



Upper Phase Newsletter - w/c Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Upper Phase Staff Members

### Upper Phase Leadership Team-

Mr J. Robson (Upper Phase Leader)

Mrs S. Harris (Provision and Progress Leader)

### Year 11 tutor team -

Miss R. Thomas/Miss E. Williams, Mr O. Walsh, Mr R. Phillips, Miss S. Thomas and Mrs L. Lane/Mrs Z. Elsmore

### Year 12 tutor team -

Mr A. Anthony, Mrs K. Parfitt-Ley, Mrs S. Giddy and Mrs R. Jeffery

### Year 13 tutor team -

Mr A. Collins, Mrs K. Benjamin/Mrs W. Heath, Miss R. Beech and Ms E. Mellen

## CROESO!

### **Croeso/Welcome to the Upper Phase!**

We are delighted to introduce the first edition of our Upper Phase newsletter. Here, we will highlight the ongoing support we will be offering our students, important information from our school community, key event dates and to celebrate in our student successes, of which there are many.

We are delighted to be working with everybody connected to the Upper Phase and look forward to sharing our students' experiences throughout the year.

***Mr John Robson – Upper Phase Leader***

***Mrs Sarah Harris – Upper Phase Provision and Progress Leader***



## Student Leadership

Hi, we are the Student Leadership Team and throughout this year we hope to make positive changes upon the Upper Phase at Chepstow School. We are a small team of six elected by our peers, entering our final year of A Levels, and we aspire to work with Upper Phase students to make life at school as easy as possible. We would like to tackle the issue of exam stress, especially in these unprecedented times, by introducing additional revision sessions, a multitude of resources, well-being groups and any additional help the student as an individual may need. Furthermore, the Student Leadership Team are

striving to bridge the gap between Year 11 and Sixth Form whilst still accommodating other potential pathways the students may wish to take. To do this, we are planning to hold more and a greater variety of open evenings and events as well as external speakers and previous students (alumni) talking about their journeys. For Sixth Form, we would like to ensure there is enough support and information provided to them regarding University, Apprenticeships and the world of work. Our goal is for every student to feel comfortable and supported throughout their journey through Upper Phase and

beyond. Whilst all students in the school identify with our mission statement 'Inspiring Learning', we felt it was important for the Upper Phase to have their own to work towards alongside this. We are proud to release our new mission statement for Upper Phase which is '**Inspiring Creativity, Inspiring Curiosity, Inspired Community**'.

***Aaron Roberts & Lottie Jones – Head Students***

***Takumi Ikeda, Rhiannon Craig, Gracie Jones & Olivia O'Riordan – Student Leaders***



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## Staff mentoring

We are implementing a staff mentoring programme for selected students in the Upper Phase. The students involved in this scheme have been allocated an individual staff member who will offer guidance and support throughout the year. They will meet regularly and communicate with teaching staff and the pastoral team to ensure that both their academic and wellbeing needs are supported. The Upper Phase is home to vital years: for Year 11 - forthcoming GCSEs; Year 12 – the transition to Sixth Form and Year 13 – Post-18 pathway choices. This additional support can play a vital role in supporting them through the next academic year.

## Alumni mentoring

We are privileged at Chepstow School to have an effective and supportive alumni association. As part of this scheme, we are piloting a mentoring programme, whereby our alumni have volunteered to work with students to provide them with support and guidance; helping them with their next-step decisions. Your child will be assigned a mentor to work with over the next academic year. This will take the format of individual and small group meetings, arranged through the school, on school premises or via Microsoft TEAMS. We will also be running larger scale, whole class events. More information about our Alumni is available on our school website:

[Alumni Network | Chepstow School](#)

## Careers Wales

For students in the Upper Phase, the decision of 'what your next steps are' is one which we are aware lays heavily on your mind. Some students may have known exactly what they have wanted, and some not a clue. We believe it is essential that you feel supported in exploring all the options open to you, and choose routes which showcase your strengths and play to your interests. Over the next term we intend to start individual advice meetings for all students in Year 11 with our careers advisor Jo Page, and these appointments will continue over the academic year. We have already received talks from BAM construction regarding apprenticeships for Year 12, information on choosing a course from

Plymouth University for Year 13, as well as volunteering opportunity awareness from Basecamp Chepstow. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Careers Fayre on the school site for you to mix with and talk to employers and explore different avenues of interest. Working with our Alumni, those who are preparing to go to university will have access to mock interviews to help you prepare and feel confident in your next step choices. Don't forget though that building these opportunities and experience starts now – keep an eye on the Upper Phase TEAMS page for job vacancies. Your education and what you do now is your platform to your future, so take advantage of these opportunities, and if there is something that you would like to see more of then please let us know!

*Inspiring Creativity  
Inspiring Curiosity  
Inspired Community*



**Gyrfa Cymru  
Careers Wales**



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## The Seren Network

'Seren' (Welsh word meaning 'Star'), is a Welsh Government initiative dedicated to supporting Wales' brightest students to achieve their full academic potential. Through the programme, students' education pathways will be supported into leading universities across the UK and overseas. The programme is available in schools across Wales, regardless of location, personal situations or economic backgrounds.

The programme aims to provide extra-curricular study experiences and super-curricular enrichment activities that enhance (and go beyond) the curriculum taught in schools.

Historically, in Chepstow School, the Seren Network has proved extremely successful, with 100% of students being successful in securing a place at their first choice or Russell Group university.

Working closely with our Professional Learning Lead Partner for Post-16 and Seren, we aim to ensure that our more able students are

supported, well informed and feel confident about taking the next steps.

Your child/ren will have had a meeting with Mr Robson if they have been selected for the programme.

Year 12's Project Launch will take place W/C 18<sup>th</sup> October, and we will be circulating more information about this event as we get it.



*Our Sixth Formers making good use of their quiet Study Room*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

W/C 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 11 & 12 Student Seren programme sessions
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Open Evening
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Alumni Programme Session 1 – Sixth Form
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 13 Swansea University talk – UCAS process, finance, personal statements
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 13 Early Entry UCAS deadline
W/C Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 12 Seren Project launch
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Unit 2 English mock exam
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 13 UCAS online application internal deadline
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 11 initial KS5 options deadline
W/C 25 <sup>th</sup> October	October Half Term