



Dear Parent(s) and Carers

Following on from my letter in the Summer, I wanted to write again and update you on a few things as we begin to re-open fully for all pupils. I appreciate this has been a difficult time for families and young people – there have been some mixed messages and worries over infection rates continue. I want to assure you we are doing everything to ensure the safety of children and adults on site. To do this we have changed our timetable and many of our school rules and systems. The key messages going forward are:

1. **Keeping year groups separate.** All years have been focused in different parts of the school and movement has been drastically reduced (although it still occurs for some GCSE subjects). Even on our new split lunch-times, we have endeavoured to keep year groups apart – they have different sittings and different parts of the yard to use. Pupils also leave school at slightly different times.
2. **Masks** – before the Government change, we had already asked pupils and staff to wear masks on site. Pupils must wear them on buses and when walking around school; they do not have to wear them in class. We can supply masks – we have stocks of re-useable masks that can be washed.
3. **Contact groups** – in simple terms, a contact group will be a young person's year group, although we may be able to bring that down to just a class, depending on who interacts with who outside class.

Pupils will continue to study a full range of subjects, including at GCSE. Exams, assessments, marking and reports will continue, all done safely of course.

To make all of this successful, we need to support of our young people and their parents – these are challenging times and working together is the best solution. To this end, we are asking the following:

1. Please make sure your child **attends school regularly** – much time has been missed over the last few months – it is important that we work together so that your son or daughter can catch up. This is especially the case for those in year 11 who will face exams and coursework this year.
2. If you wish to meet a member of staff we ask that you **always call first** – most issues can be resolved over the phone and we are of course trying to limit the number of people on site – for the benefit of young people and their families.
3. **Support us** with messages at home about the wearing of masks in school and keeping distant from other year groups.



### Illness and home or at school

If your child displays any symptoms of COVID – namely:

- A high temperature
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss of taste or smell

We would ask that you keep them off school. It is very important that you apply for a test if this is the case – you must contact <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test> and apply for a test urgently. You must isolate pending the result and inform us please. If the test is negative, your son or daughter can return; otherwise they will need to isolate for 10 school days. The *Test, Trace* and *Protect (TTP)* programme may contact you.

If we suspect a case in school, your child will be isolated and you will be called to collect them. You must then book a test urgently. Test results take up to three or four days. They must not come to school until the result is known. If there is an issue with you getting to a test centre – for example because of a medical condition - please let us know; we may be able to help you.

In the event of an outbreak at school, groups of pupils or even an entire year group may be asked to self-isolate and not come to school. If this occurs you will be notified straight away – although please be aware there may not be much notice. At this point, pupils will return to home learning as they did earlier in the year. This will be for up to 10 school days.

We very much hope this will not be the case – but we must plan for all eventualities. Information will come to parents via parentmail and the website; please make sure we have your correct details.

I want to thank all our parents for their kind words and support over the last few months – we are confident that this next term will be a safe and productive one; I will write again with information for specific year groups and the help they need going forward – especially year 11. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact the school if you have questions or if we can help you.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Powell  
Headteacher