



☀️ **Reflecting on Another Successful Whitchurch Year – July/Gorffennaf 2026** ☀️

Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful academic year, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Whitchurch High School.

This term has provided many opportunities for our pupils to learn, achieve and grow beyond the classroom. Pupils have taken part in university visits, educational trips, careers events, STEM challenges, sporting competitions and community projects, while others have represented the school at regional, national and international level. Whether working with employers, visiting universities, competing in national competitions or contributing to projects within the local community, our pupils have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm, ambition and a willingness to embrace new opportunities.

We have also celebrated a number of important milestones as a school. Achieving the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award and being recognised as a Thrive Approach School reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every young person feels supported, included and able to achieve their potential.

The end of the academic year provides an opportunity to reflect on how much our pupils achieve both inside and outside the classroom. While it would be impossible to include every success in a single letter, we are incredibly proud of all that they have accomplished this year and grateful to our staff, families and wider community for the support they continue to provide.

Whilst reflecting on the year's successes, I would also like to take this opportunity to share some important information and reminders that may be helpful to families as we head into the summer break and prepare for the new academic year.

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 the increased costs associated with starting secondary school. All compulsory school years from Reception to Year 11 are 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, including laptops and tablets
- Uniform for enrichment activities such as Scouts, Guides, Cadets, martial arts, sports, performing arts or dance
- School bags and stationery
- Specialist equipment for curriculum activities
- Equipment for outdoor learning and educational visits

Families are entitled to claim once per child, per school year. As the applying parent or carer, you must meet the same eligibility criteria outlined above for free school meals.

The 2026-2027 scheme is now open, and applications can be made via the Cardiff Council website via this link: [School Essentials Grant](#)

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I would also like to remind families of some important dates. As previously communicated, the final day of term is **Friday 17th July**, with students finishing at the usual time of **3.00pm**.

Please also remember that **Tuesday 1st September** and **Wednesday 2nd September** are INSET days and the school will be closed to pupils. Pupils will begin returning from **Thursday 3rd September**, with staggered arrangements in place for different year groups. Full details of return arrangements, term dates and key dates for the year ahead can be found in my previous correspondence and on the [School Website](#).

As schools across Wales prepare for the summer holiday, we are also keen to ensure that families are aware of the support available should they need it. We recognise that the summer holidays can bring different experiences for different families, and a range of wellbeing and community support resources are available through **DARPL (Diversity and Anti-Racist Professional Learning)**. These include links to organisations such as [Mind](#), [Hub of Hope](#), [Stop Hate UK](#), [Tell MAMA](#) and [Wales Hate Crime Support](#).

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils grow, achieve and contribute so much to school life. We wish all pupils receiving examination results during the summer the very best of luck. **A Level Results Day** is on **Thursday 13th August** and **GCSE Results Day** on **Thursday 20th August**. Families of pupils collecting exam results will recently have received a separate communication from Mr Farrow outlining arrangements for results collection and Sixth Form enrolment.

We hope that all members of our community enjoy a safe, restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming pupils back in September.

Kind regards

Mrs. Emma Aston

Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development and Community Engagement)