

# Ysgol Uwchradd **LLANIDLOES** High School

Giving Opportunities For All to Learn

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31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021

## Arrangements for the start of term



Dear Parents and Carers,  
I trust you've had a splendid summer with your families. Please forgive the lengthy bulletin, but there is a good deal of information to share. As always, if you have any questions not covered below, please email the school office using [office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk) or phone 01686 412289.

If your child is joining us for the first time, we look forward to ensuring they have a smooth, enjoyable and safe start to secondary school.

### What are the transport arrangements from Thursday?

All home to school transport will run as normal. **Face coverings should still be worn on school transport.** If you have any queries about transport arrangements, please contact the school office on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September.



### Where should my child go when they arrive on Thursday?

Year 7 pupils are to go to the hall at 8.55am where they will receive a warm welcome to settle any lingering nerves. All other pupils need to go to their previous tutor rooms where they will receive their new timetables and important information for the term ahead.

The boys changing room refurbishment is very near completion and should be ready by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September (very posh!) **On Thursday, boys in Years 9 and 11 need to wear their PE kit to school as they have games on the first day back.** Girls in Years 9 and 11 can get changed in their new changing rooms.



Centre of Excellence



### What should my child wear to school from September?

From September, ***please ensure your child wears correct school uniform.***

- White shirt
- Maroon jumper with school motif
- School tie
- Black blazer with school motif
- Black **tailored** trousers or black knee-length skirt
- Black socks or plain black tights
- **Plain** black shoes



**No** skinny leg trousers, jeans, leggings, denim or denim-like material, are allowed. Shoes should be low-heeled, plain black with no coloured laces, soles or stripes. Trainers and canvas shoes are not allowed.

Regarding jewellery, pupils are not allowed to wear brooches, chains, badges, bracelets or colourful hair ornaments and no facial piercings. Hair should be of a natural colour. A plain finger ring and small stud ear-ring may be worn.

Blazers should be worn to and from school and when pupils are moving around the school. If it is a very hot day pupils will be given permission to remove their blazers. Jumpers can be removed and the blazer worn over the shirt.

All items of uniform can be purchased from Constructiv Clothing in Newtown. Their website is [www.constructiv.co.uk](http://www.constructiv.co.uk). The school tie, jumper, blazer and PE kit can only be purchased from Constructiv. However, parents are free to purchase other items from alternative suppliers but they must be of the same style as those displayed on the Constructiv website.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in ensuring all our students are smartly turned out.

### What is the latest Welsh Government guidance?



Nationally, we are operating at 'alert level zero'. This means that Welsh Government considers the risk level for Wales is low. At the time of writing, the Llanidloes, Blaen Hafren and Llandinam area has one of the lowest covid incidence rates in Wales. Welsh Government have said that data on hospitalisations and severe illness suggests that we can now move beyond the very restrictive approach to dealing with COVID-19 that they previously considered necessary.

In recognising the balance of benefits and harms to learners and staff, Welsh Government's guiding principles are to:

- enable schools to operate as 'business as usual' as far as possible including the provision of after school clubs, extra-curricular activities and practical subjects;
- secure the best outcomes for all learners by considering both their educational needs and wellbeing;
- manage ongoing risks of COVID-19 as safely as possible as for other infections, and ensure clarity of actions required if there is a case in a school.

The Welsh Government's control plan signals the expectation that schools should operate as normally as possible at alert level zero. However, they say the COVID-19 situation remains uncertain, and they may require changes to our risk management approach in the event of any significant developments. In the meantime, the school continues to be supported by local public health officials to ensure measures are appropriate to our own circumstances.

### What measures are going to be in place from the start of term?

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, Welsh Government's revised operational guidance will be implemented. The key points as they apply to your child are outlined below.

- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate and not attend school.** Please report any positive tests to the office team directly by calling 01686 412289.
- **Staff and learners should not attend school if they have any of the three cardinal symptoms of COVID-19 (new persistent cough, fever and/or loss of taste or smell).** If a learner, staff or visitor becomes unwell or symptomatic while attending the school, they should leave the school as soon as possible and follow the advice on Test, Trace, Protect (TTP), including self-isolating and arranging a test. If the test is negative they can leave self-isolation. If they cannot be tested or they test positive, symptomatic individuals need to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of symptoms. The Welsh Government guidance for self-isolation is available via the following link: <https://gov.wales/self-isolation>
- Regular handwashing, and respiratory etiquette ('Catch it, Bin it, Kill it') remain key interventions to prevent spread and manage cases, incidents and outbreaks.
- Adequate ventilation will be maintained by opening windows or adjusting ventilation systems.
- Appropriate levels of cleaning will be maintained in line with other communicable diseases.
- Twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing continue to be offered to staff and learners in secondary schools.<sup>1</sup> Please contact the office if you interested in taking up the offer.
- We will encourage physical distancing in indoor communal areas outside of the classroom, such as corridors. However, **contact groups/bubbles will play a limited role in school**



<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/local-covid-19-infection-control-decision-framework-schools-autumn-2021.html>





**from the start of the autumn term.** This is consistent with the approach being taken in child care. The reliance on contact groups will be replaced by a stronger focus on contact tracing, in line with the general population.

