

# Queen Elizabeth High School



Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude for your continued support and help during recent weeks.

We are now delighted to be able to confirm, following today's Welsh Government briefing, that students will commence returning to site from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, in line with our previously published plans. It is pleasing to see that infection rates are continuing to drop, and vaccination levels continue to rise, therefore allowing this to happen.

## Pupils' Return to Site

As a result of today's announcement, we are now able to welcome back those students studying for exams back onto site from the 15<sup>th</sup> March onwards. In addition, we are also able to provide an opportunity for checking in and catching up for all other learners before Easter, as well as continuing to provide a hub provision for vulnerable students and key workers' children.

The return to site will be strictly managed and phased in line with the recently issued Welsh Government guidance that you can access below:

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-support-limited-attendance>

## W/B 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

From the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, we will be re-opening onsite education for selected year groups. The focus for this week will be to **support pupils who are facing AS, A Level and GCSE assessments** this academic year.

In light of this, onsite 'face to face' learning will take place for the following learners:

## Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March (School Week 1)

<u>Monday</u>		<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Year 10</u>		<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Thursday</u>		<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Friday</u>		<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>

## Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March (School Week 2)

<u>Monday</u>		<u>Year 8</u>			<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Year 7</u>				<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Wednesday</u>			<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 10</u>		<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Thursday</u>					<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>
<u>Friday</u>					<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Year 12/13</u>

*\*\*Year 12 and 13 will be treated as one bubble, in line with our arrangements in the Autumn Term.*

**Online & On Site Learning**

**Year 12 and 13:** Staff **will not** deliver year 12 and 13 'online' after students return to face to face teaching from Monday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Year 11:** Staff **will not** deliver year 11 'online' lessons in the existing timetabled lesson slots. However, Year 11 learners will be expected to continue online work when off-site on Wednesdays week 1 and week 2.

While on site pupils will follow their normal timetable.

**Year 10:** pupils will not have online lessons on days they are onsite. However online learning will continue as normal when pupils are offsite. Staff will share materials used onsite where needed.

**KS3:** Online learning will continue for KS3 pupils (except on their check in & catch up days). Pupils will continue to receive a blend of live lessons, collaborative tasks and independent activities. When teachers are onsite with exam classes they will schedule project based or independent tasks for classes in advance.

### **Keeping safe**

In order to ensure the safe return of pupils, over the next two weeks the following measures will be added to the successful procedures already in place.

- Use of hand sanitisers and social distancing will continue to be insisted on in order to keep everyone as safe as possible
- Carmarthenshire County Council provided face coverings will need be worn by all non-exempt individuals whilst on the school site when they are within two metres of another individual. This includes the wearing of face coverings in lessons.
- Two face coverings will be provided for all students on their first day of return and should be worn either immediately or from the second day of return if they wish to wash them first.
- Pupils and students will be allowed to remove coverings when outside the buildings provided they maintain a 2m distance from others.
- Pupils and students will have fixed areas of the school allocated to them. They must remain in these areas unless moved under supervision to rooms for practical sessions e.g Science, PE, engineering, D&T etc..
  - **Year 11** will be based in **Gwili Block** – ground floor and First Floor
  - **Year 12/13** –will be based in **Steffan Block, Cothi 1 and Dewi 1**
  - **Year 10 on Wednesdays** will register in **Gwili Block** – ground floor and First Floor. While some classes remain there other groups will receive lessons in the Main Hall and Performance Hall

### **Curriculum**

- Year 12/13 will follow their normal which will be delivered in a limited number of classrooms.
- Year 11 will follow their timetable in a limited number of classrooms.
- Year 10 will follow a timetable of English Lit, Teamwork and Public Services (where relevant) and wellbeing in a limited number of classrooms
- Week 2 – Year 7,8 and 9 will follow a timetable of Literacy, Numeracy, PE and wellbeing (details will be provided next week).

### **Assessment Procedures, Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) and Appeals**

A letter explaining the procedures for assessments, information regarding CDGs and the process for appeals will be made available to all pupils and students sitting exams next week.

