

5 January 2022

Dear parents and carers

Happy new year to you all. I hope that you enjoyed a restful and festive break with family and friends. We have been working through the latest updates from Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and others, and I am pleased to re-confirm that we are ready to open to all students tomorrow as planned. You will no doubt be aware of the media reports of staff shortages forcing some schools and local authorities to move partially or fully online at the start of term, but this is not the case for us. School starts at the usual time of 8.45am, and our usual start and end times apply throughout the term.

We have been spending the time designated by Welsh Government at the start of this term adapting routines and risk assessments where necessary and ensuring that we are ready to be agile as circumstances present themselves. Of course, we are not able to be any more certain about what the year brings than anyone else is, but it is our firm intention to do everything in our power to remain open to all students, and to provide a safe environment for all students and staff.

A few reminders and changes to routine:

1. We are moving back to a split morning break as a response to the latest Welsh Government guidelines, which means that only half of the school is ever on break at one time.
2. We will continue with fresh air ventilation across the school, which means doors and windows are open throughout the day. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a suitable winter coat. Any student is permitted to wear their coat indoors and in classrooms if they would like to. It will get cold at times.
3. Face coverings continue to be mandatory anywhere inside the school building for students, unless they are eating. Please send your child to school with a suitable face covering, so that we can minimise the environmental impact of having to hand out hundreds of single-use plastic masks. The usual medical exemptions apply for certain students.
4. The recommendation for LFD testing frequency is now 3 times a week – Sunday evening, Tuesday evening and Thursday evening. We have a supply of tests at school that we will distribute to students who require a replenishment. **Please can I ask that an additional LFD test is taken this evening just before the return to school.**
5. As ever, if your child has any Covid symptoms, please can they self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test.
6. Household contacts of a suspected or confirmed positive case no longer need to self-isolate prior to a PCR test result if they are double vaccinated or if they are age 5-17. Instead, they should take daily LFD tests for a week.



Coronavirus symptoms?
(A high temperature, new continuous cough and/or loss or change of taste or smell)

Self-isolate immediately
You should stay at home and book a PCR test as soon as possible.

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Test negative?
You no longer need to isolate.

Test positive?
Isolate for 7 days from the day you took the test.

You should take lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7.

If either tests are positive, you should isolate until you receive two negative tests, or until day 10.

TTP Note:
Parents are required to show the school evidence of two negative lateral flow tests, if a student wants to return on Day 8.

  **GIG**
CYMRU
NHS
WALLES | **Profi**
Olrhain
Diogelu | **Test**
Trace
Protect

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

Hugo Hutchison
Headteacher / Prifathro