

Queen Elizabeth High School

Update for Parents / Carers and Learners

18th July 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the academic year can I thank all parents and carers for the support you have provided to our school as we returned to 'normal' this year. We have had several letters during the course of this year from parents praising the school and its work across a range of themes. The correspondence received is appreciated, and reflects the efforts staff have made to support our pupils and students both academically and pastorally on their return.

I would also like to thank all our staff for their hard work. Additionally, for the support they have provided for all our learners on their return to school routines, especially those facing external assessments and exams. The exams went very well indeed and all pupils and students must be praised for their positive attitude, resilience and excellent behaviour during this important time. Really well done!

We look forward to welcoming back our students on results days, the details of which are provided below. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic and relaxing summer break.

KEY DATES

- **Thursday, August 18th AS/A Level Results Day. Doors will open for Year 12 and 13 Students at 9:00am.**
- **Thursday, August 25th GCSE Results Day. Doors will open at 9:00am for Year 11 and at 10:00am for Year 10.**
- **Friday, September 2nd – INSET Day**
- **Monday, September 5th – Year 7, 10 and 12 Return to school**
- **Tuesday, September 6th – All Year Groups Return to school.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Results Day

The WJEC have published the exams results day for **AS/A Levels on Thursday 18th August** and **GCSE Results Day on Thursday 25th August 2022**. At present, we are hoping to run this face-to-face onsite. Results can be collected from the Performance Hall on both days. Doors will open at

9am on both days. Year 10 pupils who have completed external exams can collect their GCSE results from 10am on that morning. Staff will be on hand on both days to support and advise pupils and students.

Sixth Form Enrolment

On Thursday 18th August, GCSE Results day, those wishing to enrol in our sixth form can meet staff to seek advice and enrol on sixth form courses. Staff will be available in the Sixth form block from 9:00am to provide advice on the wide variety of courses and options available in our very successful Sixth Form.

OTHER INFORMATION

Head Girl, Head Boy and Senior Prefect Team 2022-23

Many thanks to all those in sixth form who put themselves forward for the senior prefect team interviews. Competition was fierce and the process was very rigorous as usual. Letters of application were submitted and presentations and interviews conducted! Huge congratulations must go to:

Head Girl – Emily Garcia-Cooke Head Boy – Dan Bond

Deputy Head Boys/Girls:

Charlie Barnwell Bianca Ilinca Thomas Jones Isabelle Thomas-Bone

There are an additional 14 Senior Prefect who will run committees across the school and who will be introduced in the new term.

Congratulations all!

Fond Farewells – Staff Leaving

Last Tuesday we had an opportunity to come together as a staff and say goodbye to staff leaving. Those leaving QEH included:

Mr Duncan Thomas: A great character and established member of staff, who has been here a long time; 32 years!!! Mr Thomas has a fantastic record as a teacher, with great results and a reputation for always maintaining high A level numbers. He is regarded very highly by students for his excellent and entertaining

lessons. He has always been prepared to get involved fully in school life whether it is DoE, providing first aid or attending Ski trips. We all wish him all the very best on his retirement.

Mrs Andrea Brabrook started with us 3rd January 2006 Changing roles several times from Admin Support , Learning coach in T.1.7, Cover coordinator before settling into the important role of ALN support.

Mrs Brabrook is the life and soul of our ALN department. She is always very much there for the pupils and TAs too and often goes above and beyond her duties to support others. It is her dream to be a Maths teacher and she has not only completed her Maths degree whilst working here, but also successfully secured her place on the PGCE course for September. We wish her the very best as she follows her dream of becoming a teacher.

Mrs Dee Morse has been with the school for 10 years. She joined the school as a teacher of Law and PE. In the time she has been at Queen Elizabeth High school she has introduced many courses and subjects including public services, which has grown from strength to strength and been hugely popular with our pupils. She has been a valued member of the school and she has always tried to help staff in any way she can. She will be sadly missed, but she now goes onto a new and exciting venture of running her own department – we wish her all the very best.

