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Ysgol Rhiwabon

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

26th September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 7 September Start – Thursday September 3rd

School starts back on Thursday 3rd of September and we will be welcoming **Year 7 only** on the first day. All the staff are looking forward to welcoming them to Ysgol Rhiwabon.

As you will know from my last letter, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September will be transition days for Year 7 to replace the activities missed in June. As other year groups will be phased into school through the following week, Year 7 will have two days to get to know the school and staff before most of the older students return.

Transition Days – Non School Uniform

Please note that your child needs to wear casual clothes on September 3rd and 4th, for the transition activities which will include some PE and Technology.

We are aware that this year is different and that our Year 7 learners will have been away from school for a long time. With this in mind, Staff in Ysgol Rhiwabon have planned the first two days and the early weeks in secondary school to ensure every child is put at ease through a range of exciting and engaging learning activities, designed to support and reassure.

Arrangements for the first day

- Your child will need to arrive in school by 8.45am
- For health and safety reasons cars are not allowed on site at the start or end of the school day. If you are bringing your child by car please use the bus bay at the front of the school to drop off so they can walk up the school steps, avoiding all traffic. The main entrance gates will be closed at the start and end of the day.
- Any child with a medical reason for onsite drop off will of course be allowed.
- Senior staff will be waiting to welcome your child and to guide them to the first room of the day
- Once organised in tutor groups there will be time for introductions and some key information to reassure all our Year 7s at the start of the day.
- After the introductions to secondary school a range of activities will begin, including a Welsh with cooking, PE, an introduction to Technology, Drama and Science.
- There will also be a small assembly delivered to each group in their base room

Your child will need:

- Suitable casual clothes, including an outdoor coat depending on the weather
- A school bag and fully equipped pencil case – please see our Kit video on the website to remind you
- A snack for break as the canteen will only open at lunchtime
- A water bottle which can be sanitised daily at home
- A packed lunch if your child does not want hot food from our canteen
- A face covering in their bag, pending new announcements from the Welsh Government regarding the use of this protection around the school site
- A reminder that a face covering for bus travel is already **mandatory** if this is their chosen route into school

Break and Lunchtime

Year 7 have a designated space for their free time close to their form rooms. This area is closely supervised by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Forman and Year 7 Lead Learner Mrs Wright Davies; staff who most of our new students have already met in their primary schools.

At lunch time Year 7 will have the canteen to themselves on the first day. For the early weeks of the first half term Year 7 will go to the canteen early to avoid busy queues and other year groups, according to social distancing guidance. Students with packed lunches will be able to eat their food in the canteen as well.

Transport

The majority of our students travel to and from school independently, including the use of the Arriva service buses in the village. We have one bus, run by E. Jones & Son Limited, which delivers and picks up directly outside the school. This runs for the Cefn Mawr area and charges similar fares to the normal service buses. This bus will be available on the first day and any families interested in this can explore the route using the link on our school website:

www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

Go to Community at the top of the Home Page where useful transport information, including routes can be found

SWAN – Transition Project **September 7th – September 18th**

On September 7th our Year 7 students will begin our well established transition project which will last for two weeks. SWAN stands for Speaking, Writing and Numeracy. The project will build on essential skills developed in primary school and will end with formal presentations on September 18th. This work will help us to support catch up and will be taught in a fixed base so your child does not have to worry about navigating around the school site. By the end of the project we find our Year 7s are confident and keen to start a wider range of subjects and this will begin from September 21st.

School Uniform

Year 7 will be expected to wear their new school uniform with pride from September 7th onward. A range of leaflets about the school uniform requirements and how to access RAM leisure to purchase the blazer and school tie were sent to you in July. All other items of clothing can be found in local supermarkets and retail outlets. Please note the school rules on shoes, an important part of Ysgol Rhiwabon uniform. All uniform guidance is available on our school website (please see the link above)

Outstanding Data Forms

Thank you very much for returning the completed data forms to school by the deadline. The completion of these forms is really important to ensure that we have all the up to date information, in particular **emergency contacts and medical details**, to ensure the wellbeing and safety of your child. Any outstanding forms can be handed in to Mrs Wright Davies, Lead Learner, on September 3rd.

Contact with Ysgol Rhiwabon leading up to September 3rd

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns we can address before September 3rd. A message can be left via email or the school answer machine using the details below.

Mailbox@rhiwabon-high.wrexham.sch.uk

School Office: 01978 822392

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child on September 3rd and to working with you and your family.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Ferron-Evans
Headteacher