

# Queen Elizabeth High School



Dear Parent/Carer,

After exceptional results at GCSE and A Level, we were happy to welcome back all our pupils from the summer, together with our new cohort of Year 7 pupils. Our Year 7s have settled in very well and have already made a very positive contribution to school life. In addition, it has been fantastic to welcome Canolfan Elfed pupils back in to our canteen and registration and have our whole school community back together again!

However, the start of this term has been one of very mixed blessings. Our positive start has been tinged with the sadness of the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. We marked the occasion with minutes' silence and placing our school flag at half-mast. We have certainly taken the opportunity to reflect on the close links that existed between the school and the Royal Family, both in name and from our royal opening by Princess Anne in 2010. We offered sincere and heartfelt condolences as well as thanks, for the life of service her majesty provided the United Kingdom. We recognised her committed service to our nation over 70 years and 214 days. We also remembered her majesty as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

## Estyn Inspection

On Friday we received notification of an Estyn inspection, which will be taking place between Monday **3<sup>rd</sup> October** and Friday **7<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. Below you will find additional information as regards the inspection process, **while links to parental and pupil questionnaires will be sent out to parents/ carers and learners via our Xpressions app**. We look forward to the opportunity of showing how proud we are of our school and our community and we would welcome your support.

## KEY DATES

- **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> 16:00-17:00 – 6th Form Welcome and Information Evening**
- **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 17:00-18:00 – Key Stage 4 – Year 10 Information Evening**
- **Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> Year 12 Geography Fieldwork**
- **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September Year 7 Settling In/Meet The Form Tutor 16:00 – 17:30**
- **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September Expressive Arts Trip to Cardiff**



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru  
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

## **Understanding inspections in schools: A guide for parents and carers**

**Estyn is responsible for inspecting a wide range of education and training provision in Wales, and will soon be inspecting your child's school.**

**How do inspectors take account of my views of the school?** Estyn wants to know your views on the school. You can do this by:

- completing an online questionnaire via the direct link or QR code provided by the school. The questionnaire is the easiest way of making inspectors aware of your views.
- attending a meeting with inspectors. The school will inform you of the date and time.

**How will an inspection benefit my child?** An inspection tells you about the standards and quality at your child's school. It gives the school an expert view on its work, outlining what it does well and helps it to improve.

**Who inspects the school?** The inspection team is led by a Reporting Inspector who has considerable experience of teaching and education. Each inspection team also includes a lay inspector and a peer inspector. Lay inspectors have not worked as teachers in a school, while peer inspectors are headteachers or managers from another school. Each school may nominate someone to liaise directly with the inspection team to keep the inspectors informed about the school and its work.

**How will the school be inspected?** Inspectors follow the guidance set out in these two documents:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/about-us/what-we-inspect>

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection-process/inspection-explained>

**We have created animations to share with pupils to tell them about inspection and how we consider their views as part of the inspection process. Please use these links to access the animations.**

**Inspection explained**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu5wIF2M6-M>

**How will inspectors take account of my child's view of the school?** During the inspection, inspectors will ask groups of children how they feel about the school, their work and how well they are getting on. All learners from Year 3 and above will have the opportunity to complete an online questionnaire before the inspection.

**How will I know the inspectors' views on the school?** Inspection reports are published on the Estyn website 45 working days after the start of the inspection. The governing body will also send you details of the report.

**What will be included within the report?** The report will have overall evaluations on:

- learning, well-being and attitudes to learning
- teaching and learning experiences
- care, support and guidance
- leadership and management

**What happens after an inspection?** All schools must produce an action plan based on the recommendations in the inspection report. The inspection team will consider and report whether the school requires any follow-up activity. The three types of follow-up activity are:

**Special measures:** this is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. It involves a small team of Estyn inspectors making regular visits to review the school's progress following the publication of the inspection report

**Significant improvement:** involves a small team of Estyn inspectors visiting the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report

**Estyn review:** this is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory. It involves reviewing the progress the school has made towards addressing the recommendations highlighted in the report about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.

**How can I contact Estyn?**

Email: [ic@estyn.gov.wales](mailto:ic@estyn.gov.wales)

Tel: 02920 446446 Feedback about inspections: [feedback@estyn.gov.wales](mailto:feedback@estyn.gov.wales)

## **New Wellbeing Centre**

Construction on our new Wellbeing Centre will commence on 26<sup>th</sup> September. We are very excited that work is about to commence on this important facility. We will keep parents and carers updated on progress this term. There will be a little disruption, especially on S.2 corridor/landing, but we will ensure that all are community are kept safe and that there is as little disruption to learning as possible.

## **QEH Sixth Form Centre – Phase 1 Update**

As stated in the summer our refurbishment of the Sixth Form Centre is underway. The re-opening of the Sixth Form Café commenced today on a phased opening. The cafe will only be open from 8.30am to 10am and will offer breakfast, hot and cold drinks and a selection of baguettes to purchase ahead of lunch. Over time, the opening hours will increase and start to offer a wider hot food selection. We will keep you updated with new opening times.

Refurbishment of the Common Room – New furniture has been purchased and is in place, with more to come. Comfy sofas have replaced, old worn seating and new table and chairs are in place.



The first floor study area is nearly complete with work now underway to incorporate new ICT facilities.

The new wellbeing, counselling and study support area on the ground floor will be completed by Christmas, by which time our Sixth form facility will be amongst the best on offer in the south west Wales!

## **COVID Update**

Levels are dropping but mitigations remain in place.

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

<b>Distance</b>	<b>Handwashing</b>
<b>Self-isolation</b>	<b>Ventilation</b>

Please monitor Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Topic | GOV.WALES and Newsroom ([carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://carmarthenshire.gov.uk)) for the latest developments.

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## **Updated Guidelines.**

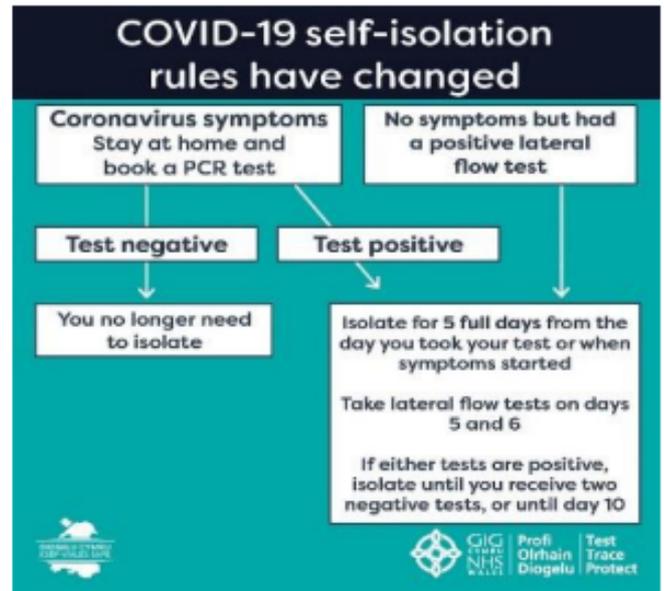
### **Self-Isolation and Testing**

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 is great to welcome everybody back to the new term. It will undoubtedly be busy, but we look forward to building on the summer's success and providing the best possible experiences for our pupils and students in 2022/23.

Kind regards,

Dave Williams  
Headteacher