



## Re: Headteacher Update January 2025

### Attendance

As always, it's important for me to highlight how vital attendance to school is for our young people. Thank you to our families who work hard to ensure the highest levels of attendance for their child.

### Christmas Charity Day

I'm delighted to tell you that on the last day of term we raised £755 for Crisis. Thanks to all our families for your support.

### Uniform

On the 1st day back this week we had 20 students who were sent to the swap shop without a tie. As you can imagine, this causes disruption and is a strain on the school budget when some of these ties are not returned. Similarly, we had students returning to school wearing black trousers, which are not part of our uniform.

It is important for all members of our school community to adhere to our uniform standards. Our uniform helps to create a feeling of order and cohesion around our school. We enforce our uniform rules just as we enforce all other rules around the school, in order to keep students safe and ensure a strong sense of belonging.

Please support us by ensuring your child wears the correct uniform to school.

### Parental Engagement/invitations to school this term

As you are aware, our parent's evenings remain online. This comes with many advantages (no queuing for example), but the disadvantage is that parents/carers do not have as many opportunities to come to the school in person. This year, therefore, we are focusing on further ways to invite parents/carers into school to engage with our staff.

Please make a note in your diaries of the following dates for in person visits for this term:

- Y9 options evening 15th January – parents/carers of Y9 students are encouraged to attend at 5pm in the main hall. You are welcome to bring your child but this is not essential as they will receive the same information during assemblies. You will hear all about our options process and understand how to support your child to make GCSE subject choices.
- Y11-12 pathways evening 6th February – parents/carers of Y11 students are encouraged to attend at 5pm in the main hall. Please bring your child. You will hear about our 6th form and be able to visit subject areas in classrooms to discuss AS/A2 choices with our teachers.
- Parent forum 3rd April: supporting your Y10/11 child with revision – parents and carers of students in Y10 and 11 are encouraged to attend to listen to advice on supporting your child in knowing how and when to revise. You are welcome to bring your child but this is not essential as they will receive the same information during assemblies.

### INSET day 17th January

Our professional learning day on the 17th January is focused around two aspects of our school development plan: the first is that we will take part in Safeguarding training with the Local Authority (this kind of safeguarding training occurs every 2-3 years). Secondly, we will be focusing on Curriculum for Wales planning, with departments working on schemes of learning for years 7, 8 and 9 and planning for new specifications at GCSE level ready for September.

I would like to wish all our families a happy and healthy new year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if we can support you in any way this term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell  
Headteacher