



Newsletter & Updates

Wednesday 29 May 2024

Queen Elizabeth High School / Ysgol Uwchradd Y Frenhines Elisabeth

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of a busy first half of the Summer Term we would like to thank pupils and families for all that we have been able to achieve together.

It has been a very successful start to the exam season for all those involved in GCSE, As and A Level exams. Thank you, all those staff who have provided additional revision sessions, and helped prepare our pupils and students for their exams. We wish all our pupils and students the very best during this exam period!

Friday marked the final day for our learners in Year 11 to attend compulsory lessons at school. Monday 3rd June Study Leave formally commences for Year 11 and pupils will only need attend school in order to sit their exams. **Please note that after Half Term, learners in Year 11 will need to SIGN-IN at reception if they are attending school for any other reason (e.g. revision class) than exams.**

There has been much to celebrate, particularly in sport as the weather has finally started to improve! There was also Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh and academic success to celebrate across the community. A visit to our website <https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/about-us/pupil-achievement-stories/> provides the full update of the positive contribution being made by young people in our community.

Queen Elizabeth High School

Pupil Achievement Page



On the 28th June a group of staff will be undertaking the Welsh 3 Peaks challenge. This will be a fundraising challenge with all proceeds going to the school's Adrian Brown fund. This fund was established some years ago in memory of Adrian Brown - a History teacher at our school who was passionate about supporting and caring for all young people. The fund is used today to help pupils and families in our community facing financial challenges in accessing educational resources and opportunities. As a school we are very passionate about ensuring equity in education and the fund has been used to source uniform, equipment and extra-curricular activities.

We will look forward to hearing how the staff get on in the coming weeks!

KEY DATES

Monday 3 June 2024 - Return to school

(Study Leave Commences Year 11)

Wednesday 20 June 2024 - Year 10 Internal Exams Commence

(Until 29th June)

Monday 24 June 2024 - Year 5 Transition Week

Wednesday 26 June 2024 - Year 11 Prom

Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Uniform

Summer Uniform

A reminder to parent and carers that following a review and consultation at the start of this academic year we will be **introducing the option of black tailored shorts from Monday, June 3rd**.

Two important factors were considered:

- **In recent years we have found the warmer weather we might traditionally expect to enjoy in July or August has arrived earlier in the year.**
- **The affordability and flexibility of uniform requirements for all.**

Pupils will be allowed to wear these shorts from Monday 3rd June 2024 through to October Half Term. Please see below for full details. Should pupils choose to they can continue to wear trousers and skirts. **Please note that sports shorts and lycra shorts are not permitted as part of our Summer Uniform.**

SUMMER UNIFORM	
<p>Plain black, knee-length, tailored shorts with usual school polo shirt (see below). PE/sports shorts are not allowed. Tailored shorts are available in uniform retailers and most larger retail outlets, including online and in supermarkets.</p> <p>Alternatively, pupils may wear usual school trousers or skirts.</p> <p>Uniform Suppliers:</p> <p>Evans & Wilkins, 3 Hall Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1PH Tel: 01267 236 432</p> <p>Picton Sports, 3 Heol Aur, Dafen Industrial Estate, Llanelli, SA14 8QN Tel: 01554 754662</p> <p>Toppers Wales Ltd., Unit D1, Llanelli Gate Business Park, Dafen, Llanelli, SA14 8LQ Tel: 01554 777501</p> <p>Other suppliers:</p> <p>Matalan Truetex Sainsbury's Tesco's</p> <p>M&S Boys M&S Girls</p>	<p>Here are some examples of acceptable shorts:</p> 

Shorts will remain purely **optional** during the Summer Term and start of next term. There will be no obligation for any family to purchase extra or make changes to the usual uniform unless by choice.

If pupils choose not to wear the summer uniform, they must wear full school uniform as normal.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for the continual support shown by parents and carers in ensuring pupils are in correct uniform for school. This is an important aspect in ensuring that QEH is a safe and purposeful environment. In addition, we reiterate the view expressed by many parents, that consistent approaches to uniform are an important safety aspect in ensuring that pupils are easily distinguishable as QEH learners when on site.

