

MAESTEG SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite our very best efforts to keep our school site Covid Secure, a member of staff tested positive for Covid 19 on the evening of Thursday 3rd September. This member of staff was not symptomatic, only on school site for one day and has not come into contact with any pupil. Five additional members of staff have been identified as close contacts via Public Health Wales and their Test, Trace and Protect team. None of these members of staff have had contact with pupils either and all staff are self-isolating for 14 days as instructed by Public Health Wales.

The site has been deep cleaned and we continue to follow strict cleaning, social distancing and hand-washing routines to make sure that our school is as safe as it was at the start of term.

I am sure that you all have many questions about the current situation and I hope that I have addressed some of them in the **FAQ sheet** that I have attached to this letter. Please can I respectfully request that you resist the temptation to turn to social media for the answers – I am aware that there will always be rumour and speculation surrounding incidents such as these, but please remember that there are real people at the heart of this incident who care deeply about Maesteg school, our pupils and our staff. Needless to say, this member of staff is distraught about the situation. The school will provide updates to all parents via our website, Twitter, and email (InTouch).

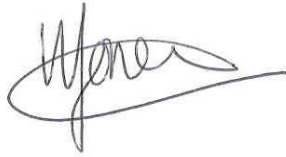
The school has followed the advice of Public Health Wales promptly to reduce the risk to other staff and our pupils and I am confident that we are safe to open to staff and pupils on Monday 7th September as originally planned. However, to ensure that we complete the induction process thoroughly with each year group, I intend to delay the re-integration of years 10, 8 and 9. **Year 10** will return on **Thursday 10th September**; **Year 9** will return on **Friday 11th September**; **Year 8** will return to school on **Monday 14th September 2020. (Full details below).**

I am sure that there are parents who will feel that I should have communicated this information to you earlier. Perhaps. My priority was to receive advice and guidance from Health experts and the local authority to ensure the safe opening of the school. The media does not have to wait for such information.

We will do our very best to reassure those parents who are particularly worried or concerned about their child returning to school. Please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance if you feel that you would like to talk to someone. We recognise that these continue to be unnerving and worrying times and we will try to help if we can.

I hope I have gone some way to reassure you and to present to you the facts surrounding the incident. This infectious disease is very much present within our communities and we must continue to follow the stringent measures that have been put in place to try to protect ourselves from it.

I thank you all for your help, support and kind messages. We are a close-knit community and supportive of one another. Long may that continue to be the case.



Warm regards,

Helen Jones

Return to School September 2020

Friday 4 th	Monday 7 th	Tuesday 8 th	Wednesday 9 th	Thursday 10 th	Friday 11 th	Monday 14 th
Year 7 Induction	Year 7	Year 7	Year 7	Year 7	Year 7	YEAR 8 Returns Whole school back in school
Year 12 Induction	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12	
	Year 13	Year 13	Year 13	Year 13	Year 13	
	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11	
				Year 10	Year 10	
				Year 10	Year 9	

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