

# MAESTEG SCHOOL

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*Headteacher / Pennaeth: H. Jones B.A. (Hons) N.P.Q.H.*

**January 2022**

**Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers,**

Welcome back to the start of a new Spring Term and a new year – 2022!

In light of the new Omicron version of the virus, Welsh Government has increased the risk in schools to 'Very High-Risk level' and we must adjust our practices accordingly to ensure that we are as Covid Secure as possible.

- 1) Face Masks **must** be worn on school transport
- 2) Face masks should also be worn in school in all indoor areas including classrooms where physical distancing cannot be maintained.  
**Parents are therefore encouraged to supply their children with a mask that is washed/replaced at the end of each day**
- 3) Pupils must be prepared to go outside during their break and lunchtimes so must have suitable outdoor clothing to cope with our wonderful inclement weather.  
**Hoodies do not keep children dry and are not a suitable alternative to a waterproof coat.**
- 4) The school cannot run Breakfast Club or After-school clubs during this period and will resume these activities as soon as Welsh Government Guidance changes.
- 5) Pupils are encouraged to use Lateral Flow Tests to monitor their health. Lateral Flow Tests should be taken every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning prior to coming to school. Lateral Flow Tests are available from the school on request.
- 6) Exams and Mock exams will continue as normal. All mock exams will be used as evidence for teachers to award 'Centre Determined Grades' if Welsh Government determines to adopt this approach in the summer.

As you can imagine, these extra safety measures, along with changes to routines and procedures will need to be explained to pupils. To ensure that each year group is familiar with the new routines, they will have an induction session before beginning normal lessons on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Welsh Government has advised schools to make every effort to minimise mixing between contact groups, but recognises that this would prevent secondary school pupils from being taught by subject specialists or being taught in specialist classrooms such as Technology workshops and Science laboratories. Consequently, pupils will move between rooms and be taught by different teachers. To minimise the mixing of year groups, we will continue to operate staggered lunchtimes. Pupils will be expected to participate in regular hand washing routines. They will also be expected to wipe down surfaces of tables and chairs once they have used them.

**Pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform;** however on the days they are timetabled to have PE/Health and Wellbeing lessons, they are permitted to wear the school

PE kit for the whole day. We wish to remind parents that as a minimum all Games clothing should be plain black.

It is absolutely imperative that your child follows the safety measures we have put in place. Failure to abide by these new procedures and routines to ensure the safety of our school community may lead to exclusion.

Please find below, more detailed information which will hopefully provide further information with regard to the safe re-opening of our school.

### **BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING**

- It is vital that your child continues to learn from home and uses their Microsoft Teams account regularly. Blended learning will be essential to their continued education during periods of teacher or pupil absence.
- Pupils who do not follow the safety procedures and whose behaviour gives cause for concern will not be permitted on site. Parents will be contacted to collect their child should their behaviour put others at risk
- Pupils must be prepared for learning and bring their own pencil case, equipment and school bag – essential for taking books home and being able to study at home during periods of isolation
- Please be reminded that **NO MOBILE PHONES** are to be used on school premises
- Pupils are required to wear uniform. They must wear school PE kit on the days they have PE lessons

### **CATERING:**

- Canteen facilities will be available as normal
- Pupils will be able to purchase a hot meal on site using their cashless account. Parents need to make sure that this is topped up prior to their child returning to school
- Please note that the water fountains will be in use for pupils to use. Pupils are encouraged to bring in their own containers. Water will also be provided at lunchtimes
- Free school meals will be provided to those children who are eligible

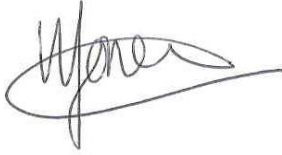
### **SITE MANAGEMENT**

- Entry and vetting (health checks) on arrival and entry into school will exist for pupils and staff following a strict set of procedures
- Staggered lunch times will be in operation to continue to observe social distancing guidelines at unstructured times
- All classrooms will be set up in rows with all pupils facing the front of the classroom where possible
- A toilet block has been allocated to each year group. Pupils must use the correct toilet

### **PARENTS**

- Parents must request meetings in advance to ensure that school staff can make appropriate provision. Please be aware that meetings can not be granted with prior arrangement.
- Parents must collect their child where their child is refusing to observe safety measures and procedures thus posing a risk to others
- Please keep your child home if they display COVID-like symptoms or have produced a positive lateral flow test or PCR test.
- The school's complete risk assessment document will be shared with parents via the school website.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to our Maesteg School Community on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



Warmest regards,

Mrs H. Jones (Headteacher)

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*Motivated to Strive / Ysgogi i Ymdrechu*

