

# SEPTEMBER 2020

School Newsletter

Edition 7 - 18th September 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

We have completed our first full week of school with all year groups. For all of us it has been a week of adjustment and pupils are no doubt beginning to get to grips with our new expectations and protocols. We have been regularly explaining the new routines, routes and practices to pupils and it is pleasing and reassuring to see that so many have accepted and understood the safety measures and controls that we have in place. You would have no doubt seen in the news and media the challenges that schools are facing and as ever it is only by working together and demonstrating consideration and kindness towards others that we will be able to navigate our way in this 'new normal'. I imagine that we will also face our own challenges at Cynffig as the pandemic is certainly showing no signs of subsiding. I hope that you will continue to support and understand our position and I would like to thank the very many families who have been so supportive of all that we are trying to safely do.

## Collective responsibility and conduct

It is disappointing that a few pupils do not appear to understand the reasons behind our expectations around routines and conduct. The expectations are in place in order to secure the safety and wellbeing of us all who work and study at Cynffig. They are not negotiable. It is particularly disappointing that this lack of understanding and sometimes non compliance is being exhibited by a few of our older pupils in Key Stage 4 who we would have hoped would have been able to demonstrate a more mature and thoughtful approach. I would ask that Parents/Carers go through the expectations again with pupils as now that we have had time to adjust any future actions which go against our routines and expectations will now be seen as deliberate defiance and non compliance and as such will be seen as a health and safety risk and will be open to exclusion from school.



Challenge



Commit



Succeed

## ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

I wanted to thank you for your support as throughout this last week the vast majority of pupils are arriving to school during the arrival window of 8.40 – 8.50am.

As I have explained previously it is essential that pupils arrive to school during this time window. We are still continuing to experience some difficulty with those pupils who arrive too early, some as early as 8.25am and also the few pupils who arrive after 8.50am. In order to illustrate how important this is I thought I would explain how the morning arrival system works. Pupils are collected by their teachers for the first lesson of the day and a class can not be left outside waiting for late arrivals. In addition pupils can not arrive late and just wander to their first lesson unsupervised hence why all pupils must be in their external zone by 8.50am every morning. Arriving too early or late to school in our new way of managing the school site is deemed as unsafe. Please note that all gates are monitored from 8.50am and the side gate is also closed at 8.50am.

## FACE COVERINGS

We have this week issued all pupils with their second face covering and a storage bag. We strongly recommend that pupils wear a face covering as they travel along corridors, enter toilets and communal areas.

## EQUIPMENT

Once again thank you for equipping your son/daughter for school. As you know we can not lend equipment and pupils should not be loaning their equipment to a friend/peer. It is really important that every pupil comes to school properly equipped every day (pens, pencils, calculator, ruler etc).

PE kit can continue to be worn to school by pupils on the day that they have Core PE/Games. PE kit can not be worn to school by pupil on the day they have a GCSE PE lesson unless their teacher gives them that instruction.

## HOMEWORK

The Learning@Home homework timetable for Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) will start for KS3 and KS4 as from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Pupils need to make sure they have joined their Google Classroom in all subjects. Pupils now access their Google Classroom through their Hwb email address. The new Learning@Home timetable is available on the pupils website <https://sites.hwbcymru.net/learninghome>

## SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Pupils are to sit in their year groups on school transport and pupils are strongly recommended to wear a face covering.

## Important information for Public Health Wales

There is a Frequently Asked Questions document that you might find useful on our school website under the COVID tab. I would encourage you to refer to this as it provides clear answers to some of the questions you might have.