



## Weekly Newsletter      October 22<sup>nd</sup>    2021

The first half-term of the academic year 2021-22 has come to a close. As many of you will have seen in the media, covid continues to exert its pressures on society at large and schools are not exempt from this. Positive cases have remained very much part of our everyday working life, affecting pupils and staff alike. As reported consistently, the virus seems to be particularly impacting upon the 11-19 year old age group. Hopefully, the vaccine rollout for this age group will begin to generate positive effects sooner rather than later.

I would like to thank you all for your support throughout this latest challenging period of time.

### Identifying and supporting young carers at Whitchurch High School

At Whitchurch High School we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers.

*A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring, unpaid, for a family member, or friend, who is mentally or physically unwell, frail, disabled or who misuses substances.*

*They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.*

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At Whitchurch High School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified and supported effectively.

We have a responsibility for ensuring all young carers can enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child might be a young carer or could be affected by any of the issues we have highlighted, please let us know by contacting Mr A. Horgan on the following email address [horgana@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto:horgana@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk)

Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

### Fundraising

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 and Guidance Process**

A reminder that the year 9 options and guidance process will be launched in school with students during their wellbeing lesson on the 1st November. Presentations and resources which run through process are now available on the school website in the following location:

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

**Year 11 Options and Guidance Process**

The student launch of the year 11 options and guidance process has now taken place. Form tutors have started to discuss the range of resources that are in place to support students and a presentation which took students through the timeline of support was shared. A reminder that presentations and resources which run through process are now available on the school website in the following location:

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

**General**

- Year 11 students will be sitting Maths exams starting at 8.40am on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Students should be in school at least 15 minutes prior to the start time. All students have been sent their seating numbers so should check them carefully. They should also learn their candidate number and have all the equipment they need for the exams with them.
- Please help us by reinforcing messages about the safety protocols around school especially the one- way system, remaining in seating plans and lining up outside before lessons.
- Year 13 parent / carer consultation evening will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November – letters and guidance on how to access school cloud was sent on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October.
- Year 11 parent /carer online consultation evening will be held on Thursday 11th November – letters and guidance on how to access school cloud will be sent out following half term.

### 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.
- 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.**

I hope that you all remain safe and healthy and enjoy the half-term break.

Kind regards,



Mark Powell