

13/07/20

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to begin by congratulating our pupils for their response over the last two to three weeks during the re-opening of Bryn Tawe. Their laudable efforts and attitude to learning have contributed very positively to maintaining a safe ethos within the school.

At the end of an unusual and unprecedented year, I would like to thank you as parents for your full support. It is always our intention to provide the highest quality learning as well as the best care for all of our pupils and a successful partnership with parents and families is key to this success.

Similarly, I would like to thank all the school staff who have continued to work tirelessly since we 'closed' on the 20th March. I have always felt privileged to work with the staff at Bryn Tawe, but this period has highlighted their commitment even more so. The willingness of staff to respond to any request, which has supported the well-being and the learning of our pupils and the wider school community, has been incredible and I would like to pay tribute to their efforts.

On an annual basis, we see some changes to school staff and I would like to thank the following for their contributions to school life. Mr Rhys Underdown (himself a former pupil at Bryn Tawe) and Mr Gruffudd Jenkins are leaving us to pursue new career paths and we wish both well. I would like to thank Miss Rachel Jeffries, who has made a valuable contribution to the Humanities department over the last year, and pass on our best wishes to her for the future. Mr Phil Higginson's contribution to the English department over the past few years has been hugely appreciated and we wish him well in his new post at Ysgol y Preseli. There are also three members of staff who, together, have been at Bryn Tawe for over 40 years and they will leave a noticeable gap within our school community. We are very grateful to all three for their fantastic contribution to the lives of the pupils of Bryn Tawe over the years. Best wishes to Mrs Shan Davies who is embarking on a new career as a sports massage therapist; to Mr Rhun Llwyd who is moving to Ysgol Bro Teifi in Llandysul and to Mrs Rhian Thomas who is retiring at the end of a very illustrious teaching career. I thank you all and it has been a pleasure to work with you during your careers at Bryn Tawe.

With the end of the year approaching, and following the Minister for Education's announcement last week, I would like to share arrangements with you for a full return to school in September. The arrangements for the first two weeks will be as follows.

Tuesday 01/09/20: planning and preparation days for staff (closed for all pupils)

Wednesday 02/09/20: planning and preparation days for staff (closed for all pupils)

Thursday 03/09/20: Years **7, 12 and 13 only** (closed for pupils years 8, 9, 10 and 11)

Friday 04/09/20: Years **7, 12 and 13 only** (closed for pupils years 8, 9, 10 and 11)

Monday 07/09/20: Year **7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 pupils only** (closed to pupils in years 8 and 9)

Tuesday 08/09/20: Year **7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 pupils only** (closed to pupils in years 8 and 9)

Wednesday 09/09/20: **All pupils returning full time to school.**

The school will then be fully open to **all pupils** from Wednesday the 9th September. We expect all of our pupils to return from this date, unless there is a medical reason for their absence. All **parents**



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who have not yet done so must complete the 'Health and safety agreement' [here](#) before your child can return to school in September.

We will run a full timetable, but we will **continue with the safety measures in place** for the near future. We will continue to act on the health advice we receive from the Welsh Government and the Local Authority. All pupils will be expected to sanitise or wash their hands upon arrival, before break, before lunchtime, before moving from one class to another, and finally prior to departure. We will operate 'contact groups' of approximately 30 pupils in years 7-9. We will also make every effort for GCSE and A Level pupils to remain in contact groups, while also seeking to provide valuable learning experiences provided by subject specialists for these examination groups. We expect pupils to make every effort to maintain social distancing when moving around the building and to follow the one-way system at all times. Pupils will be expected to disinfect their desks before and after each lesson. We will update you and the pupils on these detailed arrangements prior to their return in September.

We are considering **concluding lessons by 14:45 in order** to allow for a staggered departure. We will confirm the definite timings and arrangements for the school day before the end of August.

There will be no school lunch for pupils for the first two weeks (between the 3rd – 11th September) and each pupil will be expected to bring packed lunches. We will be providing food at school from the 14th September, but pupils are welcome to bring their own packed lunch on a daily basis. We will reduce the morning break to 15 minutes and there will be no food provision in the canteen during this period. Pupils will need to bring their own healthy snacks to consume during this break. Lunchtime will be reduced to 25 minutes, therefore once again we would ask pupils to consider bringing their own packed lunch. We will provide food for pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Pupils will be given the opportunity to go outdoors, weather permitting, during the day.

In September, **we expect pupils to wear school uniform**. The new uniform ([see the letter here](#)) is available from our supplier, Bergoni. As indicated in the letter, our pupils have permission to wear their current uniform during the 12 month transition period up until September 2021.

School transport will be available to pupils, but naturally because of the risk of COVID-19, it would be beneficial if parents who are able to transport their children to school do so. We will confirm the full transport arrangements by the end of August as we are awaiting further guidance. **Pupils will not be able to access the school site prior to 08:15. We ask parents not to drop their children at school before 08:15.** We will share our final plans for drop-offs and pick-ups by the end of August and prior to our return in September.

I am sure you have a number of further questions and if so, please contact us on the email address below, or by telephoning the school. Thank you again for your support during these unprecedented and difficult times. We look forward to welcoming your child back to Bryn Tawe in September.

Yours sincerely,





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