

Dear parent/carer of

Re: Headteacher Update December 2023

We are looking forward to celebrating the end of term with all our learners. I look forward to seeing families at the various events we are holding over the next three weeks to celebrate Christmas!

Thank you

A huge thank you to parents/carers for supporting their child to attend extra-curricular activities after school. We have a lot going on in the run up to Christmas and we appreciate all your support in providing lifts and rearranging schedules to ensure your child can take part in the activities and events that interest them.

Thank you also to parents/carers who have encouraged their child to be in school as much as possible. Currently our attendance at Caerleon is the 2nd highest out of the secondary schools in Newport, but it is still below pre-Covid levels of attendance. The best place for all students to be is in school learning, so a huge thank you for all the effort being made by families in this area.

Payments in the Canteen

Please can I emphasise my previous message about students in Y7-11 using their pin number to pay in the canteen. Students in Y7-11 are not allowed to pay with Apple Pay or a card, as the school would not be meeting required regulations. Please could all families ensure that students' accounts are topped up so that they can access the canteen. Any student who receives free school meals will have allocated money on their account each day.

Jumpers/blazers to be worn to school

Thank you to parents/carers for supporting us to ensure our uniform policy is followed. The students are looking very smart. Please remember that all students should wear a jumper **AND/OR** a blazer to school every day. From January, those students without a jumper or blazer will receive a B2 detention from their form tutor. If there is an issue with a jumper/blazer on any given day, please email the swap shop and we can provide one for your child. (ccs.swapshop@newportschools.wales).

In my previous update, I mentioned that students needed moulded boots (plastic studs) to wear on the new astro turf. We have purchased a number of these boots to support students who don't have any, but if any families have any of these boots at home that they don't need anymore, we'd be very grateful if they could be donated. Students can take donations to the PE department or to the swap shop.

Some students are wearing fluffy socks over tights in the winter months. This is not a problem as long as the socks are black, navy or grey as stated in the uniform policy.

Please note that footwear should be all black and therefore black and white Converse trainers are not permitted.

We also have lots of students visiting the swap shop daily because of forgotten ties and PE kit. Please can we ask parents/carers to encourage their child to get uniform and PE kit ready the evening before to help cut down on issues in this area. Thank you for your support with this.

Chromebook Library

Thank you to families for filling in our digital exclusion survey. If any student needs to borrow a device, they can access our chromebook/laptop library. This is based with Mr Powe, our IT technician, on A floor. Our laptop library is available every day for students to borrow from. If you did not fill in the survey and you do not have access to **a device or the internet**, please can you let the school know so that we can offer support.

Mobile Phone Policy

As you are aware, we have been monitoring the use of mobile phones in school and remained agile in our approach to this policy. Currently, students are allowed to use mobile phones at breaktime and lunchtime only. From Monday 22nd January we will be operating as a **mobile phone free school**. This means that students will not be allowed to use or have visible their mobile phone on the school premises at all. Phones will need to be kept in the bottom of students' bags. Similarly, they will not be permitted to wear any form of earphone/earpod around the site. Please see the separate communication that will be sent to families detailing this change to policy.

Feedback from Families

Thank you to those families who responded to our anti-bullying policy and gave feedback on the Conduct Code. The anti-bullying policy has also been discussed with student groups and governors (as is the case with all policies) and will now be put into action by the school. The majority of responses to issues involving bullying and the Conduct Code were very positive, but please can I ask for any families who have a particular issue to reach out to us so that we can offer support to resolve this issue.

Teams/Google Classroom/Homework Policy

You will be aware that as a school we use Hwb as a digital platform. Within Hwb, students can access Microsoft Teams as well as Google Classroom. We have created a guide for parents/carers in using these platforms, and how you can monitor your child's homework using them. Please do ensure you read the draft homework policy and parents/carers' guide and feedback to us if you would like to. We will take on board your feedback and the final policy/guide will be on our website for the start of the new term. This policy/guide has been sent to you in a separate communication.

Thank you for your support this term in ensuring all of our students continue to maximise their potential. There has been much joy and celebration and so many successes to celebrate for our students. I would like to wish all of our families a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell (Headteacher)

