



Newsletter

December 8th

2022

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you are all well. It has been a few weeks since the last newsletter and there is much to report. First and foremost of these is the exciting prospect of our return to Llandaff Cathedral next Monday (12th) for our Carol Service. In 2020 we braved the elements and recorded a socially-distanced concert from outside Upper School Main Block; in 2021 we recorded a Christmas concert in the Welsh College of Music & Drama. Now, with covid restrictions fully lifted, we return to the beautiful and inspiring surroundings of the cathedral. It will be a fantastic evening and I hope that many of you will be able to join us as we start our traditional and time-honoured celebration of the season.

End of Autumn Term

The last day of term is Friday, December 23rd. Please be advised that the school day on the 23rd will look like this:

	YEAR	1	BREAK 1	2	BREAK 2	3	LUNCH	3	BREAK 3	4
LOWER	7	8.40-9.40	9.40-9.55	9.55-10.55	10.55-11.10		11.10-11.40	11.40-12.40	12.40-12.55	12.55-1.00
	8 & 9					11.10-12.10	12.10-12.40			12.55-1.05
UPPER	10 & 12	8.40-9.40	9.40-9.55	9.55-10.55	10.55-11.10		11.10-11.40	11.40-12.40	12.40-12.55	12.55-1.00
	11 & 13					11.10-12.10	12.10-12.40			12.55-1.05

All pupils will have finished school by 1.05 pm.

GCSE and A level certificate collection

- Thursday 15th December 3pm – 4.30pm GCSE certificate collection from the Sixth Form common room (Yr 11 leavers and current Yr12's)
- Thursday 22nd December 3pm – 4.30pm A level certificate collection from the Sixth Form common room (Yr 13 students who have left)
- January 2023 – AS certificates will be distributed during a wellbeing session to all students (current Yr 13 students)

Welsh Blood Service at Whitchurch High School

On Thursday, 24th November we were very pleased to welcome back the Welsh Blood Service. It was our second Blood Donor Day, the first being in November 2019.

It was an extremely rewarding and successful day. Of the 69 available appointments, 68 Donors attended, 50 were able to give blood, with 39 of those 50 donations giving blood for the first time. The Welsh Blood Service were also impressed that a remarkable 24 Bone Marrow samples were taken too.

Some of our staff were able to donate, but the overwhelming majority of Donors were Year 13 pupils, and we also had some from Year 12. I would like to take the opportunity to pass on my sincere admiration for our pupil contribution and the way they conducted themselves throughout the day. They were a credit to Whitchurch High School. We are very proud to provide for our Community and Wales as a whole.

The Welsh Blood Service were very complimentary of the school, hugely impressed with the students, and amazed by the overall results. It was beyond their expectations.

We still remain the only school in Cardiff to have a Blood Donor Day and we look forward to inviting them back next year.

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

GCSE Pod

The Year 11 PPE period is already upon us. If you are looking for ways to support and help pupils prepare for these and future assessments 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 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 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) who is leading on GCSEPod.

Charities Day

Our annual Charities Day took place on Friday November 18th. We raised £2,171.62.

Half of this will go to Children In Need and the remainder will be split between each year group and go to the charity nominated by the pupils.

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.

Learner Support and Feedback

- The Year 9 Open Evening will be held on 26th January. It will run from 5-7pm.
- 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/>

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.
- Flu vaccinations will be taking place for pupils in Years 7-9 on Tuesday 13th December and Years 10 & 11 on the 19th December.
- We would be grateful if you could check your personal information for your child in the SIMS Parent App and make any changes necessary.

Kind regards,



Mark Powell