

MAESTEG SCHOOL

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

3rd September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I apologise for the very short notice of this communication, given that year 7 and year 12 pupils will return to school tomorrow, but we had the final guidance document from Welsh Government at 18:40pm yesterday evening.

I am now in a position to update you with regard to the following measures that we have taken to ensure that your children are returning to a school that is as Covid Secure as we can make it.

Health & Wellbeing:

May I remind you that you must not send any child to school if they or any member of the family/household has tested positive for Covid or is displaying symptoms associated with Covid such as a high temperature, a continuous cough, a loss of taste or smell. Any child who displays such symptoms throughout the course of the day will need to be collected by parents.

Start of School Day:

- There will be no breakfast provision at the school until guidance from the LEA changes
- Pupils will not be able to access the school building until 8:35am when pupils will be escorted into the school building to their form groups. Please can I stress the importance of a waterproof coat to keep pupils warm and dry whilst they wait outdoors to be admitted into the school building.
- To ensure that pupils remain safe in school, we must prevent them mixing with pupils outside of their year group bubbles. On arrival at school, pupils will be asked to go to a designated year group area on the school yard.

Masks:

- *'It is recommended that all secondary school-age pupils wear a face covering on dedicated local authority provided home-to-school transport.'* (BCBC Guidance 1st September 2020) However, the wearing of face masks will be compulsory if your child travels to school on public transport.
- *'It is recommended that secondary school-age pupils wear face coverings in communal areas, toilets and in corridors. There is no recommendation for learners to wear face coverings in classrooms/teaching spaces, unless schools feel that, due to the proximity of pupils and staff, this would reduce the risk to pupils and staff of the potential transmission of COVID-19.'* (BCBC Guidance 1st September 2020)
- It is our view that the wearing of masks is important to protect the most vulnerable pupils and teachers in our school community. We strongly recommend the wearing of masks in corridors and in areas where pupils may come across pupils from other year groups. Our teachers will wear masks in these areas too to help keep them as safe as possible.
- Masks are available from the school on request. They have been supplied to us by the local authority. They meet World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and can be washed at least 50 times. Each pupil can request five face coverings and a safe storage bag for the academic year. Face coverings should be stored securely in the storage bag when not in use.

- Any pupils wishing to use their own face covering, should be recommended to source one that meets the above-mentioned WHO standards.
- It is important to note that this advice is subject to Welsh Government guidance and may change. The local authority will issue further guidance as required.

Around the School:

- Pupils will be asked to 'keep to the left' and avoid contact with other pupils
- Pupils must not talk to one another in corridors between lessons as the risk of cross contamination is greater at these times
- Pupils must wear uniform at all times and must take care to look after their possessions such as coats, jumpers and bags
- Pupils must not use mobile phones at any time during the school day. Whilst we accept that parents like pupils to have them, they must remain in school bags until the end of the day
- All pupils must bring the following equipment to school for their own personal use as there is to be no sharing of equipment:
 - Pencil case, pens, pencils, ruler, rubber
 - School bag to take home exercise books and text books

Parents:

- Whilst we understand that there will be times that parents wish to speak to a member of staff, please be aware that parents are not able to visit the school without prior appointment.

Despite the amount of control measures that we must put in place to ensure the safety of our entire school community, we are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school. We will do our very best to make sure that they enjoy coming back to school and continuing with their learning. We have missed them very much.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns, queries or worries about your child returning to school. It is perfectly understandable at this time.

Warm regards,
Helen Jones (Headteacher)

Motivated to Strive / Ysgogi i Ymdrechu

