



## Ysgol Uwchradd **Whitmore** High School

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Dear parent/carer,

I am pleased to say that we have had our risk assessment approved by the council today regarding our September return. Over the summer, we have worked very hard on developing measures to mitigate the spread of Covid whilst allowing pupils to benefit from a full curriculum. This letter details the measures that we have put in place and explains the plan for the staggered start to term.

For pupils at Whitmore, the aim is for the school to feel back to normal. There will be added safety procedures, adapted lunchtimes and different ways of moving around the school, but fundamentally pupils deserve to have a full school experience and we look forward to providing it again.

### **Additional procedures**

- 1. Following the statement from the Welsh Government on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, we have decided to make face coverings a requirement in school corridors and on school transport. We would ask for you to provide your child with a plain (single colour), reusable face mask and a plastic container. Instructions for use will be given to pupils during their induction. Disposable masks will be available in the short term if you are unable to source a mask.**
2. We have created a one-way system around the school. Pupils will be following the full timetable.
3. By designating each year group as a 'bubble' as opposed to class sized 'bubbles', we are able to place students in different sets for each subject. For example, your child might be in set 1 for maths and set 2 for English. This will ensure that they receive the correct level of support and challenge.
4. Every child will be supplied with an A4 whiteboard and marker pens to assist with assessment of understanding and immediate feedback in classrooms.
5. In light of the fact that it will not be possible to share pens, pencils, rubbers etc, may we politely remind you that your child will need to bring these into school on a daily basis.
6. Lesson 1 will start at 8:40. Tutor time has been moved to later in the day to allow students to have more space at breaktime and lunchtime. It is very important that your child arrives in good time to ensure they are ready for their first lesson.
7. Each year group will have a designated lunch area. Lunches will consist of cold food options initially however we are looking at ways of adding additional meals. Pupils will pay using the same method as before.
8. There will be a slightly staggered end to the day.  
2:45 - Year 7  
2:50 - Year 8 and 9  
2:55 - Year 10, 11, 12 and 13
9. We believe extracurricular activities are vital for your child's education. They will still take place, (mainly after school due to the staggered lunch) but will be in year groups only.
10. Whilst we were flexible in terms of dress code in July, we are expecting full uniform for the September start. There will be separate information about PE kit later in the week.

### **When will term start?**

There will be a staggered start to the beginning of term. We will add an extra year group per day to the school from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. This is to provide a full induction for pupils to the different procedures that will be in place. The Welsh government has given school until the 14<sup>th</sup> September to have all students back. However, we have decided to be fully up to capacity by the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The schedule for return is as follows: (Sixth Form details in a separate letter)

For all year groups the day will start at 8:40. There will be staff available at all entrances to direct pupils to where they will need to go. It would be beneficial if they could arrive a few minutes early.

Date	Return
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Staff preparation day
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 7 induction
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 7 + Year 11 induction
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7, 11 + Year 10 induction
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7, 10, 11, + Year 8 induction
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7, 10, 11, 8 + Year 9 induction (all pupils in)

Whilst the Welsh government has stated there will be no issuing of fines during the first half term, we are anticipating that all students will return in September. If your child is feeling unwell or displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, we would politely request that they remain at home for the specified number of days.

I would like to end this letter by once again thanking you for the high level of support that you have given the school during this challenging time. I am delighted that we have developed measures that whilst providing a safe environment, will ensure our students get the opportunity to go back to a school that feels like normal.

Innes Robinson



Head of School