



## Weekly Newsletter December 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

Hello again.

Apologies for the belated arrival of this newsletter. I hope that it finds you all well. I will also issue a final newsletter of the term on Friday of this week.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Omicron variant is causing considerable concern and that this concern is translating into operational realities. Specifically, we have told that any close contact of an Omicron case will need to self-isolate for 10 days irrespective of vaccination status. TTP colleagues will inform the necessary parties as to the necessity for this. In the meantime, please continue to observe the covid protocols which are currently in place and which are – as with every week – outlined in the section below. Face masks remain compulsory in indoor spaces including classrooms.

Covid cases amongst the pupil population in Whitchurch continue to remain at a very low percentage. We have, at the time of writing, received no reports of an Omicron case.

In reference to self-isolation please be aware of the following timetable:

Date of contact with Omicron case	Last date of isolation
Monday December 13 <sup>th</sup>	December 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Tuesday December 14 <sup>th</sup>	December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Wednesday December 15 <sup>th</sup>	December 25 <sup>th</sup>
Thursday December 16 <sup>th</sup>	December 26 <sup>th</sup>
Friday December 17 <sup>th</sup>	December 27 <sup>th</sup>

### 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.

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- 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.

### Last day of Term

Please see below the arrangements for our structure of the last day of term (Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>). Pupils will leave school after period 4.

	YEAR	1	BREAK 1	2	BREAK 2	3	LUNCH	3	BREAK 3	4 (end of day)
LOWER	7	8.40-9.40	9.40-9.55	9.55-10.55	10.55-11.10		11.10-11.40	11.40-12.40	12.40-12.55	12.55-1.00
	8 & 9					11.10-12.10		12.55-1.05		
UPPER	10 & 12	8.40-9.40	9.40-9.55	9.55-10.55	10.55-11.10		11.10-11.40	11.40-12.40	12.40-12.55	12.55-1.00
	11 & 13					11.10-12.10		12.55-1.05		

On the last day of term pupils will have the option of wearing a festive jumper instead of their school jumper/cardigan to school. All other school uniform rules will remain the same.

### General

- Several Year 8 girls teams were entered into this year's *Girls First Computer Science Competition* and out of 450 teams across the country, Izzy Roberts, Tara Wilcox, Hali Simmons and Niamh Jones (*Rookie's Rebels*) came top and have now been invited to the National Finals on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the National Cyber Crime Centre. Congratulations to them all!
- KS3 interim reports were issued on Friday. Please note that year 8 and 9 reports were re-issued this morning due to a technical issue.
- Public Examination timetables for year 11 ICT Unit 1, Sports and Fitness Unit 2 and English Literature Unit 1 have been issued to year 11 students via their school email accounts. Students must therefore check their emails for all details.
- The Year 11 options open evening scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> will now be a virtual event as it was last year.

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- We will send out information regarding online bookings for the Year 10 parents evening scheduled for 27th January in the new year.
- Interim reports have been published on the SIMs app for parents of students in years 10 and 12.
- Further congratulations to the Senior 1st XV rugby team in winning the U18 schools and colleges bowl cup final. It was a fantastic team performance and Orson James was deservedly awarded the Man of the Match.
- 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.
- 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.

Kind regards,



Mark Powell