



Dear Parent/Carer,

8th March 2021

Thank you for all your efforts in continuing to encourage and support your child's online learning throughout the spring term. As you may now be aware, there has been an update from Welsh Government regarding the reopening of schools for face to face teaching and learning from Monday March 15th.

The reopening prioritises examination candidates (Year 11 and Year 10 for English Literature/IFS) whilst students in Key Stage 3 – Years 7, 8 and 9, are to be offered a wellbeing/check-in session.

All teaching and learning for Year 11 and the two English/IFS days for Year 10 will be face to face, all other learning will be a mix of live online and blended until Thursday March 25th.

N.B. Friday March 26th is a staff INSET day, there will be no blended learning set for that day and school will be closed to all students.

Attached are the timetables for all Year Groups, from March 15-March 25th inclusive

Please make appropriate transport arrangements to and from school for your child if necessary.

Year 11 to enter school via the **rear door – Penyard entrance**; **Years 10, 9, 8 and 7** enter school via the **Main entrance**. ALL STUDENTS MUST GO STRAIGHT TO FORM ROOMS AT 8.40 a.m.

Year 11 to be in school each day, Monday March 15th – Thursday March 25th, **8.40 – 12.55**

Year 10 to be in school for two days, Tuesday 16th and Tuesday 23rd March, **8.40 - 12.55**

Year 7 in school for Form Tutor wellbeing/check-in session on Thursday 25th March, **8.40-12.55**

Year 8 in school for Form Tutor wellbeing/ check-in session on Monday 22nd March, **8.40 – 12.55**

Year 9 in school for Form Tutor wellbeing/ check-in session on Wednesday 24th March, **8.40-12.55**

All students leave school at 12.55 on their designated days and **travel home for lunch**.

In line with Welsh Government guidelines, HUB provision will continue for Years 7, 8 and 9 only until Thursday 25th March. Therefore, from today, Monday, 8th March, our Hub will cease for Years 10 and 11. Online/live registration will continue as normal each day at 8.40 a.m. for all students in Years 7, 8, 9 (and 10, except for March 16th and 23rd when Year 10 will be in school).

Lessons for Year 11 will be 'blocked' over a number of hours so as to maximise all face to face teaching, assessment, support and guidance from their subject teachers. It is vital that all students attend every day as there will be no other opportunity to repeat these valuable sessions. **Every lesson counts**. No online/blended learning will be set for Year 11 other than the 2-3pm afternoon slots each day.



All students are required to attend school wearing full uniform as far as possible; if exceptions are necessary then we request that students do not wear anything inappropriate (ripped jeans/hoodies/clothing with slogans etc.) and also wear sensible footwear. It is anticipated that non-essential retail will open in the coming weeks, therefore ALL STUDENTS should be able to return in full uniform for the Summer Term on Monday, April 12th.

As we are now able to support the return to school for students as specified in the return timetables attached; we recognise some families may have greater anxiety about children returning to school during this time of uncertainty around the risks of COVID-19. However, it is critical that all learners engage with the school and you inform us if your child is unable to attend, giving the reason for any absences. 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.

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.

Future arrangements for Covid 'self-testing' by students in Years 10 and 11 will be communicated when confirmed by the Local Authority.

I know that I speak on behalf of all staff in saying that we are all very much looking forward to seeing our students in person and making the very most of the opportunity to make crucial progress in the last two weeks of this term. Likewise, the chance to check-in with subject staff and Form Tutors is a most welcome opportunity to alleviate any stress or anxiety our students may well be experiencing. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you require clarification on any matter or if you require additional support, advice or guidance.

Year 11 annual summative reports to Parents/Carers are being prepared and will be issued at the end of this term. Finally, a reminder that there is an important virtual meeting for Parents/Carers/Year 11 students at 6 p.m. tomorrow evening, Tuesday 9th March, where senior staff will give an important update on the awarding of qualifications this summer. Similarly, a virtual Year 10 meeting at 6 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday 16th March will clarify the position for Year 10 students and their Parents/Carers. Details to follow on the ClassCharts app.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership with our school, your support is vital.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr. R. Francis

Head teacher