



30th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we prepare to welcome your children back for the new half term, I wanted to update you on our current way of working and let you know about some upcoming dates.

As you know, Welsh Government have been encouraging schools to return to as near normal practice as possible since September, and I am pleased to say that school certainly feels a lot more 'normal' than it did last year. For example, during the last half term,

- the timetable has returned to hourly lessons,
- we are no longer taking lunch times and breaks as individual year groups,
- we have started up some extra-curricular activities again, including lunchtime sports clubs,
- practical work has resumed in science and technology and
- we are able to run some school trips again.

However, we are continuing to keep everyone as safe as possible by

- checking for Covid-19 symptoms every day,
- keeping a one-way system in some areas of the school,
- wearing face-masks in communal spaces,
- generally arranging tables to face forwards in class rooms and
- cleaning surfaces in classrooms, corridors and the canteen regularly.

We are particularly grateful to you for your support during this period. As we enter the next half term, it is still important that you:

- **Are alert for new symptoms.**
If your child starts to feel unwell, no matter how mild the symptoms are, your child should stay away from school and get a PCR test. You can book a PCR test online through the NHS website at <http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
- **Keep the school informed.**
Please inform the school if your child is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, it is recommended that you arrange a test and inform us of the results once received.
- **Lateral Flow Tests**
We advise that your child takes regular lateral flow tests (LFT's) on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, and record the results online [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). Please contact the school if you need any more tests, or you can order a supply free of charge to your home from <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/condition>
- **Keep washing hands regularly.**
This is still an important way to limit the spread of many infections, including COVID-19.
- **Continue to reduce your wider contacts and keep yourselves and your families safe.**

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Many of you will know, that we have taken the additional step of asking staff and students to stay at home if a member of their household has tested positive or has symptoms – I am sure you would agree that the likelihood of a household member of a person who has tested positive contracting the virus is higher than it is for other contacts, and so we feel that this is a sensible request under the circumstances. Where possible, we have continued to set work for students in this position, and we hope you have found this helpful.

Away from the global pandemic, there are many things to look forward to over the next few weeks and in the run-up to Christmas and beyond. Here is a summary of events for your diary:

- Tuesday 2nd November: Year 10 Parents evening through 'SchoolCloud'
- Tuesday 30th November: Year 9 Parents evening through 'SchoolCloud'
- Monday 29th November – Friday 3rd December: Year 11 and Sixth Form Mock exams.
- Wednesday 22nd December: Last day of the Christmas term
- Friday 7th January: Training day for staff (school closed to students)
- Monday 10th January: Students return for the Spring Term.

In addition, we are hoping to run a number of Christmas events. We will update you on the arrangements for these through our website and by email when we are confident that they will be possible under the current circumstances.

Finally, please also look out for opportunities to join our Governing body. I will write to you separately with details of how and when to nominate parents for this role and how to vote for any prospective parent Governors over the next few weeks, but in the meantime, please view this page for more details on the role: <http://governors.cymru/becoming-governor/>.

As always, I look forward to working with you and your children over the next few weeks, but in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help you in any way.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ian Gerrard
Headteacher