

17 September 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

I'm pleased to welcome you to a new school year, especially those of you joining us for the first time as parents and carers of our new Year 7 students. It's been wonderful to see how quickly they've adapted to secondary school life, and their enthusiasm for learning has been fantastic to witness.

This letter contains important updates and information, and I truly appreciate you taking the time to go through it.

Staffing

I am pleased to be able to welcome a number of new staff to the school following departures at the end of last academic year. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to the school community.

- Mr. S. Collins, Teacher of Science
- Ms. A. Lau, Science Technician
- Mr. D. Oakey, Curriculum Leader, English
- Mrs. L. Sloan, Assistant Curriculum Leader, Cymru, Ewrop a'r Byd : Head of Languages

School Calendar

I attach a copy of the school calendar for your information, which is also available in student planners and on the school [website](#).

Rewards

I'm thrilled by the number of students who have already earned bronze milestone certificates for house points this year. It's fantastic to see so many pupils being recognised for their efforts and contributions across all aspects of school life. You may have received certificates or emails informing you of these achievements, but I encourage you to ask your child to show you their ePraise account online. This will give you a more comprehensive view of their progress and accomplishments. Every student has a unique login, allowing them to track their house points and even convert them into currency for the online shop.

In the coming weeks, we'll be launching a trial of a parental login system, which will allow you to set up your own account to monitor your child's achievements. If you'd like to participate in this pilot programme, please fill out this [form](#). If this is deemed to be successful and popular we will roll this out to the whole school.

Food Provision

I am excited to share that our food provision has undergone significant upgrades this year, with a brand-new food court now in place to offer a more modern, enjoyable dining experience for students. We've also partnered with Dolce, our new catering provider, known for delivering high-quality, nutritious meals. Their enticing menu includes a wide range of options, from freshly prepared hot meals to healthy snacks, all designed to appeal to students' tastes while supporting their well-being. We encourage you to explore the [menu](#) and see what's on

offer—there's truly something for everyone! We are currently on Week 3 of the menus and will revert to Week 1 next week.

Free School Meals

The following link can be used to access information about entitlement to Free School Meals and also about financial help towards the costs of uniform and equipment <https://gov.wales/get-help-school-costs>

Direct link to Flintshire County Council website can be found [here](#).

If you are eligible to receive Free School Meals it is very important that you apply. Not only will you receive funding for school meals for your child, but school will also receive additional funding which will allow us to provide targeted support programmes, buy equipment and resources etc. Even if your child prefers to take their own packed lunch it is still important to register for Free School Meals so school can access this additional funding. In Wales, we know that up to 40% of parents/carers are not claiming the help with school costs they are entitled to. For students who have just moved into Year 12, you will have to reapply for Free School Meals even if you were entitled to them in Year 11. The same applies for those who have just moved into Year 13.

If your child receives Free School Meals, parents/carers are then also eligible for other funding for school uniform/kit/equipment. You can claim for £125 a year (£200 for Year 7) and can claim once per child each year. You can apply for this using the link to the Flintshire website in this letter. Any student who is 'Looked After' can apply for this grant, even if they are not entitled to Free School Meals. Children who receive free school meals due to transitional protection arrangements do not qualify. Further information about the School Essentials Grant can be found [here](#).

Uniform

I've been especially impressed with how well students have presented themselves this academic year, and I want to extend my thanks to all parents and carers for supporting our high standards of dress. If anyone is facing challenges in purchasing uniform or other school essentials due to the current financial climate, please don't hesitate to reach out to Student Support. We may be able to offer direct assistance or guide you toward external resources that can help.

School Uniform Exchange

As a reminder, our Uniform Exchange Programme remains open to all parents and carers, providing an opportunity to both donate and obtain school uniform items. We gladly accept donations of jumpers, shirts, ties, and PE kits. If your child has outgrown any of these items, please consider bringing them to the School Office. These contributions help us maintain a supply of uniforms for families in need.

Importantly, participation in the programme does not require you to donate. Even if you don't have uniforms to contribute, you are welcome to access the programme and acquire what your child needs. The service is completely confidential, and we take your privacy seriously. Any information shared will be handled with the utmost care.

To request specific items from the Uniform Exchange Programme, we kindly ask that you complete the online [form](#). Once your order is ready we will email you to confirm collection.

Open Days / Evening

Any families wishing to seek admission to the school, particularly those thinking of joining the school in September 2025, are encouraged to come along and see the school for themselves on our Open Days and Evening held on 9th and 10th October. More details are available [here](#) with booking available on [Eventbrite](#) or via the School Office.

Parking

As always, I kindly ask for your continued cooperation when dropping off and picking up your child(ren) at school. In the mornings, if you're using the school site, please proceed to the far end of the bus bay when dropping off, allowing others to enter smoothly without unnecessary delays. Please refrain from leaving your vehicle parked in the bus bay; if you need to come into the school, kindly use one of the designated visitor parking spaces.

