



7<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **January 2022 Return to School**

Happy New Year from all at Castell Alun. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your families and friends. We all hope 2022 sees less disruption than last year, but it is clear that COVID-19 is sadly still very much with us, and as a school, we will therefore continue to play our part in ensuring the safety of the wider community.

We have recently received updated guidance and what actions will need to be taken when we return on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

**Face coverings should be worn within the building where physical distance cannot be maintained and whilst travelling on school transport.** The advice is hopefully short term in the first instance, to support students and teachers as they return to school. This builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults and students in communal areas of all settings. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until the next Welsh Government update.

### **CLOSE CONTACTS**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a 'Lateral Flow' (LFD) test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

### **SELF-ISOLATION**

Recent guidance states the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

### **TESTING**

All staff and secondary learners are advised to take a LFD test three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and report the results. <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If a person showing no symptoms has a positive lateral flow test, they will no longer be advised to have a follow-up PCR test to confirm the result, unless they are in a clinically vulnerable group. However, they must follow the above self-isolation rules.

### **EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS IN JANUARY**

Examinations and assessments in January should go ahead as originally planned.

### **NEXT STEPS and KEY DATES THIS TERM**

Measures for future changes are:

- Limited visits, open days, transition or taster days, parental attendance and live performances
- Students potentially having to access learning remotely if staff absence becomes an insurmountable issue. Therefore, please do ensure that your son/daughter has access to their Google classroom login details should this happen.
- January 20<sup>th</sup> - Year 10 Parents Evening (virtual) details to follow
- January 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January - Year 11 Mock Exams
- January 27<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening (virtual)
- February 17<sup>th</sup> - Year 9 Parents Evening (probably virtual)

We will communicate regularly about any potential changes, so please do check your inbox, our website, and social media for updates.

We are really looking forward to welcoming students back in the coming days and whilst there is a lot of information above, much is what we have already experienced and become accustomed to. We will be reviewing our daily operational routines as part of our ongoing risk assessment process and will make any necessary changes to ensure the safety of our community in the coming months.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. C. Ellis,  
Headteacher.