



Newsletter

January 13th

2023

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back and a happy new year to all. I sincerely hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and that you weren't too disheartened by the incessant rain!

I would like to congratulate our Year 11 learners on receiving their GCSE Numeracy grades this week. The overall performance of the year group was extremely strong and I am confident that the vast majority of our students received the grades that accurately reflect their efforts.

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.

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 13 interim reports have been issued via the SIMs app this week.

Students in years 11 and 9 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/>

Following the upcoming open evenings (see below), the free choice survey will be open for a fortnight allowing learners to make their initial option choices. These choices will be used to formulate the sixth form and year 10 option grids. The deadlines for completion of the free choice survey at www.sims-options.co.uk can be seen below:

Year 11: 3rd February 2023

Year 9: 10th February 2023

Sixth Form Open Evening 19th January: 5pm – 7pm

Year 9 Options Open Evening 26th January 5pm -7pm

Year 10 Online Progress Evening 31st January 3.30pm – 6.30pm. Appointments will be live from Monday 16th January and further information will follow to support parents in booking appointments.

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.
- 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,

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

Mark Powell