For afternoon pick-ups, we recommend using the Gladstone playing fields car park, located opposite the rear entrance of the school. To ensure student safety, traffic on the school site is restricted from 3:10 p.m. to 3:25 p.m., during which time buses arrive and students exit. The school gates will remain closed during this period and will not be opened. We are grateful to Hawarden Community Council for keeping their pedestrian gate open so that students can safely use the footpath onto the Gladstone car park, avoiding the vehicular access point. Please also remind your child to use the designated crossing for added safety.

Finally, I ask you to please be considerate of our neighbours by ensuring you do not block driveways or restrict access to their properties during drop-off and pick-up times.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please encourage your child to attend as many extra-curricular clubs as they can. These really do provide students with great opportunities. We have something for everyone from Dungeons & Dragons Club to Cheerleading and from Dodgeball to Yoga Club. An up-to-date copy of the timetable is available [here](#) on the school website.

Year 11 and Year 12 Information Evenings

Parents of Year 11 pupils are invited to join us on **Wednesday, 25th September 5.30-6.30p.m.** in the hall where they will receive presentations from the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Boyd, and the Curriculum Leaders for English, maths and science. The presentations will detail how parents can support their child with revision, specific subject advice from specialists and the timeline for examinations.

Parents of Year 12 students are invited to join us on **Wednesday, 18th September 5.30-6.30p.m.** to discuss a wide range of topics relating to their child's journey through sixth form. A presentation will be delivered by Assistant Headteacher, Mrs. Birch, which will give an overview of the two-year programmes of study, key dates, how students can build their CVs, target grades, measuring progress and other key topics.

Yours sincerely



Mr. S. Budgen
Headteacher



Autumn Term

SEPTEMBER / MEDI 2024											
WK1	REACH Wed 1	MO 2	Staff Training Day	TU 3	Staff Training Day	WE 4	School Opens for Pupils	TH 5		FR 6	
WK2	Wed 2	MO 9		TU 10		WE 11		TH 12		FR 13	Yr7, 10 & 12 Photographs
WK3	Wed 3	MO 16	Yr 7 Cats Yr 8 MIDYIS	TU 17	Yr 7 Cats Yr 8 MIDYIS	WE 18	Yr 7 Cats Yr 8 MIDYIS Immunisations 6 th Form Info Evening	TH 19		FR 20	
WK4	Wed 4	MO 23	Yr 7 & 9 MIDYIS	TU 24	Yr 7 & 9 MIDYIS Yr 11 Challenge Day	WE 25	Yr 7 & 9 MIDYIS Yr 11 Info Evening	TH 26	Yr 7 & 9 MIDYIS	FR 27	Yr 7 & 9 MIDYIS
OCTOBER / HYDREF 2024											
WK5	Wed 5	MO 30		TU 1		WE 2	Lower Sch Skills Evening	TH 3		FR 4	
WK6	Thurs 1	MO 7		TU 8		WE 9	Open Day	TH 10	Open Day & Evening	FR 11	
WK7	Thurs 2	MO 14	Yr 11 & 13 Photographs	TU 15		WE 16	Yr 13 Challenge Day	TH 17	Yr 7 Review Evening	FR 18	
WK8	Thurs 3	MO 21		TU 22		WE 23	DoE Presentation Evening	TH 24		FR 25	Progress Cards Issued Yr11,12&13 School Closes
NOVEMBER / TACHWEDD 2024											
WK9	FRI 1	MO 4	School Opens	TU 5		WE 6		TH 7		FR 8	Remembrance Service
WK10	Thurs 4	MO 11		TU 12		WE 13		TH 14		FR 15	
WK11	Thurs 5	MO 18		TU 19		WE 20		TH 21		FR 22	
WK12	Fri 2	MO 25	Yr11 Trial Exams	TU 26	Yr11 Trial Exams	WE 27	Yr11 Trial Exams Yr10 Narrative Reports Issued	TH 28	Yr11 Trial Exams Yr 10 Parents Evening	FR 29	Yr11 Trial Exams
DECEMBER / RHAGFYR 2024											
WK13	Fri 3	MO 2	Yr11 Trial Exams	TU 3	Yr11 Trial Exams	WE 4	Yr11 Trial Exams	TH 5	Yr11 Trial Exams	FR 6	Yr11 Trial Exams
WK 14	Fri 4	MO 9	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams Yr 10 Science Trial Exams	TU 10	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams Yr 10 Science Trial Exams	WE 11	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams Yr 10 Science Trial Exams Yr 7 Theatre Trip	TH 12	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams	FR 13	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams
WK 15	Fri 5	MO 16	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams	TU 17	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams Christmas Conert @ st. Deiniols (tbc)	WE 18	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams	TH 19	Yr12 & 13 Trial Exams	FR 20	Yr7 & 8 Progress Cards Issued School Closes

