



Weekly Newsletter November 12th 2021

Hello again.

2022 Qualifications (WJEC)

We have now received updated information from Qualifications Wales and WJEC in respect of contingency plans in the unlikely event of summer 2022 examination cancellation. As indicated in previous newsletters, if the exams do not go ahead due to the ongoing public health situation then schools will be required to produce Centre Determined Grades. Whilst our subject areas are still working through individual assessment frameworks (we have only had them for a matter of days), I can confirm the following:

- Non-Examined Assessments (previously called coursework) will definitely form part of the Centre Determined Grade if required.
- Pre-Public Examinations (previously called mock exams) will definitely form part of the Centre Determined Grade if required.

These will not be the only items of evidence that we will use and information about other relevant assessments to be undertaken in Spring and Summer of 2022 will be issued in the coming weeks.

It is our hope and -currently - expectation that these contingency measures will *not* be required.

Pre-Public Exam Dates:

Year 11 December 7th – December 17th

Years 12&13 January 17th – January 28th

Year 10 (Eng Lit) tbc

Chris Sharpe Memorial Concert

We have been proud and delighted this week to welcome the return of live musical performance to the school in the form of the Chris Sharpe Memorial Concert. It was a genuinely lovely night and testament to the talent and commitment of all the young people who took part. Once again this term we felt as if we were making a symbolic step back to some normality. Thanks to all involved and all who attended. The worthy recipient of the Chris Sharpe Music Award was Maisie Giles. Well done Maisie!

The next major event will be the Christmas Concert which, this year, will be held in the Welsh College of Music and Drama on December 16th. Information about timings and tickets will be issued in the coming weeks.

Charities Day and Fundraising

Our annual Charities Day will be held on Friday November 19th. This will be a non-uniform day for pupils in Key Stages 3&4 with donations to be shared between Children in Need and year group charities. We ask pupils to donate £1 on the day. Separate arrangements for the sixth form will be announced on Monday.

Please be aware that the fundraising efforts for our Year 10 pupil Halle Pesticcio continue. Our PE department organised inter-house tournaments this week to help with these efforts. 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.

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

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

Key Covid Messages

Adults who are fully vaccinated and children and young people aged 5 to 17 will be asked to self-isolate until they have received a negative PCR test if someone in their household has symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19. Therefore:

- Your child will need to arrange a PCR test and self-isolate until they receive the test result.
If the test is negative then your child can return to school straight away.
- If negative, then take a Lateral Flow Test every day for 7 days *and...*
- If negative, then take a PCR test on Day 2 and Day 8
- If the test is positive then your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days

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.

- 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.

I have attached a flow chart with this newsletter which should help with any decisions you may need to make in respect of covid-19.

General

- 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.
- Year 11&13 year group photograph proofs will be given out on Monday for parents/carers to view and order. The free order deadline has been changed from the 21st November to the 28th November to give parents / carers more time.
- The SHRN survey will start next week; information has been sent to parents. Please be reminded that the deadline for parents to withdraw their child is 15th Nov - e-mail SmithSa@whitchurch.Cardiff.sch.uk
- Further congratulations to Christ Tshiunza in light of his selection for the match day squad for Wales v Fiji this coming Sunday. Best wishes, Christ, from all of us at Whitchurch.

Kind regards,



Mark Powell