



Cardiff High School Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth
Mr S M Jones

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17 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are both safe and well.

May I begin by saying that whilst this has been the most unsettling year in education, I can only commend the way in which your sons and daughters have conducted themselves in the final weeks of this term. I have no doubt that lockdown posed a range of challenges for most families, but the resilience exhibited by our learners since their return to school has been incredibly uplifting.

As a term like no other comes to a close, we are feeling increasingly optimistic about the next one. We are delighted with Welsh Government's announcement on 9th July which stated that pupils across all age groups in Wales will be back in the classroom from September.

Whilst the Education Minister has provided a degree of flexibility in terms of when schools will open up to the 14th September, as highlighted in my last letter, we shall be adhering to our school calendar and will, therefore, open on 1st September. In light of this decision, I would like to reassure you that, since this announcement and the publication of guidance documentation, we have worked very hard to consider the health and safety implications of a full and speedy reopening of school for all pupils. Mitigation measures include alterations within the school day and also the timings of the day for years 7 and 8. Registration will now take place prior to lunch time and **8.40am will signal the start of period 1.**

It is very important, therefore that your son or daughter arrives in good time and is ready to move to their classroom for a prompt start to their first lesson of the day. This will afford us the flexibility of organising a staggered lunch, thereby reducing pupil numbers at any one time in the canteen. This will be further enhanced by the provision of a second food purchase point. Until further notice, canteen provision at break time will not be available, however, we intend to offer our usual breakfast menu from 8am and a hot lunch time meal from 3rd September. Please can we politely request that your child's account for the payment of school meals is either undertaken remotely or by cheque. Should you require further support in terms of signing up for Parent Pay please do not hesitate to contact us – syoung@cardiffhigh.co.uk.

Discrete zones have been identified and marked out for specific year groups to congregate; a one way route around the buildings has been created; outdoor hand sanitising stations and handwashing facilities have been acquired; an enhanced cleaning system will remain in place; we will continue to implement our medical policy for handling any cases of infection and will participate fully in the track and trace scheme.

Please can we politely remind you that any visits on to school site need to be undertaken via an appointment system. Similarly, we would request that parents do not accompany their child onto the school site and also wait outside of the gates at the end of the day.

In line with our bid to reduce pupil numbers at key points within the day, ***year 7 pupils will finish school at 2.50pm*** and ***year 8 pupils will finish at 3pm***. We will review this situation during the course of the first half term. Within the first half term at least, ***year 12 and year 13 pupils will not be expected to attend registration***; they will, instead, be invited by appointment to participate in small group tutorials with their form tutor. Again, this situation will be reviewed regularly.

As highlighted within my last letter, Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September will remain as INSET/preparation days. Thursday September 3rd will be dedicated to Year 7 whilst Friday September 4th will be dedicated to Key Stage 5.

Year 7 Induction.

- Pupils are not expected to wear school uniform. The day will involve physical activity – we would advise, therefore, that suitable, comfortable clothing should be worn
- Pupils are to arrive by 8.40am and congregate on the front Astro. Should the weather be inclement, they will be guided to an appropriate indoor area
- Pupils will meet with their form tutors and undertake a range of activities during the course of the day
- They will have the opportunity for a guided tour of the site and a detailed overview of safety measures recently implemented by the school
- A hot lunch will be provided and we would request that a donation of £1 is brought in by every pupil although your child is welcome to bring their own packed lunch should they wish
- Pupils will be dismissed at 2.50pm, in line with the newly structured timings of the school day

Year 12 Induction and Year 13 Return

Pupils are to adhere to key stage 5 Cardiff High dress code

Year 12

- Students new to Cardiff High School to arrive by 8.30am
- Students will be leaving site at 11.30am
- Current Cardiff High School students to go straight to form rooms at 1pm

Year 13

Pupils go straight to form rooms

- Students in form groups H-M to arrive by 8.30am
- Students will be leaving site at 11-10am
- Students in form groups P-T to arrive by 1.10pm
- Students will be leaving site at 3.10pm

Please note that details surrounding form rooms for current Cardiff High School pupils will be sent by e mail. Please can we, therefore request that pupils check their school e mails on a regular basis.

Monday 7th September

- Years 7, 8 and 9 will arrive in readiness for a prompt 8.40am start and go directly to their form room and not to lesson 1

Tuesday 8th September

- Years 7 – 11 will arrive in readiness for a prompt 8.40am start and, go directly to their form room and not to lesson 1
- Years 12 and 13 will arrive at 1.10pm or 2.10pm if they have a lesson during the afternoon – to begin their AS and A2 studies

Wednesday 9th September

- Normal schooling for all pupils begins – all pupils arriving in readiness for a prompt start – going straight to **lesson 1 for** 8.40am

We have also made the decision that results' day for pupils in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will take the form of pupils being offered the opportunity to attend school to pick up their results personally, rather than receiving them via electronic means. Please see accompanying letter for further details regarding this process.

During the course of this week, your child will have received an overview of suggested learning activities to be undertaken during the course of the summer break if they so wish.

Whilst we are planning for a full return, we remain mindful of the possibility of potential sporadic disruption next year. Our vision for learning and teaching in the autumn term is to provide the highest quality learning experiences for all pupils in order to challenge and engage them. Recent experiences have enabled us to hone our distance learning provision and we have begun to plan for a range of potential scenarios. We have trialled a variety of live touch points alongside distance learning tasks and a combination of these approaches will be used as and when appropriate for each key stage.

Whilst the Welsh Government has stated that there will be no issuing of fines during the first half term, we are anticipating that all pupils will return to school in September.

If your child is unwell or displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), we would politely request that they remain at home for the specified number of days. Further detail surrounding this is provided by Public Health Wales.

If your son or daughter is feeling particularly anxious about their return to school and you would like some support or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to provide as much reassurance as possible.

You will be aware that we have been very flexible in our approach to our dress code since June 29th, we would expect that, as of September, pupils will return to school in their uniform. We recognise, however, that you may wish for your child to wear the summer uniform to provide ease of washing and this is, consequently, permissible. In line with the guidance published by The Chief Medical Officer for Wales, the wearing of face masks remains optional at this stage.

In light of the fact that it will not be possible to share basic equipment such as pens, pencils, rubbers and rulers etc, may we politely remind you that your child will need to bring these in to school on a daily basis.

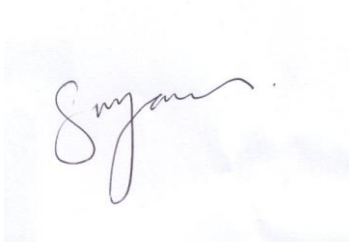
We remain mindful of the positive impact of extra-curricular activities for our pupils and it is our intention to offer a range of opportunities, whilst adhering to Welsh Government guidelines. These will take place at the end of a school day and more information will follow upon our return to school.

Finally, I would like to end this letter by thanking you, once again, for the high level of support that you have demonstrated towards us throughout this time. We are very grateful for the many positive messages you have sent us, acknowledging the difficulties and challenges posed by our desire to provide the very best for our pupils within the framework of a global pandemic.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and healthy summer and look forward to returning to a vibrant and full school in September.

Please continue to use our website and follow our Twitter page for further updates and information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S M Jones', is centered on a light blue background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

S M JONES

Headteacher