



14th September 2020

Dear parent/carer

I am writing to update you on our procedures following our full return to school which I'm pleased to report has gone well. We are particularly pleased with the excellent level of compliance and respect shown by our pupils as they adapt to and follow our new routines. Whole school attendance is close to 96% which we are also very pleased with and which we hope is a measure of the confidence you as parents have in our procedures. Thank you!

Throughout this process we have carried out regular checks and reviews of our systems and we assess the majority of them as working well, balancing as they do the need to provide a meaningful learning experience against the need to ensure the risk from infection is minimized. For example, we feel that our pupil groupings, zoning and one-way systems, staggered breaks, use of face coverings, cleaning regime and start/end of day procedures are working well and these will remain in place.

We do feel however that some small improvements can be made, at KS3 level in particular, by allowing pupils to move from room to room for their various lessons, rather than be confined to one classroom as is our current practise (KS4 pupils do move classrooms). There are many reasons why we feel this is better:

- Staff movement between lessons leaves a short period of time when pupils are unsupervised during lesson change, which is a safeguarding concern.
- Pupils are currently confined within one classroom for the whole day, which is not beneficial to their emotional and/or mental health wellbeing.
- In a normal teaching day up to 5 members of staff, who are at greater risk of infection, may teach in a single classroom sharing the equipment, desk and whiteboard within that room. Allowing staff members to stay in their own classroom and having all of their own resources and equipment to hand would reduce the risk of cross-contamination when compared to staff moving between multiple locations.
- Staff will have greater ownership and control of their own teaching space and the equipment within it. This will allow staff to supervise strict entry/exit cleaning and sanitizing routines for every lesson, ensuring all surfaces are cleaned and all pupils' hands are sanitized between every lesson.
- Pupils will continue to use our one-way system when moving around the school and so there will be no occasion when corridors become overcrowded, or when pupils will be walking 'against' each other. Pupils will continue to use facemasks when moving around inside the building as they do presently.
- All pupils will have access to specialist classrooms such as Science and Technology and will therefore be able to access all aspects of the curriculum in these subjects.
- Pupils groups/bubbles will continue to remain the same for each subject area. That is, there will be no changing of teaching groups at Key stage 3 from lesson to lesson. Groups will continue to be allocated specific zones during break and lunch period as is the case presently.

In addition, we will be introducing a pastoral period during the day when pupils, again within their teaching groups, will have the opportunity to meet with their form tutor. We feel that this is an important provision which we have been unable to timetable up until now.



We strongly believe that these changes will help to fine-tune and improve our learning and safeguarding provision for both pupils and staff. We will continue to comply with the Welsh Government guidelines and we have carried out a full risk assessment which is available on our web-site. The changes have been shared with pupils and will take effect from tomorrow (Tuesday). Should you wish to discuss these changes, or for any other matter related to our return to school, please email: office@ysgolbrogwaun.com

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Edwards', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Paul Edwards
Headteacher