



ST. CENYDD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Aspire & Achieve

Dear Parent and Carer

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well, and that your children have had an enjoyable summer break so far.

As per my letter to you on 17 July 2020, you will be aware that the Minister of Education announced towards the end of summer term that all pupils will return to school by Monday 14 September. Many of our staff have been working hard throughout their holidays to prepare the school for this and to make the necessary arrangements so that we can make a safe and confident return to school.

The operational guidance from the Welsh Government was further updated last week, and there are still some areas to be confirmed over the next week or so. I will send you another letter towards the end of next week with these details. Also, in advance of your child returning to school, I will send you a 'Questions and Answers' document as I did when we reopened the school for the 'catch up, check in and prepare' sessions at the end of June.

Start of term arrangements

The autumn term in Wales will start on Tuesday, 1 September 2020 for staff, followed by a phased return for all pupils. The Education Minister has allowed for a staggered return to school over the first two weeks along with two national 'planning and preparation days' at the start of term.

Our focus initially will be on an enhanced transition for our new Year 7 pupils and then a focus on our Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students who will be sitting exams next summer.

All pupils will return to school by Monday 14 September 2020.

Our plan for return is

	Tues 1 Sept	Wed 2 Sept	Thurs 3 Sept	Fri 4 Sept	Mon 7 Sept	Tues 8 Sept	Wed 9 Sept	Thurs 10 Sept	Fri 11 Sept	Mon 14 Sept
Year 7	National Planning and Preparation Days		INSET Day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year 8										✓
Year 9									✓	✓
Year 10								✓	✓	✓
Year 11	Staff only		Staff only				✓	✓	✓	✓
Year 12					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year 13						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Teaching and Learning

Although a return to school for all pupils is expected by Monday 14 September, there will be restrictions and safety measures to ensure that the school environment is as safe and low risk as practicably possible for all. Therefore, we will not be returning to 'business as usual'.

It will be our aim to start face to face lessons as soon as each year group returns to school. We will minimise the number of classrooms that a pupil goes into. Our principle will be that pupils will remain in the same classroom for as much of their timetable as practically possible and that their teachers will move to them. This will also minimise contacts during lesson changeover in corridors.

Pupils will be in cohort 'contact' groups and we must minimise contact within that contact group and aim to eliminate contact outside that contact group. Pupils will be taught in their ability sets. Your child will receive their timetable on their first day back at school.

Our staggered return programme allows for an enhanced transition for Y7, Y12 and Y13 and there will be a blended learning programme for Y8 and Y9 in the w/b 7 September.

Minimising contacts

As we did for the 'catch up, check in, prepare' sessions in July, each cohort contact group will have a 'mini school site' within the school where they will have all of their lessons and break times. Pupils will not be allowed to mix with pupils from other year groups and will not be allowed to enter another year group's mini school site.

We will

- reduce the number of contacts where possible
- operate a one way system and 'mini school site' for cohorts for lessons and breaks
- reduce corridor numbers by limiting the number of classroom changes for children
- stagger breaks and the end of the day
- enforce robust seating plans
- revert to traditional face fronting learning and teaching
- minimise year group contacts
- avoid large gatherings such as assemblies

Again the principle will be that staff move around the site, not pupils. Staff will operate a 2m social distance from one another and from children. Our approach is based on your child's ability to socially distance and comply with our expectations. It is vital that every member of the school community complies with these expectations to keep themselves and others safe.

School Day timings

The CCBC school canteen will not be open in September. Therefore we will not have a lunch hour within the school day. This will significantly support us in minimising mixing between cohorts and ensuring efficient cleaning routines across the school site. Pupils should bring snacks and water into school, and we will have two short breaks during the day. Pupils will have their lunch at home.

CCBC school transport (school buses and taxis) will be finalised over the coming weeks by Caerphilly Council. I would still urge that children travel to school by walking, by bicycle or by having a lift from a member of their household. I understand that further details about school transport will be sent out to parents by CCBC next week.

Therefore our school day timings in September will be

0815	This is the earliest time that a child should arrive on school site
0830-0930	Lesson 1
0930-1045	Lesson 2 including a 15 minute break
1045-1145	Lesson 3
1145-1305	Lesson 4 including a 20 minute break
1305-1405	Lesson 5 (there will be a staggered end beginning at 1355 for some year groups)
1410	All children should have left school site

School Uniform

All pupils will attend in their full school uniform in September. Our school uniform expectations remain the same and are detailed on the school website. For those families who qualify for the PDG Access Grant for Y7 and Y10 pupils, please contact Caerphilly Council directly if you have not received information about this.

GCSE, AS and A level results

You will have seen considerable coverage in the national press. We welcome the decision to base the grades on the centre assessment grades for GCSE, AS and A level.

I would like to stress that the grades that will be issued are centre assessed grades not teacher assessed grades. This is a small but important difference. The robust process that we used at St Cenydd to confirm these centre assessed grades were fully in line with the guidance that was given. A wide range of evidence was considered for each individual pupil, in each subject. A grade was proposed, considered through a robust moderation process, and then signed off by two members of the department. All grades for all pupils in all subjects were then further considered by senior and pastoral staff. And finally I, as Headteacher and Head of Centre, signed off each centre assessed grade.

We understand that the AS and A level grades will be reissued by the WJEC this week. Although our Y12 and Y13 students have been informed of these grades already, we will post the WJEC confirmation to each student as soon as possible.

With regard to GCSE results day tomorrow, all Y11 pupils have received a series of emails to their school email account about the arrangements for collection of their results. There will also be, as there was for Y12 and Y13 students, the opportunity for all Y11 pupils to request a telephone call with a member of staff to discuss their results and seek advice and guidance. Staff will not be available on school site.

And finally with A level results now published, the term of office for our Head Girl, Tegan Davies, has come to an end. Tegan has been an outstanding role model for so many students throughout the school. She has led the School Pupil Senedd, spoken at numerous events, chaired interview panels, and has done so with maturity, confidence and great skill. We will miss her, and her deputies Ben Mock and Kacey Dear. The application process for our new Head Girl/Boy and School Senedd will open in the next half term.

I will be in contact again towards the end of next week with further detail regarding our return in September. We are very much looking forward to seeing all of our pupils!

On behalf of everyone at St Cenydd, I would like to thank you for your continued support and kindness. I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable remainder of the summer. Please take care and stay safe.

With thanks

Miss Collins

Headteacher

