Cardiff High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth
Mr S M Jones

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils, staff, and families for the positive start that has been made to the academic year.

It has been a highly successful half term, with pupils demonstrating excellent engagement in lessons and a fantastic attitude towards their learning. Classrooms have been purposeful, focused and productive, and it has been wonderful to see pupils embracing the opportunities available to them both inside and outside of the classroom. I would also like to commend our pupils for the maturity, resilience and enthusiasm they have shown since the start of term.

I am delighted to report that attendance across the school has also been very positive. Regular attendance remains one of the most important factors in ensuring academic success, and I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support in helping pupils attend school every day and arrive ready to learn.

Following feedback from our pupils, we have recently launched pupil access to Arbor, our school information management system. Pupils are now able to access their own accounts, allowing them to view their attendance, monitor their rewards and merits, and keep track of behaviour points. In addition, all homework tasks will also begin to be assigned on Arbor as recommended by our pupil stakeholder group who have been reviewing our school homework provision. We hope this will encourage pupils to take even greater ownership of their organisation, engagement, progress and contribution to school life. Furthermore, following an investment in our site security systems and IT infrastructure, all pupil cards will be re-programmed over the half-term break to allow them access to all external doors at the school and toilet blocks at all times.

This last week has provided a number of opportunities for our school community to come together and celebrate the values that are important to us. We were proud to recognise Show Racism the Red Card, with pupils and staff showing their support by wearing something red and standing together against racism in all its forms. I would like to extend a particular thank you to our Sixth Form pupils, who devised and delivered an informative and thought-provoking assembly for the school. Their leadership and commitment helped promote an important message of equality, inclusion and respect for all.

We also enjoyed celebrating Diwrnod Shwmae, which provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils and staff to make greater use of the Welsh language throughout the school day. The event was embraced enthusiastically across the school community, and I would like to thank our 'Criw Cymraeg' for their hard work in promoting this event. Their efforts continue to play an important role in supporting our Welsh language journey and celebrating an important part of our national identity.

As we look ahead to the half term break, I would like to encourage all pupils to take some time to read for pleasure. Whether it is a novel, biography, magazine or another text that interests them, the holiday provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy reading without the pressures of the school day. Developing a love of reading has significant benefits for vocabulary, comprehension, knowledge and academic success, as well as supporting creativity and wellbeing. This year's national focus on the Year of Reading is a timely reminder of the value and enjoyment that reading can bring, and we hope all pupils will take the opportunity to pick up a book over the break.

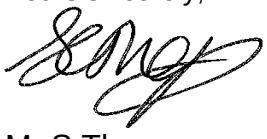
As a school, we are proud of our uniform and the sense of identity, belonging and community that it helps to foster. Thank you for your support this term in ensuring that pupils meet our uniform expectations. As we move into the colder and wetter months, we encourage pupils to come to school appropriately prepared for the weather, particularly on wet days when an outdoor coat will be needed.

Following the half term break, there will be a renewed focus in school on maintaining our high standards of uniform. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that skirts are of an appropriate length and not rolled up, white socks are not worn over tights, and that school blazers are worn at all times in school. We recognise that there may occasionally be circumstances where a pupil is unable to meet a particular uniform expectation and, if this is the case, we ask that parents and carers contact the school so that we can work together to find an appropriate solution.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout this half term. The positive start we have enjoyed is a reflection of the strong partnership between home and school, and we look forward to building on this success when pupils return.

I wish all of our pupils, families and staff a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved half term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday refreshed and ready for another successful half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Thompson
Acting Headteacher