



November/Tachwedd 2025

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you and your family had a restful and enjoyable half term break. As we begin the second half of the autumn term, we would like to thank you once again for your continued support.

The first half of the autumn term has been full of achievements and opportunities for our students. From outstanding individual successes such as Ellie being crowned British Equestrian Vaulting Champion and The Debbie Chapman dancers winning a national title, to cultural experiences like the Llanuwchllyn Welsh language residential and Year 9's participation in a County Hall debate, engagement and active participation continue to be central to Whitchurch school life. Many students have contributed to community initiatives, including Mia's involvement in the 'Kids Get Cancer Too' event at the Senedd, Edith's fundraising for the Little Princess Trust, and Bryn, who joined his brother and Scout group for a fundraising bike ride that raised over £1,000 for the Macular Society. We have welcomed international visitors from New Zealand, celebrated sporting success on the karate stage, and recognised achievement, progress, and effort across all year groups during our extremely well-attended Student Awards Evening. These experiences reflect our commitment to developing confident, informed, and responsible learners who make a positive impact within and beyond the school. We aim to capture many of these highlights on the homepage of our website and encourage you to visit regularly for updates.

We have been particularly grateful for the positive response to our **Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and Digital Devices**. Your support in reinforcing these expectations at home has made a real difference. We encourage all parents and carers to regularly check their child's phone usage and ensure that the apps they are using are age appropriate. If you would like any guidance or support with this, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Progress Team, contact details can be found on our school website. [Whitchurch HS website](#)

This half term also promises to be a busy one for our students. Year 11 have **GCSE Mathematics Numeracy** exams this week on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** and **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**; the **Year 11 PPEs** will take place during the **week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> November**; a wide range of support continues to be available to help them succeed. Looking ahead, we have a number of other key events including the **Year 8 Engagement Evening on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**. The **options process** for Year 11 will begin with an assembly launch during the week commencing **10<sup>th</sup> November**, followed by Year 9 during the week commencing **17<sup>th</sup> November**. This marks the start of an important stage in planning for the next phase of learning for these students, and further information and guidance has been shared with students and parents. Towards the end of term, we will also welcome families to our **Carol Service on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**, before breaking up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**.

We are proud to support important causes within our school community. This term, Whitchurch High School is again taking part in the **Poppy Appeal**. Poppies will be available in school for a donation and can be attached to clothing using a sticker to show support. In addition, a range of poppy-related items will be available via ParentPay (further details to follow). We are also continuing our partnership with the **Welsh Blood Service** by supporting the Blood Donor campaign. Eligible sixth form students and staff will have the opportunity to donate during the **WHS Blood Donor Day**, planned for **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**.



We continue to see generally excellent standards of uniform and punctuality across the school, and it is important that these remain consistent throughout the year. Your support is vital in helping us maintain these expectations. Please check that your child is wearing the correct uniform and arriving on site by **8:35am**, ready to begin learning promptly at **8:40am**. These routines help create a calm and focused start to the day. Full guidance on uniform can be found on our website: [School Uniform](#). We understand that school essentials can be costly, and we would like to remind families that Welsh Government support<sup>1</sup> is available to help with uniform and school meals. Please remember that our main method of communication is via email. Messages will come from **Whitchurch High School 6815403@sims-communications.co.uk**. If you are not receiving emails, please check your spam/junk folder and ensure your contact details are up to date via the **SIMS Parent App** or by contacting your child's Progress Team. When contacting the school, please include your child's full name and form in any messages. For safeguarding reasons, we kindly ask that parents/carers do not arrive on site without a prior appointment.

Finally, a reminder that **Friday 7th November** is an **INSET Day** and the school will be closed to students.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to a successful and productive half term ahead.

Kind regards / Cofion cynnes,

**Emma Aston**

**Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development and Community Engagement)**

<sup>1</sup> There are two types of support your child might be eligible for. [Get help with school costs | GOV.WALES](#) Don't miss out on Free School Meals as these can help promote healthy eating and increase the variety of food your child might eat. If you receive certain benefits, or your circumstances have changed, check if you're eligible through [Financial support](#). The form is short and only takes a few minutes to complete. If your child already gets Free School Meals, there could be up to £200 of additional help available per child through the School Essentials Grant, plus extra funding for your school. The School Essentials Grant helps with the costs of School Essentials like uniforms and equipment to make sure they are ready for the school day. Please note, if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, you will still need to apply separately for the School Essentials Grant to access all of the funding available.