



Weekly Newsletter

April 1st

2022

Hello again.

I have this week attached a letter which I am distributing on behalf of the Local Authority concerning the current operational guidance for schools in respect of covid self-isolation. Please take time to read it carefully.

Ramadan

The evening of the 2nd April (depending upon the sighting of the moon) signifies the beginning of Ramadan during which many of our Muslim families will be fasting between dawn and sunset. This is one of the five pillars of Islam and allows our families to devote themselves to their faith and come closer to Allah through spiritual reflection. Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim families.

Fundraising

Thanks to all pupils in maths classes for their enthusiasm in supporting the maths fundraising challenge. We would be grateful if all outstanding sponsorship money could be paid in by Monday 4th April. Many thanks.

In next week's newsletter I will update you on all the recent fundraising activities that the school has undertaken in support of a wide spectrum of deserving causes.

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.

Information regarding how parents can support year 10 students to prepare for the forthcoming exams has been sent to all parents this week.

Year 12 UCAS Convention – Tuesday 26th April 1.30 -3pm

All Parents /Carers of Yr 12 students have been sent an e-mail this week regarding the UCAS Convention on the 26th April. Please can Parents / Carers complete the consent form on the e-mail to authorise their child to leave school if they would like them to attend.

GCSE Welsh Speaking Exams Year 10

Year 10 will sit their Welsh Speaking Examinations next week. This is an external examination therefore, attendance is essential. The examination will take place on ONE of the dates below. Lists detailing when the exam will take place for individual pupils have been placed outside the Main Hall.

Monday, April 4th

Tuesday, April 5th

Wednesday, April 6th

An information video has also been uploaded to TEAMS for pupils to familiarise themselves with and all pupils have been given revision materials in class and on TEAMS.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact staggi@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk or class teachers.

Identifying and supporting young carers at Whitchurch High School

At Whitchurch High School we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers.

A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring, unpaid, for a family member, or friend, who is mentally or physically unwell, frail, disabled or who misuses substances.

They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At Whitchurch High School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified and supported effectively.

We have a responsibility for ensuring all young carers can enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child might be a young carer or could be affected by any of the issues we've highlighted, please let us know by contacting Mr A. Horgan on the following email address horgana@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk

Any information which is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

Parents Evening

Parents of Year 8 students will be able to make Parents Evening appointments from Monday 4th April at 3:30pm. Communications regarding Parents Evening will follow on that date.

Have a lovely weekend.



Mark Powell



Dear Parents/Carers

Following the recent changes in legislation regarding Covid-19, I wanted to write to you and provide an update on how the ongoing challenges presented by the virus continue to be met by our school.

Case rates within the Cardiff and Vale region have been climbing over the past few weeks. The rise in cases continues to present challenges with staffing and, as a last resort, there may be instances of class closures due to self-isolation and illness etc. In such cases, and wherever possible, school staff have continued to deliver online learning, to minimise disruption to pupils.

From Monday, 28 March, the legal requirement for self-isolation and use of face coverings in public areas is no longer in effect. However, while the legislation has changed, the current Operational Guidance for schools has not changed. Covid-19 has not gone away and continues to present challenges. While we continue to work through the transition in line with the Welsh Government's strategy of living with Covid-19, it is still strongly advised that anyone with classic Covid-19 symptoms continue to take a test, and that in the interests of public health, anyone with a positive test continue to self-isolate. Details on the current guidance in relation to self-isolation can be found online at www.gov.wales/self-isolation.

Currently, any pupil who tests positive for Covid-19 will be asked to not attend school. This is because a Covid-19 infection will be treated like any other communicable disease (e.g., Norovirus) and school can recommend certain measures to protect the health and safety of other pupils and staff. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence.

Schools are continuing to operate as per the Welsh Government Covid-19 Local Decision Framework. We will continue to monitor and review our Covid-19 arrangements on a regular basis and are taking proportional responses based on local infection rates, to balance the need for face-to-face learning, and keeping our schools a safe environment.

You can help us to continue to disrupt the transmission of the virus by:

- Self-isolating when you feel unwell
- Wearing masks in crowded places
- Keeping up to date with your vaccinations

Continuing with protective behaviours is important and will help to minimise exposure to and spread of Covid-19, as well as other respiratory infections and other diseases.

If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and take a lateral flow test (LFT). You can order LFTs online at www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or call 119 between 7am and 11pm (calls are free).

The main symptoms of COVID-19 continue to be:

- a high temperature
- a continuous cough
- loss or change of taste or smell

The next few months will see further work in transitioning to Welsh Government's Living with Covid-19 strategy, and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure a safe school environment. We are grateful for your ongoing support and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Should you have any specific queries regarding attendance, please contact your local school.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Powell', written in a cursive style.

Mark Powell