



Ysgol Uwchradd **Whitmore** High School

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8th March 2021

Last week, we received the positive news from Welsh Government that there has been an improvement in the Covid-19 situation, allowing all pupils to have some face to face teaching before Easter. Our current plan is as follows but we would please ask you to bear in mind that this will be dependent upon a number of factors including Welsh Government announcements and local transmission rates.

Year 11, 12 and 13 – Return on the 15th March

Year 10 – Return on the 22nd March

Year 7 – Attend school on Wednesday 24th March

Year 8 – Attend school on Thursday 25th March

Year 9 – Attend school on Friday 26 March

During this period, pupils follow their normal timetable. When pupils are at home, the current online provision will continue.

We have added a number of additional measures to ensure we meet the new government guidance regarding the return to school.

Face Coverings

Pupils will be expected to continue to wear face coverings whilst in communal areas of the school and on school transport. Recent guidance from Welsh Government refers to the wearing of face coverings and states that “if social distancing cannot be maintained, face coverings should be worn anywhere on the school estate, including in the classroom.” Because social distancing is not possible within the classroom, pupils will now be expected to wear masks during lessons. As the teacher will maintain 2 metres distance, they will not be required to wear a mask. We are awaiting further information regarding whether triple layered fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSM) are required by the Welsh Government. If this is the case, the school will provide them.

Testing of staff

The Welsh Government has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in education and childcare settings across Wales. Along with the primary protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help pupils and staff members to continue working in as safe an environment as possible. All staff are being asked to take part in twice weekly home testing using Lateral Flow Device (LFT) tests.

Testing of Pupils

The Minister for Education and the Minister for Health and Social Services also announced on 22 February that the offer of regular, twice weekly, Lateral Flow Tests will be extended to all those of upper secondary age. These tests will be for use at home. This will start with offering tests to learners in years 10 and above. We are awaiting on further information regarding this and will update you as soon as possible.

Assessments and Qualifications (Key Stage 4 & 5)

The WJEC has now published the Initial Assessment Framework for individual subjects and qualifications. We will be working very hard over the coming days to as individual departments and as a whole school to determine Whitmore High School assessment plans. Our aim is to share this with you during the course of next week. In the meantime, I would like to reassure you that within the two weeks of school prior to the Easter holiday, we will not be setting formal assessments for any examination groups. Work will continue on non-exam assessments (NEAs) and assessment preparation.

Please continue to use our website and follow our Twitter page for further updates and information.

Thank you all again for your support.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'IR', written in a cursive style.

Innes Robinson
Head of School