



**YSGOL
LLANFYLLIN**

Opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin – Secondary Phase

26th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write with further information regarding arrangements for the full re-opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin in April 2021. The purpose of this letter is to provide detail about the plan.

In addition, we have produced a detailed PowerPoint presentation which I ask you to read carefully alongside this letter before school recommences after the Easter break.

This letter is constructed as a series of questions and answers which take full consideration of Powys County Council and National Guidance.

Does my child have to attend school after the Easter break?

Yes. It will be compulsory for all children to attend school.

Which year groups are in school when?

- Monday April 12th – Staff preparation day
- Tuesday April 13th – KS4 & 5 in school, KS3 lessons online
- Wednesday April 14th – All pupils return to face to face teaching and learning

Can my child access learning (online or otherwise) if they do not attend school?

If your child needs to self-isolate because they or a family member has symptoms of COVID-19, work will be set during the period of self-isolation if your child is well enough to undertake the work.

If your child is absent from school for other non COVID related reasons, as per usual policy work may be available upon request. However, please note that teachers **will not** provide work for students whose absence is unauthorised, and online learning will not be available when teachers are teaching full timetables as of the 14th April 2021.

Will my child need to wear school uniform?

No. The rules around the wearing of school uniform have been relaxed for the remainder of the Summer Term. Pupils should wear clothes which are easily laundered and appropriate for the school environment. Pupils are expected to wear their PE kits on the days that they will have PE lessons.

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Why is my child in a contact group and how will it be organised?

Contact groups will be in place to mitigate the risk of the virus spreading. The scientific evidence indicates that even if children mix outside of school with friends and family, time spent in a restricted group reduces the overall spread of the virus. This is very important for controlling the infection rate and reducing downward pressure on the health service. In addition, by having contact groups, it is easier to implement the Test, Trace, Protect policy set out by the Welsh Government in the event of any person in school who develops symptoms of COVID - 19.

The contact groups will be organised chiefly by year groups. **Please see the PowerPoint presentation for full details.**

How will lessons and teaching groups be organised?

- In years 7, 8 & 9, students will be taught in either form groups or sets and will move to specialist rooms for practical subjects.
- In years 10, & 11, classes will be arranged in sets, option groups and form groups.
- In years 12 & 13, classes will be arranged in option groups and form groups.

Where possible teachers will arrange for students to work in the same rooms and at the same table through careful seating plans.

In Years 7, 8 & 9 teachers will travel to students and teach them in their contact group area for all core subject lessons when specialist rooming is not required. When specialist rooming is required, students will need to travel outside their base. Class sizes will in nearly all cases be up to a maximum of 30 students. Very occasionally, to facilitate learning, class sizes may be slightly higher. In all cases, the school will ensure that the classroom is of a suitable size to accommodate students and staff within the parameters of National guidelines.

In Years 10 & 11 teachers will travel to students and teach them in their contact group area for lessons when specialist rooming is not required. When specialist rooming is required, students will need to travel outside their base. Group sizes will be arranged to reflect sets and option choice groupings. In all cases, the school will ensure that the classroom is of a suitable size to accommodate students and staff within the parameters of National guidelines.

In Years 12 & 13 teachers will travel to students and teach them in their contact group area for lessons when specialist rooming is not required. When specialist rooming is required, students will need to travel outside their base. Group sizes will be arranged to reflect option choice groupings. In all cases, the school will ensure that the classroom is of a suitable size to accommodate students and staff within the parameters of National guidelines.

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How will social distancing be applied?

National guidance is based on the overarching principle of reducing the number of contacts between students and staff. However, it is recognised that small contact groups are not feasible in a secondary setting where many learners need to access a range of subjects. Hence the organisation of contact groups as year groups. While there is no requirement for students to socially distance from each other in contact groups, all learners will be encouraged to maintain social distance by not touching peers and staff.

2 metre social distance will be applied between adults and children. To lower the risk of transmission, in all classrooms seating will be arranged so that students sit side by side and facing forwards, rather than face-to-face or side on. Unnecessary furniture will be moved to make more space.

There will be signs placed around the school, including corridors to encourage social distancing. One-way systems will also be in operation.

Will students be required to wear face coverings?

Yes. At Ysgol Llanfyllin pupils from Year 7 upwards will be expected to wear a facial covering in the following circumstances:

- Students must wear a facial covering if travelling to school on public transport and any normal school transport.
- Students must wear a facial covering at all times when inside the school building, including classrooms.

