

12th March 2021

Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are very much looking forward to the return of many of our learners to site next week and it will be fantastic to have touched base with all learners face-to-face on site by the end of the week after next. Many staff have commented on the extent to which our young people have shown such enthusiasm about a return to site during their lessons in recent days and it will be energising for the whole school community to begin to see our classrooms and corridors filled once more with the buzz of learning and laughter.

I know that last week's update will have covered many of the questions you may have had about your child's return; there are just a couple of additional points to clarify:

- 10 minute wellbeing breathers will remain in place for all lessons being accessed remotely; whilst on site, pupils will engage in an hour long lesson;
- #wellbeingmatters hour will remain in place for all learners working remotely so a reminder that for next week, teaching will finish at 1.10pm for learners in Years 7,8,9 and 10 on Thursday and for the following week, beginning 22nd March (the final week of term,) as everyone is engaged in an independent day of study, it is fitting to 'down-tools' at 1.10pm on Friday, the final day of term;
- On these 'Independent Study Days' between Wednesday 24th and Friday 26th March, it is very important that learners still follow the routine of their usual timetable;
- A reminder that there is no canteen provision on site until after Easter, so Year 11 students who are with us over lunch will need to bring along a packed-lunch;
- A reminder that we expect ALL learners to wear a face-covering at all times, whilst indoors, in line with Welsh Government Operational Guidance and our Risk Assessment, approved by Newport City Council. We must take a collective responsibility in doing so to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible on site;
- All learners are expected to wear full school uniform. Should there be a specific reason why your child is unable to wear an item of uniform, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.
- Parents/carers of learners in Years 10,11,12 and 13 will shortly be receiving detailed information about pupil testing for COVID-19 in a separate correspondence.

Finally, it has been confirmed that the funeral of Ross Mohring will take place next Friday 19th March. To pay our full respects to the family and friends of Ross, we will be standing down live teaching on site for Years 12 and 13 that day as we want very much for our learners to be able to have this day to themselves. Furthermore, as the funeral procession will pass Bassaleg School with many of our young people, families and staff wishing to line the paths outside of the school, at a social distance, after much consideration we have decided to ask Year 11 students to access their lessons remotely on Friday on what will be a normal teaching day, just not on site. Furthermore, work for Period 5 for Years 7 – 11 on Friday will be set on google classroom; there will be no live teaching as our staff will be paying respects to Ross and to his family during this time. We hope that you understand our rationale for making such decisions and thank you in advance of your continued support.

Look after yourselves, look after each other.

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Victoria Lambe
Headteacher