

16th July 2021

Dear parent/carer

I am writing to confirm our arrangements for the return to school in September. These arrangements are based on the most recent Welsh Government guidance which can be accessed through this link:

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings>

A copy of the guidance can also be viewed on our website.

Start of term arrangements:

- Wednesday 1st September- INSET
- Pupils will return to school as follows:

Day/date	Year groups in school from this date onwards
Thursday 2 nd September	Years 7 and 11 only. (A small group of pupils from years 9 and 10 will also be undergoing peer mentoring training. These pupils have been contacted directly).
Friday 3 rd September	All year groups: 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Please note that the above arrangements are subject to change and will depend on future updates from Welsh Government.

The decision to stagger the return to school is based on the following rationale: Year 7 have had few transition opportunities and would benefit from having one day to get their bearings around the school and learn to follow their new timetable. As senior pupils, Year 11 will be available to support them, both on buses (if relevant) and around the school. On Friday, all other pupils will receive their timetables and will be informed of any changes to our operating procedures. This will be an opportunity to address any concerns or anxieties. We hope this approach will allow all pupils to 'hit the ground running' from Monday 6th September.

Uniform code:

In September, all pupils will be expected to wear shirt, tie and school jumper as shown. Our PE Kit showing the training top and skort and shorts is also shown. Further PE items such as the rugby top and sports coat can also be purchased.



Trousers: Black tailored trousers of appropriate length - no denim/no skinny jeans/no leggings are allowed, i.e. trousers which are tight at the calf and ankle. Trousers should be straight-leg or bootleg from the knee. The following brand is acceptable – ‘Banner trimly senior trouser’.

Skirts: Skirts should be knee length. Acceptable brand is ‘David Luke 969’.

Shirt: Long sleeve plain white shirt or blouse.

Tie: Year 7, 8 and 9 – Red & green tie. Year 10 and 11 – Jade & black tie

Footwear: Plain black footwear.

Nails: Suitable/appropriate length of nails is required.

Hair: Appropriate hair colour. No artificial dyes of any colour are accepted.

Make up: Natural/appropriate make up.

Piercings: **Only Clear** nose studs are allowed, no rings at all. No other facial piercings are allowed.

Jewellery: Pupils can wear a watch and one signet ring (optional). Earrings - one stud in each ear is allowed. SMART watches are allowed but will have to be removed during exams.

Please contact the school if you require any further information about the school uniform.

Covid procedures:

In line with the guidance, it is our intention to make minimal but important changes for the beginning of term, with possible further changes being made as we receive updated guidance and as we review our processes throughout the year.

We intend **to keep** the following in place:

- Pupils will continue to hand sanitize at the start of all lessons and wipe down at the end;
- We will keep the year group zones in place during break and lunch periods and our one-way system will remain in operation;
- Pupils will enter the school through different entrances (as now) and be guided to their zones. Staff will meet and greet pupils and ask about their health. (Pupils will not be temperature checked- see below);

- The structure of the day will remain with staggered breaks/lunches for KS3 and 4;
- Pupils will be required to wear PE kit into school on days when they have PE;
- We will continue to promote good ventilation by opening windows/doors;
- Classrooms will continue to be arranged with pupils facing the front;
- We will ask pupils to continue wearing masks in corridors whilst moving between lessons and in crowded areas;
- We will continue to encourage pupils to carry out LFT tests. The new TTP procedures are likely to require pupils identified as close or possible close contacts to carry out LFTs before being allowed back into school;
- We will continue with our daytime cleaning arrangements;
- Pupils will be required to continue wearing masks on buses.

We **will not** continue with:

- Strict teaching bubbles. i.e pupils can be moved between teaching groups;
- Staggered end-of-day procedures. All pupils will be released together at 3:10pm;
- Wearing face masks in lessons, though pupils may continue to do so if they wish;
- Temperature checks for staff and pupils on arrival (though pupils feeling unwell during the day will be checked).

May I again urge you to be vigilant of the usual symptoms in addition to the wider range of symptoms (in bold below) associated with new variants, as outlined by Public Health Wales:

1. A new and persistent cough
2. Fever
3. Loss of taste and Smell
4. **Fatigue and/or muscle ache or pain**
5. **Sore throat and headache**
6. **Runny nose**
7. **Nausea and/or vomiting**
8. **Diarrhoea**

Please do not send your child(ren) to school if they display any of the above symptoms, especially if they are new and/or unusual symptoms. Please consider booking a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child should self-isolate while awaiting the test result. Please inform the school as soon as possible if you have any concerns.

I'm pleased that many of our pupils take part in the Lateral Flow Testing Programme. You will have received letters explaining the rationale and

methodology of carrying out home-based tests on a twice weekly basis. The more pupils who take part, the more confident we can be that the pandemic is not circulating in the school. If you haven't done so already I ask for your support in agreeing to allow your child(ren) to take part in the programme. Should we be unfortunate enough to have a positive Covid case, the outcomes from the Lateral Flow Tests will make it easier to identify pupils who would not need to self-isolate, but instead be able to continue working from school. We await further Welsh Government guidance as to how LFT testing can be used in schools to avoid close-contact pupils being required to self-isolate.

I hope that the above points will reassure you that the school will continue to prioritise the safety of pupils and staff as we take steps back towards normal working. We aim to balance the risk caused by COVID against that of prioritising learning. The school risk assessment will also be updated in line with guidance and is available to view on our website.

Once again, I hope you and your family enjoy a relaxing and safe summer and we look forward to seeing your child(ren) in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Edwards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Paul Edwards
Headteacher