



June 17th, 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Following the decision from the Welsh Government that schools should reopen on Monday, June 29th, I would like to provide you with a brief outline of our ideas about how this will happen at the present time. You will also have a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document that hopefully answers many of the questions you have already raised. A more thorough plan and a virtual 'walk-through' of our school will be provided for you as soon as is possible.

I believe the school can safely accommodate a whole year group at a time, keeping them within three specific learning zones in different locations of our school. This will ensure that both staff and students are exposed to as small a number of individuals as possible.

Thank you to those who have completed the online survey advising us on your initial thoughts about sending your child to school from the 29th of June. On receipt of this letter we will be issuing you with a follow-up survey so that you can confirm with us whether your child will be attending school later this month. I trust the information included in this letter will provide with enough information to make that decision an informed one.

The Hub provision that has previously been located at Heol Y Celyn school and more recently at Trerobart PS will be located at Pontypridd High from June 29th. Applications will need to be made through the Local Authority and for any child who has been granted a place we will provide a combination of wellbeing support and learning. This may be within a discrete room in one of the learning zones or each child may join specific classes depending on who is attending that day.

The Hub provision is available from 8am to 5pm for children of essential workers and from 9am to 3.00pm for more vulnerable children.

School transport

School transport is the responsibility of the Local Authority and they have made it clear that where possible, parents / carers should transport their own children to school. Transport is provided but capacity is reduced by 80% to facilitate social distancing. It is important that you let us know in the new survey whether your child will be attending and if they will require school transport. Names will then be provided to the bus companies and a space will be allocated on the bus. Drivers will only allow named students to travel.

School meals

The LA have made the decision that no canteen facilities for students or staff will be available in these 4 weeks. Everyone, including staff will be expected to bring their own snacks and drinks which they can consume at a suitable break. Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch should they attend school.

School timings

School start times will be staggered for groups of children in each of the learning zones. This will range from 8.00am to 8.45am and our day will finish with children leaving between 1.15pm and 1.45pm. There will be times for students to have a break during the day.

Safety

There will be a one-way system operating around the school with clear markings and signs throughout all buildings. Students will enter school buildings via one of the three designated entrances where they will be allocated a single classroom that they will use each day they attend over the course of the 4 weeks.

All students and staff will be encouraged to adopt appropriate hand washing and sanitising routines throughout the day. Please talk to your child about the need for regular and effective hand washing.

Uniform

We would like all students attending to wear school uniform though we understand that in some instances this may not be possible. We will accept children dressed in their PE kit as part of our uniform. Please contact us if you want to discuss anything related to appropriate uniform.

Access to school will not be granted to pupils wearing inappropriate clothing as determined by the school. School rules relating to piercings and hair colour will remain in place.

We advise that children come to school in fresh clothing each day they are asked to attend.

Cleaning

The school will have a 'deep clean' before we reopen and receive extra cleaning through each day and after all have left each day.

Equipment

We ask that students bring their own equipment to school. Exercise books will be provided for their use and then stored safely for the next session. Pencil cases with basic equipment will be provided where they are needed.

Organisational arrangements

We believe that we can safely accommodate the following Year groups each day of the week.

Monday – Year 10

Tuesday – Year 9

Wednesday – Year 8

Thursday – Year 7

Friday – Year 12

The timings for our school day will be as follows though we will contact each child attending with specific instructions on a time of arrival and which area of our school they need to report to.

From	To	Activity / Provision
8.00am	9.00am	Registration and 'Check-in' wellbeing / reflection time
9.00am	10.30am	Learning session 1
10.30am	11.00am	Staggered break with all children able to go outside / toilet break within their own designated areas as managed by staff
11.00am	1.00pm	Learning session 2
1.00pm	1.15pm	Check in and prepare for week ahead of home learning
1.15pm	1.45pm	Lunch and staggered exit of students, one zone at a time (School transport (buses) will arrive on site at 1.30pm. Individual taxis will be called at more specific times)
2.00pm		All students have left the school site

Each day they attend all students will have time to 'check-in' with their wellbeing. In addition, students in Years 9 and 10 will cover a combination of learning in core subjects and in their options. Years 7 and 8 will also study English, Maths and Science alongside Discover, our skills based provision. Work that is completed will be supplemented by further tasks to be completed through home learning. Children who do not attend will have access at home to the same resources delivered in these learning sessions.

