



Newsletter

February 3rd

2023

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back.

You will be aware that there is further industrial action planned by the NEU on Tuesday, February 14th. I will assess the situation early next week and inform you of the school's plans on that day by the end of school on Tuesday February 7th. This is a fluid and dynamic situation given that talks are still going ahead which will hopefully lead to a resolution. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Children's Mental Health Week/Safer Internet Day

Next week, during the Wellbeing sessions, pupils will be discussing the importance of connections and conversations. These themes are linked to Children's Mental Health Week which starts on Monday 6th February and Safer Internet day on Tuesday 7th February. Pupils will be reminded of the importance of sharing any concerns with trusted adults and will be reminded of the support procedures that we have in place in school. Should you have any concerns about your child, then please contact the relevant pastoral team.

INSET Days

The INSET day scheduled for February 17th will now take place on Thursday, July 6th.

There is also an INSET day scheduled on Friday, June 23rd.

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.

Learner Support and Feedback

On the evening of the 16th February, we will be holding our Year 9 progress evening to discuss your child's progress and what they can do to maximise their potential. This event will be held virtually and therefore appointments will need to be made in advance online. The booking system opened on the 1st February and will close on Wednesday 15th February at 11.55pm. Information on how to book appointments has been sent out via InTouch earlier this week. If you wish to speak with a member of the Progress Team then please do so in the usual way, by either phoning 02920 629700 and following the options for the Year 9 tutors office or alternatively e-mail the Year 9 Progress Leader – Mr Horgan at horgana@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk or the Year 9 Assistant Progress Leader – Miss Stephens at stephensn@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk

Appointments are also available with Mr S Gwynne from Careers Wales for advice and guidance.

Options and Guidance Process updates

Year 11: Students have now completed the free choice survey, with the choices made being used to formulate the year 12 option grid for next year. The option grid will be emailed to students and made available on the school website on the 13th February. Students are currently working on their CV's and application forms in preparation for their mock interviews with local employers and pathway support interviews with senior members of staff. These will be held during the week beginning the 13th February. The deadline for sixth form admissions forms and final options choice decisions is the 3rd March.

Year 9: Students are currently completing the free choice survey at www.sims-options.co.uk. The deadline for choices to be submitted is 10th February. The choices that students make in the free choice survey will be used to formulate the year 10 option grid which will be available on the 27th February.

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/>

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.

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,



Mark Powell