# Ysgol Bryngwyn School

## Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 14th March 2022

| Latest News: | Key Dates: |
|---|---|
| 1. **Building Works Update**<br>2. **Return to Standard School Uniform**<br>3. **GCSE Exams Update** | • **Thursday 7th April:** Year 8 Parents' Evening (Online)<br>• **Friday 8th April:** end of Spring Term |

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I hope this update finds you and your families well as we enter the third week of this half term. Once more we are very proud of our learners for their positive engagement and excellent attendance. We would like to thank you for your help in achieving this and for your continued support.

### 1. Building Works Update

It was pleasing last week to see the "Top hat" tent removed from the roofing scaffolding and we are assured that in coming weeks the remainder of the scaffolding will be taken away. We hope the bulk of this heavy work will be completed at weekends so as not to impact upon important teaching and learning. We are all looking forward to seeing our normal view of the building return.

On Friday we received the good news that we are now able to reintroduce pupils into the lower part of B corridor classrooms as all final checks have been undertaken, the rooms have been redecorated and cleaned and the computers are being reinstalled. We have also been informed that the remainder of the remedial works to the roof to the rest of B corridor will be completed over the summer period with the bulk of the work taking place at the end of Summer Term and over the summer recess. We will certainly update all learners and parents closer to the time. We genuinely thank you for your patience during this challenging time.

### Pupil entrance points

Following the completion of most of the roof repairs, as described above, we are pleased to be able to reintroduce our secure entrances from **21st March 2022** in order to prioritise the safety and security of all. This means that external doors will be closed from the outside during lessons times using a magna-lock system, however, they can be opened from the inside via a release button for pupils or staff to exit.

Pupils arriving in school after 8:45am must therefore use the reception entrance to sign in as they will not be able to enter via any other external door. Normal entrance points will be open from 8:15am – 8:45am.

Visitors are asked to please continue to call reception or the relevant member of staff to book an appointment and ensure that you sign in at reception on arrival to pick up your visitor's badge. We would like to thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

## 2. Return to Standard School Uniform

As you are aware, some of our usual uniform expectations have been slightly altered due to the pandemic for a number of reasons including lack of stock in uniform suppliers and pupils wearing their PE kit to school to avoid the necessity of using the changing rooms. As we are now beginning to see a return of some more normal practices and mitigations in school are starting to relax, we are able to once more uphold the high standards of uniform that Bryngwyn has always been proud of.

As a result, from **Monday 21st March** ALL pupils will be expected to wear normal uniform to school every day and bring PE kit in their bags to change into on days when they have PE.

### Reminder of Uniform Standards

Please see a link below to the school website for a reminder of Bryngwyn's School Uniform guidelines.

https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Uniform/

School uniform is compulsory as we believe that a neat and tidy appearance is a source of pride and identification and encourages sensible behaviour. Denim jackets or jeans are not allowed under any circumstances.

- All garments should be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- No jewellery may be worn in School, except for one pair of stud earrings in the lower lobe of the ear.
- No coloured garments or tops with logos will be allowed in School.

- Hair – all hair styles must be reasonable and acceptable to the Headteacher. Extreme hair styles are not allowed and pupils may be sent home if they fail to comply;
- Make up and nail varnish are not to be worn.

| | Boys | Girls |
|---|---|---|
| Polo Shirt (with badge) | White (KS3) | White (KS3) |
| Polo Shirt (with badge) | Maroon (KS4) | Maroon (KS4) |
| Trousers/Skirt (Tailored) | Black (No Denim) | Black (No Denim) |
| Round/V-Neck Sweater (with badge) | Black | Black |
| Shoes | Black | Black |

**Coats - Pupils can wear any appropriate outdoor coat in any colour; however coats must be removed inside the school building. No denim or leather.**

***Due to the need for increased ventilation and open windows there is no requirement for coats to be removed inside the building at present.***

We would like to thank pupils, parents and carers for your support in helping us to maintain the high standards of uniform that we are proud of. As you know, these high standards are also reflected in engagement, effort and achievement in the wider variety of school activities.

### 3. GCSE Exams

At present the stated intent is for exams to proceed for Summer 2022. However in the wake of Covid there are three important messages:

1. Exams will follow the content of the amended specifications.
2. Where there are two papers for a subject, they have been timetabled two weeks apart.
3. The boards have included an additional contingency day.

Therefore **Wednesday 29th June** is a contingency date set by awarding bodies, in case of sustained national or local disruption within the national exam timetable.

**Candidates should remain available until Wednesday 29th June date should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency arrangements.**

As part of the contingency plans, pupils will continue to undertake routine class-based assessments throughout their final terms. These will help pupils' not only as they prepare for exams but will also provide valuable evidence of achievement in the unlikely event it is needed due to absence in final GCSE exams.

