



Weekly Newsletter January 28th 2022

Hello again everyone. I hope that you are all well and looking forward to the weekend. There have been changes nationally regarding covid which I have outlined below

Latest Covid Updates

- As of today, Wales will return to alert level zero.
- Mitigations currently in place in schools will, though, continue until half term.
- After half-term we will be hoping to return to the same or similar level of covid mitigation which we had in place in September 2022.

- From today isolation in instances of a positive covid test will be for 5 days. Your child must, though, take LFD tests 24 hours apart on day 5 and day 6. If both are negative, then they can return to school. *This applies to those who are currently isolating.*
- If either or both are positive, then testing needs to be repeated every 24 hours until 2 consecutive positive LFD tests are received; isolation can end after this.
- Isolation ends after 10 days even if LFD tests remain positive. However, if your child is covid symptomatic at this point then they will need to take a PCR test.

Year 11 options and guidance process

A reminder that the deadline for completion of the free choice survey is Monday 31st January. These figures will then be analysed to help construct the year 12 option grid which will be available on the school website from 7th February. On 8th, 9th or 10th February each student will have a one-to-one interview with a senior member of staff to assist with their next steps. They will also have a mock interview with an employer. In preparation for each interview, it is important that students complete up to page 9 in their Individual Learning Pathway Plan. This includes writing a CV using the template and advice provided. A copy of the Individual Learning Pathway Plan is available on the school website in the following location:

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

Year 9 options and guidance process

Year 9 students are currently in the middle of the free choice survey window, with a deadline of the 7th February. Instructions have been emailed to students explaining how to complete the survey at

www.sims-options.co.uk

Form tutors have also explained the process during wellbeing sessions. The final option grid which will be constructed based on the free choice figures, will be issued to students during their individual interviews on the 15th, 16th or 17th February and will be added to the Year 10 and 11 subject information section of the website on the 14th February.

Yr 12 Employer Engagement Seminars

Over the next few weeks, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to sign up for seminars run by outside professionals regarding career opportunities in different employment sectors. E-mails have been sent to students to sign up but we would also appreciate parents discussing with their children about life after A-levels and what areas they may be interested in. The first seminar on Monday 31st January will focus on Engineering, Design, ICT, and Human Resources. Representatives from GE aviation in Caerphilly will be coming into school to speak with those interested letting them know about the graduate schemes and apprenticeship programmes that they offer.

General

- Due to circumstances beyond the control of the school, the INSET days for the rest of the academic year are now as follows:

Monday February 28th
Friday April 8th

Monday 20th June
Friday 22nd July

- The Year 9 on-line parents evening will take place on February 9th. Please look out for further information regarding booking appointments.

Kind regards and have a lovely weekend.



Mark Powell

