



Weekly Newsletter November 26th 2021

Hello again. I hope that you are all well.

I am pleased to be able to report that the number of positive covid cases in the school has continued on a steady downward curve since half-term. I sincerely hope that this trend continues in the weeks approaching the Christmas break. It remains important that all pupils and students observe the covid mitigations we have in place around the school.

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.

Children In Need / Charities Day

Another successful Charities Day saw funds raised as below:

Year 7	£379.59
Year 8	£337.59
Year 9	£333.54
KS4 and 5	£617.06
Whole school	£1,667.78

General

- Yr 11 Pre- Public Exam individual timetables have now been sent to all Yr 11 students and parents / carers via e-mail. Please help us to emphasise the importance of these exams.
- UCAS forms need 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 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.

- Sadly, we have been made aware by members of the community and South Wales Police that there have been several incidents of anti-social behaviour at Caedelyn Park involving Whitchurch High School students and others. We have been working closely with the police to identify any students involved. Please could parents help us by reminding their children of their responsibility to behave appropriately in the community, and that the play park is for younger children and their parents. Any incident of anti- social behaviour will be actioned by school and by the police.
- Wellbeing resources to help students cope with exams and the pressure associated with them and also study skills tutorial videos, are available on the school's website via this link <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Students/Wellbeing/index.html>

This area of the website is helpful for both students and parents; we recommend you take some time to look at what is there and click on the many associated links down the page.

- Several colleagues have bravely attempted Movember again this year to increase awareness of men's health and raise money for prostate cancer. Last year they raised £800 for the charity and would like to beat that this year if possible. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please go to the just giving page below. Many thanks for any contributions; I will let you know how much they raise. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whitchurchhs>

Kind regards,



Mark Powell