

11 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Return to Face-to-Face Teaching (Monday 15th March to Friday 26th March)

We are looking forward to our students returning to school from Monday 15th March. A reminder that the return to school will be staggered over the next two weeks and will involve two catch-up days for years 7 to 9. Please see [Monday's letter](#) for exact details.

Covid 19 Mitigation Measures

Students will remain in year group contact groups which means that we will endeavour to keep different year cohorts apart for prolonged periods of time and prevent mixing whilst they are in school.

Many of the measures that we had in place in the autumn term to mitigate the spread of Covid 19 will remain:

- There will be staggered arrival and departure times.
- There will be staggered breaks and lunches.
- There will be zoned areas of school for arrival, departure, break and lunches for different year groups.
- All students will remain on site during lunchtimes.
- A oneway system will operate across the school.
- The normal school timetable will operate.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands as often as possible and expected to sanitise their hands on entering the building and classes, and when using school equipment.
- Students will be expected to ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'hands, face and space' approach.
- There will be on-site cleaning throughout the school day. Frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, taps and toilet seats will be cleaned regularly. A full clean will take place at the end of each day.

- Bells will not operate to avoid congested corridors.
- Windows and doors will be open during the day to provide as much natural ventilation as possible.
- Desks will be forward facing.
- Students should only be in school corridors when absolutely necessary, i.e. as a route to toilets, classrooms, reception.
- Students should only enter rooms in which they are timetabled.
- Students should maximise their time outside during recreational times.
- Social distancing will be encouraged in communal areas.
- Staff will maintain a distance of two metres away from students and each other.
- Face coverings should be worn inside the building, including classrooms (see below).
- Lateral flow tests for students will be issued (see below).

Additional Arrangements

Please note the additional arrangements for the next two weeks leading up to the Easter holidays. A [poster](#) for students outlining the points below has been sent to students.:

Packed Lunch

Unfortunately, the company that provides our catering provision is unable to operate until after Easter. Therefore, students will need to bring packed lunches and break time snacks to school. Students in receipt of free school meals will continue to receive vouchers directly from Newport Council.

Uniform

We want the students to return to normal school routines as quickly as possible. Therefore, we expect students to wear their full school uniform when they attend school. There will be a degree of flexibility allowed until Easter. However, after Easter, full compliance with school uniform rules will be expected.

Students who have PE period 1 are welcome to wear their PE kits to school but must change into school uniform for period 2 onwards. Likewise, if a student has PE period 5 they may go home in their kit.

We will be operating a uniform "swapshop" to support families. Please see details [here](#).

Face Coverings

As part of our risk assessment, all students will be expected to wear face coverings inside the building, including classrooms. We will issue students with face masks on their first day back. Students who have medical issues preventing them wearing a mask will be provided with a lanyard to enable staff to recognise that they are exempt.

Lateral Flow Testing

The Welsh Government has issued us with boxes of lateral flow tests. These tests are for students in years 10 to 13. Parents will need to consent to students using these tests. After receipt of consent, we will issue students with two tests a week which they are expected to use at home. Currently, there are no plans to test students onsite in schools in Wales.

On their first day back in school, we will spend time explaining to the students how to complete these tests and we will then provide separate information for parents on how to carry out the tests and report results, along with access to an electronic consent form. The completion of these tests is completely voluntary.

Physical Education lessons

Practical PE lessons will resume for all students in years 7 - 11 from Monday March 15th 2021. Please would parents/carers ensure that their child brings school PE Kit to school on their normal timetabled days.

Art Lessons

The art department has requested wherever possible, please can students bring in their own coloured pencils on the days they have their timetabled art lesson.

Reporting of suspected and confirmed Covid 19 (through Standard Covid Test) (Excluding Lateral Flow Tests)

Here is our updated flow chart and document containing key information - [Link](#)

Covid 19 - Procedure for positive case during the school day

On our return to school, we may, of course, have students who test positive for Covid 19. If we are alerted to a positive Covid 19 case during the school day that requires a year group to go home and isolate, we will follow the procedure below:

- You will receive a text from the school.
- We will, then, ask you to **text your child** to give them permission to walk home.
- Your child will need to show the text to their teacher before they are allowed to leave the premises.
- If you wish to **pick up** your child, you can text "pick up" to your child's phone and we will keep them in the class until you arrive at school to pick them up.
- If your child has not got a phone or you do not text them, we will ring you.
- Please rest assured that we will not allow your child to leave school until we have heard from you or we reach the end of the school day.

Distance Learning

Students working at home will still have work to complete on the days they are not in school. This work will be set in the normal way, i.e. through Google Classroom.

And finally

Don't forget to contact us if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or if you need any support or advice with home learning. Please email your child's progress leader or call the school on 01633 224490; lines will be manned during normal school hours (8am-4pm) as usual.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Curtis', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr. D. Curtis
Headteacher/Pennaeth

