



Ysgol Uwchradd
CASTELL ALUN
High School

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Head/Pennaeth: Paula Williams B.Sc (Hons) N.P.Q.H.

Dear Parent / Carer,

Having received further guidance documentation from Welsh Government and Flintshire Local Authority this week, the good news is that Castell Alun will be able to welcome all students back to school full time in September. The guidance outlines considerations to be taken to enable us to put into effect our plan for a safe return to a more recognisable learning model for all members of our school family, and for that we are exceptionally thankful.

At Castell Alun we intend to be able to re-open to all in the following way should local circumstances permit:

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – Staff Planning and Preparation Days

Wednesday 2nd September – Year 13 Enrolment

Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 Induction and Year 12 Induction and Enrolment

Friday 4th September – Year 7 Induction continues, Year 12 lessons begin

Monday 7th September – all students return to school in all year groups.

In order to operate as above the following considerations and mitigations have already been planned:

- Everyone in the school building will have to follow a strict one way system at all times with entrances and break/lunch 'zones' allocated to specific year groups
- Everyone will have to adhere to plans for regular hand washing / sanitising and enhanced cleaning regimes will remain in place
- Students will be kept apart as far as possible in year group specific 'bubbles' and will be taught their full curriculum, in specialist rooms wherever possible and by specialist teaching staff nearly all of the time
- Teaching staff will generally remain in their classrooms, with classes attending different rooms for many of their lessons, having followed the one way system. High-touch classroom surfaces will be cleaned between lessons
- Lessons, breaks and lunchtime will be slightly staggered in year groups using internal announcements, but the timing of the standard school day (8.50am – 3.15pm) will remain. It may also be necessary to stagger the arrival times of students arriving in private vehicles. We await further guidance on transport issues, although it is likely that we will encourage students to be dropped off within walking distance of the school site where possible
- We will release students in year groups at the end of the day
- We expect students to adhere to the school's Behaviour Policy. Any student who cannot adhere to our expectations, including the additional COVID-19 measures, may be sanctioned by the Headteacher using the full range of sanctions available, including exclusions
- Where possible students should bring packed lunches and eat these in the designated room or outdoor zoned area for each year group. A 'grab and go' ready-made packed lunch or hot food option will be available as necessary, but the choice of foods is likely to be extremely limited for a period of time. All parents / carers who need to purchase food from school will be required to do this using the School Gateway App, (further information will follow for new Year 7 students on how to do this)
- **No student should be sent to school under any circumstance if he / she is feeling unwell or showing any signs of any kind of illness in September**

Whilst we are looking forward to working in this new 'normal', there is little doubt that the future remains most uncertain at the time of writing. Indeed, much as we do not wish it at all, we have to plan for local 'spikes' in the virus also. It may be necessary to close the school, or close the school to certain groups, at very short notice indeed, should it be deemed in the best interests of students' and staff health. Should this situation occur, we would endeavour to give you as much warning as we are able, and we would continue to provide schooling via our blended learning model, using Google Classroom and the various options the platform now gives us. In such an event, we would post a message on the school website, social media and send an email to the latest address we hold for you in order to inform you of this. It is therefore vital that we hold your current email address. Please email Mrs Carol Jones on carol.jones@castellalun.flintshire.sch.uk if you think we may hold outdated information.

As we look to the summer and our school coming back together in just a few weeks now, we are mindful that COVID-19 has had an impact on all of us to a greater or lesser extent, and in so many varied ways. However, with hope at the centre of our vision for September, we can again very much look forward to a return to some kind of much needed normality for students, parents / carers and staff alike. More detailed information will follow towards the end of the summer break, as you will appreciate there is still much to do to turn plans into reality. We are also mindful that we do not wish to overload you with updates until plans are sufficiently certain.

Best wishes and thanks for your ongoing support.

Paula Williams