

3rd September 2020



YSGOL RHOSNESNI
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Risk Assessments and Control Measures

I hope that you and your family have had a pleasant and relaxing summer. We are incredibly excited to be back, but we must prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students. In my last letter, dated Friday 17th July, I outlined our plans for the beginning of this term. I want to provide you with some additional information about our risk assessments and control measures.

Headteachers and governors have been asked to make judgments at a school level about how to balance and minimise any risks from COVID-19 with providing a full educational experience for children. In creating year group bubbles and zones, we hope to significantly reduce the number of contacts that every Rhosnesni learner has during the school day. This approach will also help us to react quickly and effectively in the event of a suspected Covid-19 outbreak.

It is essential that we minimise the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable. In addition to year group teaching and recreation zones, five important concepts underpin our existing control measures. I want to briefly explain the importance of each area:

1) A requirement that people who are unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 stay at home

Under no circumstances should learners or staff attend schools/settings if they:

- feel unwell with any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms. They should remain at home and self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test
- have tested positive for COVID-19
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for COVID-19

Rhosnesni has a clear escalation policy and procedure in place if learners or staff begin to present symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. Students showing symptoms will be supervised, from a safe distance, in a separate room until they can be collected at the Borrás Road entrance. In this scenario, no student will be permitted to return within the next 10 days unless they can evidence a negative test result.

2) Robust hand and respiratory hygiene

COVID-19 is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or using a hand sanitiser. Colleagues will insist that students clean/sanitise their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating and after using the toilet. Good respiratory hygiene, including the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and 'coughing into elbows' will also be expected.

3) Continued increased cleaning arrangements

We are continuing with a schedule that ensures cleaning is significantly enhanced and includes:

- more frequent cleaning of rooms/shared areas after they have been used by different groups
- frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal
- where possible, providing separate toilets for different contact groups. Where this is not possible, using hand sanitiser before entering the toilet and ensuring toilets are cleaned regularly

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4) Active engagement with the Test, Trace, Protect strategy

Test, Trace, Protect works by:

- testing those people who have coronavirus symptoms, asking them to isolate from family, friends and their community while taking a test and waiting for a result. People can apply for a test for themselves or someone in their household with symptoms. Information and guidance regarding how to apply for a test can be found at the Welsh Government website
- tracing those people who have been in close contact with people that have tested positive for the virus, requiring them to take precautions through self-isolation. Further information on contact tracing and how it operates can be found on the Welsh Government website
- ensuring that if the symptoms are not due to coronavirus, individuals and their contacts can cease their period of self-isolation and get back to their normal routines as soon as possible
- providing advice and guidance, particularly if the person who has symptoms or their contacts were previously in the 'shielding group' or are in the increased risk group.

5) Facemasks in communal indoor areas.

Following very recent guidance from Welsh Government, all Wrexham secondary school students are now required to bring facemasks for use in corridors and communal indoor areas. Students at Rhosnesni will not be wearing face coverings in any classrooms, as this will inhibit communication and learning.

Arrival and departure information

In the first few weeks of term, we will be using the Borrass Road and Holt Road gates only. Gates will open at 8.40am, with students permitted to enter their classrooms at 9.00am.

Students will also be leaving the site from these gates (Borrass and Holt), with Years 10 and 11 departing at 2.50pm until I notify you otherwise. Years 7, 8 and 9 will be dismissed from these gates in short intervals from 3.00pm. These interim arrangements will allow children to disperse quickly as they leave the school site.

Whether the beginning or end of the school day, please do not park or convene near to the school's entrances. Similarly, please do not block residents' driveways or be inconsiderate. I would be extremely grateful if parents in cars could arrange to collect children from an agreed rendezvous point a short walking distance from the school.

Face-to-face meetings with parents are currently suspended

In the interests of safety, our main reception area is currently closed to all parents, carers and relatives. Adults, other than colleagues and professionals with appointments, should not enter the school grounds at present. Please ring the school number if you have any concerns or queries. Members of our pastoral, safeguarding and ALN teams will contact you at the earliest opportunity.

Behaviour and compliance

Finally, I must reiterate that any student who does not adhere to our stringent safety measures will be sent home, following a discussion with parents. The vast majority of our students always behave in an exemplary manner. However, please let me be absolutely clear: we will not accept reckless, irresponsible or uncooperative behaviour from any member of our school community.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding,

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Brant
Headteacher