



BISHOP HEDLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9AN

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Hopkins BA (Hons) MA NPQH

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG ESGOB HEDLEY

T: 01685 351860

F: 01685 385292

Email: office@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk

www.bishophedley.co.uk

14th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well as we fast approach the end of a busy, productive and, at times, uncertain term.

We have had cause for many celebrations this term in addition to our learners, your children working incredibly hard to achieve their potential. Most recently our Year 8 girls entered a CyberFirst competition and have qualified for the finals in January – well done girls!

We have seen a raft of sporting successes this term including boys rugby and football, the creation of a girls rugby team and a dance team. 40 learners from Years 7-10 represented the school at the UDOIT Dance foundation Welsh National Schools Dance Championships, the Junior Hip Hop Dance achieved 4th place, and the Junior All Style Dance achieved 1st place. Amazing achievement! The PE Department has been chosen to run a pilot football scheme aimed at increasing girls football. The scheme includes the trialling of new resources specifically designed to increase and sustain the involvement of girls in football. A very busy term for Team PE.

The school has just secured funding for all pupils in Year 9 to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Year 9 will be able work towards the Bronze Award. Also, funding has been secured for those who successfully completed the Award last year and now in year 10 can undertake the Silver Award. The school would like to thank the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for their help in running the program.

Pupils have been offered the opportunity in Year 7 to learn German as an extra-curricular offer. This is being run by Mr Lloyd, who has a rather large group of children taking the chance.

The Drama department are busy rehearsing for Annie and we look forward to welcoming back an audience in person this February (15th – 17th). Tickets will be available in the New Year.

Even though we cannot do our usual fundraising activities we have still managed to provide for the less fortunate – staff collected presents for LATCH for poorly children in hospital over the Christmas period, and pupils are currently engaged in a Reverse Advent Calendar, where they gift an item for the food bank – if you could provide something, it

would be much appreciated. Our recent Christmas Jumper Day raised £211 so far. We thank you for your generosity.

Even though we are continuing to work through a pandemic, attendance at school is vitally important. There is no substitute for being in school engaging with learning. However, if your child is unwell, please contact the school and leave a message on the attendance answerphone.

As you are aware, the situation with COVID has not gone away and changes rapidly. We do all we can to ensure that your children, and subsequently your family, are safe from the spread of the virus. We still operate a one way system and cleaning regime in school, and strongly recommend that pupils wear masks in communal areas and in lessons. Please can you make sure that your child has a mask and a spare each day. As we approach the last day of this term, if your child develops any symptoms please book a PCR test and keep them off school – letting us know the result of the PCR by email. There are 10 days until Christmas day, and so we need to be extra vigilant in our efforts to prevent any of our families having to isolate over Christmas. Keep informed with any updates via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

On our return in January we will continue to use ParentPay as a means of pupils buying lunch, so please ensure that accounts are in credit.

The last day of term is this Friday, pupils can wear Christmas jumpers if they wish, there will be no charge and we finish the day at **1pm**. We return to school on the **4th January 2022**.

The success of our school cannot be achieved without the help of our families and I should like to thank you for your unstinting support. Our partnership ensures that we continue to support all of our students to the best of our ability and hopefully, make a difference to their lives in a positive way. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for our school and staff, these are challenging times and knowing we have such supportive families behind us makes our jobs easier. I sincerely hope you have a happy, holy and restful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S J Hopkins
Headteacher

