



Eastern High / Ysgol Uwchradd y Dwyrain

Eastern Community Campus / Campws Cymunedol y Dwyrain

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Head teacher: Armando Di-finizio

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Dear Parent/Carer

As many of you will know the permanent Headteacher role for Eastern High was recently advertised. The reason for this was that for just over 4 years, I've been on a temporary contract. I'm pleased (and I hope you will be to!) to say that following a two-day interview process, I was appointed as the permanent Headteacher of Eastern High and Director of the Eastern Community Campus.

I originally came to the school on a two-week contract whilst working as a consultant. I was then asked to stay for a bit longer and soon agreed to take on a longer contract. I have to say that I've really enjoyed my time here and it wasn't a hard decision for me to make, when the Governors announced their decision to advertise a permanent role.

We have moved the school far over the last few years, but there are still many exciting things we can do, to further improve and become a high-quality centre of learning, not only for our pupils but for the whole community. Over the coming year, I am looking forward to us beginning to offer more evening classes and advertising our facilities for use during the evenings and holidays. The education reforms that the Welsh Government are bringing in are particularly exciting and I'm happy to report that we are well on track to deliver the changes according to the Government timetable.

We do want your feedback and we intend to write to you and/or invite you in over the coming months, to learn more about your opinions with regards to how we run the school and what you would like to see introduced.

Social Media

One of the first things I will need your support with is the use of digital technology and especially social media. Every school I know is finding it hard to tackle the growing amount of upset that is caused by social media. I don't ever want to ban phones in the school, as I believe it is in the main, our responsibility to train young people to resist the urge to pull out their phone in class when they feel it buzz. We need to educate our pupils/children to use their phones and social media appropriately and responsibly. For this reason, we are aiming to develop a simple set of rules with pupils, which I am hoping with your support they will apply to their lives both in and outside of school and continue to use through life. We will keep you informed with regards to this next term.

Junior Apprenticeships

Another area we hope to develop in the school (working closely with Cardiff & Vale College) is our Junior Apprenticeship provision in Years 10 & 11. This would provide a real opportunity for some of our students to follow a broad vocational area that focuses on a particular area of interest as they move into Year 11. The aim is to develop a number of employers who will provide employment /apprenticeship

opportunities on leaving school at 16. We will be holding an information session for parents when we have completed our planning and research.

School Numbers

As you are aware our current Year 7 is full with 240 pupils. This year, there were 286 first choice applications for Year 7 from September 2019. This is very good news for us as it enables us to plan a broader curriculum and bring in more resources to ensure we go from strength to strength.

Travelling Home at the End of the Day

Now that a new zebra crossing is in operation on Aberdaron Road, we will sadly be losing Terry our Lollipop Man, who was on loan to us from the Council. The Council have informed us that they will be narrowing the entrance onto Aberdaron Road during the Easter break and have some other traffic calming measures to put in place. **Please be aware**, they also mentioned that they will be carrying out random traffic enforcement checks on cars parked illegally at the end of the day. This will include the zigzag areas on both zebra crossings.

We would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Rotary Club of Cardiff St David's for its continued support of the school in particular their donation to our annual Year 7 climb of Pen-y-Fan.

Events next term

6th May - Bank Holiday Monday – School closed

7th May - GCSEs begin in earnest – Best of luck to all those sitting exams this summer

8th May – Friends of Eastern High – all welcome to join this forum to discuss future community events from 5.30 – 6.30.

27th May – 31st May half term break

From 3rd June - Meet the Tutor Appointments

27th June – Drop Down Day Trips – Yrs 8 & 10

28th June – Sports Day

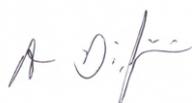
11th July - Year 6 Transition Day

19th July - Last day of term

For all the latest news and information, please do look at our website.

Thank you as always for your continued support. Hope you have a good Easter.

Yours sincerely



Armando Di-Finizio
Headteacher