Behaviour

In response to recent national challenges with behaviour in secondary schools, we have established clear expectations to foster a positive and respectful learning environment. All students are expected to demonstrate courtesy, respect, and kindness towards their peers, teachers, and school staff. Disruptive behaviours, including bullying, truancy, and disrespectful conduct, will not be tolerated and will be addressed promptly with appropriate consequences. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and to contribute to a supportive school community by upholding these standards both in and out of the classroom. We believe that maintaining a consistent and fair approach to behaviour management is essential for ensuring a safe and conducive educational atmosphere for all.

Mobile Phones

As explained previously, the misuse and constant use of mobile phones present some significant wellbeing and wider mental health risks to our community, as well as presenting a distraction to learning. Following a successful pilot scheme we have moved to a ban on mobile phones in school. While pupils can bring phones to school, they should be turned off and placed in their bags. Pupils who fail to abide by these rules and do not use their phones responsibly can expect to have their phones confiscated. Phones can only be returned to parents once confiscated.



Eco Schools celebrate turning 30! - National Botanic Gardens of Wales

OTHER INFORMATION

Free School Meals – Are you claiming what you're entitled to?

We are writing to you to encourage you to check if your child is entitled to receive free school meals. Free school meals are a vital support for many families, especially in these challenging times. They can help you save money, ensure your child gets a healthy and nutritious lunch, and also benefit the school through extra funding.

To qualify for free school meals, you must be receiving **one** of the following benefits:

- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)*

If you are not sure if you are eligible, and you do receive any of the benefits above we encourage you to take the time to [apply](#), Carmarthenshire County Council will let you know what your eligibility status is. You can also find out more information about free school meals on Carmarthenshire County Council's [website](#).

If you are eligible for free school meals, you may also be able to access additional grants and support from the government and other organisations. For example, you may be eligible for

- *The Warm Home Discount Scheme, which gives a £140 rebate on your energy bills each winter*
- *The Cold Weather Payment, which provides £25 extra a week for colder periods*
- *The Food and Fun Programme, which offers free activities and meals for children during the school holidays*
- *Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) | GOV.WALES*

- *The Cost of Living Payment, which will give £900 to means-tested benefit claimants in three instalments over the financial year 2023-24*
- *Family Fund - If you have a disabled or seriously ill child under three, and would benefit from access to a car, the Family Fund Mobility Support programme could help.*
- *The Disabled Facilities Grant, which helps pay for adaptations to your home to make it more accessible for a disabled person*

These are just some examples of the grants and support that you may be able to get if you claim free school meals. There are many more available, depending on your circumstances and needs. You can search for more grants on the [Turn2us](#) website or visit the [Claim What's Yours](#) page on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity and apply for free school meals if you are eligible. It will make a big difference to your child's wellbeing and education, as well as providing additional support through the school's budget and resources. If you have any questions or need any help with your application, please do not hesitate to contact us.

MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT!

Can we still stress the need for regular attendance please.

There are lots of reasons why a child should attend school:

- To learn
- To build confidence and self-esteem
- To understand responsibility
- To develop new skills
- To grow as individuals
- To gain qualifications
- To make new friends, have fun and develop life skills
- To develop awareness of other cultures

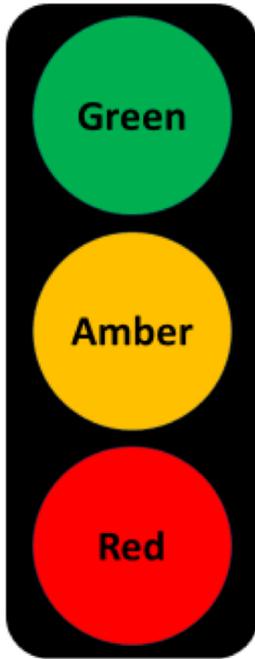


Excellent attendance at school allows a child to have the best possible start in life.

Missing a day here or there might not seem like much, but absences add up. **Two days absence a month adds up to 4 weeks missed in a year, and that means over 100hrs of teaching lost!**



Attendance Matters!



Every school day counts, each day missed makes it harder to catch up, can lead to lower achievements in reading, writing and numeracy and impacts a child’s ability to make important social connections.

We are always proud of our pupils and would like to thank you for continuing to help achieve the high standards that make QEH such a special and successful school.

Once again, thank you for your support and the high standards that you continue to set.

Kind regards,



Dave Williams
Headteacher

