



# Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

## Cymuned Ddysgu Ebwy Fawr

**Headteacher / Prifathro:** Mr. H. R. Lloyd, BA Hons, MSc

**W:** [www.ebbwfawr.co.uk](http://www.ebbwfawr.co.uk)

17 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Year 11 Arrangements

I am delighted to be writing to you to confirm the arrangements for the full reopening of Ebbw Learning Community in September.

### **When does my child attend?**

Your child should attend school at 8.35am on Thursday 3 September 2020 and report straight to the restaurant. Please note that although the school grounds will be open from 8.15am the internal doors will not be opened until 8.30am. If your child is unable to attend school please contact us using the normal channels of communication.

### **Which entrance should my child use?**

There are three entrances to the school, namely the leisure centre entrance, the entrance opposite the multi-storey carpark and the entrance nearest to Coleg Gwent. Children who catch the bus should only enter the grounds via the entrance nearest to the leisure centre. Year 11 who do not catch the bus should use the MULTI-STOREY entrance and head towards the restaurant where they will be informed of their new form tutor by the Leader of Learning.

### **Bubbles**

In year 11, children will follow their normal timetable and be placed in a year group bubble, unlike key stage 3 who are placed in class bubbles. This is to ensure that key stage 4 are able to access the whole of their curriculum including specialist subjects such as design technology. For PE, children will exit the building from the wings where they are located and be taken to the leisure centre by the PE staff. Where possible, desks in classrooms have been placed facing forward.

During breaktimes and lunchtimes we will offer staggered breaks to ensure that large groups of children are not all out of class together at one time.

### **Transport**

Buses will be running as normal; thus, children need to ensure they are at the relevant points of pick-up at the normal time. If anything changes regarding transport arrangements we will contact those concerned in late August.



## **School Meals**

From September the school will be able to resume to normal catering facilities at both break and at lunch. However, to adhere to government guidelines regarding social distancing, we will need to offer hot and cold lunches which can be served more speedily; this will allow us to ensure that year group bubbles can be kept apart. A full menu will be advertised in late August. To help keep contact points to a minimum we ask, where possible, that parents top up their child's account by using the online payment system found on our website:

<https://www.ebbwfawr.co.uk/online-payments/>. Alternatively, learners can top up their account when they arrive school.

## **Equipment and Resources**

Children will need to bring in their own resources to reduce the risk of cross contamination which could develop from sharing equipment. Where possible, if children can bring into school a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber this will help to reduce the risk of infection. If children also own colouring pens and pencils, this would also be of benefit. For the first two weeks of school, learners will not need to bring in their PE kit as the PE department have organised a series of lessons which do not involve the need for the children to get changed.

## **Uniform**

Children are expected to be in full school uniform when they return. As a reminder, skirts should be black, knee length with no extreme slits and skinny jeans and leggings are not part of the school uniform and not acceptable. May I also refer you to our Dress Code on our school website [www.ebbwfawr.co.uk](http://www.ebbwfawr.co.uk) regarding hair-cuts, colour and piercings. We have been assured that both Mel Morgan's in Ebbw Vale and Reflex in Tredegar have large stocks of uniform. Please remember that we also run a recycled uniform shop in school which is free of charge. If this is something you are interested in, please get in touch with us.

## **Behaviour**

As always, we expect high levels of behaviour; good behaviour is something we pride ourselves on. On their first day back, pupils will be reminded of the rules that we must all abide by to keep safe. Please take the opportunity to remind your son/daughter that learners must try to maintain a distance from friends and staff at all times. Regrettably, any learner who behaves in a way that poses a risk to other learners and staff will be directed to the senior leadership team and parents contacted immediately.

## **Hygiene and Cleaning**

Learners will be expected to sanitise their hands-on arrival at the building and will be guided to wash their hands throughout the day. A hygiene station including hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes will be available in all classroom areas for staff and children. Children will not be required to wear masks. Throughout the school day we will employ an enhanced cleaning regime. Cleaners will be on site in the mornings, prior to the building opening to staff and students, during the day for key areas and at the end of the day for a further deep clean.

## Illness

Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms linked to Covid-19. We ask that parents/carers contact us urgently to report any such symptoms.

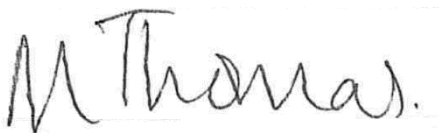
A huge thank you for all of your support and trust that we have received over the past 6 months. With your support, Ebbw Fawr has been able to continue to function as a community school throughout this pandemic, and more recently has successfully welcomed back over 50% of our learners; we were delighted by this! Roll on September when we can have our full cohort back!

Recently in the news there has been a lot of unhelpful, doom laden language, referring to 'lost generations', 'doomed cohorts of children' and 'the need to catch-up'. There is a danger that if we continue to label our children in this way then this may become self-fulfilling. For us at Ebbw Fawr, we will ensure that we use positive language around resuming our curriculum and encouraging our children to 'reconnect' and 'move forwards'. Thus adopting a spirit within school of confidence and eagerness rather than crisis.

Finally, as a reminder we will be running a second **Facebook live** question and answer session for all year groups on Wednesday 26 August 2020. The event titled '**What will school be like in September?**' will give parents, carers and children an opportunity to ask any further questions they may have before returning to school.

In the meantime, if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me on [mthomas@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:mthomas@ebbwfawr.co.uk). Enjoy the summer and please stay safe!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'T'.

Mrs M Thomas  
Head of Secondary