



Headteachers Update: November 2024

Thank you

As a school community, we have raised £1123 for Velindre this term, through the Cardiff Half Marathon and our Cynefin Day, and £1123 for our PTFA, FOCCs, through the same events.

I said I would update you after my husband, Jack, had completed his charity cycle for Velindre in Florida. He arrived home safely last weekend after completing the 600KM cycle over four days. He personally raised £6,000 for Velindre, and the group he went with together raised more than half a million pounds for the charity. Thank you for all your support for this cause; it is hugely appreciated. Our next event day is the Sixth Form Charity day on the last day of this term, where students are asked to wear non-uniform, specifically Christmas jumpers if they would like to. All funds raised on this day will go half to the PTFA and half to a charity chosen by our 6th form (we will let you know which charity when it has been selected). On this day students will also get to watch the 6th form pantomime, which is always a fantastic event and fills the last day of term with fun! As always, you should not feel pressured to contribute financially on any of our charity days; please only give if and what you can afford.

Christmas Concert and Fair

Please do support our PTFA, FOCCS, who are holding a Christmas Fair in the Main Hall again this year. Last year the event was very popular and we had some fantastic stall holders selling Christmas gifts and delicious home bakes etc. Our concert will then take place after the fair, so if you fancy feeling very festive, please do come along to both on Thursday 12th December from 4pm.

Learning Environment

Over half term, all student and staff toilets were painted and we are now looking at replacing the flooring in these areas. The work planned for J block, to install a new ALN support base and other improvements, is still being planned and we are waiting for the official start date for this work to commence.

Trips and Visits

We are aware as a school of the high numbers of trips and visits we offer. For some, this is a positive, for others, it increases the financial pressure when everything is already so expensive. I want parents/carers to know we are very mindful of the trips we offer, and try to ensure enough time for payments to be made. In addition, we are working on a new system to try and ensure all the students who want to go on trips can do so. For example, we are aware that, due to the 'name out of a hat' situation with some trips, some students end up being selected for no trips and other students for multiple trips. We are trying to create a new system to ensure a fairer approach to this within each year group. Please do continue to feedback your thoughts and ideas about trips and visits.

INSET day 25th November

During the time allocated for this INSET day, staff have been working on an online professional learning module, called 'Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners'. We started this work last year and are continuing into this year, allowing staff time to consider good practice and develop strategies in this particular area. As always, I will update you on the focus of our INSET days as the year goes on.

Anti-Bullying Week

As always, we will mark anti-bullying week with a special assembly for each year group this week. Our theme this year is "Choose Respect". Learners have again been reminded that they can speak to any member of staff if they are experiencing bullying. The Student Support Corridor in the E Block has pastoral staff available throughout the day, or students can speak to any member of our school staff about any issues they are facing.

I look forward to writing to you again in December with my monthly update.

Best wishes,

Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher