

Queen Elizabeth High School



Good afternoon all,

I hope that this update finds both you and your families well. School has returned to some form of normality, in the context of the 'new normal,' in the last few weeks and pupils and students have benefitted from a return to routines. However, I would continue to stress the need for vigilance as regards taking precautions around Covid. I would especially ask that parents continue to support the school by ensuring you provide your children with both the advice and routines that will prevent unnecessary transmission of Covid.

There have been reports in the media nationally of transmissions increasing as a result of teenagers congregating in the evenings and attending parties or sleep overs. These events have become 'super-seeders' for infection and transmission and have had a significant impact on the communities in which they occur. These incidents have resulted in disruption to school attendance and have had an impact of the wellbeing and academic progress of young people in these communities. Please support the school and community by providing information to pupils and students that will help prevent transmission. Welsh Government are asking us to:

- Stay out of each other's homes, except in very limited circumstances.
- Limit the times you leave your home, and the distance you travel.
- When you do leave home, please try and be restrained in how many different people you see. It is better to see the same one or two people regularly than to see lots of different people occasionally. maintain social distancing, including outdoors.
- Meet people outdoors rather than indoors where possible, even in circumstances where the law allows you to meet indoors.
- Work from home if you can.
- Wash your hands regularly and follow other advice on hygiene.
- Self-isolate if you show symptoms of coronavirus.

You can find a useful FAQs for all on the guidance at:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

Taking Care and Respecting our Community

Railway Lines

Can parents please reinforce general messages of safety and conduct on the way to, and especially from school. We have had report of late of pupils walking towards the railway line on the way home from school, and reports of incidents of pupils playing alongside the railway lines in the evening. Network rail have raised their concerns and have asked us to provide the following information to parents:



Due to the very real risks of trespassing on the tracks by young people in your local area, Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live are working to help raise awareness to students across the UK educating them about the dangers of the train tracks through interactive digital delivery.

Network rail have asked us to share the relevant safety information with our community.

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

Walking Home

We have stressed in online assemblies and messages to form groups, the need for pupils to be considerate of our community when walking home. We are asking that pupils:

- Make way for members of the public on pavements, allowing safe distances for passers by.
- The need to wear face coverings when entering local shops and other venues.
- To place litter in bins.

Pupils are also reminded that when in uniform they are ambassadors for the school and to take this responsibility seriously. QEH school does much to support its community and pupils should demonstrate pride in being part of our community. Can I ask parents to support school by reinforcing these positive messages.

Use of face coverings in school: Update to Welsh Government guidance

The Welsh Government has updated its operational guidance on the use of face coverings in schools and colleges.

The guidance now states that face coverings should be worn:

- in all areas outside the classroom by staff and learners in secondary schools and colleges
- on dedicated school and college transport for learners in year 7 and up
- by visitors to all schools and colleges, including parents and carers picking up and collecting children

The move follows the publication of SAGE evidence and [a recent TAG report](#).

The expectation is that these changes will be implemented as quickly as possible over the coming weeks.

Along with hand-washing and social distancing, the use of face coverings will play its part in keeping pupils, staff and parents as safe as possible.

Further Information

- Links on social media to explain social distancing and how to wear face coverings <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTZvaU9CIF5u27UHyACS6AqdRTPisJ7XO>
- Regularly updated information from Welsh Government is available on their social media channels https://twitter.com/WG_Education <https://www.facebook.com/educationwales/>
- Full Welsh Government COVID–19 guidance for schools and settings can be found here: <https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-version-4-html>

Transition

The deadline for application to Queen Elizabeth High School is 18th December 2020. All applications need to be made online before this date. Information can be found by following this link:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-admissions-changing-schools/moving-up-to-secondary-school/>

If a parent/potential parent has any difficulty in accessing the link or completing forms online then please contact the school on 01267 245300.

In response to these unprecedented times and new challenges faced we have just launched our transition video for Year 6 on our website. It really is a fantastic video that gives pupils in primary a sense of what a

special community we have here. Please take the opportunity to view the video, can I thank all those pupils in Year 7 who helped make the video such a success. A special thank you must also go to Sophie and Ben, our Head Girl and Boy and the teachers who worked on the project: Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Ostendorf, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Williams and Gareth Evans for their work on this it looks very professional – well done! The video can be found by following this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/564163413678033/videos/388149675716369/>

We are now finalising our virtual tour of the school and will make it available to parents via our website later this week..

Test Trace Protect

If your child has any of the symptoms of Covid then please book a test via the contact number below. If your child is awaiting a test result for Covid then please do not send them to school until you have received that test result.

In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, immediate action is taken, and we work closely with the Test, Trace, Protect team to identify individuals that might need to self-isolate and prevent any transmission within the school.

If your child is identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, they will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days. This means they can't leave the house; they can't go to school or the shops or exercise anywhere outside your home/garden, and they can't have any visitors to your home/garden. Everyone else in the household can continue as normal in line with the fire-break regulations - however if your child becomes symptomatic, the whole household would then need to self-isolate.

Find out more, visit the Carmarthenshire County Council website:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/re-opening-schools/?type=45926>

If in doubt about what advice to follow then please contact the school.

QEH School	01267 245300 Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk
Delta Wellbeing (if your child has COVID symptoms)	0300 333 2222
To book a test call or Use the booking portal	Call 119 Booking Portal: https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support this term. We will continue to try our very best as a school to support our pupils and students both academically and personally, through wellbeing support, in the months ahead.

Kind regards,

Dave Williams

Acting Headteacher