

Queen Elizabeth High School

Update for Parents / Carers and Learners

22nd October 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a very successful first half term. We continue on our journey of learning to live with Covid, and I have to thank parents/carers, pupils and students for their positive approach to our return and supporting us with our measures and mitigations to keep pupils safe. In addition, a massive thank you must go to our staff here for their teamwork and commitment especially their support of cover arrangements for colleagues who have been ill. As a result of the support shown across our community we have been in the very fortunate position of not having to send any year groups home to learn online, but have managed to keep pupils on site and support them with learning face to face.

Our Year 7s have settled in very well and we have been able to share some highlights with parents via website links. Our Year 11 online Parents'/Carers' Evening was well attended and a real success. Many Year 10s have completed their English Literature GCSE Controlled Assessments and the feedback about their positive conduct and commitment during these exam style assessments was excellent – well done! For the rest of the school population the focus has been on catching up and progressing with learning. This has presented its own challenges to teaching but our staff have shown amazing commitment to supporting our learners and I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for their work and commitment.

Covid-19

We do expect the challenges around covid to continue for some time yet, especially as we enter the winter season. We would urge parents and carers to remind pupils to follow these key rules in order to try and keep everyone safe:

- Pupils are expected to wear face covering while moving around the building, except where exemptions apply. New face coverings will be provided on our return to school in November. These face coverings will be the high-quality Roto Medical 'Keep Wales Safe' type. Each pupil will be provided with two, which will have to be washed before use. **It is important that pupils use only these masks in school and that they take care of them. Part of pupils'/students' daily routine should be to ensure they have these masks with them when they come into school in the morning.**
- Pupils must ensure that they follow the one-way system while moving between lessons. This limits face to face contact and helps limit the spread of Covid between learners from different year groups.
- Pupils must wash/sanitise their hands on entry to the school buildings and before entering lessons. This not only helps mitigate against Covid but also limits the spread of other seasonal viruses.

It has now been 5 weeks since the introduction of Welsh Government's new Infection Control Framework for schools that introduces a tiered level with different mitigations based on current local data as outlined in the guidance document below:

<https://gov.wales/local-covid-19-infection-control-decision-framework-schools-autumn-2021.html>

Carmarthenshire is currently operating at a moderate level, and the mitigations in school have been in line with that level or higher, therefore there is no change to our current operating procedures.

The increase in cases in 10-19 year olds in Wales remains, particularly in those over 16 which may be attributed to greater social mixing. Welsh Government recommend that our current mitigations remain in place. We are also requested to be extra vigilant and remain aware of the risk of transmission in all our activities outside school, especially during half-term. Maintaining a safe distance from others is important in keeping everyone safe and we need to take extra care if attending gatherings.

We all want pupils to continue the excellent progress made with face to face learning this term, so we appreciate all support on this and hope everybody remains vigilant and aware over the half term break.

Face Coverings

We can confirm that Welsh Government will provide two additional face coverings for pupils on their return to school after half term. Face coverings are still required by secondary aged learners when moving around indoor communal areas outside of the classroom, such as corridors, where physical distance cannot be maintained. Face coverings continue to be recommended on school transport to and from school and to college, trips etc.

We would also recommend that secondary school aged pupils continue to wear face coverings when visiting public indoor areas where possible.

Recent Changes to Welsh Government Guidelines

From the 11th October there have been three key changes in approach:

- Children under 5 are no longer recommended to take COVID-19 tests unless requested
- Anyone who lives with someone who tests positive should take daily LFT tests for seven days, in addition to PCR tests on Day 2 and Day 8
- Vaccinations are now underway for 12-15 year olds

Reporting of Positive Cases-Change

Please note there is no longer a requirement for parents to report either positive cases or symptoms to Delta Wellbeing outside of school hours. Instead, parents are asked to inform the school as soon as possible if your child tests positive for COVID-19 by emailing

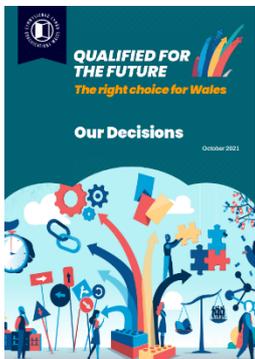
Office @qehs.carms.sch.uk



Testing and Information Over Half Term

LFT Testing will continue as normal over half term, and we would appreciate that you inform the school of results in the normal way. You will receive a text reminder with a link to the form as usual.

- It is also of great importance that you input your test results to the NHS website following the link at the end of the form.
- We would also appreciate you continuing to contact us over half term so that we are aware of the situation as we start back after half term.



Important Information Regarding Future GCSE Qualifications

Qualifications Wales issued a report on the future qualifications at Key Stage Four last week including significant changes to GCSE qualifications in Wales. The full report can be accessed on the links below:

<https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/publications/qualified-for-the-future---our-decisions-report-on-our-right-choice-for-wales-consultation/>

[Qualifications Wales / Qualifications for the Future: Reimagining Qualifications in Wales](#)

The changes are due to be implemented from 2027 and will look very different to the current menu of exams and qualifications at the end of Key Stage Four. There is also a pupil friendly version of the report and decisions below:

[Qualified for the future: The right choice for Wales \(qualificationswales.org\)](#)



Transition & Open Evenings for New Learners

If you have younger children who would like to join us in September 2022, or if you know someone who does, please note the **FINAL closing date for applications is December 17th 2021.**

A letter from Carmarthenshire Local Authority has also been circulated to outline the process and is available on our social media pages. All applications need to be made online on the Carmarthenshire website (link below):

[Moving up to Secondary school \(gov.wales\)](http://www.gov.wales)

For prospective parents, especially those in Year 6 who are interested in learning more about our school then there are a series of covid safe tours that have been arranged to tour the school, provide information and answer any queries parents or pupils might have. The tours can be booked in English or Welsh. The tours will run in the evenings:

Queen Elizabeth High School
Ysgol Uwchradd y Frenhines Elisabeth

Open Evening Tours 2021 Teithiau Agored 2021

Do you have a child in Year 6?