Year 12 students will receive guidance on the UCAS university application process, support for their WBQ course and also time to meet and discuss progress / receive support from their subject specialist teachers.

The table below provides a brief outline of the curriculum areas your child will study.

Week 1 – Week beginning 29th of June

	Monday Year 10	Tuesday Year 9	Wednesday Year 8	Thursday Year 7	Friday Year 12
Session 1	English	Maths	Science	English	WBQ
Session 2	Option A	Option A	Discover	Discover	UCAS Prep

Week 2 – Week beginning 6th of July

	Monday Year 10	Tuesday Year 9	Wednesday Year 8	Thursday Year 7	Friday Year 12
Session 1	Maths	Science	English	Maths	WBQ
Session 2	Option B	Option B	Discover	Discover	UCAS Prep

Week 3 – Week beginning 13th of July

	Monday Year 10	Tuesday Year 9	Wednesday Year 8	Thursday Year 7	Friday Year 12
Session 1	Science	English	Maths	Science	WBQ
Session 2	Option C	Option C	Discover	Discover	UCAS Prep

Week 4 – Week beginning 20th of July

Plans for week 4 are to be confirmed depending on student numbers and evaluation of weeks 1 to 3.

Behaviour

Due to the risks posed by COVID-19 our expectations for behaviour is of the highest importance. We will expect everyone to show respect for all the new guidelines and our school policy has been amended accordingly. We do not anticipate any issues but where behaviour is below that expected it will not be tolerated.

Where behaviour is deemed to be unacceptable, a parent / carer will be contacted and the student asked to leave the school site. Actions that could be considered grounds for removal include threatening to or actually spitting, coughing in the direction of another student or member of staff, or invading the personal space of another student or member of staff. In the event that this behaviour occurs the student will be excluded for a minimum of 4 days, subject to a case review by senior staff and the school's governing body.

However, we want our students to focus on the positives of returning to school and we will continue working hard to ensure this remains the case.

We know that our children have worked very hard and many have displayed incredible resilience in difficult circumstances over the last 12 weeks. Despite showing all of these qualities I am sure we will all welcome some advice and support in different ways on our return. No doubt we will have many experiences to share.

We are very much aware that students in Years 10 and 12 are concerned about time missed and the examinations that lie ahead. I have no doubt there will be a lot more decisions that will

influence the year ahead but this short time before the summer break will be an opportunity to reassure them, catch up on progress so far and act on the advice we receive from examination boards.

The message from the Welsh Government was that we use these 4 weeks from June 29th to 'check in, catch up and prepare' for the next few months. We know that you will make your own decisions based on what is best for your child and I trust this information has helped make that choice. All we ask is that you let us know via the survey what your decision is so we can make the best plans for everyone in school.

We know that this period of lockdown has been a challenge for everyone and we have all found new ways to keep in touch. On our return to school we will all need to respect individual space and this may be more difficult for some children who may instinctively want to hug friends when they see them. Please support us by discussing this with your child before their return. If attending school from June 29th we intend to inform you of the learning zone your child will be located in by Tuesday, June 23rd.

As always, many thanks for your continued support and please complete the online survey by following the link below or using the QR code.

Please complete the survey by **6pm Thursday June 18th**.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JV7q4fNEh0qdGi_iA1Po9qyGco-EFYtMu-m1On3obs9URE4wS1JRN1IRV0xMQzNMQUUNWVUVTUIhKVC4u



Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Cripps', written in a cursive style.

Huw Cripps
Headteacher