

26 May 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

We will return to school for a very busy final half-term, particularly for examination groups as they continue to sit their GCSE and AS/A Level examinations. I am sure the whole school community will join me in wishing our students all the very best for their exams.

We have a wide range of activities planned for all other year groups in the final weeks of term, including enrichment weeks and reward visits. We shall provide further details about these in due course.

I also write with a number of key updates and appreciate you taking the time to read and digest this information.

Vapes:

I have recently received information from local police officers that there has been an increase in the sale and use of counterfeit vaping devices within the local community. Whilst it is illegal to sell vapes to under 18s, we have been informed that youngsters are being targeted by groups who are selling a batch of vapes which contain substances that could have serious health consequences.

I therefore wish to inform you of an amendment to the Substance Misuse Policy which has been approved by the Governing Body. From Monday, 5th June, any student in possession of a vape (or similar product) on school premises, during the school day, will receive an immediate fixed term exclusion. Parents of those involved will be requested to collect their child immediately. The vape (or similar product) will also be confiscated and passed to the police or destroyed.

We will continue to educate students during form time, REACH sessions and assemblies about the danger of vapes as well as the strong enforcement of this change to policy. I would also ask all parents/carers to convey the same information at home to support the school in keeping everyone safe.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

The police have also shared a concerning rise in the number of anti-social incidents in Ewloe and Hawarden over recent weeks. They have asked that I inform you of an increased police presence in the coming weeks in order to re-assure the community and take appropriate action where necessary.

A helpful service offered by North Wales Police is 'Community Alerts' - this allows you to have message sent directly to you about the area you live in; to tell you about a spike in crimes or to pass on useful information. You can sign up here: <https://www.northwalescommunityalert.co.uk/>

Training Days:

The next staff training days are scheduled for **Wednesday, 19th and Thursday, 20th July**. This will mean that students will finish school for the summer holiday on **Tuesday, 18th July** as per the school calendar. We will be finishing school at the normal time of **3.10pm** on that day. I would also like to advise that we have confirmed the first three training days of the next academic year as **1st, 4th and 5th September**. Students will therefore start school on **Wednesday, 6th September**. I will write to you again prior to the conclusion of the summer term with further details relating to the new academic year.

Drinking Water:

We kindly remind you to ensure that your child brings a filled water bottle to school. Staying hydrated is crucial for overall health and well-being, especially during the busy school day and in warmer weather. While fountains are available, having a personal water bottle ensures that your child has easy access to water at all times. Additionally, water can be obtained from the school canteen or bottles of mineral water purchased, if required.

Uniform:

You may be aware that the Minister for Education and Welsh Language recently made an [announcement](#) regarding new statutory guidance for schools aimed at making school uniform more affordable for families. We will respond directly to this new guidance with a consultation next half-term. Whilst there will be **no** changes for September 2024, with any adaptations only very likely to be minor thereafter, we will issue revised uniform guidance in due course and following feedback from all stakeholders.

Over the last few weeks we have been informing students that our temporary amendment to the school policy relating to the relaxing of rules around coats (which was first permitted during the Covid pandemic) will revert after the half-term break. For clarity, the section of the [uniform guidance document](#) says:

“A plain, dark coat or jacket suitable for weather conditions but coats must not be worn inside the school buildings.”

With the prospect of warmer weather we will be relaxing the requirement to wear a school jumper, however.

School Uniform Exchange:

Commencing on Monday, 5 June 2023, we will be launching a Uniform Exchange Programme. This aims to support families during these challenging financial times by offering a platform where you can exchange any freshly laundered uniforms that are no longer required. By participating in this initiative, you will have the opportunity to acquire uniforms for your children without incurring additional costs.

The Uniform Exchange Programme is open to all parents and carers. We welcome donations of jumpers, shirts, ties and PE kits. If you have any of these items that your child has outgrown and no longer needs, we kindly ask that you bring them to the school office. These donations will form the basis of our exchange inventory, allowing us to assist families who are in need.

We want to emphasise that participating in the Uniform Exchange Programme does not require you to donate any items. Even if you do not have uniforms to contribute, you can still take advantage of the programme and acquire uniforms for your child. The service is entirely confidential and discrete. Your privacy is important to us and we assure you that any information shared will be handled with the strictest confidentiality.

To request specific items from the Uniform Exchange Programme, we kindly ask that you email Lisa Donnelly, PA to Headteacher, lisa.donnelly@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk. In your email, please provide a list of the required items, including the sizes and any specific preference. Once we receive your email, we will respond promptly and provide you with information regarding the availability of the requested uniforms.

Free school holiday events:

Groundwork North Wales are offering a series of free family-friendly events which may interest you. See more details [here](#).

Newsletter:

Please do take a look at our latest Newsletter [here](#).

With best wishes for the bank-holiday weekend and half-term break. School re-commences at the normal time on Monday, 5th June.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen
Headteacher