



Wales HIGH SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MR. G. DI'IASIO

Dear Parent / Carer

13 July 2020

So many of you will have woken this morning and wonder where the last four months have gone. We have shared a journey through some very strange times and today it feels as though we can now confidently see the future looking brighter and certainly more certain. For the staff at school, this week is all about how we prepare for our return in September and finish the term feeling confident that we have done as much as we can with the final days of the summer term. To read this week's families bulletin, please follow the link [here](#).

With regards to the plan for the full opening of the school in September, I will not be able to include all of the changes, preventative measures and risk assessment details in this email. I know it is very important for you to have sight of this and so please follow [this link](#) for the full opening plan, that also directs you to the associated policies and risk assessment.

This full school opening plan has been brought together from using DFE advice released at the end of last week, alongside advice and guidance from a range of appropriate specialists. Our plans and risk assessments build on our wider re-opening document, shared with you previously. The full opening plan is also associated with other policies such as behaviour for learning, infection control and risk assessment. All associated documents can be viewed by following the links in the opening plan and these are also shared on the website. It is vital that you read this document and seek clarification should there be any areas you are unsure about.

For our planning as we look towards September, I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify the start of term arrangements for all years:

- **Wednesday 2 September Y7 and 6th form - see the family bulletin for 6th form arrangements.**
- **Thursday 3 September Y7 and Y10 and Y11 plus 6th form to return.**
- **Friday 4 September Y7 and Y8 and Y9 KS4 and 6th form.**

On Friday 4 September we plan to have our full school together, all on site, for the first time since the middle of March. Certainly something I know we all look forward to!

With regards to communication over the summer, we are all aware that the lockdown situation may change and so we will write to you during week commencing 17 August with a final update. This will also include school transport arrangements as new guidance is expected mid-August, but in the meantime, you can apply for your child's zero fare bus pass if eligible, using [this link](#). We have been assured of a further update from the government at this point and if this affects our plans, we will share this with you as soon as we are able. I also hope to use this letter to remind you of a few key points regarding the full opening of the school and how you can prepare your child for September:

- Full equipment is needed for every student (check the family bulletin to see the list) - equipment cannot be shared and ideally should remain in school.
- Uniform is required from the very start of term (again see bulletin for links to our suggested providers).
- The school will continue to operate a one way system and social distancing will still be key to our movement around the site.
- There will be separate areas for every year group as current advice is to create 'bubbles' for every year group.

- These spaces will include new additional lunch serving points, more hand washing basins, extra sanitising units and additional toilets (all of which are year group specific and students will not be able to use the other areas for their free time).
- The back field, where many students spend their lunch, will also be sectioned in to year group areas.
- Current advice is that face masks and other PPE will not be permitted to be worn inside school. Those students and staff using face coverings for public transport will have to remove them before they go in to school.
- With regards to travel to school, please continue to think how your child may be able to actively travel to school and avoid using public transport. We have more space to hold bikes for those who are equipped to cycle to and from school.
- It is also important to remind your child that they should continue to observe socially distancing rules before arriving at school, whether that be at the bus stops, or in the villages before school starts.
- If you are planning to drop your child off, it would seem sensible to do so at a safe place at the bottom of Chestnut Avenue. This will reduce the anticipated increased congestion around the school site and enable a steadier, safer socially distanced flow of students onto site.
- We have concerns around the carrying of school bags to and from the school, particularly on public transport, as this may present an additional health & hygiene issue. We are advising that once in school, bags and all school equipment remain on site in lockers. We will be purchasing additional new lockers in all new social areas to help support this advice.

All of these preventative changes have been put in place after careful thought and following guidance to make the school as safe as it possibly can be. It is crucial that your child understands this and respects these new rules. Your child will have all of this highlighted and explained to them during their first morning with their Tutor, but it would be useful if you were able to remind them of new systems in place.

When I write to you during week commencing 17 August, I hope to have more specific details and any updates will be shared in that letter. Please don't let your child worry about coming back to school and what the expectations are; these will be made absolutely clear when they return and many school staff will be at the gate to ensure a smooth start to the week.

Although so much of this sounds new and complicated, I am certain that this will soon become routine and the new 'norm' and as a school we will all work together to create a calm and safe space to learn; supporting each other to make it work.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for your superb support, your patience and most importantly for the confidence you have shown the school throughout the lockdown period, this has made a challenging period much more manageable. I hope you enjoy watching the Full School Assembly on Friday – at least when 11am arrives, you will not need to rush for the best space and it may well be the only Full School Assembly where all students get a seat!

Please continue to take care and ensure you enjoy the six week summer holidays. Regardless of where you go or what you decide to do, I hope you enjoy time relaxing with loved ones and perhaps most importantly remember to stay safe.

I look forward to seeing you all in September!



Pepe Di'lasio
Headteacher