



Ysgol Uwchradd

CASTELL ALUN

High School

Fagl Lane, Hope, Flintshire LL12 9PY

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July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of another academic year, I wanted to thank you for your support over the last 12 months and also share some important information with regards to next year.

This year, we have made significant strides towards returning to some sense of normality. In the past few weeks, we were able to organise induction days, end-of-year celebrations, leaving ceremonies, the much-anticipated proms, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, a cultural trip to the Eisteddfod, several memorable trips abroad and a multitude of sporting events. We are currently in the middle of festival days, and we hope our re-scheduled sports day will be able to go ahead on Wednesday. These experiences are planned in order to enrich our students' education and help them grow as individuals.

This year, we made a concerted effort to enhance communication with parents, and your feedback from the questionnaires has been invaluable in shaping our approach. I would also like to remind you to sign up for the new SIMS app, if you haven't done so already. This app will serve as a valuable tool for further school communication, keeping you better informed about your son/daughter's progress and giving you immediate school updates. Please follow the invitation link we've already sent to complete the registration process and ensure you don't miss out on any vital information. If you have any problems registering, please email us at the following email address: simsparentsupport@castellalun.flintshire.sch.uk

Below are a few reminders regarding our school's policies for next year.

Dress Code:

Tailored shorts - have now been introduced into our uniform policy. They must be **black** smart/straight cut and sit just above the knee.

Hoodies are not allowed as a substitute for a school jumper or to be used as a coat.

Skirt Length - We have noticed an increase in skirts that do not meet our dress code standards or are worn inappropriately, e.g. rolled up. Your support in reinforcing this expectation at home is greatly appreciated as we strive to maintain a respectful learning environment, conducive to success for all. As a reminder all skirts should be **black and pleated**.

Footwear - Footwear should be **plain black**. They should be **polishable**. This ensures that students can maintain a neat and tidy appearance. Footwear must be **non-branded**, this means avoiding shoes with visible logos or brand names.

We understand that adhering to uniform policies can sometimes be challenging, but by doing so, we create an inclusive and cohesive environment for all students. We appreciate your support in maintaining these standards and ensuring that our uniform policy remains fair and equitable for every student.

Mobile Phone Usage:

Effective from September, mobile phones are prohibited from being seen or used in the school building, including corridors, indoor seating areas, and the canteen. However, we recognise that there may be situations where the use of mobile phones can **enhance teaching and learning**. In these cases, teachers may grant permission for students to use their phones during the lesson. Nevertheless, this will be strictly controlled and monitored, and at the end of the lesson, all phones must be out of sight before leaving the room.

During break and lunchtimes, students may use their phones outside of the school building for necessary communication only. It is important to note that students **should not contact home, stating they are ill or need to be picked up**, as the school needs to be aware of any issues and ensure appropriate measures are taken to address student welfare. We will then contact home, if necessary. Phones will be confiscated from students who do not follow this guidance. There will be further sanctions for repeat offenders, which may include the need for parents to collect the phone.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in these matters. Our aim is to create an optimal learning environment for all students.

Exam results days:

A and A/S Level – Thursday 17th August from 8am

GCSE – Thursday 24th August – Year 11 students from 8am (Year 10 students will receive results electronically)

Term dates for next academic year:

Monday 4th September – Staff Training Day also Year 12 Enrolment

Tuesday 5th September – Staff Training Day

Wednesday 6th September – All students return to school

Thursday 26th October – school closes for half term

Friday 27th October – Staff Training Day

Monday 6th November – school opens to students

Thursday 21st December – school closes for Christmas

Monday 8th January 2024 – school opens

Friday 9th February 2024 – school closes for half term

Tuesday 20th February 2024 – school opens

Friday 22nd March – school closes for Easter

Monday 8th April – school opens

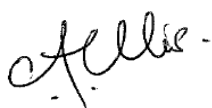
Friday 24th May – school closes for half term

Monday 3rd June – school opens

Friday 19th July - school closes for summer

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. It is your commitment and involvement that makes our school community thrive. As we approach the summer break, I hope you and your family can enjoy a well-deserved break.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Ellis
Headteacher