



July/Gorffennaf 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As the academic year draws to a close, we are proud to reflect on a term marked by student achievement, creativity, and community engagement. Among the many highlights, Year 10 pupils collaborated with Hyb yr Eglwys Newydd to produce poetry for Ageism Awareness Week. Our Sixth Form Culture Day and the *Words That Burn* project celebrated diversity and human rights through creative expression. Students also engaged in careers and vocational learning, including professional talks, a visit to Cardiff Crown Court, and a catering masterclass with Coleg y Cymoedd. Sporting success was another standout, with three football teams crowned national champions and several students achieving international recognition.

We ended the term by celebrating positive learning behaviours and saying farewell to our Year 11 and 13 students—fitting tributes to a year of hard work, resilience, and community spirit. A snapshot of the events that have taken place can be found here [Whitchurch High School](#)

### **Free School Meals**

Children whose families are on lower incomes and qualify for certain benefits can apply for free school meals. Further information together with a link to the application process can be found here:

[Free school meals](#)

As the applying parent or carer, you must be receiving one of the following:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (income based)
- Employment Support Allowance (income related)
- Child Tax Credit, with a household income of £16,190 or less
- Pension Credit (guarantee element)
- Universal Credit with net household earnings of less than £7,400

\*Families who receive Working Tax Credit do not qualify

### **School Essentials Grant**

Children whose families are on lower incomes and qualify for certain benefits can also apply for a grant of £125 per learner or £200 for learners entering year 7 (to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school). All compulsory school years from reception to year 11 are now eligible.

All looked after children qualify for the grant, whether they receive free school meals or not. Learners who receive free school meals due to transitional protection arrangements do not qualify. The grant can be spent on:

- School uniform including coats and shoes;



- School sports kit including footwear;
- IT equipment: laptop and tablets ONLY (School Essentials should only be used in limited situations where a school is unable to loan equipment to the family);
- Uniform for enrichment activities, including but not limited to: scouts; guides; cadets; martial arts; sports; performing arts, or dance;
- Equipment - for example, school bags and stationery;
- Specialist equipment where new curriculum activities begin such as design and technology;
- Equipment for out-of-school hours trips such as outdoor learning - for example, waterproofs

Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year. As the applying parent or carer, you must be receiving one of the following:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (income based)
- Employment Support Allowance (income related)
- Child Tax Credit, with a household income of £16,190 or less
- Pension Credit (guarantee element)
- Universal Credit with net household earnings of less than £7,400

The 2025 to 2026 scheme is now open. Please click on the link below to access the application form. <https://www.cardiffcouncilforms.co.uk/article/1544>

Information about term dates, INSET days (NB. these may be subject to change) and the return to school arrangements has been shared previously and can also be found on our website in the 'Key Information Notice Board' [Whitchurch High School](#). **Please note that there was a typing error in the term dates shared, the Summer Term 2026 starts on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.** All other dates for the academic year ahead can be found on our school calendar which is also available on our website at [School Calendar - Whitchurch High School \(whitchurchhs.wales\)](#).

Students who wish to remain in school until 3pm on the last day of term (**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**) will be supervised by staff. Please email us at [whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto:whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk) if your child wishes to remain in school until then.

We hope everyone in the Whitchurch High School community enjoys the holiday period ahead and wish all our students who are receiving exam results the very best of luck. We look forward to seeing all our students again in September.

Kind regards/ Cofion cynnes

*C Garland*

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Deputy Headteacher/ Dirprwy Bennaet