



17th July 2020

Arrangements for September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to give an update about our arrangements for returning to school in September 2020. Your support for Pen y Dre High School over this uncertain and challenging period has been incredible; we can't thank you enough. Our distance learning and check in, catch up and prepare sessions have gone well over these last four months. However, we look forward to our school community being back together as one.

After many discussions with the LA, the agreed model for all secondary schools in Merthyr to re-open in September is as follows:

Tuesday 1 st - Friday 4 th September	-	Staff only is school for 'Planning Preparation and Re-adjustment'
Monday 7 th - Tuesday 8 th September	-	Years 7 and 11
Wednesday 9 th September	-	Years 7, 10 and 11
Thursday 10 th September	-	Years 7, 9, 10 and 11
Friday 11 th September onwards	-	All year groups in school

Overall, we are planning to keep the structure of the school day as close to our normal routine as possible, whilst ensuring children and staff are kept safe and well during the ongoing situation with Covid-19. After reading the latest Welsh Government 'Guidance on learning in schools and settings from the autumn term' we will be establishing five 'contact groups' with each year group being a contact group. We will minimise interaction between these contact groups by putting in a one way system in school and dividing the school into five 'zones' for breaks and lunch time. These zones will have designated toilets to minimise interaction between the 'contact groups'.

The timing of the school day will remain broadly the same.

8.30 -8.50 a.m.	-	Registration
8.50 -9.50 a.m.	-	Period 1
9.50 – 10.50 a.m.	-	Period 2
10.50- 11.05 a.m.	-	Break





Ysgol Uwchradd
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High School

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11.05- 12.05 p.m.	-	Period 3
12.05- 1.05 p.m.	-	Period 4
1.05- 1.40 p.m.	-	Lunch
1.40 -2.40 p.m.	-	Period 5

Pupils can be dropped off and collected within the school grounds as usual but pupils must go straight to their form classes in the morning to ensure they remain within their 'contact group'. For Year 7, staff will be outside the school to show them where they will go on their first days with us in September.

There will be no hot food provided at break in the first half-term, so pupils are allowed to bring healthy snacks and water/juice only. At lunchtime, there will be hot meals that will need to be pre-ordered and paid for via ParentPay. The menu will be reduced to fewer options and Merthyr Tydfil CBC will publish this menu on their website over the Summer. Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform (and have full PYD P.E. kit) and parents of new pupils have received information about uniform arrangements in their transition packs.

We will be giving our plans more consideration over the summer in order to ensure that our start back is a really positive experience for the school community. We will give further information as needed so please keep checking the school twitter account @1Penydre and the school website www.penydre.merthyr.sch.uk

Have a safe, happy and restful summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

K. Maher Headteacher



PEN Y DRE
HIGH SCHOOL

