



Weekly Newsletter February 4th 2022

Hello again everyone. Now that the mornings and evenings are getting lighter there is real sense that Spring is approaching and there appear to be promising signs of a return to normality. In respect of this, I am pleased to report that covid cases throughout the school are in decline.

Covid Information

- From last week, 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.
- 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

Individual student interviews with senior members of staff to support with learning pathway and option choice decisions will be running on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. Mock employer interviews will also be running each day. It is important that students bring their CV with them for their mock interview.

All year 11 students have received an email which confirms the time slot for their interview. The email also explains:

- how to apply for the sixth form at Whitchurch using our on-line application form: <https://whitchurchhighschool.applicaa.com/sixthform>.
- how to log their year 12 option choice decisions at www.sims-options.co.uk.

Information on how to apply for the sixth form is also available on the admissions section of the school website: <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Admissions/>.

The year 12 option grid will be added to the online sixth form application form on the 7th February and will be shared with students during their individual interview.

Year 9 options and guidance process

A reminder that the deadline for completion of the free choice survey is Monday 7th February. These figures will then be analysed to help construct the year 10 option grid which will be available on the school website from 14th February.

On 15th, 16th or 17th February each student will have a one-to-one interview with a senior member of staff to assist with their options choices and next steps. They will also take part in a Careers Wales workshop. It is important that students complete up to and including page 7 in their individual learning pathway plan in preparation for their interview. A copy of the Individual Learning Pathway Plan is available on the school website in the following location:

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y10and11SubjectInformation/ILPP.html>

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.
- Thank you for your support in respect of face masks. There has been a significant reduction in the quantities we are issuing.

Kind regards and have a lovely weekend. I am optimistically predicting a narrow Welsh victory.



Mark Powell