



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,

I would like to start by thanking the whole school community, including pupils, parents, staff and governors for the extraordinary response, support and resilience that has been demonstrated over the last year. This year has been extremely challenging for us all but has demonstrated that when we work together as a community, we can overcome the most difficult of obstacles. Year 11 provisional results are a testimony to this, and it heartens me greatly that despite all the difficulty that this year presented, this has not resulted in disadvantage to GCSE outcomes. Mr Williams will be writing to our leavers separately about arrangements for results day.

Welsh Government and the Local Authority continue to issue new guidance, and things are changing constantly. The impact of nationwide vaccination gives us hope that things will slowly return to normal, but there is still a lot of uncertainty about how things will develop over the summer and what new advice will come.

We have reviewed many of our processes and our risk assessments in light of the latest advice and will be making some changes for September, however, some advice is unchanged so we will have to keep some of the processes which mitigate the risk of COVID. We have also taken the opportunity to assess the benefits that some of the changes we have made over the year have had, such as the spilt lunch and breaks which have improved the experiences for many of our pupils.

In summary, the plans for September are as follows:

Start of Term

Primary Phase Reception-Year 6: Monday September 6th

Nursery Pupils: Tuesday September 7th

Year 7 and Year 11 – Monday September 6th

Years 8,9 and 10 – Tuesday September 7th

Arrival at school

All secondary phase pupils will arrive at school at the normal start to the day 8:30am. Arrival will be naturally staggered as pupils arrive in different ways. Pupils should continue to use entrances for their group:

Year 7	Entrance at the rear of school maths pod 1
Year 8	Entrance at the rear of school maths pod 2
Year 9	Entrance at the end of school – near EA corridor
Year 10	Entrance at the end of school – near TE corridor
Year 11	Entrance at front of school into atrium.

Mrs Palmer will publish detailed information for the primary phase but we will be retaining the staggered times initially at the start of term due to the number of pupils and parents accessing the site for drop-off and

pick-up. When the Welsh Government introduces the Risk Assessment Framework the plan will be to return to original start and end of school times for all pupils.

Use of face masks

Welsh Government will no longer be recommending the routine use of face coverings in classrooms. Face masks, although non-mandatory, will still be recommended in corridors between lessons and in communal areas for secondary phase pupils and for all pupils when travelling on dedicated school transport. If an individual wishes to wear a face covering in class, this is permitted. Visitors and parents accessing the site are still expected to wear a mask in line with Welsh Government Operational Guidance.

Bubbles

Welsh Government have advised that bubbles will no longer be the primary guiding factor to identify close contacts, but as part of a risk assessment and guidance from the Local Authority, keeping pupils separate is a sensible mitigating factor which we will keep for September. We will work with TTP to reduce the numbers of self-isolating pupils wherever possible using all possible information and review this on a regular basis.

Classrooms

Pupils in secondary phase will move around the school and make use of all specialist classroom provision. We will recommend mask wearing when moving between classes.

Lunch and break

As part of our approach to reduce close contacts, we will maintain split lunches and breaks and follow the same operational approaches as are in place now.

Paying for lunch and break

We continue to use the ParentPay system for payments to school. Those with existing accounts should ensure that Meals accounts are topped up ready for September. Pupils new to the school with siblings should now have access to top up and others will receive account details through the post. We will allow pupils on their first day only to use an overdraft facility for lunch if necessary, but this will not be available at break time.

School Uniform

School uniform is an important part of setting the tone for our expectations in school. I expect all pupils to arrive in September in full school uniform. Full uniform details are available on our website. On days when pupils have PE we will continue to allow pupils to arrive in PE uniform until we can reopen our changing rooms. However, this should be full PE uniform and not general sportswear and should only be worn on PE days. Pupils in Years 8-11 can see their timetables on Satchel 1 two weeks in advance, so you will know which days these are. Pupils in Year 7 will receive their Satchel 1 logins on their first day so should wear normal school uniform on day 1. Our usual behaviour recording, and sanctions will apply to any pupil not in school uniform, not in full PE Kit or wearing PE Kit on days when they do not have PE.

End of the school day

The school day will end at 2:55p.m. for Secondary Phase pupils. Primary Phase pupils will end at the current times (either 2:45 p.m. or 3:00 p.m.).

Changes

Whilst our Senior Team have met regularly over the last few days and weeks and taken into account all of the latest advice, these plans are of course subject to change. We will publish any changes as soon as possible, so please keep watching our website and social media channels, particularly at the start of September. Most

importantly, may I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and my very best wishes for a relaxing and rejuvenating break.

Yours sincerely,
R. Rees
Headteacher