



Weekly Newsletter

October 8th 2021

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter.

Many of you will have read and been touched by the coverage in the press last week about the medical condition of our Year 10 pupil Halle Pesticcio. The press report can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-58769583>

If you would like to donate to the fund set up by Halle's family to help with her medical treatment then the link is:

<https://gofund.me/d06d0b9e>

All of us at Whitchurch wish Halle and her family the very best.

You may also have read in the press about the national shortage of supply teachers. So far in Whitchurch High we have managed to avoid the worst of the impacts of this but it is an ongoing challenge. I will update you if the situation becomes – as it has in some schools in Wales – critical.

I have attached a letter to learners issued by Qualifications Wales this week. The information contained in this letter **is literally all that we know currently** but we are expecting further in November. The letter has been shared via student email with all students in examination year groups.

I have also attached correspondence from Cardiff and the Vale Health Board regarding vaccinations. The school has no operational role to play in this process so please do not contact us for information as we have no more than what is shared here.

Year 9 Options

A series of presentations and resources will be made available on the school website from the 13th October onwards which run through the options and guidance process in place for our year 9 students. The presentations will run through the timeline of support and explain the Individual Learning Pathway Plan and how it will support students as they move through year 9 and beyond. This options process will be launched in school with students during their wellbeing lesson on the 1st November. I would encourage you to view the information, resources and presentations in advance of the launch at the following location:

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y10and11SubjectInformation/index.html>

Covid Messages

The new guidance around household contacts of positive cases who choose to come to school is as follows:

- Take a Lateral Flow Test every day for 7 days *and*...
- Take a PCR test on Day 2 and Day 8

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.

Many of you will have received notification of positive cases in your child's year group during the course of this week. Please be reminded that Warn and Inform letters will now only be issued from the school when advised by TTP.

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 take an LFT every day for 7 days **and** get PCR tested on Day 2 and Day 8.
- 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:

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

General

- We have finalised the remaining INSET days for the academic year 2021-22. They are:
Tuesday 4th January
Friday 8th April
Monday 20th June
Friday 22nd July
- 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.
- Year 11 and Year 13 photos went smoothly this week. Proofs will be sent out to parents as soon as they are sent back to school.
- Individual school photograph proofs will be distributed for Yr 7 / 10 /12 during next week's wellbeing sessions.

- For all information regarding qualifications in this academic year, please check our dedicated page on the website – Qualifications 2022.
- The virtual Year 12 Parents Evening will run on 21st October from 3.30pm – 6.30pm. Letters will be sent out by Intouch.
- Year 11 will receive their November exam timetables next week via school email.

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