



Newsletter

February 17th

2023

Dear parents/carers,

Once again, the Whitchurch community has come together to help those in adversity. So far, the appeal to raise funds for earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey has already reached well over £2000 and we are still counting. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity.

I have also been asked to pass on to you details of a Justgiving page which has been set up by one of our parents. The link is:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/buthenah-davies?utm_term=kBn3YxxZ2

Industrial Action

You may have learnt from the media that the National Education Union (NEU) has rejected the Welsh government pay offer and is, therefore, planning a further three days of strike action this term. The planned dates for these strikes are:

- March 2nd
- March 15th
- March 16th

Please be aware that schools (as employers) are bound by specific rules and regulations surrounding strike action, namely:

- We are not permitted to know in advance the exact number of colleagues who will participate in the industrial action. However, based on the membership information provided to us by the NEU, we know that around 40% of our teaching staff and a relatively small number of our support staff are NEU members and may be on strike. We have been advised to plan on the assumption that all members of the NEU *will* strike. There is no way of guaranteeing that the exact same colleagues who were on strike on February 1st will also be on strike on March 2nd. There may be more, fewer or a different set of individuals.
- We are not permitted to recruit agency staff to cover for those on strike.
- We cannot redistribute the duties of striking colleagues to non-striking colleagues. This includes the supervision of learners and/or preparation of work for learners, either in person or remotely, outside of their normal working terms.

Therefore, having conducted a risk assessment and having consulted with senior colleagues, Local Authority officers and the Governing Body of the school I have, regrettably, concluded that **the school will close to all learners on March 2nd.**

I will make a decision on the other planned strike days at a later date and will inform you at least 7 days in advance of each.

I appreciate that this will be frustrating for you. Hopefully, we will see a fair resolution to this dispute sooner rather than later.

Please see below a reminder of the on-line work which learners can access on that day.

The table below outlines the options available to learners for on-line learning on March 2nd. There is plenty of opportunity here to keep learners busy throughout the day. This corresponds to the regulations to which we are bound and with the approach adopted by most other schools in Cardiff and beyond.

<p>Year 7, 8 & 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to www.mymaths.co.uk (login: whitchurch. Password: identify) • Go to www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z4kw2hv There are lots of Key Stage 3 subject specific learning resources available here. Learners can work through their timetabled subjects for the day via this site. • Access Microsoft Teams and complete any outstanding tasks including, for Year 9, Individual Learning Pathway Plans.
<p>Years 10&11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to www.GCSEpod.com and follow learning resources. Follow these steps to log in if you have forgotten your login details: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. • Go to https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/ This contains past papers, revision tips and new knowledge organisers. • Access Microsoft Teams and complete any outstanding tasks including, for Year 11, Individual Learning Pathway Plans.
<p>Years 12&13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/ This contains past papers, revision tips and new knowledge organisers. • Access Microsoft Teams and complete any outstanding tasks.

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.

6th Form Announcement

All 6th form students **must** wear an item which clearly identifies them as being a member of Whitchurch High School when on the school site. This could be either:

- A lanyard with WHS ID
- A WHS branded casual clothing item such as a sweatshirt
- WHS branded sportswear
- A combination of any of the above

From Monday, February 27th we will adopt an insistent line on this. I would be most grateful for your support.

Learner Support and Feedback

Year 10

Information regarding assessments and exam preparation has been sent to year 10 parents this week.

Year 7

On the evening of the 7th March, we will be holding our Year 7 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 opens at 5pm on Friday 17th February and will close on Monday 6th March at 11.55pm. Information on how to book appointments has also been sent out via InTouch. 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 7 pastoral office or alternatively e-mailing the Year 7 Progress Leader – Miss Taylor at TaylorW@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk or the Year 7 Assistant Progress Leader – Mr Richi at RichiN@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk.

Options and Guidance Process updates

Year 11 options and guidance process

Congratulations to our year 11 students, we were so impressed with them during their interviews this week. A sample of the feedback received from businesses and organisations that supported the event can be seen below.

'I've been really impressed by the students, they have engaged well and have a lot to give.'

'The pupils were very intelligent and polite and generally very impressive and a credit to the school.'

'It was good to hear the children talk so positively about the school and the community here at Whitchurch.'

'Watching students grow under the pressure of an interview and gain valuable experience was such a rewarding experience.'

A reminder that the 6th form application window remains open, with a deadline of the 3rd March. All year 11 students have received an email that explains:

- how to apply for the sixth form at Whitchurch using our online application form: <https://whitchurchhighschool.applicaa.com/sixthform>.
- how to log their year 12 option choice decisions at www.sims-options.co.uk.

Information on how to apply for the sixth form is also available on the admissions section of the school website: <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Admissions/>.

Year 9 options and guidance process

A reminder that all year 9 students will have their one-to-one interview with a senior member of staff during the first week back after half term. These interviews will assist with their option choices and next steps. They will also take part in a Careers Wales workshop on their allocated day.

Free choice figures are currently being analysed to help construct the year 10 option grid. This will be added to the school website on the Monday 27th February

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y10and11SubjectInformation/index.html>.

A copy will also be emailed to students, with a paper copy issued during their interviews.

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 regularly check your personal information for your child in the SIMS Parent App and make any changes necessary.

Have a lovely weekend,



Mark Powell