



9 March 2021

Dear students, parents and guardians,

It is with great pleasure we set out our outline plans for the safe return of our students to face-to-face learning. As a school community the past year has been a roller coaster of experiences, we have all had to overcome challenges and for some life has been difficult. However, it is really important we celebrate what our students have achieved, what they have learnt and how we can use these skills and experiences to support them as they embark on the next stage of their learning. We know many of our students have been working incredibly hard, have developed as resilient independent learners and have upskilled in using a wide range of technology. In fact, we could be welcoming back the most mature and skilled students we have ever had. Our aim as a school is that our students now take **'Steps for Success'**.

The timetable for the return of key stage 3 students is as follows:

- ✓ Year 7 Wednesday 24 March
- ✓ Year 8 Thursday 25 March
- ✓ Year 9 Friday 26 March

Once our students return they will remain in school until the end of term on Friday 26 March. Our on-site educational provision for vulnerable learners and children of critical workers will continue until their year group return.

Many of our protective measures and safe routines continue however in some cases these have been strengthened. Key changes are:

- ✓ Nearly all students will be expected to wear a face covering (3ply) within the school building **and the classroom**. Those few students that are exempt on medical/ALN grounds will be provided with a lanyard so all staff and other students are aware of this.
- ✓ All staff and students in years 10 and 11 are participating in twice weekly voluntary Lateral Flow Device twice testing.

Our guidance booklet will be published later this week and sets out in detail our protective measures and safe routines. These are based on the latest Welsh Government [operational guidance](#). As part of our induction process with students, we will revisit these routines plus go through any changes. Furthermore in the past week we have surveyed our students to ask them what they need in terms of wellbeing and learning support to make a successful return. Our provision shall be personalised to each year group.

The guidance booklet will also outline our expectations for uniform. No students will be expected to wear uniform prior to Easter however after Easter we are expecting all of key stage 3 students to be back in full school uniform.

Our staff shall be undertaking on-site professional learning on Friday 12 March in preparation for the return of our students. There will be online learning provision however teachers will not be available on this day.

Our educational on-site provision for vulnerable learners and children of critical workers will run on Friday 12 March.

We cannot wait to have students back on site and trust we can use the time purposefully prior to Easter so that our students are well placed to make progress in the summer term.

Yours faithfully,

Elspeth Lewis

Executive Headteacher

Vicky Harris

Head of school