Spring Term

JANUARY / IONAWR 2025											
WK16	REACH Tues 1	MO 6	Staff Training Day	TU 7	School Opens for pupils	WE 8		TH 9		FR 10	
WK17	Tues 2	MO 13		TU 14		WE 15	Yr 9 Info Evening	TH 16	Yr 9 Immunisations	FR 17	Yr10 Business Exam
WK18	Tues 3	MO 20	KS3 Numeracy Tests	TU 21	KS3 Numeracy Tests	WE 22	KS3 Numeracy Tests Yr 9 Narrative Reports Issued	TH 23	KS3 Numeracy Tests Yr 9 Parents Evening	FR 24	KS3 Numeracy Tests
WK19	Tues 4	MO 27		TU 28		WE 29		TH 30	6th Form Open Evening	FR 31	Yr 10,12&13 Grade Cards Issued
FEBRUARY / CHWEFWR 2025											
WK20	Tues 5	MO 3		TU 4		WE 5		TH 6		FR 7	
Wk21	Wed 1	MO 10		TU 11		WE 12	GCSE Music Performance Yr 11 narrative Reports Issued	TH 13	Yr 11 Parents Evening	FR 14	
WK22	Wed 2	MO 17	School Production	TU 18	School Production	WE 19	School Production	TH 20	School Closes for Pupils	FR 21	Staff Training Day
MARCH / MAWRTH 2025											
WK23	Fri 4	MO 3	School Opens	TU 4	UCAS Trip	WE 5		TH 6		FR 7	Eisteddfodd
WK24	Wed 3	MO 10		TU 11		WE 12		TH 13		FR 14	
WK25	Wed 4	MO 17		TU 18	GCSE Welsh Unit 1(Yr10)	WE 19	GCSE Welsh Unit 1(Yr10) Yr 12 & 13 Narrative Reports Issued	TH 20	GCSE Welsh Unit 1(Yr10) Yr 12 & 13 Parents Evening	FR 21	
WK26	Wed 5	MO 24		TU 25	GCSE Welsh Unit 2(Yr11)	WE 26	GCSE Welsh Unit 2(Yr11)	TH 27	GCSE Welsh Unit 2(Yr11)	FR 28	
APRIL / EBRILL 2025											
WK27	Thurs 1	MO 31	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams	TU 1	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams	WE 2	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams	TH 3	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams	FR 4	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams DofE GCSE Art & Design Exam
WK28	Thurs 2	MO 7	GCSE Art & Design Exam KS4 & 5 Trial Exams	TU 8	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams	WE 9	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams Yr 8 Immunisations Yr 8 Narrative Reports Issued Yr 7 & 9 Progress Reports Issued	TH 10	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams Yr 8 Parents Evening	FR 11	KS4 & 5 Trial Exams School Closes

Summer Term

APRIL / EBRILL 2025											
WK29	REACH Thurs 5	MO 28	School Opens	TU 29		WE 30		TH 1		FR 2	
MAY / MAI 2025											
WK30	Thurs 4	MO 5	May Day Bank Holiday	TU 6		WE 7		TH 8	GCSE/A Level Exams Start	FR 9	
WK31	Thurs 3	MO 12		TU 13		WE 14		TH 15		FR 16	
WK32	Fri 5	MO 19		TU 20		WE 21		TH 22	KS4 & 5 Progress Cards Issued	FR 23	Yr 11 Leaver's Service Yr 13 Leavers' dinner School Closes
JUNE / MEHEFIN 2025											
WK33	Mon 1	MO 2	School Opens	TU 3		WE 4		TH 5		FR 6	
WK34	Mon 2	MO 9	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests	TU 10	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests	WE 11	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests UCAS & apprenticeship info evening	TH 12	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests Yr12 Business Trip	FR 13	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests
WK35	Mon 3	MO 16	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests	TU 17	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests	WE 18	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests 7 Narrative Reports Issued	TH 19	GCSE/A Level Exams End KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests Yr 7 Parents Evening	FR 20	KS3 Num. & Lit. Tests Sports Day
WK36	Mon 4	MO 23		TU 24		WE 25	Yr 6 Intake Evening	TH 26	Yr 6 Transition Day Yr 11 Prom (tbc)	FR 27	Yr 6 Transition Day
JULY / GORFFENNAF 2025											
WK37	Mon 5	MO 30	Yr 10 Trial Exams Yr 11 Taster Days Yr 12 Work Experience	TU 1	Yr 10 Trial Exams Yr 11 Taster Days Yr 12 Work Experience	WE 2	Yr 10 Trial Exams Yr 12 Work Experience	TH 3	Yr 10 Trial Exams Yr 12 Work Experience Yr 8&9 Progress Reports Issued	FR 4	Yr 10 Trial Exams Yr 12 Work Experience
WK38	-	MO 7	Yr 10 Work Experience Enrichment Week	TU 8	Yr 10 Work Experience Enrichment Week	WE 9	Yr 10 Work Experience Enrichment Week	TH 10	Yr 10 Work Experience Enrichment Week	FR 11	Yr 10 Work Experience Enrichment Week DofE Gold Presentation Event
WK39	Thurs 5	MO 14	Reward Trips	TU 15	Immunisations (tbc)	WE 16	End of Year Concert	TH 17	School Closes for pupils	FR 18	Staff Training Day
	-	MO 21	Staff Training Day								