



Re: Headteacher Update February 2026

Dear parent/carer,

We have got through a very long January with some terrible weather, but as usual our students have been fantastic and there has been much to celebrate!

Update new build

Our temporary sports hall (we are calling this 'the barn') is up and functioning and the old drama demountable is going to be turned into temporary changing facilities in the summer term. We are very excited for the demolition work to begin. Very soon, access to Cold Bath Road will be restricted and parents/carers will be unable to drive all the way down the road. I ask again for parents/carers to arrange an alternative place to collect their children from as opposed to lining Cold Bath Road at the end of the day, compromising the safety of our young people. When the road is restricted, it will be very difficult for everyone if parents/carers continue to park on the small bit of the road that is left. Please can I ask you to do the right thing and arrange an alternative pick up spot for your child.

In other very positive news, the authority has commissioned some work on the quadrant area in the middle of F block. This is currently in a very sorry state of repair and we are delighted to hear that the rotten wood is being replaced, as are the windows, and the awful water tank on the top of the roof (which has been covered by a plastic sheet for many years) is being removed! This much needed work will begin in February half term.

We also continue to direct as much of the school budget as we possibly can to decorations and repair our old but much-loved buildings.

Homework and attendance reporting on classcharts

Just a reminder that staff are doing their best to record student homework on Classcharts; I hope you are finding this useful. In addition, you can now report your child's absence via Classcharts. This is the quickest and most efficient way of reporting an absence and we encourage all parents/carers to report absence in this manner.

Safeguarding update

As usual, I have a safeguarding update for you. This month's leaflets are to do with online sexual harassment and bullying. I hope you find them useful. You may have seen gathering momentum in the news about banning smartphones in school. I am very pleased with the decision we took over two years ago to ban phones in our school. School should be a time of learning and socialisation for young people, a screen free time. We have very few problems with phones in school hours as a result and I would like to thank parent/carers for their support with this.

Attendance update

I am delighted to tell you that December attendance increased by 0.4% from last December. Thank you to all families for prioritising their child's attendance to school. Unless they are too unwell, students need to be here every day, maximising their potential.

High School Musical

It is almost show time! A member of my senior leadership team will be in attendance at the show each night, and I am looking forward to attending on the last night to watch this fantastic performance. I do hope you can make it.

Careers Fair – 19th March

We are pleased to announce that our annual Careers Fair will take place on Wednesday 19th March, here at school from 5:30–7:30pm. This event is a fantastic opportunity for students to meet and speak with specialists from a wide range of career pathways, helping them explore future options and gain valuable insight into different industries.

If you work for, or own, a business that would be interested in hosting a stall free of charge, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Victoria James (jamesV37@newportschools.wales) for further information or to reserve a space.

When you visit site, please report to reception

Please can I politely remind all parents and carers that if you visit site, you must report to reception to sign in before attending a meeting etc. This is to safeguard all our learners and staff.

Reminder: Dates for the Diary

- Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February - **Half Term**
- Monday 2nd March - **Inset Day** - The school will be closed to students for staff training.

I look forward to writing to you in March with further updates.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher