

## Ysgol Uwchradd Whitmore High School

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Dear parent/ carer

You will be aware that during this school term there has been disruption due to staff absence which has resulted in many schools having to make the difficult decision to move certain classes/year groups to remote learning for short periods. In recognition of this, and the current levels of uncertainty regarding the impact of Omicron, Welsh Government has announced today that all schools will be provided with two planning days at the start of the new spring term. This will enable schools to assess staffing capacity and put the necessary measures in place to support the return of learners.

This is a fast-evolving situation and it is possible that Welsh Government will issue further updates in the event of any significant developments during the Christmas holiday period. The two planning days will enable schools to consider any necessary adjustments to mitigations at the start of term and to update parents/carers.

Subject to our risk assessment of the situation following the Christmas break, pupils will return to school on 6<sup>th</sup> January. This will be dependent on staff availability and transport.

We will contact you through the usual channels on Tuesday/Wednesday to give you further updates on the situation here at the school. Please monitor these.

It is appreciated this news will cause concern and some inconvenience as far as childcare is concerned but I am sure you will recognise the importance of making the school environment as safe as possible before children return. We are sure that you are as disappointed as we are that we find ourselves in a difficult situation once again.

We continue to put the health and safety of pupils and staff at the front of all that we do.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Kind regards

**Innes Robinson**