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26 November 2021

Dear parents/carers

A reminder that we have an **INSET Day** (staff training) on **Monday 29 November 2021**. This means that students are not required to attend school on Monday. We return to school on **Tuesday 30th November 2021**.

Congratulations to our Year 8 Netball team who beat Croesyceiliog School 17-1 yesterday evening. Well done to all the girls in the team,

Good luck to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who start their mock exams on Tuesday.

Staff Absence due to COVID

All schools nationally are experiencing difficulties at the moment managing high levels of staff absence. Some schools in Newport have already had to implement online learning for individual year groups.

For the last few weeks, we have also been experiencing high levels of staff absence as a result of a number of issues: COVID 19, changes to the rules regarding isolation when household members have symptoms and general illness. So far, we have managed to cover all absences internally or with supply teachers. However, we are concerned whether we can sustain this approach in the final weeks of this term.

If we reach a point before Christmas where we are unable to cover all staff absences, we will have to revert to the final stage of our contingency plan which is to switch to online learning for certain year groups for a short period of time. We would need to prioritise face-to-face learning for examination classes; therefore, we would rotate online learning provision for other year groups. Please rest assured that this strategy would be the last resort for the school in our management of the current challenges.

And finally...

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Curtis', written in a cursive style.

Mr. D. Curtis

Headteacher/Pennaeth