



Eastern High / Ysgol Uwchradd y Dwyrain

Eastern Community Campus / Campws Cymunedol y Dwyrain

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Head teacher: Armando Di-finizio

12th December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for the holiday ahead. Everyone, staff and students have worked hard, and as a result the term has flown by and we're now ready for a break. Before I wish you all a merry Christmas, I'd like to take this opportunity to give you some information regarding next week as the last week of term and next term:

Yr7 Parents Information Evening

On Wednesday 18th December we are inviting Year 7 parents in from 3.15pm for a short information giving session regarding your child's first 'Approach to Learning' (ATL) report at Eastern High. The report can look daunting at first glance and is very different to reports at primary school. If you have not yet seen it, please do come in. I'll be giving a short presentation which explains how to read it and what the information on the report means. I'll do two sessions: 3.15pm and 3.45pm. And if this isn't tempting enough, read below . . .

Carols and Christmas Pies

Also, on Wednesday 18th, the school choir will be singing carols in the school entrance hall. There will also be hot drinks, mince pies and some Christmas pudding made by our Cardiff & Vale college students. Everyone welcome, from 3.00pm

Last day of term

The last day of term is Friday 20th December which will be our Charity Christmas jumper day, 50p donation which will go towards the Wales Air Ambulance, a charity that the pupils have been learning about in assemblies this week. In order to allow us time to say goodbye to staff leavers (not to mention time to tidy up after the various Learning Family parties), we will be closing at **2.20pm**. If you have a childcare problem please do ring the school and let us know as we will be on site until the usual time and can provide care.

First day back

Our first day back after the break is: **Monday 6th January** at the normal time, 8.35am

Plea for support

Apologies for moaning in the middle of a festive newsletter, but we need help in the following areas:

Uniform – uniform has been a lot better this year and visitors and the public do comment on how smart our students look. However, having said that, there are still some students coming to school without their blazers and wearing their coat in school. Blazers are part of our uniform and need to be worn in school. All students have access to lockers which is where they should leave their coats when they arrive in the morning. If they wish to go out at break we allow them to put their coats back on in the winter months. Black blazers can be purchased at YC Sports with badge or you can buy a plain black blazer without the badge at most supermarkets. We have iron on school badges available for £2 (this option is far cheaper).

Punctuality – in the morning we have quite a few students who are late first thing. School starts at 8.35am with the warning bell and students should be in class by 8.40am. Next term we will begin to issue detentions at break time for those who are consistently late. We know many of these students leave home in plenty of time but are waylaid on route to school. We will write and let you know next term if your child is persistently late.

Attendance – This is a bigger concern for me. While all figures which measure school standards are rising each year, this is the one figure which has not improved for a few years. We do have some persistent non-attenders which we are working with, but it's the students who are falling between 85% and 94% attendance that particularly concern me, because many of these students (not all) are taking days off when they are feeling slightly under the weather. I know as a parent of three children how hard it is to motivate teenagers on cold rainy mornings, but we are preparing them for the world of work and it's important we develop resilience in young people. If you are finding it difficult to get your child out of bed in the morning or persuading them to go to school, please let your child's tutor or House leader know. We can provide tips/support/help.

Next term

Moans over. Here are a few key dates for next term:

- Tue Jan 7th Yr 10/11 ICT GCSE Unit 1 Exam
- Wed Jan 8th Yr 10 GCSE English Literature Unit 1 Exam
- Thur Jan 9th Yr 10 BTEC Health and Social Care Exam (Human Lifespan)
- Mon Jan 13th Yr 10 BTEC Health and Social Care Exam (Healthy Living)
- Tue Jan 14th Mock exams begin
- Thur Jan 16th Year 9 Parents Evening 4.00pm – 7.00pm
- Thurs Jan 23rd Yr 8 Parents/Options Evening 4.00pm - 7.00pm
- **Monday Feb 17th – Friday Feb 21st Half Term break**
- **Friday Mar 13th School closed for training**
- Thur April 2nd Yr7 Parents Evening
- Friday April 3rd **Last day of term**

And finally . . .

Thank you as always for all your support this term and on behalf of myself and all the staff, we hope you have a very merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Best wishes



Armando Di-Finizio

Headteacher

Eastern High

Enclosures where applicable :-

Progress Review Report

Data Capture form to check, sign and return to school

Class charts log ins