



# YSGOL RHIWABON

~ SINCE 1575 ~



12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Operational Guidelines to Support the Safe Return to School

As detailed in my letter on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, I am now sharing our operational guidelines to support the safe return to school, starting for selected year groups from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

To serve as a reminder, I have included the plans for the initial phase of returning our students to school below.

	Year 11	Year 10	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<b>Start Date</b>	Week 1&2	Week 1&2	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2
	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	15 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> March <b><u>Every day</u></b>	17 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> March <b><u>Every Day</u></b>	March 24 <sup>th</sup> <b><u>only</u></b>	March 25 <sup>th</sup> <b><u>only</u></b>	March 26 <sup>th</sup> <b><u>only</u></b>

### Return to School

Students will be kept in year group blocks as they were prior to Christmas, based for almost all lessons on the same corridor and will only move to alternative areas of the school for specialist teaching such as PE, ICT, Design and Technology, Music, Art or for Science Practicals. 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.

Students will be required to wear face coverings, unless exempt, **at all times** while in the school building, including during all lessons.

### 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. Students should move 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, to answer any concerns that may arise, to inform them of any operational changes, 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 be required 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 basic equipment** as outlined in school planners.

## **Curriculum**

We fully appreciate that every student 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 to ensure they are provided with the opportunity to achieve their potential, 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 and assessment. This also applies to Year 10 students, entered for their GCSE Maths, English, RS and Music in the Summer 2021. We will provide full details of this to Key Stage 4 students in due course.

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.

## **Face Coverings**

Changes to the Welsh Government guidance on face coverings now states that all students and staff are required to wear face coverings while inside the school building. This will now include classrooms. Students should ensure that they bring an appropriate face covering to school every day. If a student is exempt from wearing a face covering, the school must be informed of this if they have not already been so. The school will be providing a washable face covering to all students to supplement the one from home to assist families with the extra usage in the school building.

## **Covid -19 Lateral Flow Tests (LFT)**

All staff and students in Year 10 and 11 are now being provided with the opportunity to be tested twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Test. More detailed information for Key Stage 4 students has been shared with parents via the school website and a Q&A session for families this week.

## **Uniform**

We expect all students to return to school in full Ysgol Rhiwabon uniform. Detailed guidance for our Uniform Policy is available on the school website. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this.

## **Transport**

### **By Bus**

All transport provided by Wrexham will be running as normal. Our school bus will be operating as normal from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> up to and after Easter. Face Coverings are mandatory on public transport.

### **By Car**

For those students transported to and from school by car, please note that **no vehicles are permitted on site for health and safety reasons**. Special consideration will be given for medical reasons and permission to drive on site can be discussed with office staff via an email or telephone call.

### On Foot

For those students who walk home need to adhere to social distancing and remain considerate to people in the local community. They need to avoid walking in large groups and ensure that they are polite and mindful of others.

### School Canteen

From March 15<sup>th</sup> the canteen will be providing hot and cold food at lunchtimes. The canteen will not be open at break, (apart from Year 11). For this reason students will need to bring a snack and water.

### Remote Learning

From March 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> live lessons will continue for Years 7- 9.

From March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> learning will not be live, but work will be set via Google Classrooms for remote learning as more students will be on site.

### School Devices

As students return to school please can they sign borrowed equipment back into school via the Office. This equipment can be re-issued in the future if required.

### Critical worker and vulnerable children provision – Key Stage 3

- Key Stage 4 students in this group will be able to access the normal timetable from March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Key Stage 3 students in this group can access the provision through the ongoing booking system.

### Wellbeing

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, both before and after Easter.

Our prime aim over this time 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 our families and we are looking forward to the school being full again as it should be.

### Thank you

I would like to thank 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 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. As you know I am proud to have such a team of staff.

With warm wishes



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