If you have a child in Year 6, then we would like to welcome you to visit our fantastic school and its facilities in November. We are taking bookings for short tours around the school and an opportunity to meet some key members of staff. Each tour will be limited to 10 people in order to keep everyone safe. We look forward to welcoming you in person.

Tours take place on the following evenings. Please choose the time that suits you.

Thursday 4th November
Monday 8th November (late tours)
Tuesday 9th November
Tuesday 16th November

(Bilingual Tours also available)

Book Here
www.qehs.carms.sch.uk

Follow us on Facebook

Queen Elizabeth High School
Llanstephan Road,
Johnstown,
Carmarthen,
SA31 3NL
01267 245300
www.qehs.carms.sch.uk
office@qehs.carms.sch.uk

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Oes plentyn gyda chi ym Mwyddyn 6?

Os oes gennych blentyn ym Mwyddyn 6, hoffem eich croesawu i ymweld â'n hysgol a'n hadnoddau gwych ym mis Tachwedd. Fyddym yn derbyn ceiswadau ar gyfer teithiau byr o amgylch yr ysgol, gan gynnwys cyfle i gyfarfod ag aelodau allweddol o'n staff. Cyfyngir pob taith i 10 person er mwyn iadw pawb yn ddiogel. Edrychwn ymlaen i'ch croesawu.

Bydd y teithiau'n digwydd ar y nosweithiau canlynol. Dewiswch amser sy'n hwylys i chi, os gwelwch yn dda.

Dydd Iau 4ydd o Dachwedd
Dydd Llun 8fed o Dachwedd (teithiau hwyr)
Dydd Mawrth 9fed o Dachwedd
Dydd Mawrth 16eg o Dachwedd

(Teithiau dwyieithog ar gael yn ogystal)

Er mwyn cael ffe ar y ddiwrnod hwn

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Queen Elizabeth High School
Llanstephan Road,
Johnstown,
Carmarthen,
SA31 3NL
01267 245300
www.qehs.carms.sch.uk
office@qehs.carms.sch.uk

Thursday 4th November
Monday 8th November,
Tuesday 9th November
Tuesday 16th November

Bookings can be made by following the information on our website or contacting Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk

Diwrnod Shwmae!

On Friday 15th October we celebrated “Diwrnod Shwmae” and the Welsh language by having fun around the school and in lessons. Activities such as quizzes and competitions took place in classrooms. There was also an opportunity to win some prizes. Well done to 7E, 8E and 9C for winning the form time quiz.



Rydyn ni wedi bod yn cael llawer o hwyl a sbri wrth ddathlu Diwrnod Shwmae a'r iaith Gymraeg o gwmpas yr ysgol. Llongyfarchiadau i 7E ac 8E a 9C a wnaeth ennill y cwis amser cofrestru. Roedd yn braf clywed pawb yn siarad Cymraeg o gwmpas yr ysgol.

Da iawn pawb!

Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022

Carmarthenshire County Council has drafted a new 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032. A public consultation is being carried out until 29th November 2021 to gather people's views on the draft plan. Please see the letter below to view the plan and respond to the consultation to take your opportunity to shape the future of all education in Carmarthenshire:

[Carmarthenshire's Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Uniform - All pupils are expected to follow the school uniform policy.

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform, which includes shirt, tie, jumper, black trousers, or skirt with black tights. Only on those days that pupils have PE should they wear the school PE kit with suitable trainers. Where PE kit is not available pupils should wear black kit. Converse style shoes are not appropriate trainers. Girls PE kit should include PE kit leggings, black jogging bottoms or black shorts that need to be approximately knee length. Boys are expected to wear their PE kit shorts or black jogging bottoms.

Pupils are allowed to wear the new 1/4 zip top on top to school and in corridors as the weather changes. Hoodies and coats not part of the school uniform will need to be removed when inside the building.

Additional Bank Holiday

After consultation with the Local Authority we have decided to take our additional Queen's Jubilee bank holiday on **Tuesday 21st December 2021**. We felt that this would provide a reasonable fire break opportunity to Covid in the winter and not impact significantly on exam preparation, our assessment calendar and learning.

All of us at QEHS are very proud of the way our community continues to work together. The way in which we all support one another, in what is an unprecedented set of circumstances, truly reflects our motto; "Ymlaen Gyda'n Gilydd- Moving Forward Together". Thank you for your continued support, of both our school, our community and your own wider families. Please stay safe and well and we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve the very best for our pupils/students and our community.

My colleagues and I wish you all a very good half term break next week and look forward to seeing everybody back safe on Monday 1st November

Thank you for your continued support, of our school and our community.

Kind Regards,

Dave Williams
Headteacher