

Queen Elizabeth High School

Update for Parents / Carers and Learners

12th July 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of term there has been much to celebrate at QEH:

Canolfan Elfed UK Pearson's Teachers Award

On Wednesday 23rd June we were incredibly proud to announce that Canolfan Elfed had won a prestigious Silver Pearson's Teaching Award as Lockdown Heroes for their work supporting families and pupils during lockdown. They will now progress to the final stage and have been shortlisted as only 3 schools across the UK for the ultimate prize which will be announced in London next term. We all have our fingers crossed and are incredibly proud of their achievement to date. The award was presented by Cllr Emlyn Dole, the Chief Executive, Mrs Wendy Walters and Director of Education and Children's Services Mr Gareth Morgans.

Minister Of Education's Visit

On Thursday 24th June QEH was proud to host the new Minister for Education in Wales, Mr Jeremy Miles. This was one of his first visits to a secondary school in Wales and the first visit to a school in Carmarthenshire. He chatted with staff, pupils in Years 10 and 12 before touring the school and meeting staff and pupils in Canolfan Elfed. We very much appreciated Mr Miles taking time out of his very busy schedule to visit us and the pupils and students appreciated his candid and informative responses to their questions as well as the advice he had to offer.

I would like to thank all in our community; all staff, parents and pupils for their hard work, support and effort during this last challenging year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our school and community and wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Arrangements for Last Week of Term

There is a full range of activities planned for the coming week, which focus on support and catch up for literacy and numeracy and wellbeing in the Year 7, 8 and 9 Explore & Experience days. For Year 10 the focus is on the Welsh Bacc Qualification and wellbeing, while in Year 12 there is the opportunity to receive support on University applications, AS/A2 Fieldwork and research and skills projects. All tasks are important and meaningful and it is important for all pupils to attend on these days.

Day	Year Group	Activity
Monday 12 th July	7,8 and 9	Explore & Experience – Numeracy and Literacy Activities
	10	Welsh Bacc Global Challenge
	12	Fieldwork, University Talks and Research
Tuesday 13 th July	7,8 and 9	Explore & Experience – Numeracy and Literacy Activities
	10	Welsh Bacc Global Challenge
	12	Fieldwork, University Talks and Research
Wednesday 14 th July	7,8 and 10	Inter-form Activities
	9 Forms A,C and E	Community support and wellbeing - Beach Clean
	9 Forms J,M,Q,R	Wellbeing Day
	12	Fieldwork, University Talks and Research
Thursday 15 th July	7,8 and 9 (forms 9A,9C and 9E)	Wellbeing Day
	9 Forms 9 J,M,Q,R	Beach Clean
	10	Welsh Bacc Global Challenge Day
	12	Fieldwork, University Talks and Research
Friday 16 th July		Extended Form Time – lesson 1, 2 and 3. Lessons 4 and 5.

Covid

There has been further disruption at the end of term as regards Covid, and its variants. The virus is still present in our community and has the potential to cause further disruption. I would ask all our community to continue to take reasonable precautions and follow the guidance issued by the Welsh Government and NHS.

There will be no testing taking place over the summer holidays. However, on our return, it is essential that pupils adhere to the days allocated for lateral flow tests (Sunday and Wednesday evenings). **If your child presents with symptoms then please do not use the lateral flow test but book a PCR test using the information and contact details below.**

AS/A2 and GCSE Results Days

Tuesday August 10th 2021 A2 and AS Results Day. Students in Years 12 and 13 can pick up their results from 9:00am that morning in the Performance Hall. Covid safe restrictions are in place with a separate entrance and exit.

Thursday August 12th 2021 GCSE Results Day. Year 11 pupils will be able to pick results up from 9:00am in the morning and Year 10 English Literature pupils can pick their results from 10:00am. Covid safe restrictions are in place with a separate entrance and exit.

Sixth Form Enrolment. This will take place on Thursday August 12th following receipt of GCSE results. The enrolment team will be based in the Sixth Form Block to help guide and support students in their choices of courses at Post 16. Covid safe restrictions are in place with a separate entrance and exit.

September 2021

Arrangements for the Start of Term

Wednesday 1st September - INSET DAY

Thursday 2nd September:

- Term begins for **Year 7** pupils, who are welcomed to QEH by Mr Dave Williams, Headteacher, and their Head of Learning Mrs Joy Ostendorff and by their Form Tutors. Pupils will be given their timetable and will begin to follow this during the day.
- **Year 10 and year 12** learners return to school engaging with their individual option timetable.
- COVID safe behaviours will be outlined and reinforced for all.

Friday 3rd September:

- **All pupils return to school** and will follow their timetables for the year
- COVID safe behaviours will be outlined and reinforced for all.

A reminder that all Year 7s will have to bring packed lunch for the first two days back in school and until they are registered on our systems. All other year groups will be able to purchase lunch from the canteen/cafe as normal.

Many thanks to all parents and guardians for supporting the transition arrangements in place. We look forward, collectively to a productive and positive year ahead.

Uniform

A letter will be going out to all parents next week outlining the requirements for uniform from September. School uniform is compulsory, as we believe that a neat and tidy appearance is a source of pride and identification and encourages sensible behaviour. Specific information will be included in the letter, however the basic principles and standards remain:

- All garments should be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- Denim jackets or jeans are not allowed under any circumstances.

- No jewellery may be worn in School, except for one pair of stud earrings in the lower lobe of the ear.
- External coats other than QEH tops must be removed in the building.
- Hair all hair styles must be reasonable and acceptable. Hair dyes and colours must be natural. Extreme hair styles are not allowed.
- Make up should be discrete and nail varnish unobtrusive.

Failure to conform with school uniform rules could result in a pupil being excluded from classes or sent home.

Important Safety Notice

Pupils should refrain from climbing on or attempting to climb over fences in school. If a ball is kicked over a fence then pupils should approach the caretaking staff to ask for help recovering it. **Under no circumstances should a pupil attempt to climb a fence.** There have been several serious accidents across Carmarthenshire schools in the past months as a result of accidents while climbing fences. We would ask parents to remind pupils to be sensible and reinforce the messages here.

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

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, which 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@gehs.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:

Queen Elizabeth High School	01267 245300 Office@gehs.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

C) Communication

As we return to school, and ahead of September's start, 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, email address or contact details, it is important to notify us as soon as possible so that you will continue to receive important information

Finally, we would like to use this opportunity to thank you all, once again, for your ongoing support and the support we have received from you throughout this year. It is hugely appreciated. We wish you all a relaxing and healthy summer holidays.

Kind Regards,

Dave Williams
Headteacher