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## Ysgol Rhiwabon

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

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### September Start

Thank you for your patience and continued support during a very challenging summer. This letter is intended to provide the general outline of our plans for the start of term in Ysgol Rhiwabon. This will be followed up by detailed parent and student guidelines on our school website, to provide more specific information and detail.

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 government guidance. We are now in a position to share the key information about our September opening, including an important reminder about which year group is back on which date. This is set out below:

Please remember our staggered start in September. 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 and staff.

### **Phased return**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September **Year 7 only**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September Year 7, **plus Year 11**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September Years 7, and 11, **plus Year 10**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September Years 7, 10 and 11 **plus Year 9**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September Year 7, 10,11,9 **plus Year 8**

### Return to School

**School will be very different in September, with health and safety guidelines and strict limits on student movement around the school to ensure the safety of all students and staff.**

### **Time of Arrival**

The school times remain the same. Your child will need to be on site by 8.45am ready for an 8.50am start. As the students arrive, staff will guide them to their new form rooms and teaching area. Please note that if your child is being dropped off in the morning, or collected at the end of the day, **no cars are permitted on site** for health and safety reasons. Permission will be granted, via the office, if access to the site is needed on medical grounds. The school gates will be closed at the start and end of the day, allowing a safe entrance and exit route for our learners.



## Year Zones

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. These areas are listed below.

Year 7	G corridor (upper corridor)
Year 8	E Corridor
Year 9	G Corridor (lower corridor)
Year 10	L Block
Year 11	F Corridor

## Morning procedures

On arriving at school all students will enter through the main gates, either via the Dyke entrance or 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, in the zones listed above, 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. Form tutors will issue year timetables during this session.

Following the allocated form time all years, apart from Year 7, will begin normal timetabled lessons in their new zoned area.

## Organisation of classrooms

In the classrooms, all students will sit facing the front in a strict seating plan. Every classroom is equipped with a hand sanitiser station and wipes for the tables. Students will need to 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 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 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.

## PE in September

We will not be using our changing rooms during the first half term so pupils must wear their school PE kit on the days they have PE, according to their individual timetables. More information will be sent out at the start of term for each year group.

## **Break**

**The Canteen will be closed pre-school and at break time, so all students will need to bring a snack for their morning break as well as a water bottle that can be sanitised daily at home.**

All year groups have a designated space for their free time close to their form rooms. School staff and a member of the senior leadership team will supervise this area.

## **Lunchtime**

The canteen will be open for hot food at lunchtime, offering a limited menu. The main School Hall will be used as an additional dining area to avoid any areas becoming too busy. Your child will be eating their lunch in this area with their year group only. To accommodate all students we will be splitting the lunch session so that Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 will not be on their lunch break at the same time. Students with packed lunches will be able to eat their food in the canteen or school hall 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 from the first day of term and any families interested in this can explore the route using the link on our school website:

[www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk](http://www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk)

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

A reminder that a face covering for bus travel is already **mandatory** if this is your child's chosen route into school. This also applies to college transport for our Key Stage 4 learners.

## **Face Masks**

**At the time of writing this letter, new government and local decisions are being made regarding the wearing of face coverings in school. For this reason, we would ask that your child has a face covering in their school bag and we will continue to update you on this matter next week.**

Some staff and students will be wearing face masks through personal choice at all times in school for extra reassurance and this will be fully respected.

## **Uniform**

We expect all students to return to school in full Ysgol Rhiwabon uniform and detailed guidance was issued at the end of last term., including a link to Ram Leisure.

<https://ourschoolwear.co.uk/pages/appointment-booking>

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

## **Wellbeing**

This has been an incredibly difficult time for all of us, but particularly for our young people. We are 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 we are all 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 have worked so hard to create our caring, supportive learning environment. The whole team has worked tirelessly to keep the school open and thriving and I am proud to have such a team of staff.

Enjoy the final days of the Summer Holiday, knowing that we are looking forward to welcoming your child back very shortly.

We will continue to keep you updated using the school website and Parent App and Twitter.

With warm wishes,



**Mrs M Ferron-Evans**  
**Headteacher**