

Ysgol Clywedog

Fordd Ruthin
Wrexham
LL13 7UB
Ffôn: 01978 346800
Ffacs: 01978 346814
E-bost: mailbox@clywedog.wrexham.sch.uk



Ruthin Road
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Phone: 01978 346800
Fax: 01978 346814
E-mail: mailbox@clywedog.wrexham.sch.uk

Pennaeth Mr M Vickery Headteacher

7 January / Ionawr 2022

Dear Parents/Guardian

I am writing to update you on arrangements at Ysgol Clywedog at the start of the Spring Term 2022. As the uncertainty over the impact of the Omicron variant continues, it is important that we all follow the Welsh Government's guidance so that everyone in our school community can return to education safely. The staffing shortage we experienced at the end of last term has improved however we do still have staff absences to contend with which are not Covid related. At present we are able to cover these lessons and have been fortunate to secure subject specialists in some key areas. All pupils therefore will be able to return to school on Monday 10th of January and follow their normal timetable.

We would like to share with you some important information relating to Ysgol Clywedog this term:

Classrooms

All staff and pupils will be required to wear face coverings in classrooms unless they are exempt for medical reasons. We ask that those who are exempt wear a lanyard as a visual acknowledgment of this. Pupil desks will be front facing with a 2-metre distance from the member of staff wherever possible. Ysgol Clywedog already have consistent seating plans in operation and we will continue to implement this expectation with all pupils. All high touch areas, including desks and chairs will be cleaned at the end of each lesson.

Corridors

A one-way system is operational in school. Signage has been placed around the site and pupils will be informed of the system on Monday morning during form time.

Physical Education

To avoid groups gathering in the changing rooms for Physical Education lessons we ask that those who have PE lessons attend school in their school PE kit in readiness for the lesson. Please could we ask for parents support in ensuring that pupils attend in Ysgol Clywedog PE Kit. If for any reason your child does not have access to the school kit, we will allow students to wear black leggings or jogging bottoms, black or navy blue t-shirt and the school jumper or a plain black or navy hooded top. Please do not allow your child to attend school in inappropriate clothing or expensive hoodies. Any pupils attending school in the incorrect uniform or incorrect PE kit will be spoken to by the Head of Year, parents will be contacted to bring a change of clothing to school and if deemed necessary pupils will be kept in isolation. Should you have any issues please contact your Head of Year immediately so we can support you as best we can.



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Break and Lunchtimes

Staggered start and end for break and lunchtime will be introduced. Each year group will be allocated a zone for break and lunchtimes as follows:

	Inside (Inclement Weather only)	Outside
Year 7	Gym area	Top Yard
Year 8	Media Suite	Tennis Courts
Year 9	Social Area	Outside School Hall area
Year 10	Canteen 1 (Hot)	Half of Astro Turf (Bottom)
Year 11	Canteen 2 (Cold)	Half of Astro Turf (Top)

All pupils will be expected to spend break and most of their lunchtime outside apart from when the weather does not allow as per Welsh Government guidance.

Break and Lunch

Due to the restrictions of zoning pupils, we will be unable to offer canteen facilities at break time and students should bring their own snacks and drinks for the time being.

We will continue with the current lunchtime food ordering system. There will be a reduced menu that will be offered to our pupils on a strictly pre-order basis for lunch, and food will be brought to the year group zones. However, we request, if possible, students bring their own packed lunches.

Pupils who are entitled to free school meals will continue to order their lunch using the pre-order system mentioned above.

Toilets

Each year group will be allocated specific toilets:

- Year 7 - Staff toilets by Library
- Year 8 - Old Yr 7 toilets
- Year 9 - Staff toilets in social area
- Year 10 - English corridor open plan
- Year 11 - Open plan by the quad

Lateral Flow Tests

Lateral Flow Tests are strongly encouraged for staff and secondary aged learners to help identify and isolate asymptomatic cases as soon as possible. Tests are available from school. Government guidance has changed, the use of lateral flow tests for staff and students has been increased to three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings prior to attending school.

Self- isolation

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and take a LFT test as soon as possible. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 you must self-isolate and follow Welsh Government guidance: Alert level 2 | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES

Staff Shortage



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We aim to inform all parents of any need to close school for specific classes or year groups due to staffing shortage the night before if possible. We will communicate with families through the schools' email system and on social media. As external examinations are currently still scheduled to take place, we will endeavour to prioritise continuity of face to face lessons for year 11 pupils. Should a class or year group be asked to remain at home for remote learning all lessons will be available on Google Classroom; class codes will be available on the school website.

Welsh Government FSM Chromebooks

Those eligible for FSM Chromebooks through the Welsh Government scheme who are yet to collect their Chromebook please complete the paperwork shared with you at the end of last term and return to school as soon as possible. Should you require a copy of this paperwork please contact the school office.

Visitors

All meetings will be held on-line for the duration of the half term (until February 25th). Should you need an urgent face-to-face meeting please contact the school office.

School Transport

Face coverings should be worn by all pupils, unless exempt, when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary schools. This is in line with the Welsh Government advice for public transport.

Any amendments to the above will of course be shared with you.

We thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Regards,

Miss C Pritchard
Interim Headteacher

Mrs M Cookson
Deputy Headteacher