



Ysgol Bae Baglan

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Dear Parent or carer,

I hope you and your families are well. I would again like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this period.

You may well have seen recent media coverage of a new scientific report from the Welsh Government's full Technical Advisory Board which states the following:

"New evidence suggests there are higher levels of infection and transmission in school age groups than previously thought and schools being open is associated with higher rates of infection in the population."

I have discussed the new evidence with the Governors alongside our existing Risk Assessment and **we have agreed to make the wearing of face masks compulsory in Years 7-11** in communal areas from Monday 23rd November. We have already issued all Year 7-11 pupils with masks provided by the local authority.

Pupils must wear masks

- **when they enter the building on arrival or after break and lunch,**
- **on leaving the classroom to enter corridors between lessons, to break, lunch or to use the toilet,**
- **when queuing for lunch,**
- **during wet breaks when pupils are together in the atrium,**
- **during wet lunch, after eating when pupils are together in halls.**

The only exemption for this will be for pupils who are medically exempt; pupils may be more comfortable having an exemption from face covering pass rather than discussing why they are not wearing a mask. We can provide these after discussions with parents or carers.

Naturally, the use of face coverings does not replace the need to continue with the most effective measures in reducing the spread of Covid-19, such as regular handwashing or sanitising, maintaining social distancing where possible and pupils remaining within their contact groups.

Yours faithfully,

R Rees (Headteacher)