



Wales HIGH SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MR. G. DI'IASIO

16 August 2021

Dear Student

We are delighted to be able to welcome our 6th form students back to school on Friday 3 September. Maya Angelou is a favourite poet of mine and the following quote is one that I hope will help you to understand the challenges which you are about to embrace as you begin the final stage of education at WHS, "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty". I hope that, like me, you too look forward to growing and developing over the year ahead of us.

6th form will be starting the new academic year on **Friday 3 September**. This will give a whole day in school prior to the full school returning on Monday 6 September. However, before you start, it is expected that you will undertake a lateral flow test which is designed to identify asymptomatic positive cases of Covid-19, reducing transmission and keeping our school as safe as possible.

The first lateral flow test will be taken on the **morning of Tuesday 31 August**, in the Old Sports Hall.

You should arrive at school at any time between 7.30am and 11.30am on Tuesday 31 August. You do not need to wear uniform nor will school transport be available on this day so you will need to make your own arrangements for travel to and from school. On arrival, please go straight to the gym where you will collect your registration form before moving to the Old Sports Hall for the test. Once you have taken this first test, you will need to immediately leave the site and return home. Should the test result be positive, you will be contacted immediately and advised next steps. Access to the school site is purely for those undertaking a lateral flow test.

You will then undertake a second test on Friday 3 September, during the normal school day where Year 12 will arrive at the normal time and make their way to the gym to collect registration forms for the second test. Once the test has been completed, you will go straight to your tutor. If your test is completed before 8.30am, you will be able to wait in the common room, then make your way to tutor at 8.30am.

For Year 13, you will arrive at the usual start time, go to tutor, briefing and then undertake your second test from 9.15am on Friday 3 September. During briefing, the 6th form team will confirm the exact timings when you should move to the gym to collect your registration form and take your second test.

The lateral flow test will be supervised by trained staff and it is quick and easy to do, using a swab of the nose. Results will be shared directly with you; if the test is positive, you will be notified straight away. All results will be uploaded to NHS Test and Trace by the admin team in school and you will receive a message from NHS once this has been done. Please bear in mind that this notification may be received several working days after the date of the test.

If you are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms at all on Tuesday 31 August or Friday 3 September, you should not attend the session. In such cases, please arrange a PCR test at a NHS testing centre.

On Friday 3 September, 6th form will officially return to school and whilst the prevalence of Covid-19 has decreased, we will still follow systems of control in order to keep our staff, students and wider community as safe as possible. These systems of control include a one-way system around the majority of the school site, ventilation, handwashing, social distancing and maintaining of year group bubbles as much as possible.

Whilst the prevalence of Covid-19 remains low, school policy is that face coverings should not be worn in the classroom and these will need to be removed on entry into classrooms. Face coverings continue to be mandatory on corridors and during indoor social times. Outdoor areas do not require face coverings and the wearing of these outdoors remains optional.

All staff and students are expected to continue with lateral flow testing throughout September and possibly beyond, depending on government guidance. You will be given kits to be able to test at home twice per week as soon as these are available. As a reminder, the recommendation is for a test to be taken before school each Monday and then a subsequent test to be taken later in the week, around four days later. Please note that you will need to report a positive result to school and this can be done either by ringing the main school number or via email to either contact@waleshigh.com or to a member of the 6th form team. All test results need to be reported to NHS Test and Trace, <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. This is quick and easy to do so please try to prioritise the uploading of results as soon as you are able to, following a test being undertaken.

We do continue to encourage active travel to and from school as well as the use of school buses. Currently, there is no requirement to wear a face covering on school or public transport although, as you will be mixing with different year groups on the journey to and from school, we strongly encourage the wearing of face coverings en route. You can view our bus timetables via [this link](#). We advise that you check this regularly for the most up to date information as we may be notified of late changes to the current timetable.

School days are said to be the best days of your life. I am sure that, like me, you are excited for the year ahead and all that returning to Wales High School will bring. I know that working together we can give you the best opportunities at Wales and ensure that this translates into the most memorable and enjoyable experiences.

With very best wishes



Pepe Di'lasio
Headteacher