



Queen Elizabeth High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Y Frenhines Elisabeth



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter & Updates

Wednesday 13 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

A very warm welcome back! It was certainly that last week as pupils and students returned to school. We must commend all our pupils, in every year group for the positive and enthusiastic attitude they displayed on return to school this September. A fantastic set of summer results at A Level, AS Level and GCSE has been followed up by a wonderful start to term. On Monday 4th September we opened our doors to Year 7, 10 and 12 to support them with their next important steps in the secondary school journey; new school, GCE and Post 16. On Tuesday, all our pupils and students returned. There was a fantastic buzz around school and many happy faces. Our Year 7 pupils have settled in very well, displaying important qualities of politeness, helpfulness and a positive attitude to school. While other returning years have settled into routines with real positivity.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support in making this such a positive start to term. Thanks must also go to our dedicated staff for the welcome they have extended to our returnees and the preparations they have made to ensure a smooth transition at the start of term.

There is much to look forward to this busy term. Outlined below are some key dates for calendars for this term

Key Dates

- Monday 18th September - Parental introduction to Key Stage 5 - 5.30pm
- Thursday 28th September - Year 7 Settling In Evening
- Friday 29th September - MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Monday 16th October - Year 10 Controlled Assessments (English and Welsh First Language) – All Week
- Monday 20th November - Key Stage 5 Assessment Week
- Monday 20th November - “We Will Rock You” School Performance – All Week
- Thursday 30th 11th - Year 12/13 Parents/Carers Evening
- Monday 4th December - Year 7 Visit to Llangrannog
- Monday 4th December —Year 11 Mock Exams and Year 9 Internal Exams commence (until 15th December)
- Thursday 21st December - End of Term



As we return to school, we need to stress the need for regular attendance.

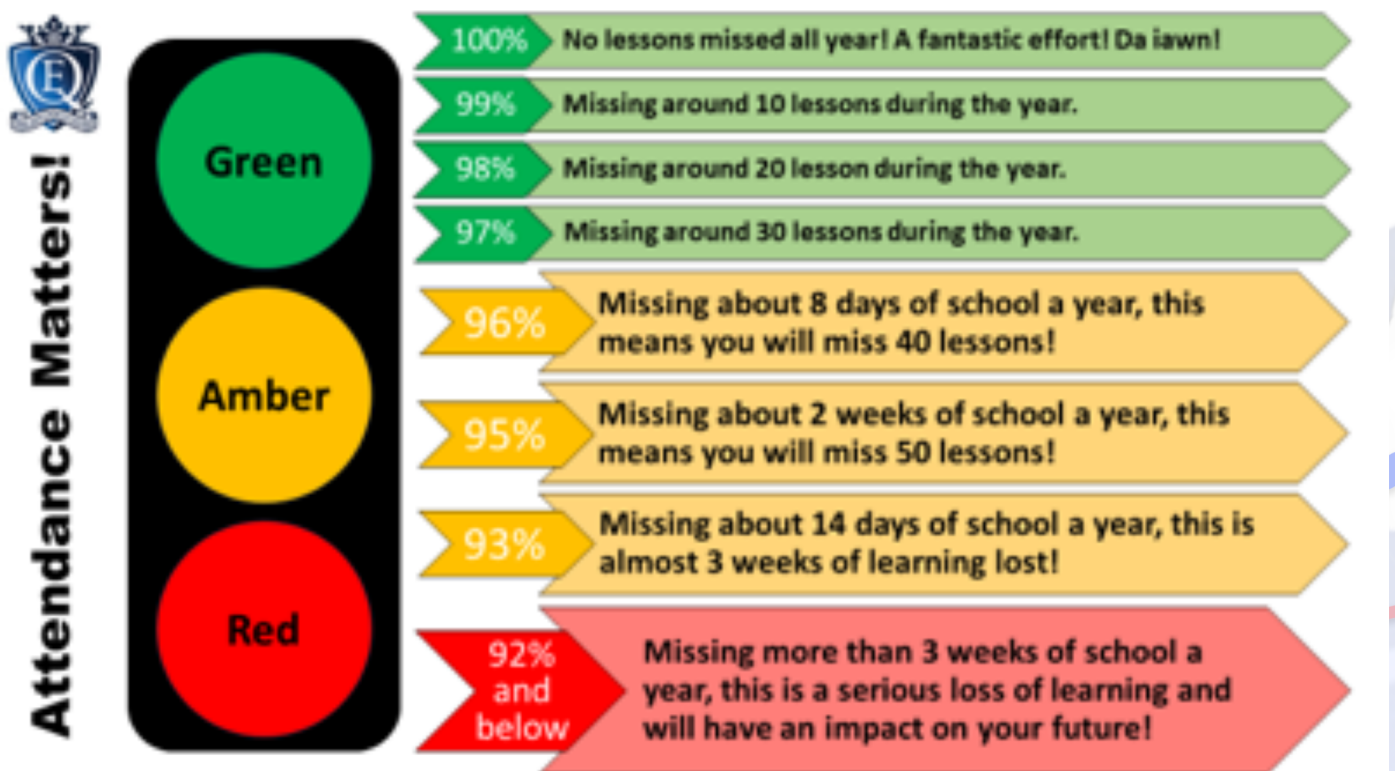
Missing a day here or there might not seem like much, but absences add up. Two days absence a month adds up to 4 weeks missed in a year, and that means over 100hrs of teaching lost!

