



December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to thank you all for your support over a busy Autumn term. Most of our students have continued to work very positively in school and have been involved in lots of activities and events, with a some of the main highlights shared at the end of this letter ¹.

We are impressed with the standard of uniform and punctuality across many of our learners. As always, we really appreciate your support in reinforcing our standards, including the importance of arriving on time and in the correct uniform. Guidance in relation to uniform is available on our school website [School Uniform - Whitchurch High School](#) . All students should be on site no later than 8:35am ready to start learning promptly at 8.40.

Please could we politely remind parents/carers that they should not arrive on the school site without an appointment. This is an important aspect of our safeguarding procedure. To ensure the safety of all our pupils please could we also remind parents parents/carers that they should not drop off children at the lower school site Manor Way gates.

The Autumn term will officially end at 1pm on Thursday 19th December 2024 as Friday 20th December is an inset day and the school will be closed to students. Please be advised that the school day on the 19th December is shown below and will finish at 1 pm. For those students who wish to remain in school until 3pm, senior staff will be available to supervise.

	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			
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			

We would like to wish everyone in the Whitchurch High School community an enjoyable winter break. We look forward to seeing all our students on Monday January 6th (week B).

Kind regards/Cofion cynnes

C Garland

Ceri Garland
Deputy Headteacher



¹Whitchurch High School News Highlights – Autumn Term 2024

As the autumn term draws to a close, we reflect on the many achievements and inspiring activities that have highlighted the talent, dedication, and community spirit of Whitchurch High School students and staff.

Academic and Educational Opportunities

- **National Museum Cardiff Visit:** Year 12 students explored Welsh biodiversity and learned about the National Museum Cardiff's vital role in preserving our natural heritage. This hands-on experience deepened their appreciation for science and conservation.
- **TeenTech Festival 2024:** Twenty SEREN pupils attended this inspiring event in Cardiff, engaging in STEM workshops, solving real-world challenges, and gaining insights into cutting-edge industries.
- **Year 7 STEM Showcase event:** In October, all year 7 students had the opportunity to experience first-hand opportunities with local employers within the Science, Technology, English and Maths sectors to enhance their Careers and Work-Related Experiences.

Sporting Success

- **Special Olympics Achievement:** Ty Calon student Esme excelled at her first Special Olympics Regional Badminton competition in Derby, earning medals in ladies' singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.
- **Football Signing:** Year 7 student Ashton signed for Bristol City FC, a fantastic accomplishment that highlights his dedication and talent in the sport.
- **Squash Champion:** Year 8 student Jacob Green achieved a remarkable win at the Karakal South Wales Squash Junior event after competing in the British Junior Squash Championship.
- **Karate Excellence:** Nephele Metsiou from Year 8 showcased her talent at the Japanese Karate Shoto Nationals, earning an impressive victory.

Cultural and Community Engagement

- **Remembrance Sunday:** Our lead students represented Whitchurch High School with pride, laying a wreath at the Whitchurch Cenotaph in tribute to those who served.
- **Welsh Rugby Union Visit:** Our New Zealand exchange students and their hosts met alumnus Christ Tshiunza and coach Warren Gatland at the WRU camp, gaining a unique insight into professional rugby.
- **Welsh Blood Service Support:** Students and staff demonstrated their commitment to saving lives by donating blood in partnership with the Welsh Blood Service.
- **Women in innovation Award:** In November, we were delighted to welcome back Becky Cotton, an alumnus of the school who won the Women In Innovation Award UK 2023 from Innovate UK. Becky donated her plaque to the school to inspire other young women in



entrepreneurial activities within STEM subjects. It is hoped that her award will serve as inspiration for others to become trailblazing entrepreneurs of the future.

Creative and Festive Highlights

- **33rd Young Playwrights' Festival:** Year 7 to 9 pupils dazzled audiences with nine original plays, directed by A Level Drama students and supported by an expanding backstage crew.
- **Llandaff Cathedral Christmas Service:** Our choirs, orchestra, and student readers delivered a stunning celebration in the annual Christmas Service, bringing festive cheer to a full congregation.
- **Common Room Transformation:** Sixth Form lead students decorated the common room for Christmas, with a special thanks to Express Steel & Fabrication Ltd for donating a beautiful tree.

Celebrating Our Values

The achievements and events of this term reflect our school's commitment to excellence, creativity, and community involvement. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff and thank parents, carers and supporters for playing a vital role in making this term so successful.

Please check out our social media accounts for the latest news and events:

Facebook



X



Instagram



Threads

