



Cardiff High School Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

Headteacher/Pennaeth
Mr S M Jones

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29 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst we appreciate that this has been a very different and somewhat challenging Christmas for all of us, we hope that you are managing to enjoy an opportunity to relax with family over this festive period.

As indicated in our letter at the end of term, we are writing to you today to share our plans for the opening of school as they currently stand.

As you are probably aware, the Minister for Education issued a statement last week regarding the return of schools after Christmas. With transmission levels continuing to increase across Wales, and uncertainty over what impact that might have on school staffing levels over the Christmas break, the Minister has requested that flexibility should be built into plans for the beginning of term. Further to this statement, the latest arrangements for the start of the Spring Term for Cardiff High School, in line with Welsh Government guidance, are as follows:

First Week of Term - 4th January – 8th January

Pupils will not attend school.

Monday, 4th January – work will be uploaded for each subject on your child's timetable for this day via Google Classroom. We also ask that your child checks their ICT set up and login details on this day.

Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January – pupils will follow their blended learning timetable. This will, as you know, include a combination of live lessons, webinars and independent study.

Blended Learning

In order to help you support your children during the period of home learning, we thought it would be useful to remind you of the three simple tips which we have previously shared:

1. The major benefit of live lessons is the opportunity for teachers and pupils to communicate directly. We have learned that webcams combined with Google Meet's

chat function provide different channels of communication that can be tailored to specific activities and discussion. It is definitely worth asking your child how they participated in lessons during the day in order to help them build their confidence in communicating in an online environment.

2. As with normal lessons, being prepared with the correct equipment is essential. In particular, we have found that the mini-whiteboards, issued to all pupils at the beginning of the academic year, have been just as powerful in the online classroom as they are in our normal lessons. Any help you can provide in reminding your child to 'arrive' at live lessons fully prepared will be a huge help in enabling them to get the most out of the session.

3. Many pupils have enjoyed watching webinars, particularly due to the fact they can pause, and watch them at their own pace. It is worth reminding your child, that webinars are not necessarily one-off viewing events, and can be watched multiple times - particularly useful for revision and recapping knowledge.

If, during the period of blended learning, your child is struggling with any aspect, please feel free to contact the respective Head of School as they will be on site and able to answer or direct any queries as appropriate. Similarly, should you have any ICT issues please do not hesitate to contact our Network Manager – Mr Richard Brown. He will also be in school on Saturday 2nd January 9am – 12 noon should your child require any ICT support prior to the start of term.

Mr Richard Brown - ithelpdesk@cardiffhigh.co.uk

Mr Mike O' Brien (Head of Lower School) – ObrienM28@Hwbcymru.net

Mr David Rhodes (Head of Middle School) – Rhodes5@Hwbcymru.net

Mrs Kath Dilks (Head of Upper School) – DilksK@Hwbcymru.net

Our school reception will be open throughout the week, should you need to speak to a member of staff from 8am – 4pm.

For families with pupils eligible for free school meals, a supermarket voucher for this week will be sent by the Local Authority to your home address.

Second Week of Term - 11th January – 15th January

On Monday 11th January, currently, the expectation is that all pupils will return to face-to-face learning unless there are exceptional circumstances such as insufficient staffing levels to operate the school. You may also be aware, via the media, of discussions regarding whether or not 11th January will be too soon for schools to reopen for face-to-face learning.

Should there be any changes to this week, we will communicate them to you as soon as we are able.

The return to school in January needs to be as safe as possible for all our learners and our staff. The adoption of a distance learning approach in the first week of term will allow us to carry out necessary planning and preparation.

Wales entered into a level four lockdown, the highest possible, from the 28th December. These restrictions are designed to make the country safer; we are, therefore, politely urging every family to follow the latest Coronavirus rules so that we can safely welcome back all learners from Monday 11th January.

Over the remaining holiday period to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading, there are things that everyone in your family can do to help. These include remaining alert for symptoms of Covid-19, which are

- A new or continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

If anyone in your family develops any of these symptoms, even if they are mild please book an appointment, either by calling 119 or visiting

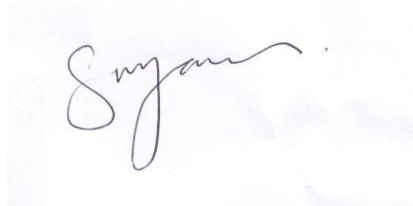
www.gov.uk/getcoronavirus-test.

If your child receives a positive test for Covid-19 during the holiday, please can you let us know, for our records, by emailing Mrs Allison Yarrow yarrowa@hwbcymru.net

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a happy and safe remainder of the Christmas break and look forward to seeing our learners back in school in the New Year.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S M Jones', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

S M JONES

Headteacher