

07/1/2022

Dear Parents / Guardians

At the start of the Spring 2022 term at Ysgol Glan Clwyd I would like to wish everyone in the school community a happy new year.

As you know covid remains as a cloud above us at the beginning of a new year, but we as a school are in the middle of two preparation days for reopening for pupils next week. I can confirm that we as staff are all very positive and look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday morning, January 10th, 2022.

We are aware that many pupils are anxious at the moment, but I am confident that Ysgol Glan Clwyd will continue to be a happy and safe place for them to return to. Our emphasis again this term will be on resuming the learning and ensuring the best possible support for the progress and well-being of all our pupils. Our emphasis on Respect and Kindness will of course continue during this term and we look forward to reopening as we move forward together.

Some pupils will have important external exams next week, and yet again I would like to allay concerns and emphasise our full commitment to supporting Year 11 again as we ensure a positive and safe educational environment for them to thrive.

With Monday's reopening some important measures will be in place to ensure that we can remain fully open to the community of Ysgol Glan Clwyd. We have prepared an Operational Guidance for reopening in January and would like to encourage you as parents to read and share it with your children. We will of course communicate and support the pupils with these changes when they return to school on Monday morning.

But I'd like to highlight some important headlines before concluding.

Lateral Flow Tests. LFDs.

These tests are now key in secondary schools for all pupils and staff. The strong expectation from Welsh Government is that all staff and learners of secondary age should use lateral flow tests three times a week and record these results on this site: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Pupils are expected to do testing and record the result on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Supplies of LFD kits will be available at the school.

Masks / Face Coverings

It is essential that pupils and staff wear a mask / face covering in all indoor areas of the school - including in their lessons - where distancing cannot be guaranteed. This rule of course continues to apply on all school transport. Masks will be available at school if there is a shortage - but we would like to ask parents to ensure that every child leaves the house in the morning with a mask ready for the journey to school and then the school day at Ysgol Glan Clwyd.

Good Ventilation

In order to ensure the healthiest possible environment, we will ensure that the school is well ventilated. This means leaving doors and windows open. I would therefore encourage you to ensure that your child wears full school uniform during this term. The school jumper and school blazer will provide warmth at times when it will be cooler as a result of enforced ventilation.

Reducing Periods of Close Pupil Interaction

We will plan to reduce the risk of close interaction between pupils by managing the busiest periods of the school day. We will implement a dual school timetable to reduce pupil numbers at break and lunch times. Please see the Guidance for details of the dual timetable.

The catering service will be fully operational at school lunchtimes but only at lunchtime. There will be two lunch sittings with Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 in one sitting and Years 8, 9 and 10 in the other sitting. As the school has two lunch periods, and in order to ensure the safe and effective running of these arrangements, we are reducing the individual lunch time to 40 minutes.

End of School Day

One indirect effect of the change to lunchtime arrangements is that the school day needs to finish a little earlier - **so the school day at Ysgol Glan Clwyd will end at 3:15.**

This is a temporary change in order to increase covid control, and is allowed as a result of the Welsh Government's temporary disapplication of the school session times regulations. The change has been supported by the Head of Education and the school transport department in Denbighshire. We would like to emphasize of course that we continue to fully honour the need for 25 hours of face-to-face lessons. This can be clearly seen from the timetable in the Guidance.

There is much more I would like to emphasize to demonstrate our efforts to re-open safely and sustainably for your child therefore I urge everyone to turn to the Guidance.

We are making these changes in order to ensure the safety and continuity of education at Ysgol Glan Clwyd, and to reinforce the message of mutual respect within the school community. We will obviously keep our operation under review subject to local and national conditions, and will continue to strive to communicate fully and regularly with you. This is clearly a time when we all need to be flexible and responsive to a complex and constantly changing situation. But you can be assured that all of our decisions as staff are driven by the wellbeing and progress of all the pupils at Ysgol Glan Clwyd.

We therefore look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday morning and please contact us at school if you have any matters to discuss.

Yours sincerely



Gwyn Tudur
Headteacher