Thursday December 20th 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

**End of Autumn Term December 2019**

We will break up from school for the Christmas holidays on Friday December 21st and will return to school on Monday 7th January 2019. After a busy term, I thought you would find some updates useful, as we reflect on our first 15 weeks in our new school building.

**Major Water Leak on Thursday December 13th and Other New Build Challenges!**

On Thursday December 13th, school closed at 10.30am, because of a major water leak from a burst pipe in Freshwater/Marloes Wing. This affected the electrical system and rendered classrooms unusable. Following the completion of extensive emergency repair work to classrooms, school opened again on Monday this week. Sincere apologies are sent once again to pupils, students, parents and staff for the disruption to learning and for any inconvenience caused to our parents. Students and pupils will receive their attendance marks for Thursday 13th Dec pm and Friday 14th December. Thank you also to our staff and many parents who offered to give of their time to assist with the clearing up. This was clearly very upsetting news given that we are in our first term in our new building. We are seeking assurances from the contractors via Pembrokeshire County Council, that this will not happen again. Our phone systems and email systems have not been 100% efficient this term. This is due to glitches with technology in our new school and again, I can only apologise.

**Estyn Inspection**

The outcomes of our Estyn Inspection will not be available until the early spring 2019. A Team of nine inspectors were in school for the majority of the week commencing November 19th. However, we are continuing to move forwards with whole school improvement without waiting for Estyn’s report. Many pupils and students received praise from the inspection team, with positive comments made about the standard and quality of work and behaviour in some lessons. Unfortunately, the poor behaviour of a minority of pupils attracted the attention of the inspectors. When I first spoke to you as parents at an evening presentation in October 2017, I made it clear that we had to make improvements to ensure we

would be able to call ourselves a good school. I remain committed to do my very best to make sure we will do that.

A minority of pupils continue to cause disruption to the learning of others within and outside of lessons and this is simply not acceptable. I hope as parents and carers you will find it reassuring to know that reducing and then eliminating such disruption, is one of a number of priorities for our school. Pupils and students will shortly take part in a conference with me and other staff to develop their own ‘’behaviour for learning ‘’ charter. Pupils who breach the school’s behaviour code will find that there are consequences (sometimes serious ones) for their choices and actions. A number of pupils have told me that they are fed up with the pupils who are preventing them from having enjoyable learning experiences and would like the School Council to address this. I will be writing to you about ‘’ Daily Detention’’ early in the New Year.

**Basic Manners**

We are also having a big push on basic manners. At a time when communication via social media appears to be taking the place of healthy face-to-face interaction, we believe we all have a part to play in encouraging good manners and respect. Here at school we will be encouraging all pupils and students (many do this brilliantly already) to give eye contact, say please, thank you, good morning and good afternoon, hold doors open for each other, queue sensibly, eat appropriately and talk respectfully. It would be helpful if you could reinforce these basic manners at home, which I know many of you already hold dear, value and use consistently at home.

**E Safety Evening**

Please keep an eye on our website for details of a forthcoming E safety evening to be held at school. The evening will focus on both computer/internet and phone use and help/offer advice for keeping your teen safe online. You may also be interested to know about this article: [*https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2018/12/10/seven-hours-screen-time-day-changes-structure-childs-brain-scientists/*](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2018/12/10/seven-hours-screen-time-day-changes-structure-childs-brain-scientists/)

**Successful Futures 2020 and the Three Year Key Stage 4**

From September 2020, all schools in Wales will follow the new Welsh Curriculum, Successful Futures. This impacts on the curriculum in both primary and secondary schools. We have already been preparing for this for some time but going to begin to implement Successful Futures in Year 7 and 8 from September 2019. We are also going to be implementing a three-year Key stage 4, which will enable us to increase the range and number of both academic and vocational options we offer to pupils, increase the amount of time that the GCSE course is taught over (currently 6 terms) and increase the amount of time given to some foundation (not English/Maths/Science) subjects. Year 9 pupils will continue to make their option choices in the spring and begin their GCSE courses at the start of the Summer Term 2019. Year 8 will also make their option choices this spring and begin their GCSE courses in September 2019. We will advise of a separate meeting and options process for the current Year 8 as soon as a date is set.

