



Weekly Newsletter October 15th 2021

Hello and welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the half-term.

Please be aware that the fundraising efforts for our Year 10 pupil Halle Pesticcio continue. 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.

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>

Year 11 Options & Guidance Process

A series of presentations and resources which run through the options and guidance process in place for our year 11 students are now available on the school website in the following location:

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y12and13SubjectInformation/index.html>

The presentations will run through the timeline of support and explain the second phase of the Individual Learning Pathway Plan and how it will support students as they move through year 11 and beyond. The options and guidance process will be launched in school with students during their wellbeing lesson on Monday 18th October.

Key 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.

- 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:

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.
- 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 have received their November exam timetables and seating plans via school email.
- Please support us and the local community in reminding your children about the legal necessity of wearing face masks in local shops.

Finally, massive congratulations to former pupil Christ Tshiunza on being selected for the Welsh squad for the forthcoming Autumn internationals. Well done Christ!

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

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mark Powell', written in black ink.

Mark Powell