



December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to update you on the options and guidance process that our year 11 students are following as they make important individual learning pathways decisions over the coming months. If you have not yet viewed the year 11 options launch presentations, they can be found at the following location on the school website:

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

The following timeline provides an overview of the process:

- COMPLETION OF ILPP: September 2023 to April 2024
- YEAR 11 OPTIONS LAUNCH: Week beginning 13th November 2023
- OPTION SUBJECT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE: December 2023
- KEY STAGE 5 SUBJECT OPTION TALKS IN LESSONS AND ASSEMBLY: December 2023 onwards
- SIXTH FORM OPTIONS OPEN EVENING: 18th January 2024
- FREE CHOICE SURVEY: 22nd January – 2nd February 2024 – the decisions made by pupils at this stage are used to help formulate the Sixth form option grid.
- OPTION GRID AVAILABLE: 19th February 2024
- INDIVIDUAL STUDENT INTERVIEWS: 20th, 21st and 22nd February 2024
- SIXTH FORM APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4th March 2024.

All students are in the process of working through their digital Individual Learning Pathway Plans (ILPPs) in their wellbeing sessions on Microsoft Teams. These plans will guide students through the options and guidance process and will support them with learning pathway decisions. It will encourage students to consider careers that interest them and will direct them to places where they can find out more. An overview of the ILPP can be found on the school website:

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/CWRE/>

Teachers have also been discussing the specific content of key stage 5 courses during lessons to help support students with their decisions. Subject specific information is also available on the school website at the following location:

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y12and13SubjectInformation/SubjectChoices.html>.

Further information will be shared in the sixth form open evening from 5pm to 7pm on the 18th January 2024. This will be held on the upper school site and is a great opportunity for students to find out more about subjects that they are interested in following at post 16.

Armed with this information students should be in a position to make their free choice decisions between the 22nd January and the 2nd February. This is an online survey that all year 11 students need to complete, either



selecting the courses they want to follow at Whitchurch in year 12 or letting us know that they do not intend returning to our sixth form. Students will need to log these decisions using the Applicaa portal which will be available on our website. Written instructions can be found in their ILPP and a video explanation can be found on the school website:

<https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Curriculum/Y12and13SubjectInformation/Documents/2023-2024/OptionsguidanceProcess.mp4>

Although these decisions are not final, it is important that they are as accurate as possible, as the totals and priorities of student choices will be used to formulate the final option grid. This ensures that the final option grid provides the highest possible match to student choices to ensure that as many students as possible can follow the courses they have selected.

Those who do not intend returning to the sixth form will still need to complete the free choice survey and indicate that they do not wish to return to Whitchurch. This will allow us to provide targeted advice and guidance on different pathways and support with college/job applications.

You will also notice from the timeline on the previous page that the support and guidance does not stop there. Students will also receive a one to one interview with a senior members of staff to help discuss option choices and individual learning pathways. Careers Wales advisors will also be available on the interview days to support. We will also provide individual employer interviews for all students, with local businesses supporting us. Students will need to bring a completed CV and mock application form with them to these interviews. Templates and advice will be shared with students during their wellbeing sessions to support with the completion of these documents.

A copy of the sixth form entry requirements and student contract can be found on our admissions section of the school website and will be available from the 8th January 2024. These documents also explain how places are allocated on courses: <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/Admissions/index.html>

The digital application form can be accessed by following the Applicaa link from the same section of the website from the 19th February 2024 onwards and will include the final option grid that has been constructed based on free choice decisions. Students will receive an email on the 19th of January from Applicaa with a password which will allow them to access the application form with most aspects pre-populated though our information database.

Whilst students will be able to change their mind following the free choice survey and after application forms are submitted, it is important that the decisions that they make over the coming months are as informed and as accurate as possible to avoid disappointment. With this in mind, we would encourage you to discuss these decisions with your child over the Christmas period and beyond.

WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

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Can we take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us on 02920 629700.

Yours sincerely,

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Assistant Headteacher
Key Stage 4

Lauren Polly
Year 11 Progress Leader

Josh Miller
Year 11 Assistant Progress Leader

Rebecca Dinapoli
Year 11 Pastoral assistant

Jonathan Davies
Assistant Headteacher

Curriculum