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# Ysgol Uwchradd Llanwern High School

Pennaeth Mrs T Jarvis Headteacher

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been so good to be able to be back to school with the pupils this past fortnight and to see them engaging in their lessons, spending time with their friends and reintroducing themselves to the routines of school life and, as we approach the end of term ahead of the Easter break, I hope that the pupils have found getting back to normal a welcome contrast to the challenges of recent restrictions and lockdown.

When we do return to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, I am really pleased to confirm that this will be a full return, full time for all pupils. On that first day of term pupils are to arrive at school by 8.30am in full uniform to assemble in their year group areas and line up in their forms as normal, ahead of being collected by their form tutor.

Following a slightly extended pastoral period at the start of the day, the pupils will then follow their usual **week one** timetable.

To support staggering movement around the building during the day, end of lesson bells will continue to be suspended so that classes can be released intelligently and in response to levels of congestion in the corridors. There will also be slightly staggered break and lunch times to further support year groups moving with limited contact with each other.

Chartwells Catering will also return to the school site and will resume serving snacks and meals at break and lunch.

With a full return to school, it is also important to remind ourselves of the Covid safe measures we introduced from September and to confirm that these measures continue to be in place.

These are listed below for reference:

1. Pupils to remain outside until the first bell for registration. In case of inclement weather, it is advisable to ensure your child has a suitable coat and/or umbrella. In severe weather pupils will be able to access designated indoor year group areas.
2. Separate yard areas and controlled entrance to the building for registration each morning to continue. Pupils in Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 will only be able to enter via the old reception area at the front of the school and pupils in Y7, Y8 and Y9 will only be able to enter via the rear of the atrium.
3. Desks in classrooms will continue to be arranged to support contact groups of approximately 30 pupils and teacher areas are marked off to support the 2 meter distancing rule.
4. Sharing of equipment has to be limited or planned to allow for cleaning following use between contact groups
5. The 2 meter distance markers in the building remain to remind staff and pupils of the required social distance and signage is also displayed to further support this message.
6. The one way system to cross atrium bridges is retained and pupils will be encouraged to move around the school building by keeping to the left.

7. Whole year group assemblies will continue to be suspended until further notice to avoid large groups of staff and pupils gathering in a closed area.
8. Separate yard areas for different year groups at break times will continue.
9. Staggered exits for year groups at the end of the day will be in operation to support minimising contact between year groups as they leave school.
10. Until further notice, lunchtime and after school clubs, where pupils from different year groups attend, will need to continue to be suspended.

Additionally, site cleanliness and support for pupils and staff in maintaining good hygiene will continue as follows:

1. Sanitising stations near to all entrances
2. Cleaning of all entrance areas and touch points to continue following all pupils entering the building each morning.
3. Additional sanitising stations remain within each classroom and throughout the day, as groups of pupils enter or exit a classroom for a lesson, the pupils will be expected to clean their hands.
4. Paper towels, tissues and anti-bacterial spray will continue to be available to support regular cleaning of work surfaces.
5. Pupils are expected to bring their own equipment to school each day and will be discouraged from borrowing or sharing pens, pencils, rulers etc.
6. Wherever possible, classroom doors and windows will continue to remain open to ensure good ventilation.
7. Sanitiser will also be available near the entrances to all toilets.
8. Increased cleaning team to continue to oversee the hygiene levels required throughout the day - including hourly cleaning of toilet areas and additional cleaning to take place in subject areas such as science, PE, DT and IT.
9. Screens in the IT areas around workstations and the use of Rapid-10 spray sanitiser for all equipment regularly
10. 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' signage displayed around the building to reinforce the message of virus control.

Welsh Government have also updated their operational guidance to support the full reopening of schools from Monday 12th April (link below).

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2021/3/2/1615894321/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-12-april.pdf>

In this document, it states the following very clearly:

***'If social distancing cannot be maintained, face coverings should be worn anywhere on the school estate, including in the classroom by staff at primary and secondary schools and secondary school learners' (page 21)***

As such, we will also continue with the expectation that pupils wear a face covering in classrooms, as well as in all indoor communal areas.

The pupils have been incredibly mature in responding to this expectation over the last fortnight and I thank you as parents/carers for your support with reinforcing this message at home too.

Hopefully, we can look forward to a future not too far off in the distance where we will no longer need to take this precaution, but for now it is the expectation in secondary schools and, just as we do when we go to the supermarket, we need to comply in order to adhere to the Welsh Government guidance and limit the opportunities for virus transmission.

We have a busy summer term ahead of us with assessment processes taking place for those in exam years, options being taken for those in Year 8 and Year 11, Year 13 moving onto university and employment, transition for pupils in Year 6 as they prepare to move into secondary school in September and support and provision for all to adjust to a return to school as we move back to the welcome routine of school and full time education.

It has twelve months that we will not forget, but I am hopeful that with the summer months ahead, the continued successful vaccine roll out and increased awareness of how we all keep ourselves and each other safe we can look positively ahead.

Have a lovely Easter break with your loved ones and I look forward to welcoming all of the pupils back to school properly from Monday 12th April.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Jarvis', written in a cursive style.

Tracey Jarvis  
Headteacher