



Ysgol Bae Baglan

Headteacher Mr R. Rees

Senior Leadership Team Mr G. Williams, Mr S. Davies, Miss N. Williams
Mrs K. Palmer, Mr A. Marchant, Mrs S. Rogers, Ms C. Prescott, Mrs K. Willment

Seaway Parade, Port Talbot, SA12 7BL
Tel: 01639 508540

Dear parents and carers,

It is good to write to you again at the end of a very busy half term and a cautious end of lockdown across the country in sight. Returning to school this term was a relief but challenging for many, not least our Year 11 pupils who have earned a well-deserved break. With the end of Year 11 assessments and changes to lockdown rules, I have some important notices, particularly for our secondary phase pupils.

INSET

A quick reminder that Monday 7th June is a school INSET day and school will be closed to all pupils.

Changes due to Covid Restrictions.

From Tuesday 8th June we will be taking a cautious approach in changing some of the restrictions which we have had to implement due to COVID. We want to ensure a balance between keeping pupils safe, but also giving them the best learning opportunities so that all our pupils can get back on track and catch up with their learning.

Timings of the school day.

We will keep the staggered start to the school day and keep pupils in separate bubbles for break and lunch. and there will be no changes to timings in Nursery to Year 6. In Years 7-10 the timings will be:

Year Group	Start of School Day	Morning Break	Lunch	End of School Day
7	8.35 (no change)	9.50 (no change)	12.00 (no change)	14.50 (no change)
8	8.30 (earlier)	10.50 (later)	12.00 (no change)	14.55 (no change)
9	8.45 (no change)	10:50 (no change)	12.55 (no change)	14.50 (no change)
10	8.40 (no change)	9.50 (no change)	12.55 (no change)	14.45 (no change)

Pupils should report directly to their allocated entrance.

The canteen

When two different year groups are on lunch or break together, the groups are on different yards. Lunch for each year group in the canteen is at different times during the lunch break. This is no change to our current practice.

The school canteen will begin serving a simple menu at morning breaktimes. Year groups who have break at the same time will queue separately and use a different serving station. Payment must be made via ParentPay.

Movement around the school

We want as much as possible to keep pupils in their year group bubbles but also allow for access to specialist classrooms. From Tuesday 8th, class teachers will return to their usual classrooms and pupils will move around

the school. We have reinforced the one-way systems already in place and pupils must wear their masks when moving through the corridors.

Masks in the classroom

Welsh Government advice has currently not changed, and masks are still expected to be worn in the classroom and in all areas of the school except when doing PE or eating. If advice changes, we will respond in changes to our policy and risk assessment.

Detentions

Our suspension of class after-school detentions will now be lifted as teachers will be in their classrooms at the end of each day. Notification of after school detention will come only via our Satchel One app, so please make sure you have it installed and check it each day.

PE changing

We are continuing our policy of asking pupils to attend school in their PE kit on days when they have PE. I would emphasise though that we expect full school PE kit rather than general sportswear.

Parents' Evening

I would like to thank parents who have already taken part in our first online only parents' evening where teachers met with parents for video calls to discuss children's progress. Feedback for the first of these was very positive and we are currently planning to roll this new system to other year groups before the end of the year.

School Catchup

Welsh Government has provided some funding to support schools in helping pupils catch up with their learning. We have used this funding to employ new staff who are focussed in lower school in supporting a reading intervention group and in upper school a new mentoring programme focussed initially at year 10. We hope that funding will continue and that we can extend these programmes more widely in the future.

School Uniform

During the lockdown we eased our enforcement of school uniform rules because we knew how difficult it may have been to buy replacement items when shops were closed. However, with the reopening of shops we expect that all pupils will be back in **full school uniform on return after May half term**. We also expect pupils to wear full PE Kit on days when pupils have PE, not general sportswear. If any parent has a problem providing school uniform, they should speak to our wellbeing team, otherwise, pupils out of uniform should expect a sanction in line with our usual policies. I would also like to remind parents that hair should be a natural colour and facial piercings are not allowed.

Mobile Phones

I understand the importance and value that parents and pupils place on having a mobile phone. However, I must also respond to the increasing number of reports of misuse of mobile phones that are causing a distraction from learning in class. I want to reinforce our policy that mobile phones should not be used in classrooms unless it is for a meaningful learning activity which has been organised by the teacher. Our 'Bag-It or Basket' rule means that every pupil has the opportunity to put their mobile phones away in their bags before lesson time or will be asked to place it in a basket at the front of the classroom for the lesson. Pupils who use their mobile phones without permission in class and refuse to 'Basket' their phone will have their phones removed by senior staff.

I also want to reinforce our expectation that mobile phones must not be used to record images, video or sound of anyone in our school community without their consent. Images, video, sound or anti-social comments shared on social media will be referred to the police and will be dealt with through significant sanctions in school in line with our policies.

Our wellbeing team has already trialled a 'digital detox' programme to raise awareness of the harm of continued mobile phone and social media use with some of our pupils and we will be rolling this out to other year groups soon.

Year 11

I would like to end by thanking our Year 11 pupils for all of their hard work over the last term. I know it has been tough, but thankfully we have reached the end and I hope they will value the results they will achieve. Mr Williams will write to Year 11 parents about arrangements for results in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R Rees
Headteacher.