



Re: Headteacher Update March 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Polo shirts

As mentioned in updates last year, this summer term, we will be asking all our students to wear a pale blue polo shirt instead of a shirt and tie with their uniform. As you are aware, this has been phased in and last summer students were able to wear a polo shirt OR a shirt and tie. **This summer term, we are asking that polo shirts ONLY are worn.** Student voice has indicated that polo shirts are more comfortable when it gets warmer and because there is no need for a tie, this is better for hotter weather. Pale blue polo shirts can be found for a reasonable cost in local supermarkets, but if any family is finding it difficult to purchase one of these, please contact your child's head of year and we can offer support. Please note that we have researched to ensure a long-sleeved polo shirt can be purchased if necessary. Thankfully, several supermarkets and well-known high-street stores offer pale blue polo shirts with a long sleeve. **Therefore, after Easter, all students in Y7-11 should be wearing a pale blue polo shirt, not a shirt and tie, up until the end of the academic year. All other uniform remains the same.**

Attendance

Please continue to support us in ensuring your child attends school every day, unless they are too unwell to do so. We are all aware that higher attendance results in higher outcomes for young people. If you need any support with your child's attendance, please contact the school.

Update building work/Cynefin Day

I am delighted to tell you that demolition of G block, the gyms, the conference centre, the caretaker's bungalow and the staff room has begun and it has been great to see this happening on site. We have also had work completed to remove the old water tank on the top of F block and reinvigorate the quadrant in the middle of F block and this has made a big difference to the appearance of the school. We continue to use as much of our school budget as possible to improve the learning environment for our young people. This is why your continued support of our PTA, FOCCs is essential. FOCCs regularly donate funds for us to buy things we cannot afford from our school budget and enables us to spend further money on revitalising the learning environment. On Friday 13th March we have our Cynefin day and learners can wear non uniform (Welsh colours preferred). If you feel able to contribute to our fund raising for Cynefin day, 50% of the funds raised will go to our PTA to be reinvested in the school, and 50% to the Criw Cymraeg's chosen charity: Marie Curie. The payment will be set up on the gateway app as usual.

Feedback parents' evenings

You will be aware that parents' evening for Y10 and 11 this year was in person and we have requested feedback on this from parents/carers. We would be very grateful if parents/carers of those in Y10/11 could provide us with their feedback by completing the questionnaire if they haven't already done so.

Professional learning

On 2nd March the focus of our INSET day was to receive professional learning from the WJEC on the subjects who are part of the 'wave two' GCSE qualifications (for example, science). This was essential time for teachers to understand the new specifications in readiness for teaching in September. Other staff were involved in departmental work on schemes of learning and our pastoral staff undertook important work listening to parents of learners with ALN. In addition to our INSET days, we also hold training for staff after school and every Wednesday morning, in order that we are as prepared as possible to teach and support your children in the best ways we can.

Parking Cold Bath Road

I request again for parents/carers not to park on Cold Bath Rd at the end of the school day. Please find an alternative place to collect your child. Sadly, we have had complaints from residents about the behaviour of a

very small minority of people collecting students, who have parked on their driveways, blocked drives, and even prevented carers and an ambulance entering the cul-de-sav off Cold Bath Rd. After Easter, half of the road will be blocked and this will make the situation even harder. Please try to arrange an alternative place to pick up your child for the safety of all concerned.

Safeguarding Update

This month's update is a link that takes parents/carers to a section on Hwb, aimed at 'challenging bullying'. There is an anti-bullying tool kit available to help parents/carers if they are concerned about bullying. If you are worried that your child is being bullied in school, please contact your child's head of year in the first instance. <https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/2c46f49b-e5c7-4432-8f82-5ef6a6ec0361/overview>

Parent Forum

It was great to see so many parents and carers at our Y10-13 parent forum on Thursday of last week. The focus was on helping your child to revise successfully and you should have received an email containing all the resources used. These can also be found on our website.

look forward to updating you again in April. As I will not be in touch before the Easter holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families celebrating Easter a peaceful and joyous time. It is a time to celebrate re-birth and new life and for us all to look forward positively. I hope you all enjoy the two-week break with your families.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs L Purcell.



Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher