



NEWBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term comes to an end I wanted to write to wish you and your family well over the Christmas holiday, and also to update you with details for next term.

### Christmas Term Newsletter

Sent via email alongside this letter is our Christmas term newsletter. This letter captures many of the exciting activities pupils engaged in this term and their various successes. As always, it cannot capture everything but certainly gives a 'snapshot' of the school's work outside the classroom. Inside the classroom we have continued to push for the highest standards of teaching and learning, with engaging lessons which help the pupils to excel. Our pupils work very hard with excellent attitudes to learning, and this is always identified when we look at lessons and pupil books. We have also launched the new 'Successful Futures' Curriculum for Wales with our Year 7 pupils. Please make sure you follow us on Twitter **@NewbridgeSch** for up-to-the-minute news and events both inside and outside the classroom.

### Use of Parental App/Classcharts App

We have used Classcharts to track positive and negative behaviour for a few years now. From January we will be allowing our parental app/Classcharts app to show 'behaviour codes' for all pupils, both positive and negative. This means that if your child has an entry made on the school system (in Classcharts) to do with something positive or negative, the 'code' (reason) for this will show on the app and as an alert if you have them switched on. The codes include things like 'Good work in lessons', 'Kindness' (positives) and 'Homework issue', 'Low level disruption in class' (negatives) – and many more. They will also show which lesson the code was awarded in. The codes are the only thing which will be viewable in the app; there will not be a full written description for each one. Therefore, please discuss any codes which you are notified about with your child – they will usually know the reason for it being awarded. This information is to help all parents track the behaviour of their children in school, as well as knowing all the positive things they are rewarded for. **Please do not contact the school each time you see a code as this would become very time consuming for school staff**; the information is for you to see the pattern of how your child is behaving and working. If a pattern develops which concerns you and you want to discuss it with the school, please get in touch either with the class teacher (if it is one subject) or with the Progress Leader (for more than one subject) after you have discussed with your child. The vast majority of pupils in our school behave exceptionally well so this information is to help parents feel more informed about how their child is developing in school. We will be piloting this move for the first half term and will review it as the term progresses.

**If you do not currently have the parental app/Classcharts app, or do not know how to use it fully, please get in touch with the school office and we can help you.**

### Year 10 and Year 11 Examinations

Many Year 10 pupils have their GCSE English Literature examination on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January (all pupils who have been entered are aware of this). Year 10 and Year 11 pupils also have a range of BTEC examinations from 17<sup>th</sup> January onwards – all pupils have been issued with examination timetables. Pupils should revise for all examinations over the holiday.

## **Governors' Annual Report to Parents for 2021-22**

The annual report from the school Governing Body to parents, which details key elements of last year such as examination results, attendance and a financial summary, is available now to view on the school website under the 'Governors' section.

### **Attendance**

Across Wales and the UK, school attendance has sadly fallen since Covid. We have also seen a particularly nasty set of viruses circulating since November which have not helped. However I must remind you to please **send your child to school as often as possible** – just one day missed per fortnight equals a 10% reduction in learning time, which over a child's school life has a sizeable impact on their development and likelihood of success. If you are struggling with attendance issues, please contact our new Family Engagement Officer, Ellie Plumley, for advice and a discussion.

### **Uniform**

In the second half of this term we have seen a decline from some pupils in the high standards of uniform we expect. Can I remind all parents of the following, which will be strictly enforced from January:

- Skirts worn must be of knee length. Tube skirts are not allowed. These points are clearly set out in our uniform policy.
- Shoes must be plain black. No boots (over the ankle) are allowed. 'Boots' includes 'high-top' trainers such as Converse, even when they are plain black.
- Leggings are not allowed – they must be trousers.
- Pupils should bring a school jumper and a coat in the winter months – without these they may be cold around school and in lessons

For any parent struggling with the cost of uniforms, there are different forms of support. We have many items of 'pre-loved' uniform in clean and excellent condition which we will happily give freely to pupils on request. If you would like to discuss this or other uniform issues, please get in touch with your child's form tutor.

### **Parents' Evenings and INSET days**

A reminder of the remaining dates:

*Year 7 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 18th January*

*Year 8 Options Evening (a live online presentation with a link emailed to parents): Wednesday 8th February*

*Year 8 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 14th February*

*Year 10 Parents' Evening: Thursday 20th April*

*INSET days:*

*Friday 23rd December*

*Monday 27th February*

*Monday 26th June*

I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a peaceful, happy New Year. The school will be closed from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December for the whole holiday period – if you have a wellbeing issue with your child over the Christmas holiday please contact your local authority or use the links on our website ('Students – Wellbeing' section). We look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. A. Thompson  
Headteacher