



Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the past three weeks, we have safely and successfully re-opened Ysgol Rhosnesni. I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to this significant organisational challenge. Students have behaved impeccably, giving me considerable confidence about our options for the future. Please rest assured that, throughout the next academic year, our risk assessments and operational plans will remain robust and adaptable.

September 2020 – The New Normal

Following the publication of Welsh Government guidance earlier this week, I would like to clarify our arrangements for September 2020. These plans do not reflect many of our usual routines and procedures at Rhosnesni, but they allow us to mitigate the risks presented by COVID-19.

Students will begin to return to school from September 3rd. **By September 9th, we hope that all year groups will be fully re-integrated.** As one would expect, our new Year 7 students will receive an important induction package during the first week of term. It is essential that these youngsters are welcomed, supported and prioritised. However, we are mindful that all students will need to readjust to full timetables and daily school life. Equally important is the need to familiarise every young person with additional safety measures and hygiene expectations.

Start of Term

Please find details of our staggered start to term below. We ask that students enter from the Borrás Road gate from 8.40am until 8.55am:

Date	First Day Back	Year Groups in School
Thursday 3 rd September	Year 7	Year 7 only
Friday 4 th September	Year 11	Years 7 & 11
Monday 7 th September	Year 10	Years 7, 11 & 10
Tuesday 8 th September	Year 9	Years 7, 11, 10 & 9
Wednesday 9 th September	Year 8	Years 7, 11, 10, 9 & 8

Each day, the Borrás Road internal gates will open at 8.40am. On a year group's first day of term, students will be led to their teaching zones by the senior leadership team. On subsequent days, students will go immediately to their designated area at 9.00am, rather than going to line-up.

Teaching and Learning

From September, we intend to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, but it is inevitable that many aspects of school life will be affected. Students will follow a traditional timetable with specialist subject teachers, but they will be placed in year group zones. This will limit movement around the school site, significantly reducing contacts and maximising distancing. Specialist facilities will still be used for practical activities and GCSE options, wherever possible.

RESPECT HONESTY SUCCESS
PARCH GONESTRWYDD A LLWYDDIANT

Whilst there will be no morning form period or assemblies, each week we will schedule a well-being hour in which students will explore personal, social and health themes with the help of their form tutor.

Catering and Breaks

Initially, students will be encouraged to bring a packed-lunch and healthy snacks. Alternatively, students will be able to pre-order a 'grab and go' lunch from our canteen. Regrettably, the canteen will not be open at morning break. The arrangements for students in receipt of free school meals will revert to on-site provision, rather than payments, as of September.

Students will socialise in outdoor year-group zones, with allocated toilet blocks. Again, this will mitigate any risks to staff and students. Hand sanitisers will be positioned near the entrances to teaching zones and regular hygiene reminders will be issued.

Uniform and Behaviour

Our expectation is that all students will return in full school uniform. Our website provides absolute clarity about Rhosnesni standards. Please do not deviate from the approved styles of clothing and footwear. Low income families may be eligible for Pupil Development Grants. Please contact Wrexham County Borough Council for further information.

As in previous years, the use of mobile phones by our students will be strictly prohibited. I cannot stress enough how important your support and co-operation will be in this matter.

Any student who does not adhere to our stringent safety measures will be sent home, following a discussion with parents. We will not allow reckless, irresponsible or uncooperative behaviour on site. Put simply, the risks to my colleagues and other students are too great to ignore.

Online Communication

Further updates will be provided before the start of the new term. These will be communicated via the website, our Twitter page and by email.

Finally, I would like to wish you a relaxing and peaceful summer break. This has been a year like no other and we still face many challenges and some uncertainty. However, I believe that with hard work, determination and flexibility we can help our young people to return to full-time education in September.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Brant', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Brant
Headteacher