Please note: Parents must inform the school if their child has a medical exemption from wearing a face covering before the pupil returns to school.

Hand hygiene

We have installed new outdoor hand washing facilities. It is crucial that pupils wash their hands very regularly and thoroughly whilst in school.

Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school where washing hands is not feasible.

How will school transport be arranged? Please see the PowerPoint presentation for further information on school transport.

When and where should my child arrive in the morning?

Please see the PowerPoint presentation for further information. We advise students and parents to adhere to this guidance as much as possible to help us maintain the integrity of the contact groups.

How will break time and lunchtime be organised?

Each contact group will be assigned a different outside area. They will **not be allowed to mix with other contact groups**. Unless the weather is severely inclement all students (with the

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exception of a limited number of learners in the Wellbeing contact group) will be expected to go outside. This is again a control measure to mitigate spread of infection. It is therefore **very important that all learners come to school with suitable coats/umbrellas in the case of bad weather**. Additionally, play/games where students come into physical contact will not be permissible.

The start of lunchtimes will be staggered and there will be different sittings and venues for contact groups. Students can bring a packed lunch if they prefer, and a break time snack if they wish. Further details will be explained to students when they return/start school.

Please note that students should bring plenty of fluid/drinks with them as access to areas to fill water bottles will be restricted.

Also, for new starters to the school, you should have received information about Parentpay login details. If for any reason, you experience any difficulty with parent pay we will ensure that your child will be served food until any problems are resolved.

How will my child access toilets?

Each contact group will have assigned toilet areas. This will apply throughout the day and during break and lunchtimes. It is important that students respect this arrangement and do not attempt to access toilets assigned to other contact groups.

How will the school be kept clean?

The whole school will be deep cleaned before reopening. Additional cleaning has been arranged during the course of the day across all contact group areas so that high touch areas and toilets are cleaned regularly.

Appropriate wipes will be available in all classrooms so that students can wipe down their personal spaces, as necessary.

What equipment should my child bring to school?

In order to reduce transmission, as few items as possible should be brought between home and school. See the PowerPoint presentation for further information.

Will I be able to meet with my child's teachers in person?

All meetings in person will not be possible until further notice. Please do not visit the school reception unless it is absolutely essential.

How will my child's work be marked?

Assessment of your child's work will continue as normal. Staff should avoid touching any equipment (pens, pencils etc) brought into school by students. We realise that feedback is an essential part of effective learning and we will employ a variety of methods such as book marking, self-assessment, verbal feedback, and digital/online comments, as appropriate.

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Will school clubs, after school clubs, fixtures and trips be running?

No. Clubs etc. are suspended until further notice to mitigate risk of spread of infection. Some additional catch up sessions and limited local fieldwork trips may take place in Key Stage 4 and 5 where it is an essential part of evidence gathering for the Centre Designated Grades process.

Will voluntary Lateral Flow Testing of KS 4 and 5 pupils continue after Easter?

- The voluntary testing regime will continue after Easter
- Participating staff and KS4/5 students will test twice a week – Sunday and Wednesday Evenings
- Results will be reported to the school and to the NHS
- Follow all instructions if you test positive – you must inform school immediately and arrange for a PCR test as per instructions
- Coronavirus asymptomatic testing in school, further education and childcare settings | GOV.WALES

What will happen if my child becomes unwell with possible symptoms of COVID-19 while in school?

School will have dedicated isolation areas. If anybody becomes unwell at school with possible symptoms of COVID-19 they will be sent home immediately where they should self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test. Until they leave the school site contact with others will be minimised through use of the isolation areas. It is therefore **crucially important that we have an up to date contact number** where a responsible adult can be contacted if required during the school day. Test, Trace, Protect strategy to be followed.

What should I do if my child or any member of my household develops possible symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19?

Under **no circumstances** should students attend school if they:

- feel unwell with any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms. They should remain at home and self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test
- have tested positive for COVID-19
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please accept my apologies for the length of this letter, but I hope that along with the Power-Point presentation we have provided sufficient information to answer your questions and allay any anxiety about the full re-opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin after Easter. We will be holding further information assemblies via Teams -please ask your child to check their school email for details.

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We look forward to welcoming all students to school by 14th April 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,
Dewi Owen
Head teacher

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