A special "Exams Extra" newsletter will be circulated this week which explains both the exams and support available.

## General News Round-Up

- **Speed and safety outside the school -** Just a reminder that the Dafen Road as part of the Llanelli North pilot scheme is now a 20 MPH zone. Please see attached link for further explanation: https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/Introducing-20mph-to-Llanelli-North/

- **Year "8 Have A Go" Opportunity -** It was good to see year 8 learners take part in a "Have A Go" opportunity in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar. The school is involved in a pilot with Have A Go Wales to give pupils opportunities to explore different kinds of vocational difference before they select their options next year and begin thinking about their own career paths. This time, the theme was on welding and using chocolate as medium to explore some of the basic principles. Mr Neil Gregory, director of GOS Tool and Engineering Services in Blaenavon came in to introduce welding before pupils used the same techniques to build bridges from chocolate. Further information is ion

out twitter feed at: https://twitter.com/bryngwynschool/ Some of the bridges were very strong indeed! **Well done Year 8!**

- **Year 11 Rugby Sevens Success!** – Our U16s Rugby Sevens team competed last week at Christ College in Brecon. Mr Jenkins was very pleased with the team's efforts and said: "a great opportunity for the boys to get some 7s miles in their legs in preparation for Rosslyn Park. **Da iawn bechgyn!**"

- **Moshoeshoe Day, Lesotho** - On Friday we celebrated Moshoeshoe Day as part of our links to our partner school in Lesotho. Pupils in year 7 enjoyed some exciting activities and learned all about Lesotho. **Well done year 7!**

- **Exam Invigilators –** Now that exams are confirmed for the Summer Term, we are looking to extend our pool of invigilators in both Bryngwyn and Glan y Mor to support the students' taking exams. Further information is available at the link below if it is of interest to you or indeed anyone you know:

https://www.eteach.com/job/examination-invigilators-1212748

- **Music Rehearsals this week –** the following rehearsals will take place this week:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Monday** | String Group Lunchtime |
| **Tuesday** | Junior Choir Lunchtime |
| **Wednesday** | Brass Group Lunchtime<br>Theory Club Lunchtime<br>Year 9 Band After School |
| **Thursday** | Wind Band Lunchtime<br>Yr 8 Band After School |
| **Friday** | Senior Choir Lunchtime |

- **Extra-Curricular PE Activities –** we are delighted to be able to offer a full range of extra-curricular sport activities during lunch times and after school. This week we have:

  - **Tuesday Lunch Time -** 5X60 Basketball Years 7 & 8
  - **Tuesday 3pm to 4 pm –** Netball all year groups; Rugby Sevens Years 10 and 11
  - **Wednesday 3pm to 4 pm -** Football years 7 and 8; hockey all year groups; GCSE badminton

- **Thursday 3pm to 4pm –** Rugby years 7, 8 and 9;
- **Friday Lunch time –** basketball years 9, 10 and 11

## Reminders of Further Important Information

### Routine Lateral Flow Testing

Regular LFD testing now takes place **TWICE** a week, on **Sunday and Wednesday** evenings. Tests will continue to be distributed fortnightly as follows:

| **Upcoming LFT Distribution Dates** | | **Useful Links** |
|---|---|---|
| **Year Group** | **Date** | 1. Parent Consent Form<br>2. Video on how to carry out lateral flow tests<br>3. Information to parents |
| WEEK ONE | | |
| **Year 11** | Tuesday 15th March | |
| **Year 10** | Wednesday 16th March | |
| WEEK TWO | | |
| **Year 9** | Wednesday 23rd March | |
| **Year 8** | Thursday 24th March | |
| **Year 7** | Tuesday 22nd March | |
| **If the result is positive, please let the school and NHS know immediately.** | | |
| **The link to report results to school and NHS is:** **Reporting results to school** | | |

### Latest COVID Mitigations

Unfortunately, the caseloads appear to be increasing both in Wales and Carmarthenshire, but fortunately not impacting on hospital admissions which are recording consistent lowering of numbers. Schools continue to act in line with WG and LA policies. As you are aware, a change to mitigations commenced from last week and a reminder is included below:

**A brief recap**:

As a result, the following changes to the mitigations in school will be in place from Monday:

- **Face coverings** will no longer be routinely recommended in classrooms during lessons. However, they will still need to be worn in other internal communal spaces including corridors and in larger group activities (unless exempt). Individuals may still choose to wear their face covering anywhere on site should they prefer.
  - *Please note face coverings must still be worn on all transport.*
  - *We would be grateful if you could continue to support us by ensuring that your child always brings their face covering to school each day, as they will still be needed on a regular basis.*
- **LFT Testing** will now return to **twice weekly** therefore testing will take place every **Sunday and Wednesday evening.**

