

# Queen Elizabeth High

Update for Parents 14<sup>th</sup> September  
2020



Good afternoon all,

Can I start by thanking parents and carers for your continued support of our school and the contribution you have made to the positive and successful start to term that we have achieved. Your support enabled us to plan successfully for a return to teaching ahead of the Welsh Government deadline.

A huge amount of work has, and continues to go, into preparing for the new term on site, and a huge thank you has to go to everybody involved in that. We are constantly reviewing and evaluating our procedures and we are happy to take on board suggestions that help improve how we operate.

## Safety and Wellbeing

### Year Group Bubbles

Our strategy to keep pupils safe here at QEH, involved placing them in Year Group Bubbles. There are separate entrances for Year 7 and 8 at the lower end of the school, Years 9, 10 and 11 toward the front of school and Year 12 and 13 in the main entrance. All entrances are a manned in the morning by SLT and pupils and students supervised to ensure that they wash or sanitise their hands.

Each year group has a separate Year group corridor and during breaks and lunches are split, with pupils in each year group allocated a separate area.

During the day pupils now have to move between lessons following a one way system while wearing face coverings. All pupils have to sanitise hands on entry and exit to lessons.

Pupils are carefully supervised on entry and exit from class and on exiting premises at the end of the school day.

### Lunch Arrangements

Each Year group is provided with a separate time for lunch. Today was our first day of providing lunches for all year groups and went very smoothly. We are aware that Year 7 and 8 have a long morning before being provided with lunch. We are happy for parents to provide snacks for pupils to consume at break times. We will be reintroducing our break time catering service in Year 7 and 8 from next Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

***Please could parents stress the need for pupils to dispose of litter and food waste in the bins provided. There are now additional risks involved with the handling of litter as well as the negative impact it has on our school environment.***

### Test Trace Protect

If a pupil or member of staff becomes ill during school time then unless one or more of the three recognised symptoms of Covid-19 are present then normal procedures apply. If one or more of the Covid-19 symptoms are present (A new continuous cough, a high temperature, loss of taste and smell) then staff will alert on-call SLT.

The pupil will then be removed from class and placed in the isolation room to await collection by parents. The TTP service will be contacted and the illness will be recorded. The testing number will be passed onto parents on collection and a test will need to be arranged before returning to school.

If a pupil/staff member becomes symptomatic outside of school then they should contact Delta Wellbeing on 03003332222 and report their symptoms. They should also inform the school.

If a child/parent/household member develops symptoms of COVID-19, **the entire household should immediately self-isolate, and book a test for the individual with the symptoms.** It is unnecessary to test the entire household if they are not symptomatic.

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, must self-isolate, even if your symptoms are mild. To protect others, you must not attend school, nursery, other childcare settings, work, or go to or to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Anyone with symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started. They can return to school or work after 10 days if they are well enough to do so.

Anyone in the household who does not have symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days from when the first person in the home started having symptoms.

If a parent thinks their child has symptoms BUT chooses not to put them through a test all household members must remain in self-isolation for 14 days from the onset of symptoms.

If you receive a positive test result, you will be contacted by the Test, Trace, Protect Team who will advise you further.

If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone, children may return to school and parents can return to work if they are well enough to do so and as long as nobody else in the household has developed symptoms.

#### ***Non-household members/contacts:***

If a person has been in contact with an individual experiencing symptoms, they should carry on as normal until that individual receives their test result. If this is positive, the Test, Trace, Protect Team will contact those people identified as contacts and advise accordingly

Delta Wellbeing manages the Test Trace Protect programme for Carmarthenshire. All staff and pupils must inform the school and Delta Wellbeing immediately if they begin to feel any of the symptoms of coronavirus as indicated below. In addition, the school will also have to inform Delta Wellbeing of any staff or pupils who are absent for this reason.

#### **Covid-19 Symptoms**

- *A new continuous cough and/or*
- *A high temperature*
- *A loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell.*

## Delta Wellbeing Contact

Telephone: Delta Wellbeing 0300 333 2222

Email: [TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk](mailto:TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk)

### Information Required by Delta Wellbeing:

- Your name
- When you last attended school
- The rooms and areas of the school you visited (potentially 48 hours before symptoms)
- Details about test arrangements

The school will let parents and staff know if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus.

**If you are absent for any reason you must contact the school in the usual way. You need to make the reason for your absence clear and be precise about any illness or symptoms you have. Please do not discuss any cases in any way outside of school. Please do not speak to the press or comment on social media of any sort.**

### Carmarthenshire LA Test and Trace Updates

Letters and updates were sent out by the Director of Education late last week and are available on our main website. Links for convenience are however included below. It is important that we familiarise ourselves with this information.

