



# Cardiff High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth  
Mr S M Jones

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another half term, I want to express my thanks for your continued support. The school was able to formally celebrate with pupils in both Y11 and Y13 at their final leaver's assemblies last week; it was a joy to celebrate their effort, determination and successes over their time at Cardiff High School both inside and outside of the classroom. Formal external examinations have now commenced for pupils in Years 10 – 13 and I wish them all the best of luck in the coming weeks. I am sure that their efforts, hard work, and resilience will pay off.

I also want to highlight the remarkable achievements of pupils who have represented the school over the last few weeks in a range of extra-curricular activities. Some notable achievements include 20 dancers who competed in the South West regional heat of the "Great Big Dance Off" who placed within the top 10 of all competing teams. A team of lower school mathematicians from Y8 & Y9 competed in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge and won for the second year in a row. I wish them pob lwc in the UK finals later this year in Manchester. In the sporting arena, a number of CHS teams have triumphed in a range of events and competitions. The U15 cricket team are through to the quarter finals of the ESCA British cup; the Y7 girls rugby team managed to get all the way to the plate quarters at the Urdd tournament whilst the Y10 boys' team were U15 Champions in the Y10 Urdd National Plate competition; the Y8 boys football team are county champions and both Y7 & Senior boys are runners-up. In Welsh, a number of pupils from Y7 – Y11 have had remarkable success in the national Urdd competitions with some of our sixth form students having a clean sweep taking first, second and third places.

And finally, Drama students from Years 7-9 who successfully performed "Cloudbusting" at the Sherman Theatre were talent scouted by a National Theatre director who watched the performance! The group have now been invited to perform at the Lowry, in Salford, as part of the National Theatre 2026 Connections Summer Festival this summer, which is an amazing achievement and accolade for the school. Well done and Llongyfarchiadau to all pupils involved! I look forward to sharing with you more widely the full range of successes and activities, both inside and outside of school that pupils have engaged in across all department areas in the Summer Newsletter which will be available at the end of the summer term.

I also write to inform you of a change to our mobile phone policy from September 2026. Thank you to the large number of parents and carers who shared their views with us.

Following a full stakeholder review of our existing school policy on mobile phones, which included consultation with parents and carers, school teaching and non-teaching staff, school governors and of course the pupils themselves, we will be introducing changes to this policy.

Throughout the consultation, a clear message emerged: while mobile phones have their place in modern life, their presence in school can significantly disrupt learning, affect student wellbeing, and contribute to issues around social interaction and online behaviour. Stakeholders overwhelmingly requested a more consistent and robust approach to managing mobile phone use on site.

After careful consideration, the school will implement the following policy for all pupils from September:

- Students must not use or display mobile phones at any point during the school day, including break and lunch times.

- Phones must be stored in bags from the moment students enter the school grounds until they leave at the end of the day.
- Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and securely stored. The phone will then be returned to pupils at the end of the school day. Our behaviour policy and systems will be updated in light of this policy change.
- Students who need to contact home during the day may do so via the school office, and parents can make contact with pupils in an emergency in the same way.

This decision is rooted in our commitment to creating a calm, focused, and safe learning environment. Widespread research, as well as other schools, both locally and nationally that have introduced similar policies, report improvements in concentration, reduced incidents of online conflict spilling into school, and more positive social interactions among students. We believe these benefits will be valuable to our school community.

We recognise that mobile phones are an important part of family life, particularly for travel and safety before and after school. This policy does not prevent students from carrying a phone with them for those purposes; it simply ensures that learning time remains free from unnecessary distractions.

Exceptions and alternative arrangements will be put in place for specific individual pupils on a case-by-case basis where linked to medical or other significant safeguarding needs. I would also like to clarify that students in the Sixth Form will also have exemptions. During the consultation, it was widely recognised that our older students demonstrate a higher level of maturity and personal responsibility, and often rely on their phones for independent study and travel arrangements. Sixth Formers will therefore continue to be permitted to use their phones within our Sixth Form Centre and designated study areas only, provided this does not disrupt learning or the wider school environment. Expectations for appropriate use will be reinforced with them directly.

Over the remaining weeks of this academic year, we will share further guidance with students and provide opportunities for them to ask questions and understand the expectations clearly. A mobile phone usage policy will be developed in readiness for September and will be shared on our school website. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. The school really values your help and cooperation in helping us provide the best possible provision and standards for our community.

And finally, looking ahead to the summer I wish to inform you that it is proposed that school will close slightly earlier on the final day of term at 2pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. The school can make arrangements for pupils to remain on site until the usual finish time of 3.10pm should this be necessary. Should you have any questions then please contact [ONeilN6@hwbcymru.net](mailto:ONeilN6@hwbcymru.net)

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Thompson

Acting Headteacher