



Wales HIGH SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MR. G. DI'IASIO

16 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to be able to welcome our Year 9 students back to school on Monday 6 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 your child is about to embrace as they begin their third year 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 seeing our students grow and blossom over the year ahead of us.

Year 9 will be starting the new academic year on **Monday 6 September**. However, before they start, it is expected that they 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 arrival at school on **Monday 6 September** in the Old Sports Hall. Students will then undertake a second test on Wednesday 8 September, during the normal school day.

To support the testing process, we will need a slightly staggered start for Monday morning only. Students who travel on the school buses will arrive at their normal time so if you are planning on driving your child to school, please bring them in at 9.00am. If your child usually walks to school, they should arrive for 9.30am. Staff will be available at the front of school to signpost your child to the New Sports Hall where they will collect the registration form prior to moving to the Old Sports Hall to undertake the test.

[This video](#) explains the route that your child will need to take on arrival at school, along with an insight into the testing process. The lateral flow test will be supervised by trained staff and it is quick and easy to do, using a swab of the nose. Once students have taken this first test, they will wait in the gym until the results are available, around 15 minutes after the test has been taken. Results will be shared directly with you; if the test is positive, you will be notified straight away and asked to collect your child from school. If the result is negative, students will be able to go straight to their timetabled lesson and the result will be formally notified by NHS Test and Trace once this has been uploaded by the admin team in school. Please bear in mind that this notification may be received several working days after the date of the test.

If your child is displaying any Covid-19 symptoms at all on Monday 6 September, they should not attend school. In such cases, please arrange a PCR test for your child at a NHS testing centre.

On Monday 6 September, Year 9 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.

Your child will be re-taken through all of these control measures during their first few days back at school but if you have any questions, please contact Miss Race, Head of Year 9, rr@waleshigh.com.

All staff and students are expected to continue with lateral flow testing throughout September and possibly beyond, depending on government guidance. Students 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 Miss Race, Head of Year 9, rr@waleshigh.com. 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 your child will be mixing with different year groups on their 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.

As there is always lots of information to share, please ensure that we always have your most up to date email address for you to remain fully informed throughout your child's time at Wales High School. All of our updates can be found on our school website so please also check this regularly, www.waleshigh.com.

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 your child 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