



Ysgol Uwchradd **Whitmore** High School

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December 18th, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We wish to update you with the latest information following the Welsh Government's decision for all schools in Wales to undertake a staggered return after the Christmas break. We realise that this staggered start may be inconvenient, worrying and frustrating for many parents and young people, however, this must be considered alongside the decision to enter lockdown (Tier 4), immediately after Christmas. These restrictions require the full cooperation of all, including young people, to minimise contact with others to prevent the transmission of Covid-19.

All Vale Secondary Schools have agreed to aim for all pupils to be back in school for face to face learning by Monday, 11th January, 2021 at the latest.

From Monday 4th- Friday 8th January, blended learning will be provided. A separate e-mail will be sent with the details. After consultation with our Governing Body and as a consequence of recent experiences, although we would endeavour to get all pupils back as soon as possible, due to the level of transmission of the disease we have experienced in recent months, it is highly unlikely that we will be safe to fully open in the first week, but we will ensure at the very least that we are open to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children from Wednesday 6th January. We will communicate the final decision to you as soon as possible and by 12pm on Monday, 4th January 2021. If we are in a position to accommodate larger groups of pupils in the first week of term, in addition to those outlined above, we will do so.

The school will have a provision available for vulnerable pupils from Wednesday 6th January. The parents/carers of these pupils will be contacted by Sue Neilson. There will also be a provision from Wednesday 6th January for pupils of critical care workers and we will consult with you directly, via Parentmail, to establish this need and demand.

I wish to thank you for your continued patience and support and for communicating your appreciation to our staff in these challenging times.

Kind Regards

Innes Robinson
Head of School