



flint high school ysgol uwchradd y fflint

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Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope that you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break and that our students are now keen to work hard and progress. We were very pleased to see so many of our Year 11's at our Easter School last week, with teachers giving up their time to help them revise (we thank Sainsbury's for providing their refreshments) and we wish all our students in Years 13, 12 and 11 the very best for success in their public examinations.

Whole School Photograph: Thursday 15 April

As part of our 75th celebrations, we are having a whole school photograph at 10 am on 15 April. All students need obviously to be smartly dressed in their uniform and we ask that girls are sensible with their make-up (a few still look inappropriate for school). For those Year 11 students who do not have the new uniform, we would like them to wear a white school shirt (not a T-shirt) on that day and we will lend them a tie, so that the overall picture is consistent.

Year 11 have the opportunity to have friendship photos on that day; all photos must be paid for in advance.

Parents' Annual General Meeting and FLAG

The governors invite parents and carers of children at the school to a meeting on Wednesday 28 April at 6.30pm at the school to meet some of the governors, to read the annual report and allow them the opportunity to raise issues or ask questions. Specific matters concerning an individual are better discussed via an appointment with the Chair of Governors or Headteacher, of course.

After the meeting, we would like to invite parents to meet the Flint Link Action Group. We have a loyal, but small band of parents and we are very keen to have new members, who are interested in making a difference.

It is proposed that the **School Day is changed to 8.45 am - 3.10 pm** from September 2010.

If you cannot attend the meeting, and wish to make comments, please do so by email (address above) or letter. It is very important that everyone is consulted.

Medical Information and Contact Details

Can you please let us know if there is any new information about your child's medical details; it is very important that we keep our data-base up to date. Similarly, please tell us of any changes to addresses, telephone numbers etc- you can email school or write in the planner.

Year 8 and 9 Exams

We have decided to give our students formal examinations this summer so that they have valuable practice and experience to be better prepared for the future. Parents and carers will be given the results and this will combine with the regular progress reviews you now receive. Our aim is to improve communications and make you fully aware of how your son/ daughter is performing at school.

We will inform you soon of the exam dates.

Uniform

We are very pleased with the way most of our students are turned out and we appreciate your support. **Shoes**, not pumps or trainers, are the agreed footwear and jumpers and blazers are to be worn. Skirts must on no account be too short. If the weather does turn **warm** (and we hope we can look forward to a good summer), we will look again at the uniform and I will notify you by letter or the web site if changes are allowed. We obviously want to be reasonable and it is important you are kept informed.

Attendance

Examinations and important events are reasons to ensure your son/ daughter is at school and not absent for holidays, which should be taken out of term time. Year 10 students have modular exams, which count towards the final qualification and Year 12 students begin their A2 studies after their exams finish.

We are aiming to begin the **new school year and timetable** in the last two weeks of school. This means that all the timetables will change and Year 7 will move up to be Year 8 etc.

We still have problems with **absences** which are not notified and which risk being counted as truancy on a student's record. Can I urge all parents and carers to sign in the planners or email for the attention of Mrs. Claire Harris, Attendance Administrator to explain an absence? It will help us all.

Facebook and MSN

Recently there have been unpleasant incidents on Facebook and MSN, where individuals from school have been targeted. We view this very seriously, as do the police. I am sure that all parents and carers will support me and the staff in asking that you monitor what your son/ daughter is accessing and also the amount of time your child is spending on such sites. You may be surprised at just how much time is spent, when better use can be made of the technology.

Healthy Students

We are aware of a significant number of students who do not eat during the day and some who do not even have a drink. If they have not had breakfast either, it is difficult to see how students can concentrate and learn. When there have been incidents of poor behaviour in school, I often find that the student has not eaten properly or had a drink for hours.

We will be installing more **water fountains** in school, as drinks are very important especially in warmer weather. However, drinking high energy and sugar laden drinks is not permitted. I would also encourage all parents and carers to check that your son/daughter is eating. The canteen food is very good, with a wide variety on offer. Some children on free school meals are not claiming their entitlement, so please ensure you have completed the relevant forms, if this applies to you.

Drugs' Dog

Flintshire Police have a specially trained dog, which can detect drugs on clothing and in bags. The dog and its trainer regularly visits schools and we are expecting a visit this term. We hope you are happy for this to go ahead; please notify me if you have concerns.

And finally...

Car Boot Sale

We are looking at starting car boot sales at Flint High School. We would need a licence, of course, but before we apply, I would be grateful if you could contact me if you would be interested, either as a punter or a seller. Car boot sales are very popular in Chester and Mold, so why not something more local? Would Saturday or Sunday be preferable? And at what time? I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Pamela McClean Headteacher