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Ysgol Rhiwabon

Pennaeth - Melanie Ferron-Evans B.A.(Joint Hons) MSc. N.P.Q.H - Headteacher

16th July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

September Start

Before outlining Ysgol Rhiwabon's phased September start I would like to thank all our parents and students who have sent in kind messages, cards and cakes to say thank you to the staff in school. This has meant a lot to all the staff and is much appreciated. I would also like to thank our families for supporting distance learning as we have all had to adapt to new ways of working. The lessons we have all learnt in school, and at home, as we have adapted to online work and different learning platforms will be a key strength moving forward.

I know that you will all understand that getting ready for September has been a difficult and time consuming process with many things to consider, supported by the Local Authority and Welsh Government guidance. We are now in a position to share most of the important details about our September start, most importantly which year group is back on which date.

The Senior Leadership Team will be in school during the holidays addressing the operational details of the planning. This means there will be some information that will need to be shared with you over the summer holidays so please keep looking on the website and checking the Parent App and emails, especially in the week leading up to September 3rd.

Please be aware that we have a staggered start in September, following detailed discussions with schools across Wrexham, supported by the Local Authority. This will give us important time with each year group, allowing them to settle into school and some new ways of working after a significant time away from the school building.

Phased return

The grid below highlights the start date for each Year Group.

	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
Start Date	Thursday 3 rd September onwards	Wednesday 9 th September onwards	Tuesday 8 th September onwards	Monday 7 th September onwards	Friday 4 th September onwards

The Welsh Government has set a deadline for all students returning to school by Monday 14th September. Our plan ensures that all learners have returned to Ysgol Rhiwabon by Wednesday 9th September.

From the 10th September Year 7 students will continue with their SWAN Induction Programme and all other year groups will follow their normal subject timetable, with some minor adjustments.

Return to School

Specific details around staggered start and end times will be communicated during the summer holiday.

Students will be kept in year group blocks, based for almost all lessons in the same room in the initial weeks of the Autumn Term. Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered and structured to allow the year groups to be separated.

There will be a one-way system around the school and all students and staff will need to follow the routed walkways in a socially distanced way.

There will be hand sanitising stations in every classroom and at key points around the school.

Morning procedures

On arriving at school all students will enter through the main gates via the Dyke entrance and the two main entrances at the front of the school. During the first two weeks the senior team will be available to guide students straight to their tutor base classroom, where their tutor will be waiting for them.

On the first day back for each Year group there will be a tutor session to guide and reassure students, answering any concerns that may arise and to make sure everyone is looked after and is ready to learn. At the heart of this will be our consideration for the wellbeing of our students who have been away from formal education and routines for a long time.

Organisation of classrooms

In the classrooms all students will sit facing the front in a strict seating plan. They will sanitise their hands on entry to the room and put their coat and bag under the table.

For health and safety reasons we will be unable to lend out basic equipment and **every child must have a pencil case with the basic equipment** as outlined in school planners.

Curriculum

We are all aware our students have missed a considerable amount of school and we appreciate they will have had different experiences accessing the remote learning set, using a range of different learning platforms. For this reason staff are planning how to support our students on catching up on their studies to ensure they are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented times, whilst at the same time ensuring our curriculum remains broad, engaging and relevant.

Teachers will be prioritising parts of the curriculum which are integral to their course and which are the cornerstone of the subject. There will be some changes to the Year 11 GCSE subjects as the WJEC has revised the content to be examined in Year 11. We will provide full details of this to Key Stage 4 students and families in September.

Students in all year groups will continue to study all of their subjects, including practical subjects, but there will be some changes to how these lessons are delivered in line with government guidance. Again further updates will follow over the summer.

Uniform

We expect all students to return to school in full Ysgol Rhiwabon uniform and detailed guidance has been attached at the end of this letter.

Many of you are buying uniform for September and below is the link to Ram Leisure for appointments.

<https://ourschoolwear.co.uk/>

Please note our guidance on school shoes ready for September. There are example pictures on the website.

Further guidance on the wearing of face masks will be issued as we receive further clarification from Welsh Government.

Well being

This has been an incredibly difficult time for all of us, but particularly for our young people. We are really excited to have them all back in school following the Summer Holiday.

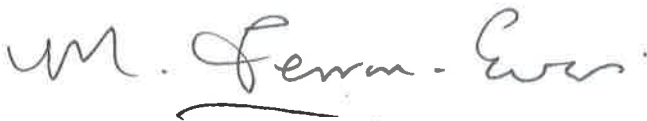
Our prime aim over the Autumn Term is for your child to adapt again to the routine of being in school, seeing their friends, feeling happy and focused again. No student should be worried about catching up work. Staff in Ysgol Rhiwabon will ensure that the new start is a positive and purposeful experience. We have all missed our school community and you as families and are looking forward to the school being full again as it should be.

Thank you

I started by thanking you for all your support through this challenging time and I would like to end with a formal thank you to the staff and Governors in Ysgol Rhiwabon who has worked so hard to create our caring, supportive learning environment which has continued through the Lockdown period. The whole team have worked tirelessly to keep the school open, supporting key worker families and providing work for effective distance learning, whilst maintaining the site and administrative working. I am proud to have such a team of staff.

Enjoy family time during the Summer Holiday, knowing that we are looking forward to welcoming your child back in September

With warm wishes



Mrs M Ferron-Evans
Headteacher