



# BISHOP HEDLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9AN

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Hopkins BA (Hons) MA NPQH

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG ESGOB HEDLEY

T: 01685 351860

F: 01685 385292

Email: [office@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk](mailto:office@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk)

[www.bishophedley.co.uk](http://www.bishophedley.co.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. You will no doubt have seen the Education Minister's Announcement this morning outlining Welsh Government's plans to bring all pupils back into school "if the scientific advice still says it's safe to do so". The guidance we have received isn't quite as clear cut as the media portray and I wish to outline for you our plans for the return of your children to school from the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## Year 11

All Year 11 pupils will be welcomed back to school from the 15<sup>th</sup> March to re-engage with learning prior to breaking up for Easter, wearing full school uniform. During these two weeks pupils will follow their school timetable and will be guided by their teachers. Pupil's wellbeing remains our priority and supporting them to be in a suitable mind-frame to be able to fulfil their potential across the school. They have been working independently via Online Lessons for a considerable amount of time, and we believe that these two weeks will provide the academic structure that they will need to 'get back into it' both physically and mentally. If pupils ordinarily access school transport, this will be provided – face coverings will need to be worn and pupils adhere to seating plans on buses. Pupils will also need to bring a packed lunch as there will be no catering facilities available on site for these two weeks. *Attendance for these learners is mandatory.*

A reminder that a virtual Q & A session for Year 11 parents is planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> March, details of this has been emailed to all Year 11 parents and posted on our social media platforms.

## Year 10

All Year 10 pupils will be required to attend school on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March for their ENGLISH LESSONS ONLY. This is again to prepare pupils for submission of work in this subject and provide the face to face teaching that is now necessary to move them on. Similarly, for these sessions, pupils will need to be in full school uniform to create a studious mind-set and positive work ethic.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March - 9 – 12.30 (Sets 2-5) (Miss Jenkins, Miss Walters, Mrs Van Baaren & Mrs Harrington)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March - 9 – 12.30 (Set 1) (Mrs Van Baaren)

If pupils ordinarily access school transport, this will be provided for them to come into school, however arrangements will need to be made to collect pupils at 12.30pm from Phase 2 car park – face coverings will need to be worn and pupils adhere to seating plans on buses. If transport is an issue, please contact Mr Davies [rdavies@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk](mailto:rdavies@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk)

## Lateral Flow Testing

Welsh Government have announced that Lateral Flow tests will be available for pupils in Year 10 and above. These will be self-administered at home twice weekly. However, the first test will be undertaken on the first day back before pupils move into lessons. Once this test has been done, pupils will be given tests to bring home with instructions of when to do these and how.

WG believe that rapid testing using Lateral Flow tests will support the return to face-to-face learning by helping to detect infection. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged. It will mean we will not have to send large groups of children home. *Please note that if you do opt out of the testing process, you should be aware that in the event of a positive test in your child's contact group, your child will be required to stay at home for the usual 10 day isolation period.*



Please complete the attached form to give your consent for your child to receive a Lateral Flow Test. Consent for pupils in Years 10 & 11 is required by **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLRB7NDfA1eOKEm44m1-BahlaFzihpM6Xh5gqdTOzB2noAwg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLRB7NDfA1eOKEm44m1-BahlaFzihpM6Xh5gqdTOzB2noAwg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**IT IS VITAL THAT NO FOOD OR DRINK IS CONSUMED WITHIN 30 MINUTES PRIOR THE TEST. TESTING WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL 9AM.**

### **Years 7, 8 & 9**

We are providing the opportunity for a face to face wellbeing support session for all learners in these year groups during the two weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> March. Pupils will attend school from 8.40am and be in school until 10am. Pupils go straight to their form class. The session will be led by their form tutor, with a focus solely on wellbeing in preparation for a full return after the Easter break. Uniform is not required and transport is the parent's responsibility. Pick up and drop off will be at Phase 2. Specific dates are outlined below.

<b>Week 2 (w/c 15<sup>th</sup> March)</b>	<b>Week 1 (w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> March)</b>
Tuesday 16th 7L 7O	Tuesday 23rd 7D 7N 7G
Wednesday 17th 8D 8N	Wednesday 24th 8L 8O
Thursday 18th 9L 9O	Thursday 25th 9D 9N

### **Hub Provision**

In order for us to ensure the safety of all pupils, if pupils are going to access face to face provision and currently access the Hub, the decision will lie with parents as to which one to choose. We are unable to allow pupils to mix contact groups.

### **Face Coverings**

There is a strong recommendation now, based on scientific evidence, that face coverings are to be worn in class if social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings are also still required when pupils are moving around the school site, other than when they are eating lunch! Please ensure that your child has 2 masks with them daily, especially if they are using the disposable ones. I am aware that some pupils will be medically exempt from wearing face masks, if you believe this to be the case, please ensure that the relevant Progress Leader is aware.

Yours faithfully



**Sarah Hopkins**  
Headteacher