



Newsletter

October 21st

2022

Dear parents/carers

Last week's newsletter contained a lot of information which is still relevant so I have kept this information available here as well as a few more recent updates.

INSET Day

Please take especial note of the communication which went home earlier this week regarding the upcoming INSET day in November. It read:

As you may be aware, we currently have an INSET day scheduled for Monday, November 21st. This is a Week A. The unscheduled Bank Holiday which marked the Queen's funeral was also a Monday in Week A. This would mean that our learners would be missing the same set of lessons twice in reasonably short succession and this has, naturally, given some cause for concern. Therefore, in order to mitigate the impact of this we are going to reschedule the INSET day to Friday November 25th. Therefore, the school will be open as normal on Monday, November 21st but will be closed to pupils for staff training on Friday November 25th.

This also has the incidental benefit of removing the potential disruption to learning that may be caused by the Wales v Iran World Cup game taking place during school time on that day and will afford our young people who are keen to support Wales the chance to do so.

SRB News

After much consideration, we have decided to change the name of our Specialist Resource Base. This facility has evolved over time and we feel that we now need to update and change its name to increase the sense of inclusivity whilst affording the base its own identity.

We have decided that the new name will be: **The Ty Calon Centre** (Ty Calon: Heart of the House). This will remain a Local Authority specialist resource base but will be referred to as the **Ty Calon Centre** here in Whitchurch High School.

My colleague, Mr Morgan has spoken to pupils and colleagues and the consensus is that this would be a positive change. Some feedback from pupils and colleagues is summarised below:

- *It is more inclusive and fits in with other names of school buildings like Ty Seren.*
- *Gives a better description of the provision for parents and pupils. It brings it in line with the only other similar provision in the county like the Marion Centre.*
- *Delivers a key message about Whitchurch High School's commitment to the pupils; Ty Calon Centre, the heart of the house, or as we like to call it, 'The Heart of the School'.*
- *It is much better!*

Change is often difficult but please support us by getting into the habit of using **Ty Calon** rather than SRB from now on.

Welsh Blood Service at Whitchurch High School

On 20th November 2019 we were pleased to welcome the Welsh Blood Service to Whitchurch High for our first ever Blood Donor Day. This was aimed at qualifying students (17 and over) with staff and Governors also invited to donate. It was a huge success and we intended to invite them back each year but, for 2020 & 2021, it wasn't possible.

We have kept in touch, though, and they will return on Thursday, 24th November 2022.

The Welsh Blood Service has relationships with only 4 other Schools in South. We were, and still are, the only school in Cardiff.

Year 12&13 students received a presentation by two representatives from the Welsh Blood Service assembly earlier this week. They were given a brief introduction to what's involved, together with a video of students and senior staff from other schools giving blood and talking about their experience, the impact it had on themselves, their schools and the Welsh community.

Unfortunately, we are unable to extend the invite to parents or the general public.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us at Whitchurch High School to make a substantial contribution to a vital service and we hope you can support your children's decision to donate should they want to. More information will be given to the KS5 students about registering over the next few days.

Important Health & Safety Notice (Lower School)

- Traffic will not be allowed on or off the Lower School site between 2.55 pm and 3.15 pm. The gates will be closed for this period of time.
- Please DO NOT under any circumstances drop off your children at the junction into Lower School off Manor Way. This continues to cause a significant possible hazard to all pedestrians in this area, the majority of whom are our pupils.

Exams and Assessments

- The GCSE Numeracy external exam for Year 11 will take place on 8th and 10th November.
- On Friday 7th October all students who have been entered for public examinations in the November session had their exam timetables with rooming and seat numbers e-mailed to them at their school e-mail addresses. Please can parents check these and get back to the examinations department as soon as possible if there are any issues.
exams@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk

Support and Feedback

- The options and guidance process for year 9 and 11 students will be launched on the 14th November. Further details will be shared with parents, carers and students after half term.
- The Year 11 progress evening will take place on the 17th November. The booking system will be open from 27th October at 9am and will close on the 16th November at 23.59pm.
- Year 13 and year 11 interim reports have been issued via the sims app this week.

Other

- Please be reminded that all phone calls into and out of the school via the main switchboard are recorded for monitoring and safeguarding purposes.
- Our Lower School office has been inundated recently with parents/carers dropping off items for their children. Please minimise the need to come onto either school site to absolute emergencies. A steady stream of parents/carers arriving on-site during the school day disrupts the running of the school and has the potential to cause a safeguarding issue.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.



Mark Powell