

YSGOL BRYN ALYN

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7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Gobeithiaf y llwyddoch chi i gael gwyliau ymlaciol. Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi i gyd.

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and on behalf of everyone at Ysgol Bryn Alyn, I send you my best wishes for the New Year.

We look forward to welcoming back our student body on Monday 10th January 2022. The new term will however, certainly present some challenges and I wish to update you on some changes to our provisions and to ask for your support in the following key areas:

Contingency plans for possible school closure

*It's clear that student and staff absences will have a big impact on our provision, certainly in the first half of this term. We will do our utmost to maintain in-school, face to face lessons. However, we do have contingency plans should staff absences become unmanageable, for example, lack of supply cover. **It may be that some year groups, will have alternative provisions – for example, working in combined groups, or working remotely from home.** We will try to give as much notice as possible for any changes to face to face learning, but as I am sure you are aware, this may not always be feasible when dealing with Covid related absences and we appreciate your support in this matter. To further support with reducing the spread of Covid **we would also ask that your child brings in wired headphones to be used with our computers.** Please do not allow your child to bring in air pods or similar wireless headphones as Ysgol Bryn Alyn will not accept any responsibility for their loss or damage.*

Covid symptoms and testing

*If students are **identified as a close contact** of someone with Covid, they no longer have to isolate, but should, instead, take an LFD test every day for seven days, and still attend school in the meantime.*

*If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and **book a PCR test** as soon as possible.*

*If you test positive on an LFD you should **report the result** and must self-isolate for at least 7 days starting from the date the LFD test was taken. You no longer need to book a follow-up PCR test (unless you have been advised to take a PCR test because you are in a clinically vulnerable group who may need early access to treatment, or have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme)*

We would also ask parents/carers not to send students to school if they display any Covid symptoms, and to get a PCR test as soon as possible.

Risk Assessment and student expectations

All students, unless exempt, will be expected to wear face masks in classrooms as well as in all indoor communal areas. Before Christmas, we were issuing roughly 300 masks each day to students who did not have their own. We have used up our stock and we are not expecting any further deliveries from the LA or from Welsh Assembly Government, nor can we afford to purchase our own at that rate of use. I would ask that parents/carers please ensure that children come to school with their own masks and that you encourage the wearing of them.

Students will continue to be in zoned areas for break and lunch, have their own year group allocated toilets and be asked to follow our one way system. Please can you encourage your child to follow our Covid Risk Assessment which are in place for the safety of all of our community.

Sanctions are in place for those students who do not follow our policies and procedures and our Covid Behaviour Addendum can be found on our school website.

Students will need suitable outdoor coats for lunchtime and break time that should be worn over the top of their uniform.

With the colder weather of the winter months upon us please ensure your child is appropriately dressed as ventilation is key in preventing the spread of Covid and classrooms will continue to have windows open. Currently outdoor coats are not permitted inside the building so suitable warm clothing should be worn under school uniform.

Although this is not the start of term we would like, we are looking forward to welcoming students back to school. However, we must all ensure that we continue to follow the guidance, and reinforce the safety messages around hand hygiene, ventilation in classrooms, space and being aware of the symptoms. Home testing plays a crucial part in our defences, and students will be issued with new test kits this week via reception – please ensure that your children conduct testing three times a week– this really is an important element of our efforts to keep everyone safe.

Thank you to all those who have conducted tests last half term and over the Christmas holidays. We would encourage all of our community to continue with LFD testing and help to keep us all safe.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth barhaol.



Mrs Slinn
Headteacher