WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2XJ
Headteacher Nick John

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November/Tachwedd 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after half term. Before we look ahead to the busy weeks leading up to Christmas, we wanted to share some of the achievements and experiences our pupils have enjoyed in recent months. There is plenty to celebrate, alongside a few dates and updates to help you plan for the rest of term.

Celebrating our pupils

Representing Wales. Katy, Poppy and Daisy represented Wales in beach volleyball, with Nia supporting the event behind the scenes. Esme, a Year 11 pupil in Ty Calon, also represented Team Wales at the Special Olympics National Games, winning two gold medals and a bronze in badminton.

Making a difference. Leo showed excellent awareness when he spotted two boys stranded on Sully Island and immediately alerted his father. His actions helped them to be rescued safely by the lifeguard team, who later recognised his contribution with a certificate.

Learning beyond the classroom. Our Year 9 Form Representatives visited Cardiff University to learn about the School Health Research Network and its work to improve young people's health and wellbeing. They also toured the campus and explored how artificial intelligence can support learning.

Developing our young leaders. A group of Year 12 pupils completed peer mentor training to support younger pupils beginning their GCSE journey. We also celebrated Pearl's Rotary Youth Leadership Award and heard about the fundraising undertaken by our Interact Club, led by presidents Fatma and Porshad.

Connecting with others. We welcomed four exchange students from New Zealand through a programme linked to A Levels and our Rugby Academy. Our European Day of Languages celebrations also gave pupils opportunities to explore different languages and cultures through quizzes and interactive challenges.

These are just a few recent highlights. Please keep an eye on our website and social media pages for more stories from across the school.

Supporting our school and wider community

We welcome parents and carers onto the school site to support our pupils at sports matches. To allow pupils to leave safely at the end of the school day, please **do not** enter the site **before 3:15pm**, whether on foot or by vehicle. Please also note that after-school training sessions are not open to spectators.

Thank you for supporting this year's **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**. As shared in our recent email and on social media, families who wish to contribute can make a voluntary donation of **£1 to £20 through ParentPay**. Pupils can collect a poppy from the main office on either school site while stocks last.

We are also pleased to welcome the **Welsh Blood Service** back for our sixth school Blood Donor Day on **Thursday 26th November**. Eligible sixth form students and staff have been invited to book appointments. Thank you to everyone taking part and supporting this important community event.

Year 9 and Year 11 options

This term sees the launch of the options process for pupils in Years 9 and 11. Parents and carers of pupils in these year groups will receive detailed emails explaining the process in due course. Please keep an eye on your inbox for this information.

School day reminders

Thank you for helping your child arrive ready to learn each morning. Pupils should be on site by **8:35am**, ready for learning to begin at **8:40am**, and wearing the correct school uniform. You can find the full guidance on our website: School Uniform.

We know that uniform, equipment and school meals can put pressure on family budgets.

Your family may be eligible for support with school meals, uniform and equipment. Visit Get help with school costs | GOV.WALES and Cardiff Council's Financial support page to check the current eligibility criteria and application arrangements for Free School Meals and the School Essentials Grant.

Attendance matters

Whitchurch High School remains committed to ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in supporting academic progress, wellbeing and a sense of belonging.

We would like to remind all families that pupils are expected to attend school every day unless they are unable to do so due to illness or exceptional circumstances. Even occasional absences can mean pupils miss important learning, key information and valuable opportunities to take part in school life.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, it is essential that you contact the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence to inform us of the reason. Prompt communication allows us to provide appropriate support where needed.

If we do not receive notification of an absence, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised, and the school will follow up in line with our attendance procedures.

Keeping in touch

We encourage all parents and carers to download and regularly use the **Arbor Parent App** to help stay connected with school. If you have not yet accessed your account or need help getting started, please contact your child's Progress Team.

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Key dates for your diary

Date and time	Event and details
Wednesday 11th November, 6:30pm	**Performing Arts Autumn Showcase** Dutch Barn, Lower School.
Friday 13th November	**INSET Day** School will be **closed** to pupils.
Wednesday 25th November	**Year 8 Parent/Carer Engagement Evening** Please note that this is a change from the originally published date.
Thursday 26th November	**WHS Blood Donor Day** We will welcome the Welsh Blood Service to the Upper School Main Hall. Further details are included above.
Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December	**Young Playwrights' Festival**
Wednesday 16th December, 7:00pm	**Carol Service** Llandaff Cathedral.
Friday 18th December	**The last day of term**

Thank you for your continued support as we put 'Learning for Life' into practice, helping every pupil succeed in school and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

Kind regards / Cofion cynnes,

Mrs Emma Aston

Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development and Community Engagement)