



# Eastern High / Ysgol Uwchradd y Dwyrain

Eastern Community Campus / Campws Cymunedol y Dwyrain

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Head teacher: Armando Di-finizio

17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Another term flies by and it's Christmas already. One of the nice things about working at Eastern High is that there are always new challenges and exciting things happening. Below are some current developments and news:

## End of Term Arrangements

The last day of term is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December and the day will end for pupils at 2.00pm. Please let us know if you have any childcare concerns. The following staff will be leaving us this term:

- Rachel Hanford nee Evans (Assistant Head)
- Chris Cobbold (Behaviour Support)
- Amanda Parry (Admin Assistant)

A huge thank you to the above staff for their dedication and hard work during their time with us.

## Change of School Day from Sept 2019 - Advance Notice

Next year due to our rise in numbers, like most other large schools, we will have to operate two lunch sittings. This will necessitate a reduction in the length of lunch break by 5 minutes to 30 minutes and our break time will revert to the normal twenty minutes. As a result of this from September 2019, the school day will end ten minutes earlier at 2.50pm.

This will be the fourth school I've worked in that operates a 30-minute lunch. Most schools have also moved to this length. It is enough time for pupils to eat comfortably (queues will not be as long due to the split lunch) and socialise. It stops boredom from setting in and so there is a big reduction in any anti-social activities during the break. In addition, pupils return to classes in a calmer frame of mind.

If you have any concerns or questions please do call/write to me or see a deputy or myself at any of the parent evenings.

**Community Use of Our Facilities:** Since the start of November, the school has opened for community use in the evenings, weekends and holidays. The school is in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University who are managing the sport usage of the Campus. If you are interested in booking any of our sports facilities or would like further information, please email - [ecenquiries@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:ecenquiries@cardiffmet.ac.uk) or phone NIAC Reception 029 20416777

If you would like to hire any other facility on the site, please refer to our website or contact the school. This includes our theatre (with large projection screen and stage), and various meeting rooms.

## **Sports Hub**

We would like to introduce you to the new Sports Hub on our website, where you will find information regarding fixtures and training for any extra-curricular activities that run at Eastern High. Please visit the school website [www.easternhigh.org.uk](http://www.easternhigh.org.uk) then go to 'News & Events', where you will see the link to the Sports Hub. Also on this site, you will find some amazing match reviews from the PE staff.

In addition, while we are on the subject of sport here is a message from one of our PE teachers, Mr Evans, who has been doing a terrific job with our football teams this year:

"It has been a very successful term for our football teams with regular weekly fixtures for all year groups. We ask for the same intensity, togetherness and passion for the remainder of the football season.

As a school, we are proud of our Year 7 team for equalling the schools furthest ever run in the Welsh Cup, and we are still in the hat, as Year 7 and 8 have reached the Cardiff Cup quarterfinals. Good luck boys."

To keep up to date with everything football in Eastern High, please follow our twitter page:

Eastern High Football (@EHS\_Footba11)

[https://twitter.com/EHS\\_Footba11?s=03](https://twitter.com/EHS_Footba11?s=03)

## **January Exams**

9th January English Lit Unit 1 for Year 11 only

10th January ICT Unit 1 for Year 9/Year 10 & Year 11

10th January Health & Social Care - Human Lifespan Year 10 & Year 11

10th January Sociology Unit 1 Year 11 - 4 pupils resitting

14th January Health & Social Care - Healthy Living Year 10

14th January Sociology Unit 2 Year 11 - 4 pupils re-sitting

All pupils should have received a statement of entry and their seating/venue. There will be afterschool revision this week and breakfast club revision before the exams. Please remind your child to check with their teachers regarding times.

## **Christmas Production**

It was great to see a fantastic Christmas performance this year. We lost some amazing Year 11 singers at the end of the summer term, but they have been well and truly replaced with some great talent.

Thanks also to the band who are showing some real promise. There are Monday and Thursday performance workshops taking place after school for anyone interested in taking part in future performances.

