



Weekly Newsletter March 11th 2022

Welcome back everybody.

Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

Thank you to the many students and parents who have already donated items for Ukraine and its neighbours. The response has been fantastic and the boxes are piling up, showing the kindness and compassion of our Whitchurch High School community. There is also an opportunity to donate money via ParentPay. This will be given to the Disaster Emergency Committee Appeal which will enable charities already in situ to respond quickly to the medical and humanitarian needs of the people.

To motivate students to get involved in this appeal, on March 21st at least one biology teacher will have her head shaved by the sixth form students (if enough money is raised!), with this being live-streamed to the rest of the school during the tutorial period. In many cultures, shaving the head is a symbol of grief, so this seems an appropriate action in the current situation. As the hair will take a long time to grow back, it will also serve as a reminder to us that long after our two week appeal has passed, the people of Ukraine will still need our love and support.

The Mathematics Department will also be taking part in the whole school venture to raise money to help the people of Ukraine. All Mathematics pupils from years 7-13 will be taking part in a sponsored 'Mathathon' in one of their lessons very soon. The aim will be to correctly complete 100 mental maths questions testing the skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, within a given time limit. More information will be given to pupils and sent out to parents early next week. In the meantime, please start asking people to sponsor you, and get practising all of these skills!

Many of you will already have given to the DEC appeal before receiving this newsletter. However, we would encourage you to help your children to get involved in giving too. The news is very distressing but being able to act, even in a small way, can give children hope and reduce anxiety.

So far, we have collected £1,665. Many thanks.

GCSE Results

Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils on receiving GCSE examination results this week in English Literature, Sport & Fitness and Information Technology. Please note that these are the results for single units within these subjects and *are not the final overall grade*.

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 negative 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.

Sister Act

The school production of *Sister Act* will run next week on March 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 19th. This is an extremely exciting time for the school and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible enjoying live theatre with us.

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.

GCSE AS/ A2 External Exam Information

All students in Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 have received a Statement of Entry via their school emails.

Please can parents help their children check 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.

Study Leave and Year 13 Induction

Year 11 study leave starts on Monday 16th May.

Year 12 study leave starts on Monday 16th May, ends on Friday 9th June.

Year 12 induction to Year 13 and Careers Planning week will run from Monday 13th June – Friday 17th June. Details to follow.

Year 13 Study leave starts on Monday 6th June.

- Year 13 reports have been issued via the SIMs app this week.
- I have been requested to remind parents dropping off and collecting their children from the school that they should not use the car park of the Community Centre on the corner of Tyn y Pwll Rd and Old Church Rd. Thank you for your understanding and support for our neighbours.

Kind regards and have a lovely weekend.



Mark Powell