



**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

**Welcome Back – 2023-24**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to welcoming all students back this week and hope that all families have had the opportunity to relax and have some quality time together.

A reminder of the start dates for each year group are below:

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 and Year 12
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 8, 9, 10 and 11
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 13

**Uniform**

Full winter uniform is expected for Year 7 – 11 from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September onwards. The forecast for the first week is expected to be hot but the humidity is lower than the summer term. We will review our decision if temperatures rise any further. Students are not to wear PE kit or other clothing to school: they must wear full uniform only, please.

Our uniform supplier, Reflex Embroidery, are currently developing tailored shorts which we endeavour to bring in to the spring and summer uniform code later this academic year. A very small minority of students with evidenced sensory/physical needs may have authorisation to wear adapted uniform through the winter months. Please can we ask you to ensure that your child adheres to the uniform expectations:

[Uniform - Crickhowell High School \(crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk\)](http://crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk)

**Mobile Phone Policy**

As detailed in our end of year letter, our 'no mobile phones' policy will be begin from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Please can ensure that your child is fully aware of these changes in our endeavour to maximise learning outcomes and reduce unnecessary disruption for all students.

The full updated Mobile Phone Policy will be accessible on the website shortly, but the summarised essential detail is below:

## **Years 7 to 11**

- Mobile phones and devices (including air pods and other headphones) should be switched off and put away in bags during all lessons.
- Mobile phones and devices (including air pods and other headphones) should be switched off and put away in bags whilst moving between lessons, during break times and during lunch times.
- Headphones / ear buds are not to be used or visible in corridors during lessons, between lessons or at any point in the school day.
- A member of staff may authorise use of mobile phones during school trips, fixtures and events. If they do so, this instruction will be clear and explicit.
- A member of staff may authorise use of mobile phones in the event of an emergency. If they do so, this instruction will be clear and explicit.

## **Years 12 and 13**

- Mobile phones and devices should be switched off and put away in bags during all lessons.
- Mobile phones and devices should be switched off and put away in bags whilst moving between lessons (e.g. corridors).
- Mobile phones are permitted to be used in the following designated areas: Staff/Sixth Form Work Room, the Sixth Form communal area and the Sixth Form study space (in H Block)
- No headphones / ear buds are to be used during lessons and they must not be visible when circulating through school (e.g. on corridors)
- Headphones/ear buds may be used in the designated areas prescribed above.

There may be *exceptional circumstances* or cases whereby a student requires temporary or permanent access to or use of a mobile phone or other device. This may include significant and *evidenced medical needs* that place a student at risk. Any such request will be considered on an individual basis and must be referred by parents/carers or the relevant Progress Leader to the Headteacher.

In the event of illness or injury, students should not use their mobile phones/devices to contact parents/carers directly to make personal collection arrangements without the prior knowledge of first aid or pastoral staff. Students should report to reception or seek help from a staff member. It is also. In the case of any emergency, it is also still requested that parents/carers contact the school first so that are aware of any potential issue and can support students promptly.

It is essential that all students please ensure that their iPads are fully charged for their learning each day. Permission will not be given for mobile phones to be used instead.

## **Staged Sanction Protocol**

If a student's mobile phone is seen or heard, or if a student has their air pods/headphones out or on, a member of staff will confiscate the device and hand it in to a designated safe and secure area within school. Parents/carers will receive a notification email on each occasion and it will also be logged on student Go4Schools profiles.

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Infringement

On the first and second occasion, the student will be able to collect their phone from the designated area at 3:30 p.m. only.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> infringement

On the third occasion, only the parent/carer will be able to collect the phone from school.

Any further infringements of the Mobile Phone / Device Code of Conduct may result in a ban on the student bringing a mobile phone / device to school or more serious sanctions in line with the school discipline code.

## **Attendance to School**

With the start of the new academic year, every student gets a refreshed opportunity to achieve their best attendance to school. The end of year letter summarised the impact of attendance on learning and wellbeing, and advanced notice has been provided to families to avoid holiday bookings during school term time. Holidays may only be authorised at the Headteacher's discretion and the criteria is set out very clearly on our Holiday Request Form: [Attendance - Crickhowell High School \(crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk\)](https://www.crickhowell-hs.powys.sch.uk)

We ask that you also please try and book medical appointments outside of school hours, where possible. 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 or pastoral support plans.

Absences due to illness are to be reported on the first and third day of absence initially, and every day from there. You may do so through the school reception: 01873 813 516 or by emailing [absence@chs.wales](mailto:absence@chs.wales).

Our Wellbeing Team are developing a new attendance reward system to ensure that high or improved attendance is praised. The Go4Schools application will also shortly enable you as parents/carers to view your child's live attendance, empowering you to monitor and drive improvements.

### **School Car Park Update**

We are pleased to confirm that Phase 1 of the school car park developments have been completed throughout the summer. We now have some more parking spaces which will ease congestion and enhance safety, and further works will take place in the October half-term. We still require parents/carers enter the car park before 8:20 a.m. or after 3:40 p.m. if dropping off/collecting their child, to ensure that the buses can enter and exit safely.

Please note that the entrance to the car park has been divided in to two lanes: an entrance and exit. It will be important to drive slowly and with caution as everyone adjusts to the new set-up, please. Staff will be on duty to assist with the flow of traffic.

### **Parent/Carer Calendar for 2022-23**

As a reminder, we have created a useful Parent Calendar for this academic year. It 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>

### **Parent/Carer Engagement**

There were noticeable developments in home-school collaboration last year due to our Parent Surveys and Parent Forums. We thank you for your input in developing school initiatives and improvements, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnerships with you all this year ahead.

We wish you and your child(ren) the very best of luck in this new academic year. As always, if you require any support then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Jones

Headteacher