



**Newsletter**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**2022**

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a busy first week back after half-term:

- We have enjoyed our annual Chris Sharp Memorial Concert in the Lower School Dutch Barn. This was a fantastic evening of live music performed by learners of all ages. I would like to thank and congratulate each and every one of them. Our Performing Arts Faculty gave these young people a great opportunity for them to express themselves musically and I would like to thank all those colleagues. The winner of the Chris Sharp memorial prize was Emma Caparros, a fantastic young guitarist. Congratulations Emma!
- Our Year 11 learners sat their GCSE Numeracy exams and did so with due maturity and seriousness. I wish them all well when the results are issued early in the new year.
- Today we marked Remembrance Day with the Last Post and Reveille played by Year 12 student, Susie Bates. These bookended an impeccably observed 2 minute silence across the school.
- Sam Warburton, alumnus of the school, visited today to film a segment of a programme on sporting leadership with a group of our learners. It is always great to welcome former students back.

### **GCSE Pod**

The Year 11 PPE period is fast approaching. If you are looking for ways to support and help pupils prepare for these can I remind you that as a school we subscribe to GCSEPod.

Your child has already been registered with GCSEPod, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below. If your child has already activated but can't remember their username and password, please ask them to contact a member of staff.

1. Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click "Login" in the top right-hand corner
2. Click "New to GCSEPod? Get started."
3. Select "Student"
4. Enter your child's name, date of birth and the school name.
5. Create a username, password, and a password hint to help them remember the password.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit [www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents) where you'll find lots more information, a specially created Parent Toolkit with information on making the most of your child's subscription and links to their fantastic upcoming parent/carer webinars: <https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-parent-webinars/>

If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact Mrs Emma Aston ([astone@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto:astone@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk)) who is leading on GCSEPod.

### **Charities Day**

Our annual Charities Day will take place on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be a non-uniform day and pupils can make donations on the day or parents can make donations via parent pay. Thanks in advance for your support.

### **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 learners.

### **Yr 11 PPE exams 5th – 15th December**

- All Year 11 students will receive their December PPE timetables via their school student email account on Monday 14/11/2022. Please can parents encourage their child / children to check their email accounts and to contact the exams office via email [exams@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto:exams@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk) if there are any issues as soon as possible.

### **Yr 13 UCAS forms**

- Please can parents encourage their child / children to complete and submit their UCAS forms asap so the school can process them quickly. To date we have sent over 80 applications and students are delighted to have received offers to their first- choice universities already.

### **Learner Support and Feedback**

- Letters have been sent to parents and carers providing information on the 2022-2023 options and guidance process for year 9 and 11 students. The process will officially launch on Monday 14th November, with a series of presentations and resources available on the website to support the process:

Year 9: <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y10and11SubjectInformation/>

Year 11: <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y12and13SubjectInformation/>

If you did not receive the letter sent on Thursday 10th November, please contact the year 9 or 11 progress team.

- 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.

### 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.
- As a school we have a clear anti-bullying policy and continue to aspire to create an environment where all pupils feel safe and have a sense of belonging. Next week is anti-bullying week; this will be discussed during the wellbeing hour. Please remind your child that should they have any concerns about any issues then can seek support from the Progress Teams or, indeed, any member of staff.
- Huge congratulations to Poppy Stickler who was part of the Great British Women's Gymnastic Team who won the Silver Medal in the World Championships held in Liverpool. This means that they have qualified for Paris 2024 Olympics. This is Poppy's first year competing as a senior gymnast and to be selected to be part of the GB team at such a young age is a huge achievement in itself. This was the best ever result by a British Women's Artistic team at a World Championship and we are extremely proud of Poppy and her achievements throughout this year.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.



Mark Powell