

# Queen Elizabeth High School

Update for Parents / Carers and Learners

11<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we look forward to the start of the summer term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and trust that you and your families have had a safe and well-deserved break over Easter.

## News in Summary

1. **ALL learners return to face to face learning in schools from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April **Week One****
2. **Lateral Flow Testing for all learners in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and continues from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**
3. **Subject Overviews provided for learners entered for GCSE this year**
4. **Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening to take place ~~21<sup>st</sup> April~~ 17<sup>th</sup> June**

## All Learners Return to Site

As confirmed by the Welsh Government Review over the Easter break, all pupils will be returning to school under the same procedures as the Autumn term and will follow their full time timetables.

**Please note we will be following WEEK ONE of the normal timetables.**

- Pupils and staff will go back to following their normal timetables and rooming.
- We will retain year group bubbles.
- 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.

The latest operational guidance regarding how we will operate in after Easter can be accessed at:

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

In line with this guidance, the following measures will be in place in addition to the successful measures that were used during the Autumn term:

- Lateral flow testing will be in place for all staff, Years 10, 11 12 and Year 13 students who wish to participate in it.
- Carmarthenhire County Council provided face coverings will 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 given to pupils on their first day of return before Easter. Any pupils who have not yet received their face coverings can collect on their first day of return. These should be worn either immediately or from the second day of return if you prefer to wash them first.
- Please bear in mind that as part of this staff may remove their face coverings in classrooms, where they can remain 2m from everyone else, to enable them to be clearly heard at key points.

### **Key points for parents:**

- All students should attend site, and arrive for 8.45, to the same entrance as they did in the autumn (indicated above).
- School transport will run on the usual routes at the usual times at the start and end of the school day.
- There will be a lunchtime provision as there was in the Autumn term for “grab and go” food from the canteen. Parents may still wish to provide packed lunches and lunchtimes will be staggered by year groups.
- The canteen will only be open for Year 7 and 8 during morning break therefore pupils in Year 9, 10 and 11 might want to bring their own, snacks and drinks each day for use at breaktime.
- As all students will be on site, there will be no online learning provision from the 12<sup>th</sup> April onwards.
- The hubs for vulnerable learners and critical workers will no longer run as all pupils will return to 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 could you ensure that your child brings a pencil case to school, that they can then leave in their bags for use during the school each day.
- Please impress upon your children the need to maintain social distance from each other as much as possible 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.
- **On days when pupils have PE on their timetable, PE kit and suitable attire should be worn to school.**
- Use of hand sanitisers and social distancing will continue to be essential in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

### Uniform

The Welsh Government guidelines are very clear that school uniform is an important part of “normal” life at the moment, and of benefit to student’s wellbeing. We are also glad to see that supermarkets etc. are now able to sell school uniform. To this end full school uniform will be expected when students return to school after Easter.

If you have any spare or unwanted school uniform, please consider donating it to the school to offer support to others.

As mentioned above, if there are any issues please contact the school at [office @gehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:office@gehs.carms.sch.uk)

We are aware that though these plans are designed to provide for all students, individual circumstances may vary. If any of the information above raises an issue regarding your individual circumstances, please contact us for help.

## **Lateral Flow Testing**

Lateral Flow Testing kits have been allocated to pupils in year 10,11, 12 and 13 to commence testing from **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. It has been great to see how many of our pupils and students have opted to be involved in the lateral flow testing, it is an important part of reassuring us all. Please note:

- Tests need to be taken every **Monday** and **Thursday** evenings after 4.00pm.
- Results need to be reported to the school and to the NHS.
- Parents will receive a message via the Xpressions app to report results to school. There is also a need to report results to the NHS via a Welsh Government link.
- If the result is positive, please let the school know immediately. Everyone in the household should isolate and you should book a PCR test by calling 119 or using the online portal <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test>

If you have not previously indicated you wish your child to participate but now would like to engage with the testing process, please contact us at [Office@gehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:Office@gehs.carms.sch.uk)

**Test kits cannot be allocated before parental consent is received.**

## **Reminders of Further Important Information**

### **A) Support and Wellbeing**

We are aware that these times are difficult for us all, especially our young people, and so will be continuing to make welfare checks with students, we would also like to make you all aware that there are a number of resources on our website designed to help this situation, that can be accessed via the link below:

<http://www.gehs.carms.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

Pupils are also, able to self-refer themselves to the area 43 counselling service via a link on our website. To do so please follow the link below:

<https://www.area43.co.uk/counselling/>

## **B) Welsh Government Review**

It is pleasing to see that infection rates in Wales are continuing to drop, and vaccination levels continue to rise, and we hope these trends continue in order give us the best opportunity to keep all students in 'face to face' and 'on-site' learning.

Welsh Government undertook a further review on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, in light of falling infection rates and rising levels of vaccination.

You can see further details of this latest review at:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-review-health-protection-coronavirus-restriction-no5-wales-regulations-2020-3>

It's important that staff and the pupils maintain social distance from each other where we can on our way to school as well as within school, to prevent any possible transmission. A rise in transmission locally could threaten our ability to maintain face to face on site provision, so it is essential that we all **still ensure we are complying with the restrictions in place.**

**Please impress upon your children the importance of keeping within current government restrictions whenever they are away from home.**

## **C) TTP**

Whilst COVID infection rates continue to fall, it still remains important to contact the school if your child receives a positive test result. Please email us on either [Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk) to let us know if your child has symptoms, a positive test or needs to isolate.

**If your child has any of the symptoms of COVID then please book a test via the Welsh Government website and inform the school and Delta Wellbeing by email on: [TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk](mailto:TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk) or by telephone on 0300 333 2222**

Please note – lateral flow tests are not to be taken if your child has symptoms of COVID and should be replaced by a PCR test.

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>

Important contact information regarding TTP:

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

#### **D) Communication**

As we return to school this still remains is a difficult and challenging time, therefore we will continue to try and keep in contact via updates on our website, our Xpressions APP and through our social media platforms of Facebook and the ParentPay service.

**If you change your mobile number/ contact details it is important notify us as soon as possible so that you are able to receive important information.**

Finally, I would like once more to wish you all well and look forward to a term where we engage with pupils in person and not only through a computer screen.

Kind Regards,

Dave Williams  
Headteacher