



September/Medi 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to welcome you to the start of the new academic year. It has been lovely to see all the students arriving in school this week ready for the new year ahead. A particular welcome to all the new students starting with us for the first time in years 7 and 12.

A reminder that information regarding important dates for the academic year ahead can be found on our school calendar which is available on our website at [School Calendar - Whitchurch High School \(whitchurchhs.wales\)](https://www.whitchurchhs.wales). The first lesson of the school day starts promptly at 8:40am and all pupils should be on site no later than 8:35am ready to start learning promptly. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many of our students arriving in high standards of uniform and with the correct equipment and we thank you for your support with this. Should you need further guidance with regard to uniform it can be found on our school website [School Uniform - Whitchurch High School \(whitchurchhs.wales\)](https://www.whitchurchhs.wales).

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, but many parents/carers have not claimed the help available to them. There are two types of support your child might be eligible for. 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 \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk). 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.

Following feedback from parents during our recent parent/carers survey and issues identified when using the app, for consistency and to ensure messages get through to everyone, moving forward communications will only 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](mailto:6815403@sims-communications.co.uk). We would therefore ask all parents/carers to ensure that you can access this letter from your email account. We would advise checking junk mail if there is an issue as we often hear from parents/carers that messages default to their junk mail folder. Please could you also ensure that accurate contact details have been provided to the school. These can be amended on the SIMS Parent App or parents/carers can contact the relevant progress team.

## WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2XJ

Headteacher Nick John



## YSGOL UWCHRADDYR EGLWYS NEWYDD

Penlline Road, Yr Eglwys Newydd, Caerdydd CF14 2XJ

Telephone: 029 2062 9700

e-mail: [whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto:whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk)

When communicating with the school, whether it be leaving a message or sending an email to [whs@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk](mailto: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 with important information and all the latest news relating to the school please visit our website at [Whitchurch High School \(whitchurchhs.wales\)](http://Whitchurch High School (whitchurchhs.wales))

We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you over the coming year to support your child to achieve their potential.

Kind regards/ Cofion cynnes

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Ceri Garland

Deputy Headteacher/ Dirprwy Bennaeth