



# Parents Bulletin – Returning to School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

## Return arrangements for Year 10

On the 15th of March year 11, 12 and 13 will return to the school site. **Year 10 will return on Monday 22nd of March.**

This message contains key information for that return. If you have further questions after reading the pack you can contact your progress and wellbeing leader (BI10a11@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk), the school office (ymholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk) or attend a virtual question and answer session next week (details to follow).

I hope you find the Information on the next pages useful,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhodri Thomas'.

Dr Rhodri Thomas  
(Headteacher)

### What needs to be arranged before the first day

- **School Uniform:** Pupils will wear school uniform for return to school. We understand that children are growing, and clothing stores are not open so if this causes a problem you should contact the progress and wellbeing leader.
- **Suitable face covering**
- **Food:** During the week commencing the 15th the canteen will not be open. Pupils will need a packed lunch for this week. Pupils claiming free school meals will continue to receive direct payment for these meals from the council.
- Any equipment borrowed from the school for return.

### What will you need for the first few days?

- **Tools / books for WEEK 1** of the timetable. Pupils follow their usual timetables, although there is the opportunity to have a little more time with the tutor at the start of the day in the first few days.

### Arrival at school

School transport will normally run from 15th March onwards for eligible pupils. I would however be grateful if you could transport your child to school if possible to try and keep the numbers on the buses down. In order to reduce traffic congestion with the buses we ask that you drop off your children near the school car park rather than immediately in front of the building.

### Health and safety arrangements

The previous health and safety arrangements will continue. I have attached a pupil information sheet that reminds them of what needs to be done - this includes regular hand disinfection, temperature checks at the start of the day and adhering to specific zones of the school.

LFT testing is a new part of the process. Further details on the process can be found later in this message, but pupils who have collected these can use the tests on the Sunday evening before returning and other pupils will be able to collect the tests at the beginning of the week. Formal consent letters will be issued to you for these tests (for pupils aged 16 and over or for parents of pupils aged 14-16).

Pupils are also expected to wear masks in the building **including in classrooms**. Remember that there is a break between each double lesson and non-contact lessons and these are a chance to go outside - they do not need to wear a mask outside the building. Sixth formers can leave after their last lesson, but we do not allow pupils to leave and return.

These health and safety actions follow national guidelines. They are part of a risk assessment that enables us to allow full groups back to school. Without these expectations the school would have to run with smaller groups and they would reduce the numbers that could be present at the school.

I understand that some pupils are worried about returning and others are looking forward. Pupils who are concerned can contact their progress and wellbeing leader and we will seek to ensure that support is in place for them.

From Headteache on Behalf of NHS Wales

Re: NHS Test, Trace, Protect: COVID-19 Rapid Lateral Flow Self-Test

The Welsh Government has recently announced that a free and voluntary programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing will be available in education and childcare settings across Wales. This offer is available to all staff and learners in years 10-13 and all college learners.

Along with the primary infection control measures we have implemented, such as social distancing and good hand hygiene, testing will allow us to provide some additional reassurance to the wider school community.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Part of controlling the spread of the virus requires identifying those infectious individuals who aren't showing and symptoms and asking them to self-isolate. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. The speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why it is recommended that two LFD tests are taken 3 to 4 days apart, on a Sunday and a Wednesday or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using a LFD, it is likely that you are infectious and you must self-isolate immediately and book and take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test within 24 hours of your positive LFD test result. Contact tracing will be triggered following a positive LFD and your close contacts will be required to self-isolate until you receive your PCR test result, if the PCR test result is positive you and your close contacts will have to self-isolate.

A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

### **How the tests work**

If you agree to take part, a consent form will need to be completed and returned, you will then arrange with the school/college to collect a pack of LFD test kits which will enable self-testing from home. Tests should be taken 3 to 4 days apart and ideally the tests should be taken as close to coming into school/college as possible. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit.

Once the test has been conducted each test result must be logged online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Positive results should also be reported to the school by email to [LFT@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk](mailto:LFT@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk).

### **Purpose of testing**

It is important to highlight that the purposes of the testing policy in education and childcare in Wales is to complement the primary control measures (such as social distancing and face coverings) that have already been put in place to enable face to face learning / care to continue and to:

- Rapidly identify those who are regularly on site during learning/care hours, who are unknowingly carrying the virus and ask them to self-isolate to reduce disruption to face to face education / care.
- Complement symptomatic results data with asymptomatic results data to provide a picture of infection rates as marker for the effectiveness, and implementation of, primary control measures and to assist in the early identification of clusters. In addition to a range of other data and public health advice this information can be used to inform national policy decisions.

The testing policy for education and childcare should not be viewed as a 'test to enable' or 'test to return' to face to face learning i.e. it is not a condition of coming on to the site or accessing learning/care. Additionally, this testing offer is entirely voluntary.

### **Consent / Privacy**

All individuals wishing to take part should familiarise themselves with the testing process and privacy notice, if you choose to participate, you are committing to self-administer the test and provide results for all tests (negative or positive).

With our primary protective measures and testing, we will help to reduce the spread of the virus. I am therefore strongly encouraging all staff and learners to take the tests. However, anyone who chooses not to participate should still attend school/college if they are not displaying symptoms.

People who decline to participate in this testing programme should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and anyone should get tested if they show symptoms.

## School re-opening arrangements:

- The school site will open at 8.30am and lessons will finish at 3.30pm. There will be no activities or events on the school site outside these hours and **access to the building will not be possible before 8.30am or after 3.30pm** to ensure adequate cleaning time.
- **A pupil displaying one of the four COVID symptoms (High temperature, new permanent cough, Loss of smell, Loss of taste) should not be sent to school**, and the school will check the temperature of individuals on arrival and isolate individuals who shows high temperatures until you arrive to collect them. There will be the same procedure for an individual who displays one of the symptoms during the day.
- Pupils' education takes place in contact groups - years 7, 8 and 9 work in class groups and use one room throughout the day; year 10 and above will be in a one year contact group to enable us to maintain option topics.
- Rooms and other areas around the school will be regularly cleaned. Rooms will be cleaned between lessons with different groups.
- Outside areas will be allocated to specific groups, and the timetable will continue to create different break and lunch times for different groups. There will be a break between each double lesson and this will give pupils the opportunity to get out and be able to remove their masks outside.
- For the school day **pupils will wear school uniform**. Changing rooms will not be available so pupils will wear exercise kit on days they have PE lessons.
- Equipment will not be shared so it is important that pupils bring the necessary equipment every day.
- **Pupils will have to carry a face covering every day** and this will be used on transport and in all areas of the building, including teaching rooms.
- We provide many opportunities for pupils to disinfect or wash their hands during the day and will be expected to do this each time they enter or leave the building.
- The school's behavior policy has been adapted to reflect the seriousness of misbehavior that can spread the infection.