



Weekly Newsletter

October 1st 2021

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter.

I would like to share with you that every day we receive literally dozens of queries in school for information which has already been issued in the newsletter. It is, of course, available via *all* of our communication channels. Obviously, if you are reading this then you are not a parent who doesn't read the newsletter! Please, though, help us to reduce log jams in our email and telephone systems by telling friends and/or family members with children in our school that this newsletter becomes available every Friday in term time. Our pastoral and administrative teams, in particular, spend a lot of time on these queries when they could be doing more productive work on behalf of your children.

Many of you will have seen in the press the news that Cardiff as a Local Authority has, this week, been moved into the high- risk category for covid. On our return to school in September we decided to keep in place many of the mitigations that we adopted last year so the category change has relatively little impact upon us operationally. In fact, the only change required is that staff and visitors to the school site (including parents/carers with a prior appointment) should wear face masks in indoor communal areas (such as corridors and canteens) outside classrooms where physical distancing cannot take place. I will, of course, notify you if there are further changes.

Please also be advised that – even though we receive notifications of positive cases daily - the covid positivity rate as a percentage of the school population remains relatively low. Many thanks to all of you for your vigilance and support in helping us to maintain this.

I have attached a copy of the latest template letter from the Local Authority for school usage. This will now inform you if there is a positive covid case in your child's year group. In order to manage the volume of material sent from the school to your inboxes we will provide you with relevant updates in respect of this at points during the week. In respect of close contacts we will act upon notification and direction from TTP. Please continue to take note of, and act upon, the ongoing covid advice.

It is our understanding that offers of covid vaccines for 12-15 year olds will be issued imminently. Although a very small number of schools in Wales may act as vaccination centres there is, currently, no indication that Whitchurch High will be one such.

Key Covid Messages

- If your child presents any of the main covid symptoms (new and persistent cough; high temperature; loss/change of sense of taste and/or smell) then they **MUST NOT** attend school. Please inform the school, arrange a PCR test and await results and TTP guidance.
- Close contacts who have been fully vaccinated or **are under 18** will not need to self-isolate but should get PCR tested on Day 2 and Day 8.

- Household contacts are **strongly advised** to self-isolate. This is particularly important for parents to consider and we are grateful to all who follow this strong advice.
- Guidance and direction will now come from TTP rather than the school.
- Please use Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. It is recommended that pupils test themselves on the morning of their first day back.

We have test kits in school which we will make available for distribution on the return to school. Tests can also be ordered through the community collect, direct or pharmacy collect routes before the start of term. Further details provided below with relevant links:

Test Sites and Community Collection Points

Lateral Flow test kits can be collected from local test sites, and some community collection points. Locations, opening times can be found here:

[Get rapid lateral flow COVID-19 tests if you do not have symptoms | GOV.WALES](#)

Home Delivery

Kits can also be ordered online for home delivery. Details of how to order for home delivery can be found here:

[Get rapid lateral flow COVID-19 tests if you do not have symptoms | GOV.WALES](#)

If you are uncertain of anything in respect of the above then please do not hesitate to contact the school for advice/guidance.

We were delighted to be able to welcome our former pupil Kiran Carlson and his Glamorgan CCC colleagues to Whitchurch High earlier this week. It is always a privilege and a pleasure to be able to follow the successes of our former pupils and, of course, Kiran and Glamorgan have had a wonderfully successful summer winning the Royal London Cup under Kiran's captaincy. Staff and pupils alike were excited to be able to see professional cricket coaching in action, to ask questions of high-performing professional sportspeople and to be photographed with the trophy. We wish Kiran all the very best in his future career and look forward to building further partnerships with Glamorgan County Cricket Club.

General

- Please be aware that students can bring water bottles in with them - they can be filled up during the day – but that we cannot provide these.
- An optional uniform for Sixth Form students is now in stock in YC sports. The branded T-shirts are £7 and the branded sweatshirts are £11.
- We have finalised the remaining INSET days for the academic year 2021-22. They are:

Tuesday 4 th January	Monday 20th June
Friday 8th April	Friday 22 nd July
- Darker mornings are upon us so students cycling to school should be aware of traffic around them (do not, for example, wear headphones), they should wear helmets and reflective clothing and have lights on their bikes. Electronic scooters are illegal on roads and banned within the school grounds.

- Please could parents of Year 13 students encourage their children to get their UCAS forms in as quick as possible to help secure the best places in university.

Parents must not drive onto the Lower School site or the driveway off Manor Way (A470) in order to drop off or collect their children. This can cause a significant hazard. The only exceptions are those parents with permission required for access arrangements for their children. These parents will be issued with a pass and MUST display it in their windscreens.

I hope that you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,



Mark Powell