#### **1. All information regarding the testing process and what parents should do can be found below.**

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/re-opening-schools/?type=45926#.X153MXIKiUm>

#### **2. Director of education's update for parents**

This can be found underneath this update.

### Student/Staff Illness

We are all understandably nervous at the moment around the issue of illness, be it ourselves or the students. The current pandemic has made us all even more aware of the health of all those around us, but we also need to temper this anxiety within current knowledge and guidelines. The current guidance that we are working within, ***despite other information that may be in the media, is that the only confirmed symptoms of coronavirus we need to be reacting to are a high temperature, a continuous cough, or a loss of smell or taste.***

Students with these symptoms should be referred to SLT. Any students unwell with any other symptoms should be referred to first aiders/the office as usual.

### Keeping Safe

1. Can I remind pupils to remember to have a face covering with them for use in school. Reusable face coverings were issued to all pupils last week. If your child has lost or forgets their face covering than ask them to contact their Head of Year who will be able to provide one.

2. Face coverings will need to be worn at all times on school transport. This is an important part of the County Council policy.

Following Mark Drakeford's announcement on Friday (<https://gov.wales/further-constraints-meeting-socially-and-compulsory-face-coverings-help-prevent-new-coronavirus>) we are advising that;

- Pupils wear face coverings in areas of the school where social distancing requirements cannot be met e.g. corridors

- It would be advisable for pupils to wear a face covering in local situations where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained.

### **Home School Agreement**

Please follow the link below to the new home school agreement. The new HSA has been sent to parents and incorporates clear guidance and expectations on following the new procedures in schools. In addition we have incorporated previous policies on ICT use photography etc..

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4\\_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k6UEotEsbQpEqDYLjes6RzZUODZLNkpMQjg2N01HNjJRUKVGVFZHWkJTWC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k6UEotEsbQpEqDYLjes6RzZUODZLNkpMQjg2N01HNjJRUKVGVFZHWkJTWC4u)

### **Hand washing/Hygiene and ventilation**

It is more important than ever to maintain hygiene. Pupils/students need to make use of the hand washing and hand sanitising stations at every opportunity. As a matter of standard procedure pupils will be expected to sanitise their hands on the way in to every classroom and on the way out.

Can I thank you again for your continued support of QEH school. This has been an incredibly successful start to term. It has been fantastic to see pupils back in the building and especially to welcome our Year 7s. I feel confident that as a community we will meet any future challenges together and successfully.

**Kind regards,**

**Dave Williams**  
**Acting Head teacher**

Dyddiad / Date:

10/09/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope your children are settling back into school after a very disruptive few months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

I would again like to thank you for the continued support and co-operation you have shown during this difficult time, and for everything you have done to assist your child's learning, your child's school and the county council.

We have been working with schools so that they are well prepared to welcome children back for the autumn term with the appropriate safety measures in place.

Considerable work has been carried out in schools in order to reduce the potential transmission of coronavirus, and to minimise any risk to pupils and staff, including risk assessments, increased cleaning and regular handwashing, social distancing and grouping learners.

It is important to remember that coronavirus has not gone away, and we all have a responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe.

The arrangements that have been put in place by schools are of vital importance and I cannot stress strongly enough how very important it is that we all adhere to these measures.

In particular I would like to remind parents to please follow the arrangements for **social distancing** when dropping off and collecting your children from school.

With all pupils returning next week, it is vital that parents keep their distance to avoid close contact and potential transmission of the virus.

I would ask you to please:

- Arrive promptly in your designated time slot.
- Stand 2m from other families.
- Leave promptly and move away from the school as soon as you have dropped off your child.

- Please do not congregate outside the school gates as this is making it difficult for other families arriving at staggered times.

Please can I also remind you of the arrangements if your child is unwell. Under no circumstances should you send your child to school if they:

- feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

If your child becomes unwell outside of school hours with any of the COVID-19 symptoms or needs to self-isolate, please report this to us by calling Delta Wellbeing on 0300 333 2222 or by emailing [TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk](mailto:TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk) who will notify the school on your behalf.

Please only contact Delta Wellbeing out of hours if your child has COVID-19 symptoms. During school hours and for all other health-related issues please inform your school directly.

Many thanks for your co-operation, it is important we work together to contain the virus and *to avoid a spike in our community and the potential re-introduction of lockdown measures.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Gareth Morgans*

***Director for Education and Children Services***