

16th June 2020



YSGOL RHOSNESNI
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for notifying us of your intentions in relation to the partial re-opening of Rhosnesni on 29th June. We will shortly confirm your decision with an email/text directly to you. If you have declined a place, I understand and respect your decision. However, I must be clear that we cannot determine and manage capacity on a daily or weekly basis. Therefore, children who arrive without our prior knowledge or agreement will not be permitted to attend.

Allocation of Sessions

We are proposing to follow a model that significantly reduces the risks of Covid-19 transmission in a number of ways. A year group will have two consecutive morning sessions (excluding Year 7), twice over the remaining four weeks. Afternoons and Wednesdays will be used for deep cleaning. Each session will be 9.30am – 12.30pm. The dates for each year group are:

Year 10: 29th & 30th June; 13th & 14th July ONLY

Year 9: 2nd & 3rd July; 16th & 17th July ONLY

Year 8: 6th & 7th July; 20th & 21st July ONLY

Year 7: 9th OR 10th July; 23rd OR 24th July ONLY (Year 7 students will be allocated two days)

Each year group will be divided into 'bubbles' of a maximum of 8 students, socially distanced in one classroom, with desks at least 2 metres apart. In these small bubbles, students will complete some well-being tasks and study skills tutorials. They will have a scheduled toilet/comfort break, but no other recreational time.

Pupil Attendance Arrangements

Attendance at school during these four weeks will not be compulsory. Parents have been given a choice. It is advised that students walk or are driven to school. The only entrances in operation will be the Holt Road and Borrass Road gates. No parents will be allowed on site or in the main reception, unless this is agreed by the Headteacher in advance.

If you have indicated that your child will be attending school, it is essential that you follow the normal absence reporting procedure. Please inform us immediately should your child suffer from COVID-19 symptoms. Do not send your child to school if they have a high temperature, new persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell. To report absence on the day your child is due in school, please contact our reception team by telephone. You will be contacted, in accordance with standard procedures, if we are expecting your child in school and he/she does not attend.

Please note that we cannot admit students who arrive late, under any circumstances. Gates will open at 9.15am. It is your responsibility to make sure that your child arrives before our gates close at 9.35am.

Health Checks, Medical Conditions and ALN Support

Any pupil in receipt of a shielding letter must remain at home. Please ensure that you have read the Welsh Government's advice for schools and parents.

It will be necessary for students to declare on arrival each day that there has been no known contact with someone who is self-isolating or who has actual or suspected symptoms.

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If your child is not categorised as vulnerable, but has a Medical Care Plan, please telephone reception and speak with your child's Progress Manager before the 29th June. Similarly, if your child has Additional Learning Needs, please contact our ALNCo, Mrs Dokk-Olsen, to discuss reasonable adjustments.

A First Aider will be on-call throughout the day. PPE will be available and kept in the medical room for use in the event of injury or illness.

The Conference Room will become the isolation area should anyone develop symptoms during the school day. Should this be the case, you will be notified and asked to collect your child. In the event of a student displaying symptoms during the school day, the 'class bubble' may be asked to isolate in accordance with Welsh Government Guidance.

Uniform and Equipment

Students will not be expected to wear any items of school uniform, but rules pertaining to jewellery and make-up will still apply. Government guidance states that clothing should be washed when a student returns home. No bags or personal property will be permitted on site, with the exception of a pen. Water will be provided on request.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones will be completely prohibited. It is vital that we minimise the risk of cross-contamination between school and home. It is also essential that any communication between parents and students occurs with the school's knowledge and consent. If a parent needs to contact their child, or vice versa, the school reception will be open to receive and send telephone messages. Any student found to be in possession of personal items will be sent home and asked to continue with online learning via Google Classroom.

Arrival and Departure

Regrettably, parents will not be permitted to enter the premises. The Rhosnesni Lane entrance and main reception will be open to staff only. When arriving on site, students will need to line-up using the social distance marks indicated on the ground. Students will have been allocated a 'class bubble'. There will be a member of staff at both designated entrances to the inner site. On arrival, students should be 2 metres from any other person.

Well-being and Study Skills Sessions

All movement around the site will be directed and monitored by staff. No students will be allowed to enter a classroom, corridor or toilet without the consent of the school's senior leaders. Students will be expected to wash and sanitise their hands when instructed, using existing sinks and newly installed dispensers.

Students will be required to remain seated in their allocated class bubble at all times, unless entering or exiting the room. Each classroom will use a specific toilet block. These will be cleaned on a regular basis. Students will be given a toilet/comfort break during the morning. This will allow us to safely supervise each 'class bubble' and ensure hands are sanitised. School will provide sanitary products to students who require them during their school day.

All classrooms will have a social distancing layout and risk assessments in place. There will be clear guidance placed on each individual desk so that students know what our safety expectations are. Students will be required to remain at their desks whilst in their classroom. They will not be allowed to freely move around, or leave their seat without permission.

Expectations for Behaviour


Any student who does not adhere to social distancing and safety rules will be immediately removed from school and asked to revert to home learning. This is to ensure that we will all remain safe. If you are concerned that your child will be unable to socially distance or adhere to our expectations, please urgently withdraw your request for a place. I cannot and will not endanger students, colleagues or family members by accepting reckless, irresponsible or uncooperative behaviour.

Finally, please rest assured that we are making every effort to minimise the risks of Covid-19 transmission following the Welsh Government's decision to partially re-open all schools. However, our plans and risk assessments require your full support and cooperation. I respectfully request that you explain to your child how important social distancing and hygiene have become in public buildings. Risk control measures at Rhosnesni must be stringently observed.

From now until the 24th July, my colleagues and I will be focussing on operational safety and logistical matters. We will not be available to debate the information provided in this letter or justify decisions, such as the complete prohibition of mobile phones. However, we will endeavour to allay any anxieties or concerns you may have.

I thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Brant
Headteacher

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