



Headteacher's Newsletter 11.1.19

Welcome back to the new term, I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year. With the new year and new term bringing a fresh start for many of us, we would really appreciate your support in emphasising at home our school values and the importance of education. Explain to your child that treating everyone with respect, being punctual and in school everyday, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are all important life skills, and the value you place on these things will be the value your child holds. Research shows that students from homes where education is valued and promoted achieve better results. Thank you all for your support, it is very much appreciated and valued. Diolch

School Closure in an Emergency:

Although we do not wish for bad weather, would parents please be aware that we will communicate any school closures via text message and phone call. Last year during spring term we had to close the school due to adverse weather, and so it is vital that we have up to date contact information for all parents and carers in the event of any emergency, including school closure. Diolch

Year 9 & 11 Information Evening

Year 9 & 11 students and their parents/ carers are invited to join us on Thursday 17th January, from 5-7pm, for our annual Year 9 and 11 Information Evening. This is a fantastic opportunity for students of Years 9 and 11 to get more information about the choices that they will soon make about their futures. On the night we will also be giving out the options forms so pupils can start to think about their choices and you can have those important conversations at home about what would be the best options for your child. There will be subject specialists in attendance who are happy to answer any questions that Year 9 pupils might have regarding their GCSE options, and also details on how the different courses are delivered and assessed. The more information our young people have now, the more educated their decisions should be when the time comes to make their final GCSE selections. Similarly for Year 11 we are keen to support students to think now about their steps post compulsory education, and knowledge is power! For any Y11 students that are considering applying for a place in sixth form, this is the perfect opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the subjects available to study, and also speak to the course teachers and Head of Sixth form to best assess whether Sixth Form could be the positive progression for you after GCSE's. Pembrokeshire College will also be attending to give out information on alternative routes to sixth form.

We look forward to seeing many of you on January 17th for this event. Diolch

The partnership between home and school is very important, particularly with regard to homework. Many pupils will have daily homework, and it is vital that you are aware of the homework tasks your child has to complete so that you support them. Our main method of keeping you informed of homework tasks is via your child's school planner, so it is vital that this is checked regularly in order for you to be kept up to date as to what independent study your child should be completing to consolidate their learning in class. Every child is issued a school planner for free at the start of the school year, if this requires replacement please note that they are available for purchase from the Pastoral Officers for £3 during break and lunch. Your child is required to have a school planner, and it benefits immensely the communication between home and school, so please ensure that it is checked regularly else important information could be missed. Diolch

In light of the fresh start a new term brings, we have taken this week to remind ourselves of our three school rules 'Ready, Respect and Safe'. These three simple rules are in place in order for all children to be allowed to positively engage with their education and fulfil their potential.

READY: One of the essential expectations here at MHS is that all students are ready to learn when they attend school, this is so that precious time is not wasted sourcing stationery and basic equipment that could otherwise be spent learning. All pupils should be attending school daily with at least these basics in order to be ready to learn in their lessons: school planner, writing pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and sharpener.

If pupils require any items there is a school stationery shop that runs during break and lunch in Mrs Edwards Office (in the library). Pupils are able to purchase a variety of equipment should they need anything in order to be ready for their lessons.

RESPECT: When we talk about respecting ourselves and others at MHS, part of that includes being mindful of the language we use and how that can affect people. Specifically, racial language and comments made to anyone will not be tolerated here at MHS, so please ensure that you report any concerns you might have to an appropriate adult so that they can be dealt with effectively.

SAFE: It is vital that everyone feels safe at school, whether that be teachers, pupils or visitors. All students have access to a bully button, on the pupil intranet homepage, which is a quick and easy way for our young people to log any bullying concerns that they might have or report incidents so that staff are aware and can respond. Diolch

ALN coffee morning

18.1.19

10.15-11am

Dates for your Diary:

Here is a handy list of some key dates coming up in the school calendar, but please note that this is not an exclusive list of school events.

17.1.19 Year 9 and 11 Information Evening 5-7pm

28.1.19 Friends of the School Meeting 6.30-7.30pm

28.1.19 Parent Forum 5-6pm

7.2.19 Year 13 Pupil Progress Evening 3.30-6pm

February Half Term 25.2.19-1.3.19

21.3.19 Year 9 Pupil Progress Evening 3.30-6pm

4.4.19 Year 7 Pupil Progress Evening 3.30-6pm

11.4.19 Year 8 Pupil Progress Evening 3.30-6pm

Easter Holidays 15.4.19– 26.4.19

Bank Holiday 6.5.19

Milford Haven School is a completely non smoking site. If you would like more information regarding the sanctions and support in place for offenders of smoking on school premises please see our positive engagement policy. This policy also covers substances brought on school site.



**SMOKE-FREE
SCHOOL**

Polite Reminder:

As a school we are committed to working with parents, carers and families to support all of our pupils and as such will treat you with respect. We will deal with enquiries, requests and concerns as quickly as possible, fairly and politely. In return we expect all parents, carers and visitors to the school to treat each other and our staff politely and with respect. As a result we do not believe that verbal abuse, violence and aggression are necessary and we will not accept this behaviour. If anyone acts in a threatening way we will ask them to leave the premises or terminate the telephone conversation and, if necessary, we will formally record the matter, report this to the Chair of Governors and/or report the incident to the police.

If you have any comments or concerns which you wish to raise please do not hesitate to directly contact myself or a senior member of staff in person and we will be only too happy to help. Diolch