**Parent Forum: ‘’Teach Meet‘’**

We are launching a ‘’Teach Meet’’ for parents, which will meet monthly on Wednesdays and will be chaired and led by Mrs S. Smith, Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning. The Teach Meet will be an opportunity for parents to discuss aspects of teaching and learning such as curriculum, marking, homework, target setting, numeracy, literacy etc. The dates for the forum are, 30th January, 6th March, 3rd April, 15th May, 26th June, 17th July. The forum will assemble in the main reception area for a 4.30pm start. All parents/guardians/carers are welcome. Further details are available from Mrs Smith.

**Parenting Teens Course**

In January/early February, Ysgol Harri Tudur/Henry Tudor School will hold a Parenting Teens Workshop for parents who have children at the school. The workshop will take place during the day and will repeat in the early evening to enable all parents to attend if they wish. If you would like to receive further details of the workshops, (numbers are limited to 25 adults per session) please contact the Headteacher at [headteacher@yht.wales](mailto:headteacher@yht.wales)

**School Website and Contacting Us**

Please be reminded that the school’s website address is: [www.ysgolharritudur.cymru/www.henrytudorschool.wales](http://www.ysgolharritudur.cymru/www.henrytudorschool.wales)

Details of how to contact the school and members of staff were contained in my previous two letters and are also posted on our website.

**Staff Farewells**

At the end of this term, we will say goodbye to Mr Neil Davies, teacher of Boys PE and Head of Narberth House, Mrs C. Durbridge, Teacher of Science who takes up a post at Greenhill School and also to Mrs E. Davies, Head of Music, who takes up a part time post at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr in Carmarthenshire. We wish them all well in their future teaching careers.

**Staff Hellos**

In January, we will be joined by Mr G Brace, teacher of boys PE from Churchill Academy in Bristol and Mr Steven Thompson as Teacher of Science. I am also delighted to announce that Mr P. Kingdom has been appointed as Head of Narberth House from January 2019.

**Uniform**

Thank you to all parents/carers and indeed our pupils and students who ensure that our uniform is correctly worn, looking so very smart and within the guidelines that have been published to all parents (on our website). If pupils/students are not in the correct uniform, school will be in touch with you. Pupils may be sent home to change, invited to borrow items from the school‘s own supply of uniform or we may ask you if you are able to bring correct items of uniform up to school.

**Some Reminders**

**Please note: Trainers are not black shoes and black or grey leggings, jeggings, jersey joggers or jeans are not black school trousers (as per the uniform policy).**

Permission has to be sought/requested from a Pupil Support Officer or a Senior Member of Staff for any temporary adjustment to uniform.

Winter coats/raincoats can be of any colour but are not a substitute for the school blazer, which should be worn at all times.

Hoodies. sports branded sweatshirts etc. are not substitutes for the optional black V neck jumper permitted by the uniform policy.

**Attendance**

As a school, our whole school target attendance percentage is 95%.  I thought you would find the following information useful. Excellent attendance is strongly rewarded in our school.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendance Percentage** | **Days Missed - over a school year** |
| 100% | 0 days |
| 95% | 10 days |
| 90% | 20 days |
| 85% | 30 days |
| 80% | 40 days |

|  |
| --- |
| If your child has a **90%** attendance record, it means that he/she has missed one half-day from school each week, which is equivalent to missing **four whole weeks** of lessons in the school year and will impact on their learning.  If your child has a **85%** attendance record, it means that he/she has missed one day from school each week, which is equivalent to missing **six whole weeks**of lessons in the school year and will have a major impact on their learning.  If your child has an **80%** attendance record, it means that he/she has missed two days from school each week, which is equivalent to missing **eight whole weeks** of lessons in the school year and will have a serious effect on learning. |

**Break 1 and Break 2**

We are changing the time, not the amount of time allocated, that break 1 and break 2 take place from January 7th 2019, Break 1 will now be at 10.45-11.15am and Break 2 at 1.15-1.45pm. There are absolutely no changes to the start and end times of school or the asymmetric week. A detention will run at the end of each day.

**Pupils Arriving and Leaving in Cars**

In order to reduce traffic congestion and keep our school grounds safe, parents and carers are requested to ensure they use the Drop Off and Pick Up zones during the school day. Please avoid using the Main Car Park for dropping off pupils.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, please accept my very best wishes for a wonderful Christmas, which perhaps isn’t necessarily orientated on the value of the presents we give. I hope that you are able to enjoy quality time together with your children, families and loved ones, to experience opportunities that may have little or no cost other than those spent on peace, joy, love and understanding.

With all best wishes for 2019.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs Kite

Headteacher