



October/Hydref 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to thank you all for your support over a very busy first half term here at Whitchurch High School. We have been impressed by the way our students have settled back into the school year and how they have taken advantage of the many opportunities on offer both inside and outside of the classroom. There has been so much to share and celebrate already and we look forward to working in partnership with you for the remainder of the year, supporting students with the next stage of their education and helping them to get to where they want to in life. We aim to capture many of the highlights from the school year on the home page of our website, with a snapshot of the main highlights at the at the end of this letter².

We are also impressed with the standard of uniform and punctuality across the majority of our learners. They are arriving ready to learn and are contributing well in lessons. 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.

We recognise that uniform and school essentials can be costly and we would remind all parents and carers that the Welsh Government do provide funding to support with this, along with support with meals in school. Information on the support available and links to the relevant pages can be seen at the end of this letter¹. We also encourage uniform to be recycled and run a scheme in school whereby uniform no longer needed can be returned to school. This is then redistributed to any parents/carers that have contacted the school to request support.

A reminder that main communications from school will be sent via email. The email address any main communications relating to the school will come from is Whitchurch High School 6815403@sims-communications.co.uk. If you are not receiving communications, could you please check your spam/junk folder in the first instance and also check that the school has accurate and up to date contact details. These can be amended on the SIMS Parent App or parents/carers can contact the relevant progress team. If you are still not receiving communications, please contact the school for support.

When communicating with the school, whether it be leaving a message or sending an email to whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk, please can you advise of the full name and form of your child. Please could we also politely remind parents/carers that they should not arrive on the school site without an appointment as this is an important aspect of our safeguarding procedure.



To keep up to date on all that is going on within our school community, we would encourage you to use our school website - <https://www.whitchurchhs.wales/>. This has been updated with the following information:

- **Latest news** – keep up to date with information on individual and collective successes along with articles capturing school-based activities and events.
- **Key information Noticeboard** – This contains important information relating to school life. Communications that have been shared with parents/carers are stored here.
- **School Calendar** – Upcoming dates and key events for the year ahead. A short overview is contained on the home page, along with a calendar for the full year via the link. This calendar is also updated during the academic year when key dates are confirmed.
- **Curriculum** – The Curriculum tab at the top of the home page contains information about assessment at Whitchurch, careers and work-related experiences, individual learning pathway plans for students, exam information and information relating to the curriculum followed in years 10-11 and in the sixth form. The curriculum based information is updated throughout the year as we move through the options and guidance process. Curriculum maps, providing an overview of the work and topics that students will be covering each term can also be accessed through the curriculum overview section, or by following this link - [CurriculumOverviewMap.pdf](#). The curriculum maps are updated termly.

Can we thank you once again for your support and wish you and our students an enjoyable half term break. We look forward to seeing all our students on Monday November 4th on a week A.

Kind regards/ Cofion cynnes

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Ceri Garlant
Deputy Headteacher/ Dirprwy Bennaeth

¹ There are two types of support your child might be eligible for. [Get help with school costs | GOV.WALES](#) Don't miss out on Free School Meals as these can help promote healthy eating and increase the variety of food your child might eat. If you receive certain benefits, or your circumstances have changed, check if you're eligible through [Financial support](#). The form is short and only takes a few minutes to complete. If your child already gets Free School Meals, there could be up to £200 of additional help available per child through the School Essentials Grant, plus extra funding for your school. The School Essentials Grant helps with the costs of School Essentials like uniforms and equipment to make sure they are ready for the school day. Please note, if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, you will still need to apply separately for the School Essentials Grant to access all of the funding available.



2 Whitchurch High School - Term Highlights Newsletter

As we approach the end of the term, Whitchurch High School is proud to reflect on the numerous activities and achievements of our students. It's been an exciting few months filled with learning, exploration, and personal growth. Here are some of the key highlights we are thrilled to share with our school community.

DofE Wales Silver Expedition – Glyncorrwg Two Year 11 groups embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expedition in Glyncorrwg. Over the weekend, the students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience, and navigation skills as they tackled challenging terrain in South Wales. Their dedication and perseverance were remarkable, and they returned with a great sense of accomplishment and stories of adventure.

European Day of Languages Celebration Our Languages faculty hosted a fantastic European Day of Languages, celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity. Students participated in a variety of engaging activities designed to promote the importance of language learning and to encourage lifelong enthusiasm for other cultures. From interactive language workshops to cultural food tastings, it was a vibrant and enriching experience for all involved.

A-Level Biology Trip to Bannau Brycheiniog A group of A-Level Biology students spent the day at Garwnant in Bannau Brycheiniog, where they participated in kick sampling, a vital ecological technique for studying freshwater habitats. Students enjoyed hands-on learning while assessing biodiversity in local streams, gaining practical experience in a beautiful natural setting. It was an unforgettable day that deepened their understanding of ecology.

International Rugby Exchange Students We are delighted to welcome four talented young rugby players from New Zealand: Hugo and Jack from Nelson College, and Austin and Harvey from Wairarapa College. These students have joined us for three months to study and participate in our rugby academy. We are excited to see them in action both in the classroom and on the field and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our school community.

Harvey Marshall Shines with Welsh National Opera Year 9 student Harvey Marshall delivered an impressive performance with the Welsh National Opera in their production of *Il Trittico* at the Wales Millennium Centre. Harvey's dedication to his craft and his incredible talent make us incredibly proud, and we are excited to see what the future holds for him in the world of performing arts.



Shwmae Day Celebrations Our Languages faculty once again brought the school together to celebrate Welsh language and culture on Shwmae Day. Students participated in traditional Welsh games, competitions, and taste-testing of local foods, all while promoting the use of the Welsh language. It was a day filled with fun and pride as we celebrated our Welsh heritage.

Gymnastics Victory for Jessica Williams A huge congratulations to Year 7 student Jessica Williams, who competed at the Welsh Gymnastics final. Jessica took 1st place on bars and helped her team, South East Wales, secure the overall top spot by placing 4th in the individual competition. We are incredibly proud of her hard work and dedication to gymnastics.

Arabella Hindle Receives Rotary Young Leaders Award Year 13 student Arabella Hindle was honoured with the prestigious Rotary Young Leaders Award, sponsored by Cardiff Rotary Club. She spent four days in the Brecon Beacons, participating in leadership training through outdoor activities. Arabella developed her leadership, teamwork, and communication skills during this challenging yet rewarding experience. Well done, Arabella!

STEM Showcase for Year 7 Year 7 students were treated to an exciting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) showcase organised by the school. With fifteen employers participating, students were able to explore a wide range of practical and interactive activities. Highlights included the University of South Wales demonstrating how to detect corrosion in aircraft wings, Renishaw showcasing their advanced 3D printing technology used in Olympic track bikes, and Pepper Money introducing students to real-world budgeting skills. The Royal Navy also impressed with a gas turbine simulation, offering a hands-on experience with naval machinery. The showcase ignited curiosity and encouraged many students to consider future careers in STEM fields.

We are immensely proud of all our students' achievements this term and look forward to more exciting developments next term. Thank you to the staff, parents/carers and wider community for their continued support in making these experiences possible.