

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022



**YSGOL RHOSNESNI**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to wish you a Happy New Year and to clarify some important information. As I said prior to Christmas, with your continued support and understanding we can do our utmost to keep Rhosnesni families safe throughout the winter and beyond.

### **Face Masks**

At present, the following regulations apply:

*'All staff and learners in our secondary schools, colleges and universities should now wear face coverings while indoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained.'*

You will recall that we rigorously implemented this rule from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We stated that, as with school uniform, we now deem a face mask to be a reasonable condition of entry to school site. The response from our students and parents/carers has been quite superb. I thank you for your understanding and assistance in this matter. However, we must continue to follow government regulations until directed otherwise. As in December, with the notable exception of those children who are medically exempt, students who arrive without a face mask will be sent home after parents have been contacted. Whilst we do have a small number of disposable masks in school, these will remain reserved for those rare and genuine occasions when masks tear or break.

### **Testing**

All staff and secondary learners are advised to take a LFD test three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and report these results. A positive LFD result no longer requires a PCR test confirmation. If a person showing no symptoms has a positive lateral flow test, they should begin the isolation period immediately and follow latest guidance.

### **Isolation - Fully Vaccinated or Aged 5 - 17**

The best way to protect our setting is to prevent Covid being brought into school. If you have any coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change of taste or smell), you should self-isolate at home and get a PCR test. You should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Self-isolation applies to adults and children of all ages.

Self-isolation means that you do not leave the house. You should self-isolate straight away if you have symptoms and await the results of a COVID-19 PCR test.

Recent guidance states that the 10-day self-isolation period has been reduced to 7 days, in most circumstances. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation (24 hours apart). Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete the full 10 days of self-isolation.

### **Close Contacts**

All children aged 5 to 17 years old (as well as vaccinated adults) identified as a close contact of a positive case should take a LFD test every day for 7 days. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'. These tests should be taken before they arrive at school each day. These individuals do not need to self-isolate unless they have a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms.

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

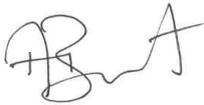
## **Hand and Respiratory Hygiene**

It is still essential that our staff and students wash and/or sanitise their hands more frequently than before the pandemic. Please give your child regular reminders about the importance of hygiene and cleanliness.

## **Staff Absence**

Presently, our staff absence levels are manageable. However, should the situation deteriorate, we have robust plans in place for a move to remote learning for a proportion of our students. We all want to see students educated on site in the normal way, but these are unprecedented and challenging times. Rest assured, we will do everything we possibly can to minimise any disruption to learning.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr A Brant  
Headteacher