



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I suggested back in June, September 2020 will be like no other start of the academic year previously experienced at Ysgol Rhosnesni. Following the publication of Welsh Government guidance earlier this week, I would like to clarify our arrangements for the autumn term. 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.

Whilst we are saddened that we have not been able to welcome Year 6 students to our site during the summer term, we are confident that we can prioritise Year 7 induction processes during the first week of full re-opening. We will make every effort to welcome, settle and integrate our youngest students.

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, my colleagues and I will meet and greet all newcomers at the Borrass Road entrance between 8.40am and 8.55am. We will then take students to their teaching zones and begin a safe, stimulating and enjoyable two days of bespoke activities.

From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, we intend to provide our Year 7 students with a broad and balanced curriculum, but it is inevitable that many aspects of school life will be affected. Your child will follow a traditional timetable with specialist subject teachers, but they will be placed in a year group zone. This will limit movement around the school site, significantly reducing contacts and maximising distancing. However, we do not want provision to be diminished and specialist facilities will be used for practical activities, wherever safe and possible.

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. This will be particularly important for our newest students, as they settle into the secondary school environment.

### **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.

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.

**RESPECT HONESTY SUCCESS**  
**PARCH GONESTRWYDD A LLWYDDIANT**

Leaders at Rhosnesni have become increasingly adept at COVID-19 risk assessments. This must continue in September. Similarly, any student who does not adhere to our stringent safety measures will have to be sent home, following a discussion with parents. Whilst I am sure that Year 7 students will behave impeccably, I will not allow reckless, irresponsible or uncooperative behaviour on site. Put simply, the risks to my colleagues and to other children 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.

I hope that you have found our induction resources useful. I know that Mrs Hasford and many of my colleagues have been busy calling Year 6 parents over the past two weeks. They have given me some encouraging feedback and I am excited about meeting students in the new academic year.

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 safely welcome our newest members of Team Rhosnesni.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Brant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr A Brant  
Headteacher