



5th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for all the effort you have put into supporting students whilst they have been engaging in home schooling. We really value all you have been doing and appreciate that in some cases this form of learning has been very challenging. We have received very positive feedback from many of you and understand the anxieties and concerns held by some.

We welcome the Welsh Assembly Government announcement that students can now return to school before the Easter break, albeit not fully. We are looking forward to having our student population back on the premises as safely as possible. Therefore, we intend to organise the next few weeks as follows, as specified by the Welsh Government:-

Years 11 and 13 - return on Monday March 15th – until Friday March 26th inclusive

Year 12 - return on Thursday March 18th - until Friday March 26th inclusive

Year 10 - return on Friday March 19th until Tuesday March 23rd inclusive

Year 7 - in school on Wednesday March 24th **ONLY** for a check in session

Year 9 - in school on Thursday March 25th **ONLY** for a check in session

Year 8 - in school on Friday March 26th **ONLY** for a check in session

These timings will give an opportunity for examination classes to re-engage with their teachers and allow lower school classes to check in following the prolonged period of lockdown and to prepare for a full return after Easter.

Teachers will continue to deliver on-line learning whilst students remain at home, before the Easter break. However, on the days they are expected to be here, lessons will only be delivered in school and not on-line.

We have been asked to maintain year group bubbles whilst students are in school. Therefore, our planning is dictated by the fact that students can have contact with those who are in the same year group only.

At this stage, I would remind everyone of the following points to ensure that we are doing all which is reasonably possible to mitigate against risk:-

- **Lunch** - students should bring a packed lunch if possible. However, if students need to purchase food from our currently restricted menu, they can pay money in using the School Gateway App, or by cheque into the boxes provided next to the payment machines. Students are not able to pay money in using the fingerprint 'cash machines' facility at present.
- **Coming into School** - if a student forgets their lunch, you will be able to drop it off at Main Reception and we will ensure it is passed on. However, for safety reasons we cannot currently offer this service for other items which have been forgotten e.g. P.E. kit or books. Teaching staff will show understanding as necessary.
- **Water bottles** - students should bring a drink with them, but bottles cannot currently be re-filled in school.
- **Drop off** - please do not drop your child off before 8.30am. Before this time students in Years 7-11 will need to wait outside the building until staff are available to supervise the allocated entrances and ensure hygiene procedures are followed.
- **Masks / Face coverings** – we have received some new guidance from the Welsh Government concerning this issue and would ask you to ensure that your child is equipped with a 3 ply face mask, which needs to be brought into school every day and worn at the appropriate times. On their return, school will issue each student with a

re-useable, compliant mask, thus ensuring that everybody has one. **We now ask that all students wear a 3 ply face covering whilst they are sat learning in classrooms, when on the corridors during the time between lessons and when in any other communal areas of the school.** Parents / carers must write to the Group Tutor if you have good reason for your son / daughter not wearing a face covering. Your child will then be given an exemption card.

- **Key worker provision** – Children of key workers in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10, who have been coming into school this term, will still be able to for the first week (March 15-19th). We will be contacting you regarding the second week (March 22 – 26th) in due course. Year 11 students will attend with the rest of their year group from March 15th.

Thank you for your understanding in these matters. We will provide you with more detailed information next week.

We are confident that we will soon get back into a routine which will enable our students to enjoy their learning, following what has been a most significant disruption to their normal practice.

Best wishes and thank you for your ongoing support.