



## Weekly Newsletter      November 5<sup>th</sup>      2021

Hello and welcome back.

This week we ran the first full cohort public examinations in the school since 2019 as our Year 11 pupils sat their GCSE Maths Numeracy papers. It felt very much like another step back towards some semblance of normality and I am delighted to report that our pupils conducted themselves with notable maturity. Good luck to all of them when the results are published in January.

Whilst it is our full hope that summer 2022 exams run as planned, all secondary schools have been asked by Qualifications Wales to have a contingency plan in place for the unlikely event of cancellation. I will provide you all with more details of this next week.

### 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.

### 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.**

### General

- Please help us by reinforcing messages about the safety protocols around school especially the one-way system, remaining in seating plans, wearing face masks/coverings in communal areas outside classrooms and lining up outside before lessons.
- Year 11 parent /carer online consultation evening will be held on Thursday 11th November – letters and guidance on how to access school cloud have been sent out.

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- UCAS forms to be completed as soon as possible – Year 13 students need to check that their forms have not been returned due to errors that need correcting.
- GCSE certificates for internal students will be handed out on November 22nd during the wellbeing session.
- GCSE certificates for students who have now left will be available for collection on Thursday 2nd December – further details about timings will be placed on our website and e-mailed to the parents / students.
- GCE (AS) certificates for internal students will be handed out on November 29th during the wellbeing session.
- GCE (A2) certificates for students who have now left will be available for collection on Wednesday 15th December – further details about timings will be placed on our website and e-mailed to the parents / students.
- Congratulations and well done to Oli Cooper Yr12 who is now the J16 British Open kayak Slalom champion – we look forward to seeing him in future Olympic games!

Kind regards,



Mark Powell