



Weekly Newsletter

March 4th 2022

Welcome back everybody. I hope that you and your family had a relaxing week and managed to avoid the worst of the storms.

Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

Whitchurch High School has a long tradition of charitable giving and support and many worthy causes have benefitted from the kindness and generosity of our school community over the years. We will now, once again, come together to help - in some small way - people in crisis specifically those forced from their homes by the invasion of the Ukraine. There are several charities and organisations that have set up refugee camps and are working closely with the Polish and Ukrainian government to ensure the refugees are safe but, as we all have seen on our news outlets, they are desperately seeking supplies. From Monday March 7th we will have donation stations so that staff and students can bring in items that will be sent to Poland and will go towards families in desperate need.

The following items are requested;

- Baby items (not clothing) such as dummies, milk bottles, nappies, wipes, bedding etc.
- Female hygiene products
- Toiletries (deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpastes etc)
- Plasters, bandages etc.
- Instant foods such as energy bars, tinned food, pasta, rice, coffee, tea etc.
- Batteries and flashlights

The collection will run for two weeks. If you can help then please donate to either the Pastoral office on the Lower School site or in Ty Seren on the Upper School site, there will be clear donation boxes to receive your donated items.

There will also be an opportunity to donate money to this cause; information will be given to students in their wellbeing session on Monday.

Covid Information

Please be reminded of the following:

- The wearing of face masks in classrooms is now optional. We still expect all pupils to wear face masks indoors in communal areas. All pupils must bring a face mask to school.
- Pupils are no longer able to wear their PE kit to school.

- One-way systems apply to Tower Block in Lower School and the Upper School canteen.
- The recommendation is now for two LFD tests per week rather than 3.
- Isolation in instances of a positive covid test is for 5 days. Your child must, though, take LFTs 24 hours apart on day 5 and day 6. If both are negative, 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 LFTs 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

As you will be aware, the deadline for the first round of sixth form applications was the 28th February. If any student has had difficulty applying or has changed their mind and now want to apply, please encourage them to contact sixthform-admissions@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk for support.

Year 9 options and guidance process

All involved in the learning pathways interviews prior to half term were extremely impressed with our year 9 students. They had clearly prepared well, with most having carried out clear research linked to their career aspirations and learning pathway.

The option grid for year 10 2022-2023 is now available on the school website:

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

All students have received information through their school email on how to submit their final option choices using www.sims-options.co.uk. The deadline option choices to be submitted is the 7th March.

Sporting Success

Huge congratulations and best wishes for their future ambitions from all at Whitchurch to the following pupils:

- Poppy Stickler (Year 11) who has recently represented the Welsh Senior Gymnastics Team.
- Emilia Hope (Year 10), Lara Nicholas and Catrin Holmes (both Year 11) who will all be representing Wales in the European Taekwondo championships in Croatia later this month.

Sister Act

Rehearsals have been under way since September for this year's Upper School production of *Sister Act* and have most recently been gaining momentum as pupils and staff alike prepare for the return of musical productions at Whitchurch High School. This production has seen increased engagement and support from our community which has been exceptionally uplifting and greatly appreciated. The cast and crew are made of such extremely talented pupils, showcasing a broad variety of skills and commendable commitment and enthusiasm. They have given so freely of their time and now we are extremely excited to welcome you as an audience to *Sister Act 2022*. It's going to be fantastic!

The show dates are 14th-16th, 18th & 19th of March and tickets can be purchased from the Drama department or via the main school offices.

Parents Evenings

The second Yr 13 Parents' evening is scheduled for Wednesday 30th March and will again be held online. Letters will be sent out to parents closer to the time and the appointment system will open on Monday 14th March.

Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place online on Tuesday 8th March. If there are any queries or concerns regarding appointments for your child, please contact the Year 7 Pastoral Team.

GCSE AS/ A2 External Exam Information

All students in Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 will receive a Statement of Entry via their school emails on Monday 7th March.

Please can parents help their children check carefully their entries for Summer 2022 examinations and inform the Exam Department by either the learner going to the office in the 6th form building in person or emailing

exams@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk

with any issues or queries by the deadline 16/03/2022.

Please note, no changes will be accepted after the deadline of the 16th March 2022.

There is a link to the exam timetable on the school website.

GCSE English Literature, GCSE Sport & Fitness and GCSE IT January exam results

On Thursday 10th March from 8.30am onwards the results of the GCSE exams sat by students in January will be sent to each student's school e-mail address. Queries regarding results should be directed to the student's class teacher in the first instance.

Student enrichment lectures

We have been fortunate enough to partner up with Gresham College in London who for years have been recording lectures from specialists in their field. On the school's website under the student tab, links have been added in the student enrichment section. These lectures on all subject areas are free and will help further the knowledge of all students.

Crochet club

To aid wellbeing, sixth form students are starting a crochet club every Thursday after school in Ty Seren. All ages of students are welcome. The first meeting will be on Thursday 3rd March at 3.15pm

Kind regards and have a lovely weekend.



Mark Powell