Also departing this summer were **Miss Gabby Roberts**, who joined us in 2018 as a TA. She has worked in Elfed and in mainstream. We thank her for her caring approach to pupils and the support to the school. We wish her all the best moving on to a Drama course in UWTSO. Finally, **Miss Rebecca Wilson-Flower** who has been with the school for one year and has settled very well into our D&T department. She is a passionate teacher of Technology and always gives 100% at whatever she does. She is moving on to Amman Valley and we wish her all the very best in all future endeavours.

Derwin Fest – Canolfan Elfed

Canolfan Elfed held their annual Derwin Fest to say goodbye to our Year 13 learners and staff who would be leaving this year. There was a fantastic and fun feel to events, including outdoor BBQ's, games, presentations and Karaoke. We wish all our Year 13 learners the very best of luck as they enter college and apprenticeships.

We bid a fond farewell to **Cath Jeremiah**, who has worked in all areas of Elfed since it opened. Cath is going on to work in nursing in the hospital and we wish her our best wishes in her new post; she will be missed very much. There was also an opportunity to say goodbye to **Gwen**, our Elfed cleaner, who has been a part of our community in Elfed for 14years. Everyone in Elfed will miss her and we wish her all the very best on her retirement.

Mrs Shelley Clarke, a teacher in Dosbarth Cydwelli, is leaving after three years and her second visit to Elfed. She will be missed by pupils and staff and we wish her all the very best with her future endeavours. **Miss Megan** is also leaving Dosbarth Emlyn, where she has worked for the last year and made a real impact. Miss Megan is leaving to do teaching and we wish her every success in her teacher training.

New Wellbeing Centre

As part of our strategy of providing exceptional levels of wellbeing support alongside excellent academic provision, this summer will see the start of works on a new Wellbeing Centre at the school. This facility, planned to open in October, will replace the S01 provision with a state of the art facility that provides a bespoke set of offices, quiet areas and intervention classrooms. This will allow greater privacy and provide an opportunity for our wellbeing support team to work more closely together to deliver the levels of care and support our pupils deserve.

QEH Sixth Form Centre – Phase 1

Our aim as a school is to ensure we provide first-rate learning facilities for all our learners. As part of these plans, we have a plan to invest, refurbish and develop our QEH Sixth Form Centre. Phase 1 of that operation will take place over the summer and in the first term of the new academic year. They will include:

- Re-opening of the Sixth Form Café
- Refurbishment of the Common Room
- Provision of a bespoke study facility of the first floor
- A new wellbeing, counselling and study support area on the ground floor.

Development of Key Stage Offices and Additional Support Areas

From September, we will be centralising our support for KS3 and 4 into two support areas. The Heads of Learning will for Key Stage 4; Mrs Nicole Thomas, Mrs Kirsty James and Miss Nia Davies will be based on in an office on D0 corridor. The Key Stage 3 Team, composed of Mrs Joy Ostendorff, Mrs Becki Williams and Mr Chris Patterson will be based together on G0 corridor. New admin staff appointed in September will support both Key Stage areas. We are confident that this will strengthen communication with parents, provide increased support for learners and allow us the opportunity to be pro-active in dealing with pastoral issues.

Alongside our new wellbeing provision, we are also investing in staff and facilities to provide improved levels of behaviour support for pupils at QEH. From September, a new, well-qualified team will work alongside teaching staff, the pastoral team in Key Stages 3 and 4, and the Wellbeing Team to provide pro-active, targeted interventions to ensure continuity of learning for all.

Carmarthenshire County Council Pupil and Parent Survey 2022

Carmarthenshire County Council wants your views to help it improve education services in Carmarthenshire. Your views are extremely important, and the Local Education Authority wants to know more about what you think of your child(ren)'s school. The answers will help the council to understand what it can do to further support Carmarthenshire's pupils. You will not be asked for your name, so your responses are confidential. Please complete this short survey below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/consultation-performance/currentconsultations/pupil-and-parental-survey-2022/>

Pupils will also be asked for their views, through a separate pupil survey. This will be undertaken in school and is again anonymous. The pupil survey is available on the website

for you to view or to complete at home with your child(ren) if you prefer.

