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26<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I trust you've had a splendid summer with your families. Please forgive the mammoth bulletin, but with September looming large there is an inordinate amount of information to share.

As always, if you have any further questions, please contact us via the school office:  
[office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk)

If your child is joining us for the first time, rest assured they will have all the usual transition support to ensure they have a smooth, enjoyable and safe start to secondary school.

### When is the school re-opening for my child in September?

As mentioned in my previous bulletin, Powys Local Authority have decided that pupils in all schools will return to school between Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The schedule for pupils returning to/starting Llanidloes High School is as follows:

Year Group	Start date	Arrival time (unless on school transport or being dropped off with siblings)
Year 7	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2020	8.30-8.45am
Year 11	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2020	8.45-9am
Year 13	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2020	8.45-9am
Year 10	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	8.45-9am
Year 12	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	8.45-9am
Year 8	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	8.30-8.45am
Year 9	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	8.30-8.45am

Please be aware that by 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, it will be compulsory for all pupils to attend school. This phased return will allow us time to settle pupils and ensure familiarity with routines to enable a smooth transition back to school.



*Centre of Excellence*



National Association for Able Children in Education  
Cymdeithas Genedlaethol i Blant Abl mewn Addysg

### Where does my child go on their first day?

Upon arrival, staff and senior pupils will be on hand to point all new pupils in the right direction. You will receive a text letting you know your child's classroom. Mr Williams will also be sending you a map and PowerPoint presentation outlining practicalities in an accessible format that you can run through with your child.

Each year group has been assigned a zone where they will be based for lessons that do not require access to specialist rooming:

Year 7 – Languages

Year 8 - Technology

Year 9 - Maths

Year 10 - Humanities

Year 11 - English

Sixth Form - 6th form block (or Science block for lessons)

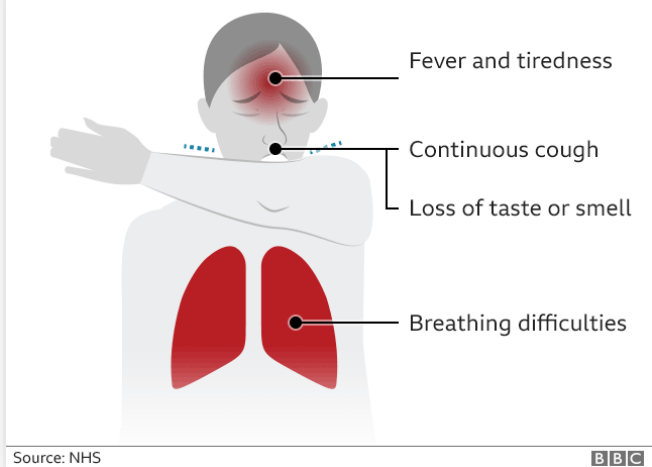
During their initial lessons, pupils will be warmly welcomed, learn health and safety protocols, enjoy induction activities, receive timetables, and so on.

### What if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature: this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough: this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste: this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

#### **Coronavirus: Key symptoms**



If you or your child develop one of these symptoms, you should:

- follow the Government's self-isolation guidance: <https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus>
- apply for a coronavirus test: <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test>

The COVID-19 online symptom checker (on NHS 111 Wales) can tell you if you need medical help: <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/SelfAssessments/symptomcheckers/COVID19.aspx>

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Only call 111 if the symptom checker advises you to do so.

**Under no circumstances** should your child attend school if they:

- feel unwell with any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms. They should remain at home and self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test;
- have tested positive for COVID-19;
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Additionally, if any of your family/household/extended household display possible symptoms of COVID-19, then your child must not attend school, but must remain at home and commence a period of household isolation.

If your child develops symptoms whilst at school, they will be sent home. However, they will not travel home on dedicated school transport. Rather, we will contact you to ask that you make arrangements for your child's journey home.

#### **What safety measures are being put in place?**



We will be following a thorough risk assessment based on Welsh Government and Local Authority guidance. A copy of the risk assessment is available on request by emailing the school office via [office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk). However, key elements include:

- Minimising contact and mixing by creating year group zones with limited access to specialist rooms in other parts of the school. Movement around the school will be restricted.
- Implementing 'contact groups' and encouraging social distancing where possible '*will still bring benefits even if implemented partially.*'<sup>1</sup>
- Use of face coverings on dedicated school transport (further guidance to follow from the Local Authority regarding use of face coverings in school).
- A rigorous cleaning regime and careful management of hand washing and hygiene.
- Signposting will help pupils implement safety measures.
- Any pupil who refuses to comply with the safety measures will be sent home.
- If anybody shows symptoms of the virus during the school day, they will be immediately isolated and collected.
- The time learners spend outdoors will be maximised.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/operational-guidance-for-schools-and-settings-from-the-autumn-term-version-2.pdf> (p28)

### What are the transport/drop off/collection arrangements?

As far as it is safe to do so, we strongly encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school.