## **Welsh Department Trips**

Our Welsh Department led a very successful and enjoyable Year 10 trip to Glan Llyn last week and have organised the following trips next term to Llangrannog and Paris for Year 7 and Year 9 respectively (Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd Feb and Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th March).

## **Free School Meals Entitlement**

We have noticed that a number of our pupils who have previously been entitled to free school meals have had their entitlement removed or it has lapsed. This may be because financial circumstances have changed but if you do meet the criteria, please complete the enclosed application form to claim free school meals entitlement. Please call the school if you have any doubts or questions regarding your eligibility to apply.

### **Prep Website**

We are about to launch new pages on our website with regards to Prep Time. The pages will contain all of the revision activities/topics we use during Prep Time along with a timetable showing the days your child will study a particular topic in Prep. You will find the pages under the Parent Information Section on the website. Please note that apart from English and Maths, Prep Time is a replacement for homework. Pupils are tested on what they study in class and so we ask parents to encourage their child to spend time at home studying the topic they covered that day.

To help, you can do the maths with them – if they study one subject for 20 minutes in Prep Time and then 20 minutes at home, which is 40 minutes per week study for that subject. Multiply this by 38 weeks, that's over 25 hours extra study per year for one subject. For a child in Year 7, this equates to around 126 hours extra study by the time of their exam in that subject! Five subjects per week gives them 630 hours by Year 11.

### **Traffic Outside After School**

There's no getting away from it, it's very busy on the roads around the school at the end of the day. Things have improved dramatically since the Council employed Terry our Traffic Patrol Officer (Lollypop man for those of us who can't get used to the new title). New traffic safety measures will be installed in the New Year (probably March). But in the meantime, Terry will remain on duty at the beginning and end of each day.

Please be aware that parking enforcement cars do regularly patrol the roads around the school, so please park in legitimate spaces. A number of drivers have been fined for parking on the zigzags.

### **Sharing the Building/Campus with the College**

Parents often ask me how things are going with regards to sharing the site with the college. The short answer is very well. Their students keep to themselves and there have been no issues with either our pupils or their students disrupting learning in any way. We have plans to develop our working relationship with the college, including the use of their facilities on the Campus – e.g. the hair and beauty salon, motor vehicle repair centre and catering suite.

### **Detentions**

As you are aware we hold our detentions centrally rather than each individual teacher running detentions and we will always try to inform you of any detention your child has. While this makes things easier for you and us in terms of tracking detentions, it does generate a lot of processing time, which means errors occasionally happen. We thank you for your patience when this does happen. Some parents have asked if their child can do the detention at lunch instead of after school. This should only occur if there are care issues (e.g. your child may be a Young Carer) or if there is a real transport issue in which case we would have to discuss this with you. Thank you for your cooperation with regards to this.

### **Wellbeing Review**

Estyn were in again this term, but this time to carry out a review of our wellbeing provision in the school. They are currently writing a report, which will highlight examples of good practice across Wales and chose us. They were very impressed with what they found.

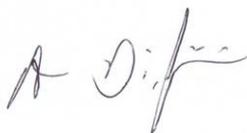
## Uniform

Thank you for your support regarding uniform. It looks really good around the school. If your child needs a new blazer, it may be cheaper for you to buy a black one from a supermarket and buy a badge from us for £2 (we can sew it on for an additional £1). When Year 11 grow out of their blazer, they do not need to be replaced, but we do ask that parents support us by reminding Year 11 students that they should not wear coats in school. If they feel cold, they can wear a black v-neck jumper (although the building has been very warm this winter).

## Key Dates Next Term

<b>Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b>	First day back
<b>Jan 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 8 Parents Evening/Guided Choices Evening
<b>Feb 11<sup>th</sup></b>	School closed for staff training
<b>Feb 25<sup>th</sup></b>	First day of half-term break
<b>Mar 4<sup>th</sup></b>	First day back after the half-term break
<b>Apr 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 7 Parents Evening
<b>Apr 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 11 Parents Evening
<b>Apr 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Last day of term

Very best wishes for Christmas and the coming New Year.



Armando Di-finizio  
Head teacher



