



Dear Parent/Carer,

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

I would like to start by wishing a 'Happy and Healthy New Year' to our whole Cyfarthfa Family!

As you may now be aware, there have been updates from both the Welsh Government and our Local Authority regarding the reopening of schools for face to face teaching and learning from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. At this point in time, it is our expectation that **all students will return this Thursday**; any change to this will be communicated with you as soon as possible.

At Cyfarthfa, we are continuously assessing our own unique set of circumstances and working closely with the Local Authority to make the return to school as safe as is practicably possible for all students and staff. We are therefore asking you, our parents/carers, to take time to speak with your child about the extremely important expectations that will be in place upon their return:

- **Masks are to be worn by all students, in the classroom and communal areas** - unless they are medically exempt (we welcome evidence in writing if parents/carers wish to share it)
- **Masks to be worn on all transport to and from school**
- **Masks to be worn by all visitors to the school**
- One way systems and classroom seating plans must be strictly adhered to
- Strict hygiene protocols to continue – hand washing/sanitising, social distancing where possible etc.
- Parents/Carers to inform school asap if their child has a positive LFT/PCR result
- Students are requested to conduct an LFT each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning before coming into school
- Students identified as 'close contacts' will be required to conduct an LFT for 7 consecutive days
- LFTs are available for collection from the school, tests conducted at home
- Students who become symptomatic in school will be sent home to do their LFT
- Visits/meetings at the school will be by prior appointment only for the foreseeable future
- Students will not be supervised on site before 8.20 a.m. – Please do not send your child onto the premises before it is absolutely necessary
- Year 10 and 11 examination classes will be our priority for both face to face and any blended teaching and learning should a reduction in classes/year groups prove essential
- On line learning will be facilitated for home study **only where possible** as we anticipate a high degree of staff sickness absence. Additionally, your child may have supply teachers covering their lessons, this could lead to disruption in homework being set too and so we ask for your patience and understanding in such matters.
- Please inform the school if there are any issues surrounding ICT facilities for online learning
- Catering arrangements have been modified into separate Year Groups, only Year 10 and 11 will use the Main Hall with Year 11 still having the facility of leaving the school premises should they wish to do so



- Our catering capacity may also be compromised due to staff absence. In this instance, you may wish to provide break time snacks and packed lunches. All students can now pre order a break time snack and/or lunch choice online, N.B. **this is particularly important for Year 9 as their break and lunch orders will be delivered and served to them in the Blue Gym**
- Extra- curricular provision/revision classes will continue with the necessary precautions in place and strict registration of participants taken for safeguarding and contact tracing.

**N.B. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February has been designated as our alternative staff Professional Learning day, school will be closed to all students.**

In line with previous Welsh Government guidelines, HUB provision (for Key Stage 3 only – Years 7, 8, and 9) may be re-instated should Year Groups/classes need to be taught from home. Students who are eligible for HUB provision will be informed by their Progress Leader. Likewise, Key Stage 3 students who are the children of **Critical Workers** will be able to access HUB Provision once approved via the online application process – details to follow.

All students are required to attend school wearing full uniform; we have increased the ventilation in most classrooms and so the optional grey school jumper may now prove necessary in addition to the **compulsory blazer** over the next few months.

The highly transmissible Omicron variant may mean that families have greater anxiety about children returning to school during this time of uncertainty. However, it is critical that all learners – particularly examination candidates – are in school and that parents/carers inform us if their child is unable to attend, giving the reason for any absences. We will make every effort to support you in any way we can.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing our students and making the very most of all opportunities to progress this term. Likewise, subject staff and Form Tutors welcome the opportunity to alleviate any stress or anxiety their students may 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.

**W.J.E.C. external examinations are still going ahead as planned:**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – a.m. English Literature Year 10 and some Year 11 students

p.m. Year 11 Construction and NEA Geography

Please continue to follow all important updates on ClassCharts/ the school website/Twitter accounts. Thank you once again for your continued partnership with our school, your support in all matters is vital.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. R. Francis

Head teacher