

Pennaeth / Headteacher: Mr D Owen
Llangurig Road, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6EX
Ffôn / Tel: 01686 412289
Ffacs / Fax: 01686 413812
Ebost / Email: office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk
Gwefan / Website: www.llanidloeshighschool.co.uk



5th March, 2021

Back to school

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope you and your children are well and as excited as staff at the prospect of a return to school.

Welsh Government have recently shared that the public health situation is continuing to improve:

- Overall, the seven-day rate has fallen to 60 cases per 100,000 people.
- In every part of Wales, the rate is below 100 cases per 100,000 people and in six local authority areas, it is lower than 50 cases.
- The R number remains below 1 in Wales.
- The total number of coronavirus-related patients in hospital has fallen below 1,500 for the first time since early November.
- And over one million vaccinations have been provided to people in Wales.



This morning, Welsh Government have said it is **their intention to enable all pupils to be back on-site after Easter**. While this cannot be confirmed until their next three-weekly review on 12th March, it sounds very promising.

You will be aware from recent announcements from the Minister for Education that, taking into account the continuing improvement in the public health situation, Welsh Government has been able to set out plans to enable more learners to access on-site provision from 15th March.

Earlier today, Welsh Government sent the information below to all secondary schools across Wales. It explains the principles we are to apply when planning the return of children to on-site learning. **The final arrangements will be sent to you on Wednesday next week.**



What principles are recommended by Welsh Government concerning the return of pupils to school from 15th March

Earlier today, the Welsh Government sent us the following recommendations:

- The majority of time and resources for on-site learning should be allocated to learners in Years 11 and 13.
- The time that is allocated to face to face learning should focus on activity that is more difficult to achieve remotely.
- Remote learning will need to continue during this period for those not engaged in face to face learning, with an acknowledgment that this poses specific challenges as the proportion of face to face learning increases.

In addition to enabling schools to bring in learners in Years 11 and 13, Welsh Government recommend that the flexibility provided be used to enable schools to bring in learners for face to face teaching on the school premises in:

- Years 10 and 12 in recognition that these learners may need specific help and support to progress to the next stage of their learning
- Years 7, 8 and 9 for a check-in focused on support for wellbeing and readiness for a return to their on-site learning after Easter.

Building on the principles set out above, and for planning purposes, Welsh Government expect schools to prioritise access to on-site provision during the period from 15th March to 26th March in the following order:

- learners in Years 11 and 13
- learners in Years 10 and 12
- learners in Years 7, 8 and 9 (for check-ins).

The precise arrangements for each of these year groups will vary from school to school dependent on a number of factors, including timetabling and school transport arrangements.

The outcome of the First Minister's next 21 day review will be announced on 12th March. However, we have been told that we should continue to plan on the basis set out above. The announcement on the 12th March would only impact on our plans if the public health situation changes. Based on current indications Welsh Government do not anticipate that will happen. I will keep you informed if there are any changes.

When will the precise return to school arrangements for my child be shared?

Welsh Government are sharing exemplar return to school plans later today (Friday 5th March). We aim to use these resources to prepare and circulate final return to school arrangements for your child on **Wednesday 10th March**. In the meantime, we will continue to deliver



distance learning and update our risk assessments using the operational guidance¹ published by Welsh Government on 3rd March.

Will my child need to wear uniform?

All pupils will be allowed to wear their own clothes when they are scheduled to be on-site before Easter. From after Easter, pupils in Years 7-10 will be expected to wear full uniform.

Year 11 pupils will be allowed to wear their own clothes until the end of the academic year.

Many of the Year 11 pupils have experienced a growth spurt since we last saw them! We feel it is unreasonable to require parents and carers of Year 11 students to purchase new uniform items for just one term, especially when the health situation means we are unsure how many days they will be on site. Moreover, it will help students get a feel for life in Sixth Form from September.

And finally....

On Wednesday next week I will send you the schedule, transport details, additional return to school arrangements and key changes to our risk assessment.

By the end of next week, I will also send an update on summer assessments to parents and carers of children in Years 10-13. The summer assessment bulletin will include details of a second series of assemblies for pupils, and live webinars for parents and carers.



As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk email address or by ringing the school on 01686 412289 and we will do everything we can to help.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Owen (Headteacher)

¹ <https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-15-march-html>