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.

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.



Parents have an important role to play in helping their children to develop healthy attendance patterns.

- Set regular bedtime and morning routines.
- Schedule medical and dental appointments after school or during holidays.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Send children to school every day unless they are sick.
- Make sure you're on time.

Please follow this link for additional information:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/attendance-matters/for-parents/>



Attendance Matters
every student, on time, everyday

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome back after the summer holidays.

I wish to take this opportunity to remind you of the important campaign which we will be implementing from today: "Attendance matters - every pupil, on time, every day".

Pre pandemic, Carmarthenshire's Secondary school attendance was **93.5%** and Primary pupils' attendance was **94%**. Parents and carers should be doing absolutely everything they can to ensure their children are in school and that we return to these previous levels of attendance.

A pupil with **80%** attendance is already missing **one** day every week.

As you know, regular attendance is essential for a pupil's wellbeing and learning. When pupils miss school, they miss out on important instruction and learning opportunities. This can lead to gaps in their knowledge and make it more difficult for them to keep up with the rest of the class.

In addition, being late to school can also disrupt your child's learning and the learning of others.

There are many reasons why pupils may miss school or be late. Sometimes, it is due to illness or family emergencies. However, there are also times when pupils miss school or are late because they are not motivated or because they do not see the importance of attending school regularly.

As parents, you play a critical role in helping your child develop good attendance habits.

If you feel that there are situations in your life or your child's life that prevent them from attending school/attending on time, you can get advice and support from your school or the County Council.

The following QR code could be a good starting point if you're looking for simple, practical ideas that could help you and your child improve their attendance and punctuality.

Our desire is that we work together to ensure Carmarthenshire's pupils have the best opportunity to be at school as much as possible. We want our pupils to start building good habits and practices that will stand them in good stead for their future beyond school.

Thank you for all your support and best wishes for the new year.

Other Information

Our key tool for communicating with parents and carers is our Groupcall Xpressions App. We use this to keep parents/carers informed of important information regards school as well as parents/carers using the tool to access information on their child's progress, achievements and behaviour. This is an essential tool. All parents and pupils should download and use the App in order to stay up to date on important matters in school.

FAQs

What is Xpressions, what are Xpressions?

Xpressions is a service, providing parents with an app to receive messages from the school.



How does the app work?

The app receives messages, called Xpressions, sent from the school. They are similar to WhatsApp or iMessage, being transmitted over the internet rather than SMS text messages. Thousands of schools are using Xpressions, swapping out SMS and saving money in the process of communicating with their parents.

How do I get set up?

When schools sign up to use Xpressions, they automatically create an account for each parent to log in. Rather than using a username and password system, Xpressions uses information that parents will always remember- their email address and mobile phone number. While logged in, parents will receive a notification on their phone when a new Xpression has been sent to them from the school.

What can I do once I'm logged in?

Within Xpressions, parents can access all messages that have been sent to them by the school. Depending on the product purchased by the school, parents may also have access to performance and progress information about their child, such as attendance, assessment, behaviour records and their timetable. Check with your school to learn more about the features you will have available.

Please follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/parent-carer-information/groupcall-xpressions/>

Uniform Consultation

We will be consulting on some proposed changes to uniform this term. A questionnaire will be sent out via Xpressions App. We welcome your views.

School Uniform

Please find below guidance on acceptable school uniform.

<https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/media/mowc4tsp/uniform-newweb.jpg>

<https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/media/ejojc1lb/uniform-policy-nov21-complete.pdf>

A grant is available for school uniform and equipment for families who are eligible. For more information on the grant, please see the link below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/financial-support/school-essentials-pupil-development-grant-access/>



New Staff

We have several new staff joining our community this term. We extend them a very warm welcome to the QEH and know that they will make a very positive contribution to our school in their respective roles. Croeso cynnes iawn!

Mr. Harrison Button – Science Department – maternity cover

Mrs. Gemma Elson – Art Department

Mr. George Evans – Classroom Teacher

Miss. Rhian Evans – PE Department

Miss. Olivia Kelley – D&T Department – maternity cover

Mr. Andrew Lambert – Maths Department

Mrs. Sara Rees – Elfed Teacher

Miss. Tiffany Ridings – Welsh Department

Miss. Amber Thomas – Welsh Department

Mr. Jonathan Whitehead – Maths Department

I look forward to working with you this year to support our pupils and students to achieve their best in all aspects of their school life and continuing on our journey to make QEH school the heart of it's community and a beacon for academic standards and wellbeing.

Kind regards,



Dave Williams
Headteacher