

August 2020

Dear parent/carer

Re: Start of term in September 2020

I am writing to you with further details regarding the return to school in September, which we are eagerly looking forward to. You will know from the previous letter sent to you in July that our intention is for pupils to return to school in year groups according to the following timetable:

Day/date	Year groups in school from this date onwards
Thursday 3 rd September	Years 7 and 11 only
Friday 4 th September	Years 7, 10 and 11 only
Monday 7 th September	Years 7, 9, 10 and 11 only
Tuesday 8 th September	All year groups: 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

- Tuesday (1st September) and Wednesday (2nd September) are set aside for teacher planning and preparation. Pupils will not attend on these days.

In line with the Welsh Government guidance we will be operating procedures which are designed to ensure a safe and happy return for all of our pupils and to ensure we minimise risk as much as possible. **The attached guidance provides detailed information regarding our September return to school procedures. Here are some general messages:**

1. School transport

School transport will run as normal for all pupils with appropriate safeguarding procedures in place. However, Pembrokeshire County Council encourage parents and carers to take their own child/children to school wherever possible or to actively encourage travel by walking or cycling.

2. Arriving, leaving and structure of the school day

- The start and end of the school day remain unchanged. **Lessons will now begin at 8:50am however.** There will be no registration period and pupil attendance will be recorded in all lessons. All pupils will receive 5 x 1 hour lessons during the day as is currently the case.
- Break and lunch periods will be staggered for each year group.

3. Pupil Groupings, teaching and rooming.

- **KS3 pupils (Yrs 7-9) will operate in form group based 'pods' and remain in one teaching room.** Teaching staff will go to the pupils according to the timetable, including teachers who would normally teach in specialist classrooms such as Science and Technology. PE will be taken outdoors or in the Gym/leisure centre, depending on the weather.

- **KS4 pupils (Yrs 10-11) will operate in year group based 'pods' and will move between rooms, having access to all specialist rooms according to their timetables.** Therefore, subjects such as ICT and Science will be taught in specialist rooms.

The guidance recommends that schools should aim to group pupils as 'pods' as much as reasonably possible, with the aim that pupils within each pod only interact with others within the same pod. It is recognised that in secondary schools a balance should be found between access to the full curriculum (year 10/11 option choices for example) and access to specialist teaching facilities. The KS3 curriculum allows for smaller pod groups of 'form group' size which can stay together and follow the same curriculum.

3. Safeguarding Procedures

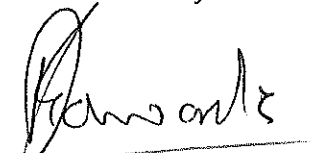
- **Current procedures:** the one-way system and hand sanitizing procedures will be maintained. All pupils will be encouraged to maintain a social distance with each other and be required to maintain a 2-metre distance between themselves and all staff.
- **Cleaning arrangements:** The ongoing daily cleaning arrangements will continue.
- **Zoning:** In order to keep pupils within their own social groups/pods, 'zones' will be created for pupils to access during break and lunch times.

I hope the above points and the guidance sheet help to reassure you that the school will continue to prioritise the safety of pupils and staff as we take steps back to normal working. The key is to balance the risk caused by COVID against that of loss of learning and the negative emotional impact that the prolonged lockdown has had on some of our pupils. I believe that the above strategies, which build on those implemented prior to the summer break, will allow us to do this. The school risk assessment has also been updated and will continue to be amended in light of our experiences and changing guidelines.

Once again, we are looking forward to seeing our pupils in September where the focus on returning to 'normal', as far as possible, will be our priority. We need to ensure that we maximise our teaching time to enable us to assess the individual learning needs of all of our pupils. Some pupils may need more support than others and we have the capacity to identify these and work closely with parents, carers and the pupils themselves to provide the support they will need. Others will have made significant progress during lockdown and we look forward to stretching and challenging these pupils further on their return.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Edwards
Headteacher