Further consultations are also currently underway from Carmarthenshire County Council that may be of interest to you. They can be accessed through the links and below:

Cymraeg / Welsh <https://bit.ly/3Oi1J0f>

Saesneg / English <https://bit.ly/3mWLZ73>

COVID Update

After many weeks of falling numbers, there was, unfortunately, an increase in cases last week. This reminds us that it remains very important that we avoid complacency and continue to work together, for all of our protection. We appreciate your support and patience as things could still rapidly change going forward. We will always keep you informed as fully and as quickly as possible.

Our key mitigations are currently based around the following key factors and we would remind learners to maintain these as often as possible:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Distance | Handwashing |
| Self-isolation | Ventilation |

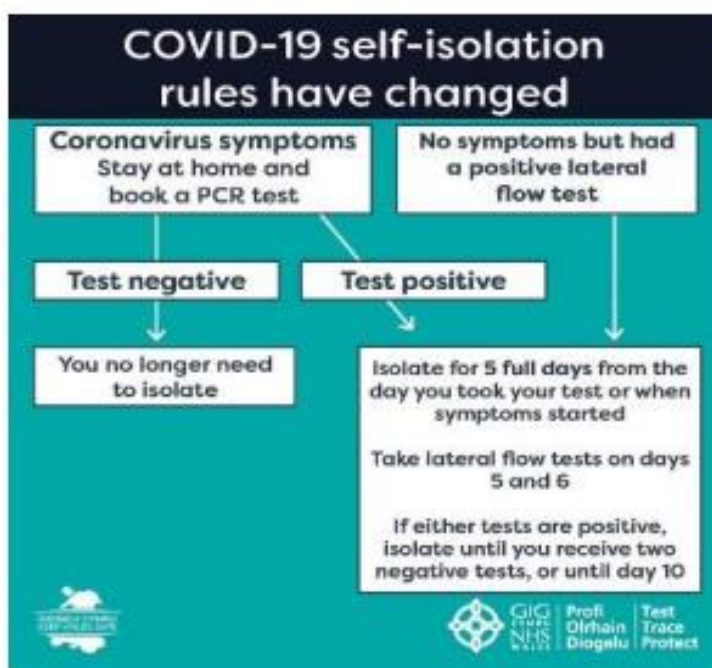
Please continue to monitor Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Topic | GOV.WALES and Newsroom (carmarthenshire.gov.uk) for the latest developments.

Updated Guidelines.

Self-Isolation and Testing

Routine Lateral Flow Testing has now ended for schools and should only be taken by someone who has any of the classic symptoms: new or persistent cough, high temperature, change or loss to sense of smell and/or taste. Tests can be requested on the Welsh Government website or in pharmacies.

Anyone with symptoms should still isolate and take a LFT test. The guidance for schools remains the same in terms of isolation: anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate for at least five full days*. The first full day of isolation is the day after the onset of symptoms or the day after a positive test.



- **Before** exiting self-isolation, a person should take **two** lateral flow device (LFD) tests 24 hours apart to check they are not still infectious.
- The first lateral flow test should be taken on DAY FIVE of isolation.
- They should **remain in isolation** until they have had **two consecutive negative LFT results 24 hours apart.**
- The earliest a person will be able to leave isolation would be on DAY SIX.

- **You do not need a negative test result on Day 10 to leave isolation.**

For all the latest up-to-date information on the operation of schools during the pandemic including guidance on testing and contact tracing, face coverings and vaccinations please visit the following websites:

<https://gov.wales/schools-coronavirus-0>

<https://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/2020/10/kcs-covid19/keep-carmarthenshire-safe/#.YfbuSerP2Uk>

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/covid-19-school-information/>

It only leaves me to once again wish all our parents, carers, pupils, students and staff a wonderful summer. Please enjoy this long summer break and do take care. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Kind regards,

Dave Williams
Headteacher