



Radyr Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun Radur

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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Return to school

I hope this latest correspondence finds you and your family well. There is much to cover in this so I sincerely hope that you bear with me. This is especially so in the wake of the most recent and welcomed Welsh Government policy shift around the return to face to face learning for not just Key Stage 4 and 5 but also Key Stage 3.

I would though, like to emphasise the exact wording of Kirsty Williams's announcement as that should help inform your understanding of the context in which we have adopted our plan (outlined below). In her most recent announcement, the Minister said:

'I am able to confirm our intentions to go even further, even earlier, and give schools the opportunity to welcome back learners in years 7, 8 and 9 before the Easter break. This would be to give learners the opportunity to check-in with teachers, with a focus on support for wellbeing, and readiness for a full return to school after Easter.'

I want to make clear now that this will not be a full return to school for years 7, 8 and 9 before Easter.

The Minister also said: *'The plans will be subject to the regular three-week review of coronavirus regulations by the Welsh Government on Friday 12 March.'*

Therefore, our plan is outlined on page 2.

On page 3 you will find updated information regarding Centre Determined Grades. You may now be aware from media reports that Qualifications Wales have published more detailed guidance regarding the arrangements for these. Please be aware that this sort of information now tends to arrive at schools at the same time as it goes into the public domain. I have also attached with this newsletter a communication from Qualifications Wales for learners which we received this morning. Please take particular note of the links contained in the letter.

Date	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Hub
Monday 15th March								Y7, 8, 9, 10
Tuesday 16th March								Y7, 8, 9, 10
Wednesday 17th March								Y7, 8, 9, 10
Thursday 18th March								Y7, 8, 9, 10
Friday 19th March								Y7, 8, 9, 10
Monday 22nd March								Y7, 8, 9
Tuesday 23rd March								Y8, 9
Wednesday 24th March								Y7, 9
Thursday 25th March								Y7, 8
Friday 26th March								Closed

The coloured blocks represent the days in which these year groups will attend school. On the days that pupils are not on-site they will receive their full on-line learning provision but delivered almost exclusively from classrooms. You will see that the hub will remain open for the year groups indicated on those dates throughout the two week return.

Therefore, the number of days in school per year group will be as follows:

- Years 11 & 13: 10/10 days
- Years 10 & 12: 5/10 days
- Years 7,8 & 9: 2/10 days

All students will follow their usual timetables on these days. This will mean that all students will have access to all of their subject teachers giving students the chance to reacquaint themselves with the risk control systems in the school as well as new protocols surrounding face coverings. They will also be able to spend time with their friends.

Other points:

- The canteens will NOT be open this side of Easter – students will need to bring a packed lunch;
- School uniform will NOT need to be worn for these two weeks;
- If a student has PE or Games then they should arrive at school in their kit;
- Latest Welsh Government guidance is that secondary school students will need to wear face coverings when in school unless they are eating, involved in physical activity (this includes when on red grass and yard) or have a medical exemption. However, pupils WILL be expected to wear masks on the quad and when moving around between lessons as they

will be unable to socially distance. Masks WILL be worn by staff and students during lesson times. Our risk assessment has been updated to reflect this. The wearing of masks will be reviewed after Easter;

- We are awaiting key updates on optional Lateral Flow Testing for students;
- All students will need to remember, from their 1st day back:
 - to follow the one way system;
 - sanitise hands at the start and end of lessons;
 - disinfect desks and chairs at the end of each lesson;
 - social distancing protocols are still very much in place.
- There will be no extra-curricular activities for these two weeks at least;
- In instances of positive Covid cases we will be implementing the same contact tracing protocols as those which we utilised in the Autumn Term;

Assessments and Qualifications (Key Stage 4 & 5)

We now have Assessment Frameworks from WJEC and departments are finalising their individual plans which we will share as soon as possible. In the meantime, I would like to reiterate that this information refers specifically to WJEC courses and qualifications; a very small number of courses delivered in the school come under the auspices of other examination boards and, in these instances, teachers will inform students of the particular assessment requirements which apply.

- Students will only be assessed on work which is identified as being within the Departmental Assessment Plan. They will be told clearly and unambiguously what work is to be assessed and when. If students have not been told that a piece of work will form part of the final assessment then it won't be;
- Assessments will either be WJEC past paper questions or approved adaptations of such;
- The vast majority of assessments will take place during the Summer Term. The likely timetable will mean that most will need to be completed by the Whitsun half-term;
- We will do all we can to mitigate the assessment pressures of this period but some clustering of assessments across subjects is a strong possibility;
- Assessments are not 'mini-exams' and will take place in classrooms unless there is an unavoidable reason not to do so. In many cases they will be short, self-contained pieces of work;
- Teachers will mark the assessments and their subject specialist colleagues will moderate (double check) the marking. In other words, all assessments will have been signed off, where possible, by at least two subject specialists;
- In most subjects, Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) which have already been completed will form part of the final assessment. These assessments would have been undertaken on that understanding anyway. We have recently been informed that it is now acceptable for some NEAs to be completed at home as long as we are confident that the work is the students' own. Some subject areas will be implementing this and will have control measures in place to help them establish that confidence;
- Students who are listed as requiring assessment concessions will be given full and proper access to these;
- Rigorous plans will be implemented which are designed to ensure a fair assessment process for all and everything will be done to ensure that every student will have as much fair access as each other as possible. This may involve quite complex planning

arrangements but please be assured that the justifications for processes will have been carefully considered and implemented;

- Grade descriptors published by the examination boards will be used to help finalise grades;
- There will be an opportunity for students to request a review of the grades determined by the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A D Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr A D Williams
Headteacher