

Queen Elizabeth High School



Good afternoon parents/carers,

I hope this email finds you safe and well as we approach the end of a full half term of teaching online. The levels of engagement have increased throughout this period of lockdown as we all have adapted to a new way of working. Our focus will continue to be a joint approach to providing learning online and supporting wellbeing.

Last week we introduced our form period wellbeing periods and a chance for classmates to catch up and chat in morning drop in sessions. Form periods will run again this week in the mornings at 9:00am-9:10am (Monday Year 7, Tues Year 8, Wed Year 9). Year 10 and 11 have a more flexible arrangement with afternoon sessions available and sixth form running their 'coffee morning'. We welcome any feedback and are constantly reviewing our processes to try and ensure that we are providing the best possible well-being support for our community.

Education Minister Kirsty Williams' announcement – Open letter to headteachers

On Friday we received confirmation that the period of on-line learning for all secondary pupils remains in place beyond the 22nd February 2021. **Pupils and students will not be returning to secondary schools following the Half Term break.** The Welsh Government's next 21-day review will be held on February 19th when further information will be made available to schools and parents as regards potential return dates. Schools will continue to make on-site provision available for vulnerable children and children of critical workers after the half-term break, and special schools and specialist settings will continue to remain open where possible.

The full text of the announcement can be found by following the link below:

<https://gov.wales/open-letter-headteachers>

A letter to parents from Carmarthenshire County Council explaining the situation in the authority is available alongside this update.

For all the latest information on schools including a comprehensive list of FAQs please visit the Carmarthenshire County Council Education website at

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

It does remain increasingly important that we therefore continue to follow the current Welsh government guidelines and restrictions in order to give ourselves the best chance of a return to 'face to face learning'.

You can find updated information and useful FAQs for all on the guidance at:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

For all the very latest information on education and learning within the Coronavirus context please access:

<https://gov.wales/guidance-learning-schools-and-settings-coronavirus-html#section-59558>

Year 11 On-Line Parents' and Carers' Evening: Tomorrow, **Tuesday 9th February** we will be running our second online parents'/carers' evening and we invite Year 11 to meet with staff virtually through our new app. Staff will be available to meet with Year 11 parents and carers between 2:30 and 6:30 to discuss progress. We extend a warm welcome to parents and hope you will take this opportunity to meet with staff. Our Year 9 pilot parents'/carers' evening was exceptionally well attended and the response from parents and staff was incredibly positive.

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.

Please note that BOTH usernames and passwords are case sensitive.

You will be able to pre-book appointments up until 3:30pm on Tuesday 9th of February. 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>

Year 9 Options; The deadline for submission of initial option choices is this **Monday 22nd February**. Important information about options is available on our website. Please follow the link below to some important information and guidance:

<https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/student-information/year-9/year-9-options/>

Support is also available to all pupils either by contacting their Head of Learning online or by contacting the school directly. There is also very good advice on offer from the Careers Wales service:

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/courses-and-training/year-8-and-9-subject-options>

BBC Bitesize and Educational Programmes

On TV

- Secondary students will be able to watch two hours of programmes supporting the curriculum on BBC Two every weekday. These will be complemented by drama adaptations, as well as relevant BBC science, history and factual programmes.
- Bitesize Daily will also air every day on BBC Red Button, and episodes will be [available on demand on BBC iPlayer](#).
- Welsh language packages will be broadcast on S4C every day from Monday 18 January.

Broadcast schedules

[Click here for a full broadcast schedule for W/C 8 February \(Secondary\)](#)

[Click here for a full broadcast schedule for W/C 8 February \(Welsh language content\)](#)

[Click here for a full broadcast schedule for W/C 8 February \(Welsh language content + printer-friendly\)](#)

Of course, BBC Bitesize is here with lots of easy-to-follow lessons for home learning, as well as collections of resources for all ages.

KS3

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

KS4

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

Wellbeing Support

We are very much aware that these times remain difficult for us all, especially for our young people, and so we will be continuing to make welfare checks with students as we did last week. We would also like to make you all aware that there are a number of updated resources on our website designed to help this situation. They can be found on our Safeguarding Page, in the section "Wellbeing Resources".

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

Pupils are also, in the absence of being on site, still able to self-refer themselves to the area 43 counselling service via the link below:

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

Wellbeing Resources are also available via BBC bitesize online at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/support>

Year Group Pages on School Website

These are now available to parents, with specific year group information. Please follow the link via the 'Students' tab on our website.

Free School Meal Arrangements

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will receive payment of £19.50 per child per week during the following:

- School holidays
- If your child is instructed by Welsh Government to stay at home for periods other than school holidays
- If your child is instructed to self-isolate for 10 days because of a positive case of COVID-19 at their school

You need to [apply online](#) to receive this payment. If you have already applied for and received free school meals payments during the summer, you do NOT need to apply again.

For additional information on free school meals, please email:

FreeSchoolMeals@cararthenshire.gov.uk

Childcare

As communicated last week by ourselves and the Local Authority, we will continue to provide provision for vulnerable and the children of critical workers on site.

If you qualify for this support, and need to, please contact us at Office@gehs.carms.sch.uk to start a conversation as to how we can help

Test Trace Protect

If your child has any of the symptoms of Covid then please book a test via the contact number below.

If your child receives a positive test result for Covid 19 then please email the school **even during the current lock down arrangements.**

Parents in Carmarthenshire are asked to inform both the school and Delta Wellbeing should your child receive a positive result for COVID-19. If your child receives a positive test result for Covid 19 then please email the school using the email address Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk and inform Delta be email on: TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk or by telephone on 0300 333 2222

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.

Find out more, visit the Carmarthenshire County Council website:

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

If in doubt about what advice to follow then please contact the school.

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

Communications

We will continue to keep in touch with parents/carers via newsletters, information on our website <https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/> , via Xpressions App, Parentpay and on social media feeds i.e. Facebook. We may also need to contact parents/carers by text/email, therefore it is important that if you change your contact details that you let the school know as soon as possible.

If you need to contact us please continue to ring the School on 01267 245300 or email on office@qehs.carms.sch.uk

I would like to use this opportunity to thank you all, once again, for your ongoing support which is hugely appreciated. We know that this remains a difficult and anxious time for families. Together we will support our community through these challenges.

Kind regards,

Dave Williams

Headteacher

Queen Elizabeth High School