that all students and staff are treated fairly with no discrimination on any grounds.

## School Uniform

Students must wear our school uniform, which is smart and appropriate. Please see enclosed leaflets for more details.

## Disabled Access

Each need is individually assessed and a risk assessment carried out to ensure necessary arrangements are in place. Our site has full wheelchair access.

## Behaviour Management

Students at Chepstow School are very well behaved and use their opportunities well.

Some students from time to time need to be encouraged to modify their behaviour or their attitude to learning. We use a range of rewards and sanctions. Rewards include Chepstow Credits and special awards presented at celebration events. Sanctions range through monitoring systems, detentions and sometimes exclusions.



# Joining Our School

## Moving to Secondary School

Admission arrangements can be found in the sheets included with this prospectus and are available on our website. In the first half of the autumn term, we hold open sessions for families to visit our school.

In the spring term, when choices have been made, we contact all families and send home an information pack. We visit all new students in their primary school to talk with them about their individual interests and needs.

In the summer term all our new students spend a day in school, trying new subjects and meeting their new classmates and form tutors. In the evening, parents visit school and spend time in their child's new form.

We start the autumn term with a day when only Year 7 and Year 12 students are in school.

## Liaison with Primary Schools

- We work closely with our partner primary schools to help with the continuity of learning.
- We run ICT and Performing Arts days.
- Our English Department has planned a specifically designed bridging unit which starts in year 6 and finishes in Year 7.
- We also offer taster sessions in Maths and Food Technology.
- We work jointly on sporting events, concerts and productions.



## Community Links

We are proud of our position in the community of Chepstow. We liaise with local businesses and companies in a variety of curriculum enrichment days. We lead the singing as the Christmas lights are lit in the town centre. We participate in Chepstow in Bloom and are a developing Eco-School. We invite veterans of World War II and members of the British Legion to join us on Remembrance Day. Senior Citizens and the University of the Third Age join us in school for many productions, concerts and events. Churches Together and other local organisations are part of our mentoring programme and lead assemblies.

Parents are welcome to view any documentation regarding the curriculum on request. Concerns or complaints about any matter can be addressed to the school or, if you are not happy with the response, to the Chair of Governors.



## Finding Us...

From Junction 2 M48

Leave Motorway at Junction 2 and take first exit onto A466 Wye Valley Link Road. At roundabout take second exit and continue on A466 towards Tintern & Monmouth. At roundabout (with entrance to Chepstow Racecourse in front of you) turn right on third exit into Welsh Street. Chepstow School entrance is signed on your left just after top of hill.



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“Not only do you all look after your own families you also look after mine. You are there for my kids and I really do appreciate when you give me feedback good or bad, help them meet their coursework deadlines and get them through their studies. It really brought it home to me last week that as a parent I am not acting alone but that you are always there with a helping hand. Never mind ‘super nanny’ I think you are all ‘super teachers’ and I don’t get a chance to thank you enough!”

Letter sent in to teachers from a parent March '09

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