

# Queen Elizabeth High School



Dear Parent/Carer,

This week saw us welcome back our pupils and students for the start of their last half term of this academic year. Prior to the half term holidays we had an opportunity to say goodbye to our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students. These occasions are very often a mixture of happy and sad emotions. We are sad to be saying goodbye to valued members of our community but happy to see them embarking on the next exciting stages of their life. For Year 11 we will be happy to welcome those returning to sixth form after the summer, but also send our heartfelt best wishes to all those going on to college or work and wish them all the very best. For Year 13 this is our final goodbye, as they leave the sixth form to embark on studies in higher education, apprenticeships and employment. We are proud of what they have achieved with us and are genuinely excited for them as they embark on the next exciting, stage of life's journey. A special thank you must go to the Senior Prefect team, Head Girl, Sophie Davies and Head Boy, Ben Evans for their massive contribution to school during this difficult year.

We do not underestimate what a challenge this year has presented for all our learners. This has particularly been the case for our Year 11 and Year 13 as they have had to come to terms with disruption and changes in assessment. I am confident that these experiences have, in fact, left them stronger, more resilient and better able to meet the challenges of the future. Good luck!

## News in Summary

1. **Provisional CDGs for WJEC qualifications will be released to learners via their Hwb email addresses on Sunday 13th June.**
2. **Transition Days for Primary Schools have been arranged on Thursday and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July.**
3. **Provisional Centre Determined Grades will be released on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Year 10 (English Lit), Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 (see below).**

## Centre Determined Grades (CDGs)

**Provisional CDGs for WJEC qualifications will be released to learners via their Hwb email addresses on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June.** It is essential that learners check their emails on

Sunday. **All results will be issued by 12pm on Sunday afternoon.** Following the release of the results all learners will receive a letter via email outlining how the grades were arrived at, the processes involved and what to do if there is a query.

**It is important to note that the grades issued on Sunday are provisional until they are moderated and published by the WJEC in August.**

### **CDGs Year 13**

Year 13 students should note that these provisional Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) will not be accepted by universities. Higher education institutions will only confirm your place based on the actual grades which you will receive on the A2 results day 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **CDGs Year 11**

Year 11 students should note that these provisional Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) will not be accepted by further education colleges at this time. Colleges will only confirm your place based on the actual grades which you will receive on the GCSE results day 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**The results being issued on Sunday are only WJEC Welsh examination board results.**

### **Eisteddfod Winners!!!**

***Congratulations to the Orchestra who won first place in the Urdd National Eisteddfod over half term.*** It was an amazing project, with over 100 performers taking part at a time where live music has had to stand still. The original song's lyrics "you're going to miss me when I'm gone" are very fitting for this video as we really missed seeing our pupils in the lockdown.

We are exceptionally proud of this achievement; it is a testament of the hard of our music department and reflects the caring, supportive and 'can do' attitude that we adopted across the whole school community at QEH during lockdown. We believe that Welsh heritage and culture are really important aspects of our community and to win a first prize in the Urdd Eisteddfod means an awful lot to us. We have a strong working relationship with the Carmarthenshire Music Services and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them for their continued support. A big thank you must also go to our own music department, Mrs Sarah Kirby in particular and of course all those pupils and students who contributed to the performance – diolch yn fawr iawn a llongyfarchiadau!

A link to the winning performance and additional information can be found below:

[https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/about/pupil-achievement-stories/#pos\\_3421](https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/about/pupil-achievement-stories/#pos_3421)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdTI8CnECjI>

### **Employment Support for School Leavers Carmarthenshire**

Employment Support is a Welsh Government funded initiative to offer help to school leavers who have not yet secured a place in employment or education. They can provide free training

opportunities, help with writing CVs and job applications and a personal mentor. Please see the information below for further details:

Are you 16+ not in education or unemployed? The employment support team can help you overcome barriers to get you into work, making sure you have all the support you need along the way. If you want to find out more about the free support and training available, please visit;

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/jobs-careers/help-to-find-a-job/>

call **01554 744303** or e-mail [employmentsupport@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

### **Important Safety Notice**

Can parents and carers please remind pupils that they are not to cross the railway track on the way to and from school. Trains can be fast and their timings unpredictable. **Pupils must walk safely to and from school on designated footpaths and crossings.**

### **Summer Term Virtual Parents'/Carer's Evenings**

Further Virtual Parents' Evenings will take place this half term as follows:

- **Year 10 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June**
- **Year 8 – Thursday 1st July**

As with all parents' evenings this year, these will take place online- please see guidance below on booking appointments. We have been hugely encouraged by the responses from parents who have already attended online parents' evenings. Parents found the technology worked very well and the opportunity to speak with staff is very important.

### **How do I make an appointment? To make your appointments please login to:**

<https://parents-booking.co.uk/qehs>

To login you will need to enter the username and password we have sent you.

The login details you enter must match those we have on record for you. Please note that usernames and passwords are case sensitive.

The link below will take you to an instructional video about appointment booking. After you have made your appointments you can choose to print or e-mail a confirmation. Due to the limited availability of slots we ask that where two parents live within the same household that only one appointment is made. However, two parents can sit in on the interviews, on line, on a single device, when they take place. Please follow the link below, which is a video guide to booking an online appointment: -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jtryg7Ar56w>

### **KS3 National Testing**

The annual Online National Tests for Key Stage Three (Reading and Numeracy) have taken place this week. Subject teachers will also use classroom assessments as part of normal

lessons to help ascertain a base level and inform teaching and learning so that we can best help each pupil. Further information will follow.

## **Covid**

As most of you are aware we had to send Year 10 home from school this week in response to a possible Covid positive test. These decisions are never taken lightly and are made jointly in discussions with the LEA and TTP team. They are always made with the intention of keeping learners and staff safe. Keeping everyone safe will remain of paramount importance in any decision we make.

Fortunately, on this occasion a follow up, more accurate CPR test proved negative and learners were able to return to school. However, it does serve as a timely reminder that Covid, and its variants, is still in our community and has the potential to cause further disruption yet. I would ask all our community to continue to take reasonable precautions and follow the guidance issued by the Welsh Government and NHS.

## **Lateral Flow Testing**

Lateral Flow Testing kits have been allocated to pupils in all year groups who wish to participate in the testing. Please note:

**Testing will move to Sundays and Wednesdays** from this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020. In future, **tests will need to be taken every Sunday and Wednesday evenings after 6.00pm.**

- **LFTs must be used regularly on the established twice-weekly regime. Ad hoc tests taken out this sequence are not reliable.**
- All results **MUST** reported into the NHS portal once the test is taken. This is essential in the event of a positive result.
- LFTs must not be used if experiencing any of the main 3 covid symptoms. In this case you should go straight away for a PCR test.
- 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.
- LFT tests are an additional layer of support and **DO NOT** replace PCR tests. Anyone with symptoms must isolate and book a PCR test.
- Please do not take the test if you have symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days
- **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.qehs.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) 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 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>
<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>

## **C) 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, we would like to use this opportunity to thank you all, once again, for your ongoing support. It is hugely appreciated. We understand that this remains an anxious time for families and we are very grateful for your continued co-operation.

Kind Regards,

Dave Williams  
Headteacher