

Our Ref: JH/MR

18th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a short but busy Spring term I would like to share with you a sample of activities undertaken by our pupils and also to let you know key dates and information for the next term.

Following on from their performance in the Albert Hall, our Girls Choir have participated in the Cor Cymru competition. After progressing from the initial auditions, the choir travelled to Aberystwyth to participate in the televised rounds in February. This was a great experience to be able to work in a television studio and perform to a live TV audience. The episode will be aired on S4C in early April. Please join us for our Easter Showcase Concert on Wednesday 20th March at 7pm to see for yourself the range of Expressive Arts talents our pupils have.

Attendance of pupils continues to be of concern with our whole school attendance not yet returned to pre COVID levels. Form tutors, Achievement Leaders and the pastoral team are having regular conversations with pupils to highlight our 'Every day matters' campaign. I am asking parents/carers to please support us in our strategy to improve the attendance of those pupils who do not reach the Welsh Government expectation of 95% by encouraging them to attend if at all possible.

Summer term will see staff focusing on finalising content and revision for our KS4/5 examination subjects. It is vital that these pupils in particular have full attendance to give them the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential in the examinations. Each pupil has received their individual examination timetable with specific dates; the first examination is on 24th April.

Following our success in achieving the Gold award as a Forces Friendly school, we would like to promote our awareness of the Month of the Military Child in April, in which pupils with Military families and connections will take part in a range of activities, including wearing purple t-shirts, to raise awareness of SSCE on 26th April.

Congratulations go to our year 10 boys rugby team who won the semi final of the Welsh cup last week and will be playing the final at the Principality Stadium on Thursday 21st March against Bro Morgannwg with kick off at 5pm. This is a tremendous achievement, and we wish to allow as many as possible to attend to support them. Unfortunately it is not feasible to offer to take the whole school so we have therefore decided, in the first instance, to offer places to as many pupils as possible who represent the school in sporting events or who are in year 10, however places will be limited. Eligible parents will be sent a Google form to book a place on the bus for their child/children and to pay a contribution of £5 each towards the cost of the transport. Places





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will be governed by the availability of buses to transport pupils with entrance to the game being free. Any pupil who wishes to attend with their family will be given authorised absence on receipt of official communication with the school to that effect. Of course it also does not preclude families making their own way to the stadium after school closes on Thursday. We would also ask that as many as possible wear our school colour of amethyst/purple (not blue as that is our competitors colour) so we can be as visible as possible to the boys. Further details will be provided when the form is issued.

School finishes this Friday for our Easter break and we start the summer term with an INSET day for staff on Monday 8th April. All pupils will return to school on Tuesday 9th April and we make a plea that you ensure that uniform is updated over the holidays where needed and that they return adhering to our school regulations, details of which can be found on our school website. Please remember that leggings, hoodies and facial piercings are prohibited in school. Our summer school uniform will be operational for those who wish to wear it from after the May half term, unless we are fortunate enough to have a heatwave before then of course. For advance notice, we also have our last INSET day of the year on Friday 3rd May therefore we will be closed to pupils on this day. The summer term ends on Friday 19th July.

Final thanks go to parents and carers for their support in upholding the values of our school. Please keep communicating with us via the email addresses on our website - for pastoral issues please contact the relevant Achievement Leader or Pastoral Assistant and for curriculum matters the Learning Managers. I hope you have a restful Easter break and that the weather improves. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on 9th April.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Harries
Headteacher

