



Dear Parent/Carer,

25th March 2021

The reopening of schools in the last fortnight has been much welcomed at Cyfarthfa High School. Face to face teaching and learning with exam classes has proven to be extremely productive. Likewise, the Key Stage 3 Wellbeing check- in days have been a great success for all students. Feedback from learners, parents/carers and school staff about their experience of returning to school has been overwhelmingly positive.

Last week, the First Minister published the 'Coronavirus control plan – revised alert levels in Wales (March 2021)'. It makes clear that protecting the return of students to onsite learning is a key priority. Therefore, following the Easter break, our plan is to see **all students** return to onsite, timetabled schooling (no Hub provision) and we would expect that the vast majority of them to do so from Monday 12 April - the first day of the summer term.

PLEASE SEE THE REVISED COPY OF THE SCHOOL DAY WHICH IS ATTACHED

When we open fully, school attendance is vital and compulsory and our usual rules will still apply. However, as reminder, students should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have a positive test result
- Live with someone who has symptoms or has a positive test result
- Are a close contact of someone who has had a positive test result

It is critical that all learners engage with and attend school and you inform us if your child is unable to attend, giving the reason for any absences. With this in mind, we wanted to make it easier for you to notify the school of any absences each day. From Monday 12th April, our parent/carer class charts app will have a new function for you to message us directly to inform us of any absences and the reason for the absence. Parent/carer messages will be picked up every morning and logged on our system. A member of staff will get in contact with you if required. All absences need to be reported by 8.30am each day of the absence.

Please use the QR code to follow instructions on our new absence reporting system on class charts.



We would like to encourage all parents/carers to use class charts to notify us of any absences wherever possible. This will allow us to identify and monitor absences more efficiently. If you are unable to notify us of an absence via class charts, then please call the school directly on 01685 725222.





We recognise some families may have greater anxiety about children returning to school during this time of uncertainty around the risks of COVID-19. We know lots of families are going through a difficult time with illness and bereavement and as a school we will make every effort to support you in any way we can. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year or a member of the attendance team.

Schools best understand the needs of their students and those of the communities they serve. We know at Cyfarthfa, from first-hand experience, that some students may need longer to settle back into school than others. To help manage this, we are continuing with our Tutorial check- in each morning and staggering the break, lunch and close of school day timings across the different Year Groups. There will be a strong focus on wellbeing with Pastoral and Student Support staff having a key role to play in the coming months.

All students are now required to attend school wearing full uniform and to wear sensible footwear. In the interests of everyone, please impress on your son/daughter that **all students are now required to wear a face mask at all times, both within the classroom and communal areas of the school.** **Exemptions on medical grounds must be put in writing to the school.** This important expectation is reflected in the school's updated risk assessment and Behaviour Policy. School canteen facilities will be operational from the first day back (Monday 12th April), however students will not be able to purchase snacks etc. at break time for a few weeks.

In the new term, we fully intend to utilise time with students beyond 2.30pm, details will be communicated after the Easter break. Departments will be offering KS4 revision classes, there will be focussed literacy and numeracy support at KS3 plus various enrichment activities to help with student reengagement with school and their general wellbeing into the future.

On behalf of the whole staff I would like to thank you for our strong partnership and your support of your child over the last year, it has been exceptional. I am confident that this will continue to have a positive impact on all students in the important months ahead.

With every good wish for a happy and healthy Easter break,

Yours faithfully,

Mr. R. Francis

Head teacher

**CYFARTHFA
HIGH SCHOOL**

