Ysgol Glan-y-Môr School

Headteacher/Prifathro:
Mr Paul Jones B.Sc. Econ, P.G.C.E., NPQH, M.Ed

Head of School/Pennaeth yr Ysgol:
Mr John Jones B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Heol Elfed, Burry Port
Carmarthenshire, SA16 0AL

Tel / Ffôn: 01554 832507
Fax / Cylf: 01554 836110

Email: ysgol@glanymor.cymru
Web: www.glanymorschool.co.uk

# Update for Parents – 6th September 2021

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I hope this update finds you and your families well, and though it seems infection rates are still rising again across the country, it has been great to see all the students back in school with us, and heart warming to see how positive they've been upon their return.

As we said last week, Welsh Government's recent review kept the country to "Alert level 0", the details of which can be seen below:

https://gov.wales/coronavirus

We continue to work with the local authority as we move towards the new system of the **Local Covid-19 Infection Control Decision Framework** for September 20th, but for the moment the Ministers statement and operational guidance for September that was issued to schools in July is still in effect, which can be seen below:

Minister's Written Statement on Schools in September
School operations: coronavirus | GOV.WALES

**As ever, we will communicate any relevant changes to how we are operating to yourselves and your children as soon as we are able to, if there are any.**

## Current Operations

### Just a reminder that we are operating slightly differently to how we operated in July

On attending school each morning every student should:

1. Arrive to be on site between 8.15 and 8.30.
2. Enter site through either of the usual 2 entrances to site, by the canteen or back gate.
3. Wash their hands at one of the handwashing stations now spread around the site.
4. Proceed directly to their form room.

### Notable changes

- Lessons and teachers will be based in their own specialist classrooms except for form time.
- Extended reg will remain each day until 9 but be extended until 9.30 on a Monday.
- School start and end time will be the same as pre-pandemic, not staggered.
- Health check will be conducted in form rooms by tutors, not by Teaching Assistants.
- Bags and other equipment will stay with pupils when not left in classrooms.
- Face coverings will be worn only when in corridors inside the building, wearing them in classrooms is voluntary, but expected when moving around inside the building.
- Lessons times will be rearranged to equalize their length as much as possible.

### Key factors that remain from June 2021 Operations

- One-way systems will remain to control movement around site between blocks and floors.
- Break and Lunchtime will remain staggered to keep year groups separated.
- Canteen provision will be the same as at present.
- 2m social distancing will remain wherever possible for staff from pupils and other staff.

- Hand sanitizing/washing at entrance/exit to every room.
- Supervised pupil movement and corridor teams.
- Specified year group toilets.
- Students who are participating will wear PE kit to school on PE days and not change.
- Entrances and exits to site will still be designated.
- Seating plans in all classes.
- Classes will still be arranged in lines.
- LFT Testing regime will remain as at the moment.

**All learners currently who are taking part in routine LFT testing should continue testing on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, and the results reported to ourselves and the NHS as usual via the links texted out to parents.**

A text reminder will be sent out in the usual way, and tests will be issued periodically to all pupils participating. If anyone does not have sufficient tests, please contact us as soon as possible.

**If you have not previously indicated, but now wish your child to engage with the testing process, to contact us at ysgol@glanymor.cymru.**

**Face Coverings**

The Minister's statement outlines changes to the advice on wearing face coverings in school from September as follows:
*"From the start of the new term Welsh Government will no longer be recommending the routine wearing of face coverings in the classroom for staff or learners. Schools and settings may however wish to encourage their use in areas where there is likely to be more social mixing, such as in communal areas. Face coverings should continue to be worn by learners in secondary schools and settings when travelling on dedicated school transport. As part of a school's risk assessment process, supported by public health officials, and in discussion with local authorities, schools and settings will be able to decide whether the wearing of face coverings is appropriate anywhere on the school site based on the school's own circumstances and local context. If, however an individual wishes to wear a face covering this should not be prevented."* (*Welsh Government)*

We would still expect learners to bring their face coverings to school every day (unless exempt) as they will need to be worn at various times throughout the school day, such as in corridors and busy internal communal areas. All pupils have been provided with Welsh Government approved face coverings at the start of term.

