



Cardiff High School Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth
Mr S M Jones

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of this term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share some important updates from school.

I am delighted to report that the academic year has started very positively. Pupils have settled exceptionally well into their new year groups, attendance has been strong, and students have adapted quickly and effectively to new routines and expectations. Across the school, there is a calm, purposeful atmosphere, and it has been wonderful to see pupils engaging positively in their learning, extra-curricular activities and wider school life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support in helping us maintain the high standards and expectations that contribute so much to the success of our school. We have seen strong attendance and punctuality across the school, and I am grateful for your support in ensuring that pupils arrive on time and ready to learn each day. Could I kindly ask for your continued assistance in upholding our expectations around school uniform, particularly our focus on pupils wearing their blazers and ensuring that skirts are of an appropriate length. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the positive support we have received for our new mobile phone-free school policy. The benefits of this change are already becoming evident through improved focus in lessons, increased social interaction and a positive school culture.

By continuing to work collaboratively together and maintaining these high standards, we can ensure that every pupil is fully prepared to learn, achieve and thrive, and so to support this we have introduced three new school values which will underpin everything we do as a school community: **Ambition, Belonging and Curiosity.**

Over recent weeks, I have spoken to all year groups in assembly about these values and what they mean for our school. We want every pupil to be ambitious for their future, setting high standards for themselves, embracing opportunities and believing that they can achieve great things. We want every member of our community to feel that they belong, knowing they are valued, respected and an important part of our inclusive school. We also want our pupils to remain curious learners, asking questions, exploring new ideas and engaging actively in their studies. We believe these values will support our young people to flourish both academically and personally.

This focus on ambition, belonging and curiosity is about much more than academic success. It reflects our commitment to developing confident, resilient and well-supported young people who are able to thrive both in school and beyond. To further strengthen this commitment, I am delighted to share an exciting development in our provision for pupil wellbeing and inclusion.

This term, we have rebranded and expanded our nurture facility into a new **Inclusion Hub**, providing a more comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to supporting pupils' wellbeing, engagement and success in school. The Inclusion Hub brings together a range of targeted interventions and support services to ensure that pupils receive the right support at the right time. As part of this development, we have also launched **Connect**, a new Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) provision designed to support pupils who may be experiencing

barriers to attendance linked to anxiety and emotional wellbeing. These developments reflect our commitment to ensuring that every pupil feels safe, supported and able to succeed.

Alongside these developments, we continue to place a strong emphasis on pupil voice, wellbeing and safeguarding. I would therefore like to remind pupils and families about our **Talk to Me** email service, information about this service can be found in the student planners. This confidential system provides students with a safe and accessible way to raise concerns, seek support or alert staff to issues affecting themselves or others. We encourage pupils to make use of this valuable resource whenever they need guidance, reassurance or support.

Just as pupil voice is central to shaping our school, the views of parents and carers are equally important. I am therefore pleased to announce plans to establish a new **Parent Stakeholder Group**. The group will bring together parent and carer representatives from each year group to work collaboratively with myself and senior leaders. Through regular meetings, members will have the opportunity to share views and feedback, discuss key school developments, help shape future provision and contribute to the ongoing improvement of our school. We greatly value the perspectives of our families and believe that working together in this way will further strengthen the partnership between home and school. Further information about how parents and carers can express an interest in joining the group will be shared shortly.

Before half term, we will be conducting both a fire drill and a lockdown practice. These are routine procedures that schools regularly undertake to ensure that pupils and staff know how to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency. These drills are purely precautionary, and there is no cause for concern. No action is required from parents and carers, but we wanted to make you aware that these exercises will take place during the school day.

Finally, I would like to remind pupils of the importance of bringing their school planner to school every day and using it effectively. The planner is an important tool that helps pupils organise their work, manage deadlines and develop good study habits. It will also be used consistently by teachers to ensure homework is recorded accurately and that communication regarding learning remains clear and effective. Your support in encouraging this daily routine is greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. It has been an extremely encouraging start to the year, and I am very proud of the positive attitude, maturity and commitment shown by our pupils. As we move through the remainder of the term, we will continue to champion our values of Ambition, Belonging and Curiosity, working together to ensure that every young person feels supported, inspired and empowered to achieve their very best. I look forward to continuing our partnership with you and building on the positive momentum we have established this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Thompson