



Queen Elizabeth High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Frenhines Elisabeth



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter and Updates

Tuesday 6 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I start by extending a warm welcome back, to this, our final half term. Exam season is now in full swing and the behaviour of our students and pupils around exams has been exemplary. I would particularly like to commend our Year 11 for their conduct during the exams and their calm and committed approach to their exam studies. The attendance at 'Early Bird' revision sessions has been excellent and the feedback from both staff and pupils has been very positive.

We had a very emotional, yet happy, send off for both Year 11 and year 13. Fun was tinged with sadness as we celebrated their contribution to our community, looked back with fondness at images from times passed and wished them all the very best with their future endeavours.

Year 11 are now officially on study leave and are allowed to leave school, when they do not have exams, to conduct their own studies. There are some revision sessions available in school, and quiet areas that can be utilised for study on site should they wish to do so. Please check the year 11 revision timetable for details.

Important Dates Monday 5th June 2023

Year 11 Study Leave Commences Friday 16th June to Friday 30th June

Year 10 Internal Examinations Friday 23rd June

Elfed Sports Day Tuesday 27th June to Friday 30th June

Year 5 Transition Days Monday 3rd July – Friday 7th July

DoE Gold Expedition Friday 7th July

School Sports Day Tuesday 4th July 6pm

Prize Evening Elfed Leaver's Graduation

21st July Break up from school - 21st July



Uniform

Thank you for your continued support regarding uniform. Standards have improved significantly. Regular uniform checks are still in place and guidance on our school uniform can be found on our school website: <https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/media/ejojc1lb/uniform-policy-nov21-complete.pdf>



Important Information



Vapes

There is increasing information emerging about vaping, the detrimental impact on health, including its addictive nature, the cost implications and the impact that the lithium batteries are having on the environment.

Use of vaping in schools is prohibited and has caused unnecessary disruption as they can lead to the setting off of smoke detector and alarm systems. In response to this, the school will be investing in new systems that identify vape 'smoke' and provide silent alarms to on call staff to identify offenders. Pupils caught vaping in school will be dealt with in line with the school Behaviour Policy and can expect to be excluded, either internally or externally. Parents will be informed. Spot checks will remain in place for those suspected of vaping.

We welcome the support of parents in dealing with this issue.

Mobile Phones – New Rules

As of 5th June 2023, we have implemented a trial policy change on the use of mobile phones and the rules surrounding their use in school. We recognize the usefulness of mobile phones in specific situations and the importance of parents being able to keep in touch with their children via mobile phone outside of school hours. However, both locally and nationally, there is growing evidence of mobile phone misuse, including online bullying, inappropriate use of images and other forms of harassment.

We also realize that the fact that pupils spend so much of their time in front of a screen is a growing concern because of the negative impact on learning and wellbeing. Mobile phones can affect their education by distracting learners during the school day; prevent them from strengthening real life friendships. By reducing use of phones, we aim to remove the barriers so pupils can focus fully in their lessons and spend quality time socializing together in their free time. In light of this, it is our intention to implement a mobile phone ban during school hours. We will review this rule change and get feedback from all stakeholders at the end of this term before making any permanent changes to mobile phone use in school.

As of Monday 5th June 2023, learners in Years 7 - 11 are **NOT** allowed to:

- Use their mobile device without permission at any time during the school day;
- Mobile phones must be switched off during the school day, including break and lunchtimes, and remain off whilst students are on the school premises. It is not acceptable for phones merely to be put on silent or pager mode
- The phone must be kept out of sight during lessons.
- No student may take a mobile phone into a room or other area where examinations are being held.
- The security of the phone will remain the student's responsibility in all lessons including PE/gym lessons.
- Use headphones or have anything connected via Bluetooth during the school day.

Year 12 and 13 students will be able to access their phones in the sixth form area only. Other than this area, the same rules apply.

Misuse of the mobile phone will be dealt with using the same principles set out in the school's Behaviour Policy, with the response being proportionate to the severity of the misuse. Students are aware that serious misuse may lead not only to the confiscation of their mobile phone, but may include the student being internally or externally excluded from school. If the offence is serious, it will be reported to the Police.

If the mobile phone is found to be switched on during the day, the phone will be confiscated and only be returned to a parent/carer in person. Where it is deemed necessary to examine the contents of a mobile phone this will be done by a member of staff. N.B. Parental permission is not required for this. The action will be properly recorded in case it later becomes evidence of criminal activity. The record will include the time, who was present and what was found. This includes messages, emails, pictures, videos, sound files. Where a mobile phone is confiscated, it will be stored in the safe in the main office and it will be recorded and kept securely.

FAQs:

I need to contact my child during the school day. How can I do that?

We understand that at times a parent may want to contact their child during the school day. In such a situation, we ask parents to follow our current policy of calling the school office (01267 245300) and a message will be delivered to your child immediately. This can include a message for them to turn on their mobile phone to receive a message / call.

My child needs to contact me (parent)) during the school day. How can they do that?

Any learner who needs to contact home should report to their year office. We have each parents/ carers phone number on our system and the pupil can use the phone facilities there.

What if a learner uses their phone to check their timetable or to access Google Classroom?

All KS3 and KS4 learners are given a copy of their timetable at the start of the year, and can keep these in their pencil cases. Staff also have access to pupil timetable so help is at hand if needed. All pupils have access to chrome books in school for working online, and all homework tasks are set using Google Classroom, which they can also access from home.

What about ALN learners who use their phone to take pictures of notes from the whiteboard or to monitor any medical conditions. Are they allowed to use their phones?

Some learners (See Appendix 3) will be allowed to use their phones for educational or medical purposes (e.g. for apps that monitor diabetes, translation apps etc.). However, this usage has to be agreed with the school either as part of their health care plan or ALN review. Parents/carers will be informed immediately of any improper use e.g. playing games or accessing social media while pretending to use their phones for educational or medical reasons.

My child is not going to cope without their device.

Phone addiction is a growing concern for many of us. There will be times when young people and adults have to go without their mobile phone for various reasons e.g. mobile phones are not allowed in any exam room. We feel it is better to educate and support learners and young people now, before it becomes a more serious problem.

Where can I find Support and advice regarding my child's use of social media?

The SWGFL (South Wales Grid For Learning) has some great advice and resources to support parents. Follow the links below for advice for parents:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-guidance-for-parents/>

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Inclusive Digital Safety advice for Parents and Carers | Internet Matters](#)

[Topic: Online Safety and Social Media | SWGfL](#)

[Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online \(internetmatters.org\)](#)

[Social Media Checklists | SWGfL](#)

[Teens 14+ online safety advice and expert tips | Internet Matters](#)

[Help & advice 11-18 year olds | Childnet](#)

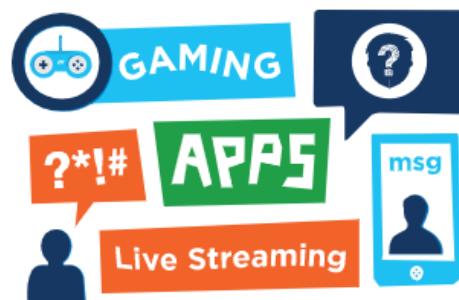
[Resources for 11-19s - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Report Harmful Content](#)

[Gaming | SWGfL](#)

You can also access support through HWB:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online>



Parental support with this is vitally important and greatly appreciated. There are many studies into the negative effects of screen time on young people's mental health, wellbeing and brain development and we feel it is our duty to take these important steps to try to support the wellbeing and learning of all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Dave Williams

Headteacher