



21st July

End of Year Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the 2022-23 academic year, the Leadership Team would like to personally thank you for your collaboration and support through this year. It has been my absolute privilege to lead the school in partnership with you, our staff and our community.

By working together, we can continue to achieve the best for our fantastic students. Thank you for your contributions to the surveys and Parent Forums throughout this year. Praise has been shared with staff upon your requests and we have taken thoughts for improvement, going forward.

Planning ahead, I provide you with updates on the summer examination results days and also on some changes in readiness for the next academic year ahead.

Car Park Update

Our car park is undergoing Phase 1 of redesign throughout the summer holidays and will be closed. We hope that the entrance to school will have a physical barrier upon our return in September. Throughout the next academic year, the car park will be closed fully or in sections in the holiday periods and we are pleased that this will bring more space and easier movement by the end of the year.

Exam Results Days

A Level / Level 3 Results Day – 17th August 2023

A Level & AS results will be released on **Thursday, August 17th from 8.00am**. We encourage all students to be **available in person from 9:00 a.m.** to collect their results and resolve any possible queries. If students are not going to be able to collect their results, they will need to email our Examinations Officer/Leadership support (jays@crickhowell-hs.powys ; allysonh@crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk) and a member of the Sixth Form team.

Please remember that should you require any assistance or support over the exam period, pastoral staff and subject teachers are available and only too willing to help. Our Post-16 Director will check her school email address (katet@crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk) throughout the holidays so please get in touch if necessary.

GCSE/Level 2 Results Day – 24th August 2023

Year 11

Students are encouraged to arrive at school on **Thursday 24th August from 8:30 a.m.** to collect their results in person. This enable us to congratulate them and guide them as necessary, with the presence of Careers Wales and school staff. If they are unable to do so then we ask them to email our Examinations Officer & Leadership support (jays@crickhowell-hs.powys ; allysonh@crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk) to request their

results over email instead. This request must come via the student themselves as GDPR regulations now mean we are not permitted to release results to parents/carers without the consent of the young person.

Year 10

Results will be emailed 10-11 a.m. We will undertake reviews of Year 10 results in September and support meetings can take place with families at the beginning of Year 11. This may be upon your request or through our contact with you.

IMPORTANT: Due to the car park work over the summer, all families will need to make arrangements to try and park off school site for the Exam Results Days. We apologise for the inconvenience, but the school holidays are the only period whereby the work can take place without disruption to school.

Staffing Changes

We share thanks to the following staff who are leaving us this year due to retirement, temporary contracts, and also promotions to other roles in other settings. They have all had individual impact on learners and the school over different periods of time and we wish them all the best on their next ventures.

Mrs C Canning – Finance Officer

Mrs K Myatt – Administration & Attendance

Mrs H Johnson – Data Manager

Mr J Mullens – Teaching Assistant

Ms R Snarey – Teaching Assistant

Mrs J Collier – Head Cook

Ms P Lord – Teacher of Humanities & Year 7 Progress Leader

Ms F Taylor – Teacher of Humanities

Ms S Adams – Teacher of English

Ms T Srithong – Teacher of Mathematics

We have a number of newly appointed specialist staff to ensure ongoing quality provision in all areas, and I am confident that they will add value to school life in many ways.

Mobile Phone Policy

From 1st September, mobile phones will not be permitted during school hours for students in Years 7 – 11. They will be allowed to bring them in their bags, to facilitate transport or after school needs, but they must be out of sight and turned off at all times from 8:40 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

We previously had a policy that enabled some mobile phone use with teacher permission, and that was to enable some research and digital access for learning purposes during lessons. However, by September, all of Year 7-11 will be equipped with an iPad to facilitate learning and therefore this purpose will be redundant.

Our parent survey and Parent Forums have strongly signalled your agreement with this change, and our shared desire to encourage our learners to also use their free time (break and lunch) to socialise and engage in extra-curricular activities.

A select minority of parents/carers have raised concern about not being able to reach their child. Under the current policy (2022-23), this has not been permitted anyway. However, we understand that post-Covid change and worries led to this contact for some families. From September, students will be able to go to reception if they need to contact home and/or you may contact reception if you need to speak with them.

It is important that we build resilience in our young people collectively and help them to learn to problem solve and liaise with school staff, and the other layers of support accessible to them. The change in policy will be effective with your support and we thank you in advance.

Students have been informed of the change today, and the updated Mobile Phone Policy will be publicised on the school website in readiness for 4th September.

Parent Calendar for 2022-23

You will be pleased to know that we have created a parent/carer calendar for the academic year ahead which provides the dates of all reports, parents' evenings, trips and some wider planned events. You can see these at any point to support your planning and involvement as parents/carers:

<https://www.crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk/school-information/calendar/>

Attendance

Individual and whole school attendance has improved overall this year. Research and practice tells us that absences from school have significant impact on learner wellbeing and academic progress. The table below reminds us of that:

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	THIS NO. OF DAYS ABSENT	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY THIS NO. OF WEEKS ABSENT	WHICH MEANS THIS NO. OF LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

Next year, we will be opening Go4Schools attendance for parents/carers to monitor more closely, and we appreciate your understanding of the difference good attendance to school makes.

We have had more holiday requests this year than ever. Holidays may be requested but are not encouraged by the Welsh Government protocols and Headteacher discretion on exceptional cases only is to be applied. As a school, we have set a criterion for possible authorisation but I ask you in advance to not book holidays in term time in the next academic year. If you wish to request a holiday because of an exceptional need then please follow the process and provide us with details/evidence within the noted time: <https://www.crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk/school-information/attendance/>

If your child's attendance to school is impacted by medical needs or regular appointments, we ask you to provide us with updates and evidence of this, so we can support them as best as possible with their attendance but also medical care plans.

Equally, if there are any wellbeing concerns for your child then please do not hesitate to contact us at any point and our Wellbeing Team and/or Leadership Team will always support you as best as possible.

Fortnightly reviews of student attendance are undertaken with the Powys Educational Welfare Officer and we continue to support a number of families across Year Groups.

We have been in a position to praise so many students this year and collaboration evidently makes a difference.

Start Dates for September 2023

Year 7 & Year 12 – Monday 4th September

Year 7-12 (start date for Years 8,9,10,11) – Tuesday 5th September

Year 7-13 (start date for Year 13) – Wednesday 6th September

The above schedule will enable us to provide quality transition for new year groups and have a phased settling for all.

Support & Summer Safety

We wish all students and families a well-deserved summer and hope that you all manage some quality time.

We have shared some details relating to family support services with the Powys Early Help Team, should you require any multi-agency input over the summer holidays.

Today, I have delivered assemblies to students to congratulate them on the year and to provide them with advice regarding their health & wellbeing through the summer.

To that end, we very much look forward to welcoming all students back in September and us collectively taking them through another year of growth, maturity and progress.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Jones

Headteacher