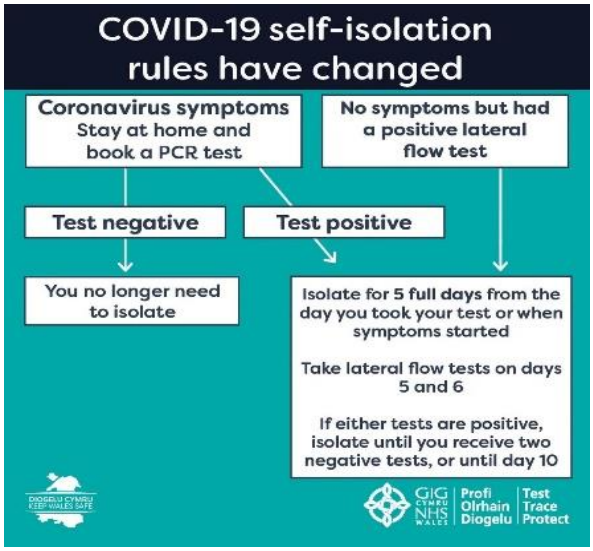
**There is no change to isolation in Wales: anyone who tests positive on either LFT or PCR test must continue to isolate for the required period.**

The relaxation of national restrictions reminds us how important it is that we continue to work together and maintain existing restrictions both for our protection and in the hope we can continue to move further in this direction. However, we are mindful that the situation could rapidly change going forward and we appreciate your support and patience. As ever, we will always do our best to keep you fully informed of any changes as soon as possible.

Our Top Six mitigations continue to be important:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Face coverings** | **Handwashing** | **LFT testing** |
| **Distance** | **Ventilation** | **Seating plans** |

## Current Information Regarding Self-Isolation and Testing




Currently**,** anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least **five full days**. The first full day of isolation is the day after the onset of symptoms or the day after a positive test.

- **Before** exiting self-isolation, a person should take **two** lateral flow device (LFD) tests 24 hours apart to check they are not still infectious.
- The first lateral flow test should be taken on DAY FIVE of isolation.
- They should **remain in isolation** until they have had **two consecutive negative** LFT results **24 hours apart**.
- The earliest a person will be able to leave isolation would be on DAY SIX.

The policy on isolation in Wales will remain under review. Find out more on this on the Welsh Government website

**Anyone with symptoms must still isolate immediately and take a PCR test.**

**For all the latest up-to-date information on the operation of schools during the pandemic including guidance on testing and contact tracing, face coverings and vaccinations please visit the following websites:**

- **Welsh Government website**
- **Carmarthenshire LA Newsroom**
- **Carmarthenshire Frequently Asked Questions (also includes information on school meals and transport)**

## GCSE Revision

The range of after school activities to support learners is as follows:

| After school **study** support sessions time **2:50- 3:50pm** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| Product Design | Tourism | Maths | Textiles | Textiles |
| | Product Design | Product Design | Health, Social care | Health, Social care |
| | English Language | Science | Science | French |
| | Textiles | Geography | ICT | |
| | Health, Social care | History - Content | History - Exam Technique | |
| | RS | Computer Science | PE theory revision | |
| | Sociology | | | |
| | | | | |
| Independent Study Area (A1) | Independent Study Area (A1) | Independent Study Area (A1) | Independent Study Area (A1) | |

Furthermore, revision resources are available on both the WJEC and Bryngwyn School websites on the links below:

- http://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Pupils/Revision-Guide/
- https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-tips/

Parents and pupils in year 10 and 11 may wish to keep abreast with GCSE exams at the WJEC website:

- https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/2022-everything-you-need-toknow/

## GCSE Special Considerations

On occasion, events outside pupils' control can have an impact on their ability to study or prepare for exams. As this might have an impact on their final performance, we are sometimes able to ask the exam board to take such circumstances into consideration before final grades are issued.

**If you feel your son/daughter's study or exam preparation might have been affected in any way beyond that of other learners, please let us know by emailing enq@bryngwyn.cymru**

## Keeping Informed of Changes

During these times it remains fundamentally important we remain in contact. We will always do our best to keep parents informed of any changes as quickly as possible. **Please therefore check our text messages, SIMS Parent App, websites and social media pages on a very regular basis.** If you don't receive such updates or have changed your phone or contact details, please ensure we have up to date information by emailing us on enq@bryngwyn.cymru

If you have any questions or would like a conversation about any aspect of learning or wellbeing please contact us on 01554 750661 between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or at enq@bryngwyn.cymru as usual.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our school and wider community as well as your families and our learners.  Please stay safe and well and we look forward to continuing to work together to provide the very best experiences for all our learners through the busy half term ahead.

Diolch,

**Mr Paul Jones**

**Head teacher**

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