- We have been asked to encourage parents/carers not to remain on the premises or at the gates longer than necessary especially when dropping off and collecting children.

- It is still recommended that learners limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as lunch boxes, bags, coats, books and stationery. **We recommend smartphones are left**

**at home as they are not required in lessons.**

These arrangements will be kept under regular review with Local Authority support.

### **What happens if there is a case of COVID-19 in school?**

If a positive case is identified in a school, TTP (Test, Trace, Protect) will lead on identifying the close contacts of staff and learners who have tested positive, supported by discussions with the school. It is TTP's role to identify which individuals meet the definition of a close contact and who, if anyone, would be required to self-isolate. TTP will interview learners who are aged under 16 with a parent or legal guardian.

**Please note that at alert level zero, contacts of a proven case of COVID-19 who are under the age of 18, or those who are fully vaccinated, do not have to self-isolate unless they themselves start to show symptoms of COVID-19.** TTP contact tracers will offer PCR testing on day 2 (or as soon as possible once identified as a contact) and day 8. PCR tests are not mandatory. The majority of learners in a class or year group are unlikely to be identified as close contacts. If a child does not have symptoms and has not been advised to stay home/self-isolate by TTP then they can attend the school.

### **What is the new guidance on protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable from coronavirus (COVID-19) – previously known as 'shielding'**

Welsh Government says current evidence shows that children and young people are very unlikely to become seriously unwell if they get COVID 19, even if they have other health conditions. As a result, those in this age group are no longer considered clinically extremely vulnerable, and are to be removed from the shielding patient list. All children and young people on the shielding patient list will receive a letter from the Chief Medical Officer with more information about this. The only exception is those young people who will be 18 years of age before 31 December 2021.

### **Does my child need a face covering?**

**Face coverings are no longer routinely recommended in schools by Welsh Government** but may be worn by staff and pupils anywhere on the school site should they wish to do so.

However, unless your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, **please ensure they still bring a face covering to school.** For example, a member of staff may have an individual risk assessment that requires pupils to wear a face covering during their lessons. We will also encourage their use in areas where there is likely to be more social mixing, such as in communal areas/corridors. **Face coverings should still be worn on school transport.**

### What are the new catering arrangements?

The Welsh Government's expectation is that school catering provision will revert to its pre-COVID arrangements. Learners who are eligible for free school meals will be provided with a free meal on each day they attend. Other learners will still be expected to pay for their meals.

### Is there anything else I need to remember?

- If your child is joining Year 7 and you have yet to return the induction pack, please ask them to hand it in at the office as it includes important consent forms.
- Please provide up-to-date medical, allergy and emergency contact details prior to coming back on site wherever possible or upon your child's return.

### Exams update



The WJEC examination board have expressed understanding that learners and teachers have experienced a great deal of disruption to teaching and learning throughout 2020 and 2021. Following Qualifications Wales' announcement that assessments will be adapted in summer 2022, WJEC have confirmed that in most subjects, they have decided to implement adaptations. The adaptation booklets for GCE and GCSE subjects are available for teachers to view on the WJEC Secure Website: <https://www.wjecservices.co.uk/login.asp> WJEC intend to publish subject summaries on their public website in

September so they can be accessed by students and their parents.

### What are the new 2021 -2022 term dates?

#### Autumn Term (2021)

- Return to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Half-Term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October
- Return to school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

#### Spring Term (2022)

- Return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Half-Term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February
- Return to school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February until Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

#### Summer Term (2022)

- Return to school on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May
- Half-Term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June\*
- Return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June until 14<sup>th</sup> July\*

Non-Pupil Days 2021/22	Useful dates 21/22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 1 September 2021</li> <li>• Tuesday 4 January 2022</li> <li>• Friday 8 April 2022</li> <li>• Monday 25 April 2022</li> <li>• Friday 15 July 2022*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Friday: Friday 15 April 2022</li> <li>• Easter Monday: Monday 18 April 2022</li> <li>• May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022</li> <li>• Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 30 May 2022</li> <li>• Substitute Bank Holiday (Queen's Platinum Jubilee): Monday 18 July 2022</li> <li>• Royal Welsh Show: Monday 18 July 2022 - Thursday 21 July 2022</li> </ul>

## Great Opportunities For All to Learn

### And finally...

Our 'Gofal' ethos is at the heart of all we do at Llanidloes High School. In practice, this means we aim to:

- Create a caring learning environment and compassionate ethos where all pupils enjoy a happy and rewarding educational experience.
- Value all pupils equally and develop each pupil to their maximum potential. This includes extending the more able pupils and effectively supporting pupils with additional learning needs.
- Offer pupils a curriculum that is broad, balanced and relevant to their needs and those of society, providing the skills required for a successful and productive adult life. This will include effective implementation of the Welsh Government's new 'Curriculum for Life'.
- Foster excellence in academic study and high personal ethical standards including integrity, courtesy and compassion.
- Regularly draw upon strong educational research and best practice from across the world to continually improve the quality of education we provide.



We look forward to working closely with you in the year ahead to ensure your child flourishes and enjoys their life at school.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Owen (Headteacher)