**School Transport**

School transport will run as normal. New bus timetables will be published on the school website and can be accessed at the link below:

https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-transport/school-bus-timetables/#.YRKLHuTFBzk

*Please note: under current regulations face coverings must be worn on all public and school transport.*

**Free School Meals**

Eligible households should be receiving direct payments in respect of Free School Meals over the summer holidays. For those who have not registered for payment or anyone new to claiming Free School Meals, please ensure you apply using the contact details below. Email:
FreeSchoolMeals@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01267 234567 and ask for Free Meal Payments

**Uniform**

As a reminder for pupils and parents, our school uniform is published on our website. Please see the link below:

https://www.glanymorschool.co.uk/Parents/Uniform/

**Pupils will continue to come to school in PE kit on the days that they have a PE lesson and they are physically participating, if they are not, they should wear normal school uniform.**

The required PE kit for lessons is as follows:

- Black/dark navy leggings/tracksuit bottoms/shorts/skort
- White t-shirt/blue PE t-shirt/rugby shirt
- School PE hoody
- Appropriate footwear

A grant is available for school uniform and equipment for families who are eligible. Please see the link below for more information:

School Uniform & Equipment Grant

**Arrival and Departure**

From September, the school day will start promptly at 8.30 for all learners as the staggered start to the day will no longer be in place. Learners may arrive on the school site from 8.15am onwards and should go straight to their form rooms following washing their hands. Parents bringing children to school by car must remain inside their vehicles. At the end of the day, all pupils will leave at 3pm by the same exits at Park y Tywyn and the bus bay as they did in July.

**Equipment**

Guidance to avoid sharing equipment while at school remains in place, therefore learners should come to school equipped with their own stationery kept in a pencil case in their school bags. They should also bring enough water or drinks to remain hydrated through the day. Catering will only be available at lunch time; as in its current form, therefore pupils should also bring their own snacks if required for morning break.

**Test Trace Protect**

There are further changes to how TTP will operate regarding learners in school settings as follows:
*Contact groups will be replaced by a stronger focus on contact tracing, in line with the general populations. We will use our TTP system in order to identify close contacts of learners who have tested positive, and TTP may contact the school or setting to supplement the information they have gathered with any further intelligence that may be available. Our expectation of schools/settings is that they follow the specific advice they receive from TTP about whether individuals need to self-isolate. (Welsh Government)*

Seating plans will continue to be important in helping to identify close contacts if necessary. Maintaining a distance of two metres from others wherever possible is still recommended.

The Local Authority have updated their guidance on what parents should do if their child is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or needs to self-isolate. Please see the below information from the Local Authority:

If your child becomes unwell or needs to self-isolate, please report this to us 24/7 by calling 0300 333 2222 or by emailing TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk

For information on how to apply for a test for yourself or someone in your household with symptoms including children under 5s please visit the Welsh Government website https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test.

If you or your child feels unwell and need medical advice, please telephone NHS 111 for advice or visit their website https://111.wales.nhs.uk/default.aspx?locale=en or telephone your GP.

Delta Wellbeing will be able to offer advice and support as well as undertaking the Test, Trace and Protect procedures.

## Communication

Whilst this is a difficult and challenging time we continue to try and keep in contact. As ever we will continue to keep contact via updates on our Website and through our Social Media platforms of Facebook or twitter and indeed our call text service. If you need to initiate a conversation about any aspect of learning or wellbeing please contact us on 01554-832507 between the hours of 8.00a.m. and 3.30p.m. or at ysgol@glanymor.cymru as usual.

Please can all parents/carers provide the school with a current up to date email address and phone number to help facilitate this, by using the link below ASAP if you have not done so already, and huge thanks to those who have already done this.

https://forms.gle/Yggj8X6YbCd2X4M29

## Finally

As a school, we are very proud of the way all of us in our community continue to work together, the ways in which we all support one another and come together, in what is an unprecedented set of circumstances, truly shows what we are about and how we continue to try strive for “Success through effort” 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 get the best for the students and their community.

Kind Regards

**John Jones**
Head of School