



Re: Headteacher Update December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Building work

The demolition of the buildings behind ABC block and the demountables has been pushed back slightly, but will be in full swing after Christmas. All of the students have received health and safety assemblies about the important rules that will be in place once the school becomes a working site. I am delighted to inform parents that the authority is also investing some money into the quadrant space in F block, which is badly needed, and this will be happening in February half term. The original plan for the new build and other works to be completed by February/Easter 2027 is likely to be delayed slightly, but I will keep you updated when I know more.

Christmas Jumper Day

The last day of term will be a non uniform day and students are invited to wear a Christmas item (jumper, headwear etc) if they would like to. In the summer you will remember that the students selected St David's Hospice as our charity to support; unfortunately, this non uniform day didn't raise much money, so we decided to stick with the St David's Hospice for our non uniform day in December too. As always, 50% of the money raised will go to the PTA, FOCCS, who invest vital funds back into the school. In the recent feedback about non-uniform days, some families asked who chooses the charity we support; in nearly all cases the charity is chosen by our student groups.

Fair, Concert and Christmas lunch

I am delighted to confirm that our Christmas fair and concert will go ahead after school on Thursday 11th December. Please do come along to support these events. The concert begins at 6:30pm in the main hall with the fair open from 3:30pm-6pm in the canteen area. Chartwells will be offering Christmas lunch to students on Wednesday 10th December.

Parental feedback: Parents' evenings

We have now held several parents' meetings, some of which have been online and others in person. After the Y10 parents evening this week, we will be sending out a survey to parents/carers to gauge your views on whether parents' evenings are best held online, in person, or via our current hybrid version. Please do take the opportunity to give us your feedback.

Attendance Matters

Thank you to families for your support in ensuring your child is in school and is on time for school each day. For every day missed, there are five hours of learning missed, and therefore it is vital that, unless your child is too unwell to come to school, they are here every day. You will be aware that we are doing our best to promote good and improving attendance at our school. Something we have planned for the coming weeks is our 'Countdown to Christmas' initiative. There will be a separate communication about this but the gist of the initiative is that we are rewarding students who have excellent attendance or have recently improved their attendance to school in the three-week lead up to Christmas.

Safeguarding Update

As usual, I have included a safeguarding element to my monthly update; this month it is a tip sheet on helping your child interact safely online. It is important that we continue to educate our young people about the risks they may face when interacting with each other on their phones and via social media. Since we banned mobile phones at Caerleon we have far fewer issues with cyber bullying during the school day, but we are still seeing unkindness and dangerous behaviour online outside school hours and want to work closely with families to teach our children the dangers of this kind of behaviour.

Communication with Heads of Year

Please can I ask families to be mindful that each head of year has 245 students to look after and they aim to respond to emails/phonecalls within 48 hours wherever possible. Please do bear in mind that these members of staff have a teaching commitment also and are not available every hour of every day. The link to the communication code can be found here if you are unsure about who to contact when you have an issue.

https://33a73801-a32c-4a7e-a4ca-58e1839c21d5.filesusr.com/ugd/a7f7d4_dd64701bb42c462bbe1e2fe56f6ed1d1.pdf

I would like to wish all our families who celebrate Christmas a peaceful and very happy Christmas. I hope all our families enjoy spending time together during the school holidays and I look forward to writing to you again in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Purcell
Headteacher