



31st August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Summer break and our pupils are fully recharged and ready to start back to school. I would just like to take the time to update you on some key matters prior to school reopening.

Thursday 2nd September – INSET day - staff only

Friday 3rd September – Year 7 attend school

Monday 6th September – all year groups attend school as normal.

Please ensure that your child arrives at school by 8.25 am so that they can be seated in their form by 8.30 am.

Covid Update

We are all desperate for things to fully return to normal within schools but the fact remains that the Covid-19 situation remains very uncertain. Updated guidance was released to schools last Friday and some of the key points are outlined below:

- Any pupil exhibiting any of the 3 cardinal symptoms of Covid-19 (new persistent cough, fever, loss of taste and/or smell) should self-isolate, should arrange a Covid test and notify the school. Household members will need to self-isolate **unless** they are **under 18** or have been **double vaccinated**. The same procedures are followed if there is a positive case in a household.
- If there is a positive case of Covid within the pupil population, Track and Trace will be responsible for identifying close contacts. As of September, contact bubbles will not exist so there will be no need to isolate whole year groups or large numbers of pupils **unless** advised to by Track and Trace.
- There is no requirement for masks to be worn in the building, however we will support pupils who wish to wear them.

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Lateral Flow Testing

One of the most pressing actions within the new guidance is around 'preventing the virus coming into schools'. To this end it is recommended that any pupil (secondary age) returning to school, takes 2 LFD tests 2/3 days apart with the second test being taken on the first morning that term starts. The results of these tests must be recorded on the Government website.

Lateral flow test kits can be collected from local test sites and some community collection points.

[Get rapid lateral flow COVID-19 tests if you do not have symptoms | GOV.WALES](#)

If you would wish require more Lateral flow testing kits once the term has started, please fill this form in:

[Click Here](#)

I am sure this will be an ever changing scenario over the coming months and these points are based on the country being at alert level 0. If the alert level is raised and there is a need for us to alter any of our arrangements within school, I will notify you as soon as possible.

School Transport

As it stands, there is still a requirement for pupils to wear masks on home / school transport. Please make sure your child is equipped with a mask to wear.

We will be implementing seating plans on all of the LA home / school transport coaches. Pupils will be expected to sit in their allocated seat and behave appropriately to ensure the safety of all passengers. Failure to comply may result in their travel pass being suspended.

Year Ahead meetings

We will be inviting parents into school to attend our 'Year Ahead' meetings. These meetings allow us to show you and your child what they can expect over the coming year.

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Year 11

I feel the need to put a separate point in for Year 11 because it is such an important year. I am sure there are concerns and questions as to how grades will be awarded this year and as soon as I get the relevant information, I will pass this on. Decisions have not yet been made, however there is a high chance that there will be some sort of examinations at the end of this academic year.

Canteen Cards

Over the summer holidays, we have updated our canteen till system to allow the use of a card to cut down on queue times. The card will be linked to Parentpay and will deduct money from the dinner money pot that parents pre-load money into using the Parentpay website. Pupils will be issued with a card on their first day in school. If the card is lost, a replacement will be given for free but then a charge of £1 for each card lost thereafter will be issued.

Communication

All communication will be electronic unless a specific request is made for paper copies. I urge all parents to download the classcharts app and ensure that the email address that we hold is up to date and correct.

I look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year. If you have any concerns or there are any issues regarding the start of term, please contact us so that we can help.

Kind Regards

Shaun Clarke
Headteacher

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