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

- The school day will run from 8:45am (doors open), registration 8:55am to 3:25pm.
- School transport will run operate as usual. There will be a staggered exit with Year 12/13 dismissed at 3:20pm and Years 11 and 10 (Wednesdays) dismissed at 3:25pm.
- **Entry to the School:**
  - **Year 12 and 13 – Main Entrance Reception**
  - **Year 11 – Doors at rear of school – tennis courts/canteen**
  - **Year 10 (Wednesdays) - Doors at rear of school – tennis courts/canteen**
- Pupils and students will receive a welcome back from the Headteacher and a briefing from their form tutor on the arrangements in school.

- It is important that while on premises that pupils do not mix bubbles.
- Each year group will have an allocated area and toilet block. It is important that students and pupils only use those areas allocated to them and do not wander.
- **Staggered break/lunch arrangements:** Pupils will have staggered supervised breaks and lunches. Breaks will be supervised by school staff. Canteen facilities **will** be available during this fortnight with the café available to sixth form and canteen providing a 'grab and go' service for other year groups.
- FSM payments will continue to be paid directly to families, so FSM pupils must pay for meals at the tills by uploading to parent pay or providing a pupil with packed lunch.
- Students should wear school uniform as far as possible. We appreciate that shops are closed and obtaining items e.g. shoes, might present problems. Please contact Heads of Year if there are any concerns.
- Pupils who have PE lessons should wear their school PE kit to school. There are no changing facilities available in school.
- Students should bring all the equipment they need for learning to school. There should be no sharing or borrowing of equipment.
- Please impress upon your children the need to maintain social distance from each other where they can 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.

We are aware that while these plans are designed to provide for all students, individual circumstances may vary in these difficult times. Therefore, if any of the information above raises an issue for any of our pupils, please contact us as usual on:

**Tel: 01267 245300**

**Email: [Office@gehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:Office@gehs.carms.sch.uk)**

### **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@gehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:Office@gehs.carms.sch.uk) and inform Delta be email on: [TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk](mailto: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.*

The TTP protocol has been changed in relation to pupils and staff who may routinely receive a Covid-19 test whilst receiving medical care or treatment for an unrelated condition.

In future, anyone who receives such a test must remain at home and not attend school until the result of the test has been received. If the result is negative, they may return to school immediately. If the result is positive however, they must continue to isolate for a period of 10 days from the date of test (able to return on day 11)

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: <a href="https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test">https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test</a>

## **Other News**

### **Santes Dwynwen Card Competition 2021**

Congratulations to Daniel Whitehouse Year 7 for winning the Santes Dwynwen Card Competition 2021 held with Cyngor Tref Caerfyrddin - Carmarthen Town Council. Daniel had first prize in the secondary schools category and will be receiving his prize later on this term. Daniel's card can be seen on our Facebook page and also the school website.

### **The Lightbringers' Project – Lantern Challenge 2021**

Inspired by the launch of the new book "The Lightbringers" - "Y Lanternwyr" by Karin Celestine, the Art and D&T departments collaborated to create a very exciting home learning project for all of our Key Stage 3 pupils. Pupils designed and made lanterns, inspired by organic shapes found in nature. The theme of the project is appropriate during this time; inspiring hope of better times and a bit of light in the darkness. The pupils have succeeded in lighting a path of hope for the future.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zqtVd5OL1722owJlv07T83hRN6x0547A/view?usp=sharing>

## **Key Dates**

March 18<sup>th</sup> Year 7 Online Parents' Evening

Easter Holidays – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April

INSET Day Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Finally, we continue to wish you all well as we embark on this new phase and would request your full support as we bring QEH back to face to face learning in as safe a manner as possible. We will continue to communicate with you through this transition period ahead of a provisional fuller reopening after the Easter break.

Kind Regards,

Mr Dave Williams (Headteacher)

Mrs Helen Starkey (Chair of Governors)