



Newsletter

December 16th

2022

Dear parents / carers,

I hope that you are all well and are coping with the bitterly cold weather we've been having in the past week or so. As expected, the Carol Service earlier this week was an absolute delight, an evening to be proud of for everyone associated with the school. Many thanks to all the musicians and readers who performed on the night. I would also like to offer a huge vote of thanks to my colleagues in the Performing Arts and Humanities Faculties and, of course, our colleagues at Llandaff Cathedral for allowing us to use their beautiful building.

A further vote of thanks must go to everyone involved in the Young Playwrights' Festival. Writers, performers, technical support and – again – members of the Performing Arts Faculty all contributed towards a fantastic experience for us in the audience.

Lower School Site

A new gate and pathways have been installed on the Lower School site near the exit to the subway on Manor Way. Lower School pupils who arrive at school via the subway or from the City Centre side of the school should use this gateway when arriving and leaving the school site.

School Libraries

The Upper and Lower Libraries are open from 8.00am to 4.15pm and during lunch/break times.

These can provide a safe, warm space for learners to come and complete homework, use the printing facilities or spend some time reading.

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 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)

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.

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

Year 9 and 11 students are continuing to be supported with the important decisions that lie ahead as part of the options and guidance process. A reminder that the timeline of support, associated presentations and useful links can be found on the school website:

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

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

Also, advance notice of our Open Evenings early in the new year:

- Sixth Form Open Evening – 19th January, 5pm to 7pm
- Key stage 4 Open Evening – 26th January, 5pm to 7pm
- The Year 9 Open Evening will be held on 26th January. It will run from 5-7pm.

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 learners in 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.

Have a lovely weekend,



Mark Powell

