

Queen Elizabeth High School

Update for Parents – 26th March 2021



Good morning. As we look forward to a well-deserved Easter Holiday can I thank you for your continued support of the school and our community. It has been wonderful to have learners back on site these last two weeks. The opportunity to have genuine face to face conversations and interactions with colleagues and learners has made everything seem much more normal and has certainly lifted my spirits



Students facing assessments this summer had the opportunity this week to take part in extended 'on site' sessions that are crucial to their preparations for summer assessments. All of our pupils have had the opportunity to check in and catch up ahead of our return on April 12th 2021. We have been delighted with the excellent attendance and positivity of students attending and we would like to once again express our gratitude for your continued support and help over the transition fortnight.

The last day of spring term is Friday 26th March with **all pupils and students** return to school on Monday 12th April for the start of the Summer term 2021

We are planning for pupils and students to return to the procedures in place during the Autumn term and to follow their full-time timetables. This is subject to confirmation by Welsh Government's review of restrictions during the Easter break. The latest WG guidance for re-opening of schools can be accessed at:

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-12-april-html>

Announcements:

- Letter sent to all parents and carers provisionally explaining **how the Centre Determined Grades will work** for our learners in Summer 2021
- **There will be no INSET day on 12th April** as we confirm arrangements for pupils to return after the Easter holidays. There will be two INSET days in the summer term to support the CDG process. We will confirm these dates as soon as possible, early in the new term.
- **Lateral flow testing** for Year 11, 12 and 13 commenced on Sunday 21st April. **These students will not be asked to undertake testing over the holiday, but to recommence testing on Monday the 12th April.** Year 10 parents and carers have been contacted this week to arrange for Year 10 to be able to access Lateral flow tests commencing **Monday 12th April** ahead of returning after Easter break.

Pupils' Return to Site

From Monday April 12th, we will once again be welcoming all our pupils and students back on site. It has been quite some time since we had a full complement of students on site. I am sure you all remember how we operated in this time but please refresh your memories with these key reminders:

- Pupils and staff will go back to following their normal timetables and rooming.
- We will retain year group bubbles.
- Canolfan Elfed will be starting at 9.30am
- Canolfan Elfed pupils will be on phased return for the first week back and full time from the second week back.
- Break times and lunch times will remain staggered.
- Lunchtimes will continue to be split for Y9/10/11 – Y7/8 - Y12/13 (Café Common Room)

- Canteen facilities will be open for years 7 and 8 only at breaktimes.
- **Entrance and Exit**
 - Each year group will use their designated entrance/exit to minimise mixing of each years contact group.
 - Year 12/13 – Main entrance
 - Years 9, 10 and 11 – Entrance A - Double Doors between Steffan and Dewi
 - Years 7 and 8 – Entrance B Double Doors nearest canteen
 - For the safety of all, upon entrance pupils and staff must continue to ensure hands are washed/sanitised.
 - Pupils register in their normal registration rooms.
 - Doors will open from 8:45am when pupils will make their way to their registration rooms. SLT and HoLs will be on duty at doors and in year group corridors.
 - Pupils exit from the nearest available exit point; either at the end of corridors or in the main
- **Face Coverings**
 - Carmarthenshire has now provided face coverings to be worn by all non-exempt individuals whilst on the school site, inside or outside, when they are within 2 metres of another individual. Two of these were provided for all students on their first day of return and should be worn immediately If you haven't received them to date please contact your Head of Learning.
- **One Way System**
 - We operate a one-way system at the school during lesson crossovers, at the start and end of the day – staff and pupils should be reminded of this and follow the one-way signage
- **Uniform**
 - **Pupils should endeavour to wear full school uniform. Hair colour or dye should be natural and no facial piercing are permitted. Every attempt must be made to abide by existing school rules on uniform. If pupils have PE they will be allowed to wear school PE kit to school.**

Key Points for parents for the 12th April onwards:

- The school day will run as normal from 8:50 am to 3:25pm.
- On the timetable Monday 12th April is **Week 1**
- School transport will operate as usual in line with the timings above.
- **Staggered break/lunch arrangements:** Pupils will have staggered supervised brunch/lunch (25mins) during teaching sessions. Breaks will be supervised by school staff. Canteen facilities will be available from the 12th April.
- FSM payments will continue to be paid directly to families.
- **The hubs for vulnerable learners and critical workers will no longer run as all pupils will be assimilated into their normal timetables**
- Students should wear school uniform as far as possible. Please contact Heads of Year if there are any concerns.
- Students should bring all the equipment they need for learning to school. There should be no sharing or borrowing of equipment.
- Please impress upon your children the need to maintain social distance from each other where they can on the way to and from school as well as within school, to prevent any transmission. It is important that pupils remember the risk of transmission and refrain from sharing or passing items to one another both onsite and on the way to and from school.

The return of the whole school to site will be strictly managed and phased in line with the recently issued Welsh Government guidance that you can access below:

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-support-limited-attendance>

Assessment Procedures, Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) and Appeals

A letter explaining the procedures for assessments, information regarding CDGs and the process for appeals is attached and will be made available to pupils and students sitting exams via email today.

Test Trace Protect

A) TTP

Whilst COVID infection rates continue to fall, it still remains important to contact the school if your child receives a positive test result.

If your child has any of the symptoms of COVID then please book a test via the contact

Delta well being by email on: TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk or by telephone on 0300 333 2222

All information is treated confidentially and allows us to plan for pupils' safe return.

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 10 days. This means they can't leave the house; they can't go 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.

To find out all the latest information, visit the Carmarthenshire County Council website:

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

Other News

Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr's 'Meimio'r Miwsig' competition

Congratulations to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 on their entry in the School's Eisteddfod music competition. The best entries were sent to Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr's 'Meimio'r Miwsig' competition. Pupils recorded a video of themselves lipsyncing to 'Sosban Fach'. Points were given for correct lip syncing, use of props and costumes, creativity, enthusiasm and originality.

This week we have had the exciting news that our school has been successful in the competition and will win a radio workshop with Marc Griffiths from CymruFM/Radio Cymru. We look forward to working with Marc in the near future and sharing the link to the radio programme with you. Llongyfarchiadau i chi gyd am eich cyfraniadau.

Finally

Please enjoy these holidays, there are greater freedoms to enjoy and I hope you get the opportunity to catch up with friends and relatives. Take time to relax and do please take care.

Thank you for all your efforts.

Kind Regards,

Dave Williams

Headteacher

Queen Elizabeth High School