All regular school transport routes will run from 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Please remind your child that:

- misbehaviour on school transport will not be tolerated.
- drivers of school transport must be obeyed at all times.
- while physical distancing is not required on school transport, observe physical distancing to as great an extent as possible when queuing and boarding.
- face front and **wear a face covering** (please note, there will be exceptions to this, where learners have medical or other specific needs)



If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please follow Welsh Government's guidance that, *'gathering at the school gates and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed.'*

If you have any queries about school transport that need to be answered before the start of term, please contact the relevant travel company directly. Once the term begins, you can contact the school office via [office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk)

### Does my child need to wear a face covering in school?



The current advice from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales is that face coverings are recommended for all members of the public over 11 years in indoor settings in which social distancing cannot be maintained, including schools and school transport. The Local Authority is considering whether face coverings will be required in schools. We will keep you informed of their decision. ***In the meantime, please ensure your child has a face covering they can bring to school should there be situations in which they are required to wear one (the more colourful and creative the***

***better***). Let us know if you need support to provide a face covering for your child.

It is important to remember that social/physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (catching a cough or sneeze in a tissue or covering the mouth and nose with an elbow or sleeve) remain strongly evidenced to be the most effective ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

### What about food and catering arrangements?

Pupils are encouraged to bring packed lunches to school to ensure they remain in their contact group zone during break and lunch. However, there will be staggered access to the

canteen for 'Grab-and-Go' food at lunchtime for those without a packed lunch. Please ensure your ParentPay accounts are topped up if your child is going to use the canteen.

No food will be provided at break-time by the school. No fountains will be in use, so pupils will need to bring enough water to last each day.

Strict handwashing and cleaning before and after food consumption will be required.

### What equipment should my child bring to school?



It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as lunch boxes, water bottles, bags, **face covering**, hats, coats, books and stationery (including 2 black pens, 2 green pens, pencil, 30cm ruler, protractor, rubber, pencil sharpener, coloured pencils - not felt pens, calculator, homework diary provided by the school and a reading book). ***Please ensure your child comes dressed in their PE kit on days when they have PE or games.***

Your child can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided, especially where this does not contribute to their education and development.

### Will my child be doing normal timetabled lessons when attending?

From September, we will be operating a normal timetable with the exception that year groups will spend most of their time within designated zones.

The Welsh Government has asked us to deliver '*a broad and balanced curriculum allowing [pupils] to thrive and progress*' and our teachers are raring to teach the subjects they love.

### How does the new 'Test, Trace, Protect' (TTP) strategy work in school?

The new 'Test, Trace, Protect' strategy involves testing people with symptoms, tracing those who have come into close contact with people who have tested positive for coronavirus, and protecting family, friends and our community by self-isolating. The process of testing and contact tracing is part of the 'new normal' and extends to schools. We will carefully monitor close contacts in school so that in the event of a positive test, we will be able to support the work of contact tracers.



### What will happen if my child does not attend school?

Regular school attendance from the start of term will help your child catch up on missed education, make progress and promote their well-being and wider development.



Welsh Government's operational guidance says, 'Schools and settings should be clear with parents/carers that learners of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (e.g. the learner has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance, etc.). Concerns should only be escalated to the Education Welfare Service after the school has made every attempt to engage the family.'



All pupils, including those who were previously shielding, will begin to return to their school in September.

Those pupils who have been advised that they no longer have the need to shield (from 17 August) will be supported in returning back to school. We acknowledge that support to transition back to school will be crucial for this cohort, as their level of anxiety may be greater due to the length of period many have had to shield.

If you have any concerns about your child attending school, please consider the summary of the scientific evidence from the Technical Advisory Group in my previous bulletin available on the school website. You are also welcome to contact Mr Williams, Assistant Headteacher responsible for attendance and admissions: [r.williams@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:r.williams@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk)

### What should my child wear to school? What are the behavioural expectations?



Until 5<sup>th</sup> October, **pupils can choose to wear either their own clothes or school uniform.**

There are several reasons for our temporary suspension of the uniform policy. First, we hope it will help create a relaxed learning environment at a somewhat unsettling time of transition. Second, we want to help parents adhere to the Local Authority uniform guidance without incurring additional cost. This guidance states that pupils ought 'wear clean, appropriate, easily washable clothing and footwear. Uniform that cannot be machine washed should be avoided.'

Regarding non-uniform dress code, it will be helpful for students to bear in mind the following rule of thumb: '**Not too short, Not too low, Not too tight, Nothing on show.**'

Needless to say, our expectations around behaviour remain exceptionally high. Indeed, our safe, happy learning environment is one of our great strengths as a school community. Open defiance and any behaviour that deliberately puts others at risk will not be tolerated. We are thankful for your support in reinforcing this message where necessary.

### What are the new 2020 -2021 term dates?

Following Welsh Government's decision to extend the summer term by one week, there has been one important change to the autumn term dates. The October half term has been extended by one week and will now start on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.



#### **Autumn Term**

- September start dates vary for each year group (see below) - Friday 18th December
- Half Term - **Monday 19th October** - Friday 30th October

#### **Spring Term**

- Tuesday 5th January - Friday 26th March
- Half Term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

#### **Summer Term**

- Tuesday 13th April - Friday 16th July
- Half Term - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

### And finally...



Please join us in providing your child with plenty of reassurance about returning to school in September. Indeed, we hope they share our excitement at seeing their friends and making new ones.

In recent weeks, it has been truly smashing to see the elation on the faces of our A-level and GCSE students as they picked up their results. We are looking forward to inspiring and supporting your child to similar success.

Well done on reaching the end of this missive! I promise to do my utmost to keep future communications concise.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daniel Owen'.

Daniel Owen (Headteacher)