



Queen Elizabeth High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Frenhines Elisabeth



# *Keeping in Touch*

*Newsletter and Updates*

**Tuesday 18 April 2023**



Dear Parent/Carer,

We look forward to welcoming pupils back tomorrow and hope everyone enjoyed the Easter Break. This return to school for the final term marks a milestone for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who are very close to saying their final goodbyes! This term provides an opportunity to reflect on their time with us and to make exciting plans for the future. Together with Year 10 and Year 12, they will also start to focus more closely on fast approaching exams and within this newsletter you will find guidance on how to support learning and revision from home as well as reminders around key dates.

In addition to key information around exams parents/carers will also find key information as regards the return to school tomorrow and up and coming key dates. This term there will be a focus on pupil conduct, high expectations around all school rules and promoting a positive approach to all aspects of school life. These will be based around our 3A's; Attitude, Attendance and Attainment and 3 R's Respect, Responsibility and Relationships.

## KEY DATES

- Monday 17th April – INSET
- Tuesday 18th April – INSET
- Wednesday 19th April – Pupils Return to School (GCSE Oral Exams Commence)
- Thursday 20th – Parent Meeting: Supporting Pupils in National Literacy & Numeracy Tests 5:30pm
- Tuesday 2nd May Commencement of GCSE, AS and A Level Exam Season
- Tuesday 2nd May to Tuesday 9th May - Year 7 & 8 Exams from
- Friday 12th May Year 13 Leavers' Assembly





# Important Information

## **Promoting Positive Behaviour;**

***"Our behaviour affects everyone and everything"***

- **Vapes** - Last term there were several concerns raised about vaping. Following a series of assemblies we have implemented spot checks and bag searches on any individuals identified as using or providing vapes in schools. We intend to maintain this policy of spot check and bag searches this term. Pupils and students found in possession of vapes will receive appropriate sanctions.
  
- **Mobile Phones** – We will continue to consult with parents and the pupil body around mobile phone use. However, research that the school has been involved with at a county level has identified some significant concerns around constant mobile phone use, misuse of mobile phones and the negative impacts of social media. Whilst we are aware of some of the benefits that mobile phones bring we are increasingly concerned about their misuse and the detrimental impact they can have on health and wellbeing. As an interim measure and to tie in with exams, (When mobile phone use is prohibited by exam procedures) we will be prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school from May Half Term. Pupils can bring their phones to school, but will be expected to turn them off before entering the building. Pupils will not be allowed to use their phones during the school day. Pupils found using a phone without the express permission of a member of staff will have the phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Persistent unauthorised use of a mobile phone will lead to sanctions.
  
- **Uniform** - Can parents/carers ensure that when your child returns to school after the Easter holidays that they are wearing a full school uniform.
  
- > **Uniform:** shirt, tie, school jumper or the approved ¼ zip top. Black school trousers (No leggings, jeans, cargo/combat trousers or jogging bottoms) or skirt (which is to be of a suitable and modest length) with thick black tights (with no socks over them). Black shoes are to be worn. No outer clothing is allowed in classrooms. Hoodies are not permitted. Pupils are permitted to wear a watch, one ring and small stud earrings, no facial piercings are allowed.

Regular uniform checks will be conducted to ensure that pupils are conforming to the rules on uniform.



## Other Information

### Revision



Power Up your child's preparation for the summer Exams! As the summer exams approach for Years KS4 and KS5, Welsh Government have coordinated a host of resources that have been brought together in their "Power Up" web-site for learners. These resources will help with everything associated with the summer exams from exam technique and revision tips to guides on wellbeing and managing exam stress. You can find resources for GCSE/AS/A Level by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.wales/power-up-wales#GCSE>



### Qualifications Wales Learner Guide to Exams and Assessment

Qualifications Wales have published a guide to exams and assessments 2022-2023, to give learners the information they need about arrangements for their qualifications this year. It includes lots of helpful information, including:

- an overview of this year's arrangements
- key dates
- information on grading
- advance information
- links to helpful websites where learners can access revision tips, wellbeing guidance and other support.

Please follow the link below to this useful resource:

<https://qualifications.wales/information-support/information-for-learners/>

>Other useful Learning Resources and sites:

><https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

><https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/>

><https://collins.co.uk/pages/free-revision-resources>

><https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

><https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

><https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/new-knowledge-organisers/>



## **Activities week**

*Due to the success of our Activities Week at the end of the last academic year we will once again be running a range of trips and activities this year on the final week of term, Monday 17th-Friday 21st July.*

*On our return to school, you will notice that there will be an additional section added to your parent pay. This is to give parents and carers the opportunity to make contributions to a fund that can then be used to pay for selected trips at the end of the year. This will help break down the cost of trips into a series of more manageable payments. The contributions are voluntary and parents/carers can pay for trips with a single payment nearer the time if they so wish. More information will be available when this system goes live. A full list of planned activities for this summer will be published closer to the end of term.*

## **Easter Trips - Ski Trip & Iceland**

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff involved for giving up their time and running two fantastically successful trips over the Easter Holidays.*

*There were some delays in the Ski Trip crossing the Channel, which you might have read about on the news. However, pupils coped fantastically well with the delays and the group did manage to enjoy their skiing in Spain despite an unscheduled stop over in Calais!*

*The trip to Iceland was a little more straightforward, even if Mrs O'Kelly had an unexpected journey to make to Gatwick.*

*The conduct of all pupils was fantastic throughout, were great ambassadors for our community and most importantly had a wonderful experience. Well done!*









## **Leaving Staff**

*At the end of last term we waved goodbye to some of our staff who are moving on to pastures new. We wish our Teaching Assistants Mrs Heidi Williams, Mrs Ally Northam, Lisa Flannigan and Denise Clark all the very best in their new roles and thank them for providing such wonderful support to our learners.*

## **Welcoming New Staff**

*We would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Laura Cornell joining us in the English Department this term.*

*It only leaves me to thank you for your continued support and to convey my best wishes to you for the term to come.*

*Kind regards,*

*Dave Williams  
Headteacher*

