



Cardiff High School Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth
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Dear Parent/Carer,

We were pleased to be able to welcome Year 10 back to school this week and to see that, on the whole, they are focused and ready to learn. With just over two weeks remaining of this term, we are keen to foster a tone of hard work and positive attitudes towards learning.

Covid-19 Update

Use of face coverings in school: Update to Welsh Government guidance

The Welsh Government has updated its operational guidance on the use of face coverings in schools and colleges and we wanted to alert you to this.

The guidance now states that face coverings should be worn:

- in all areas outside the classroom by learners in secondary schools and colleges
- on dedicated school and college transport for learners in year 7 and up
- by visitors to all schools and colleges, including parents and carers picking up and collecting children

The move follows the publication of SAGE evidence and [a recent TAG report](#).

We remain very pleased that pupils now routinely wear their face coverings in communal areas of the school.

We have worked very hard, since the start of term, to ensure that our canteen provision has been available for all pupils each day, twice a day and a wide range of hot and cold meals have been offered. This has not been the case in all schools in Wales. In order to comply with regulations stipulated by Public Health Wales, we have introduced split lunch times and designated areas for each year group.

An additional mitigation measure has been to ensure that seats, in the canteen, are arranged so that they are facing in one direction in a bit to minimise the likelihood of aerosol transmission. Please can we encourage you to remind your child of the rationale behind this decision.

Please may we politely request that you check that your child's Parent Pay account has sufficient funds for the next few weeks. As we head towards the end of term, a number of pupils have very little credit on their account and, in some instances, no credit at all.

We recognise that these may be financially challenging times for a number of families. Should you require any assistance in applying for free school meals, please contact Sarah Young who will be happy to help. Youngs11@hwbcymru.net

Public Examination Update

On Tuesday, Qualifications Wales provided further clarification about the January exam series and also about Non Examined Assessments (also referred to as NEAs or coursework). The announcement was as follows:-

Following the Minister for Education's policy decision to cancel GCSEs, AS and A levels exams in summer 2021 we have continued to engage with a range of stakeholders to inform our thinking. We have discussed January exams and NEA with the Design and Delivery Advisory Group and our decisions are in line with the views expressed in this group. I can announce the decision on the way forward for January exams and NEA is:

1. Non examination assessments (NEA) will continue to be included and form part of the assessment model for GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020-2021.
2. The January exam series – Unit assessments for GCSE Welsh Literature, English Literature and ICT have been cancelled.

[Qualifications Wales letter 24th November 2020]

For our GCSE AS and A2 students, this confirms that any coursework they are working on will still contribute to their grades for next year. The other decision only affects our Year 10 students who were due to sit the English Literature exam in January. We would like to reassure you that Year 10 will still continue to study the module (Of Mice and Men and Unseen Poetry) in class. At the end of January, there will be an opportunity for them to complete an in-class mock examination paper of this module, which will provide them with invaluable feedback. As this is a module worth 35% of the whole two-year GCSE then there will be no Centre Assessed Grade for the module. Instead, we shall revisit this topic during Year 11 when the pupils can complete the external examination.

End of Term Arrangements

Whilst we are aware that decisions surrounding Welsh Government's response to the latest pandemic statistics have not yet been announced, we would like to remind you of our current arrangements. Should these change in any way, we will, of course, update you. In the meanwhile, pupils' last day will be **Wednesday 16th December** and learners will be dismissed in a phased manner as follows:

Year 7 - 12.20pm

Year 8 - 12.30pm

Remainder of pupils - 12.40pm

Pupils are welcome to wear Christmas Jumpers on the final day and will be asked for a contribution of £1. The donations will be shared between our two charities, **Children In Need, The Kids Cancer Charity** and **AP Cymru**.

School Uniform


As the weather has certainly become colder of late, and windows remain open for ventilation, we wanted to remind you of the fact that pupils will benefit from the wearing of layers in the classrooms. We would, therefore, encourage learners to wear a school jumper and blazer. Hoodies are not permitted.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Finally, I would like to share with you the enormous sense of pride that I felt this week as I toured the school at the end of the day. Over 200 of our learners were involved in a huge range of activities on one evening alone. This included sporting activities, music rehearsals, Warhammer club and Philosophers' Café. Of course, the menu of activities is even wider than this snapshot of one evening. I am incredibly grateful to staff who, despite the enormous challenges posed by this pandemic, give of their time so readily for the benefit of our pupils.

Please continue to use our website and follow our Twitter page for further updates and information.

Yours sincerely



S M JONES

Headteacher