



LEWIS GIRLS' SCHOOL

YSGOL GYFUN I FERCHED

HEDD – HARMONY, EXCELLENCE, DETERMINATION, DILIGENCE

28th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have been able to enjoy your summer and your children are looking forward to their return to school next week or to starting their first year at Lewis Girls'. I wrote to you at the end of term with some of the arrangements for September, so this letter should just confirm those arrangements and provide you with final details, including a change to the timing of the school day. It is important to be aware, however, that if there are any further changes to advice from Welsh Government, I will need to write to you again so please look out for any updates on our website. At present, however, the message is clear in that a return to school is vital for children's education and wellbeing and therefore we need to ensure all students can return to school. However, we will continue to establish measures that keep people as safe as possible.

Organisation of the day:

The school day will start at 8:25, which is 15 minutes earlier than usual and end at 2:15. School transport will run as normal, except for the change to timings. This is currently a temporary measure put in place because we will not be able to provide lunch to students. Senior staff will guide students in and out of school each day so that we have as much distancing as possible and can stagger students' arrival and exit. There will be two 20 minute breaks during the day. Students will not be permitted to leave the school site and they must bring their lunch and snacks with them as food will not be available on site. Despite the changes in the timing of the day, students will still have five, high quality lessons per day. Assemblies and *Thought for the Day* will be live streamed into classrooms.

Induction Week:

The Minister has allocated planning and preparation days at the start of term. However, given the teaching and learning time students have already missed in the current academic year, we will have one day for planning on Tuesday 1st September, which would normally be an inset day anyway, and then on Wednesday 2nd September we will have an enhanced transition day for the new year 7 students, so that we can ensure they are settled and happy before other year groups return. Year 13 will also be expected to return on Wednesday 2nd and they will have a full day with the sixth form team to re-engage them with their studies. On Thursday 3rd September, year 11 and 12 will return and will be re-engaged with their learning. On Friday 4th September, all students will return and lessons will start immediately. So in summary:

- **Tuesday 1st September: Planning day. No students.**
- **Wednesday 2nd September: Year 7 and year 13 only.**
- **Thursday 3rd September: Years 7, 11, 12, 13.**
- **Friday 4th September: All year groups for a full return.**

P.T.O →

Headteacher / Pennaeth: Dr. H. Duncan BA (Hons), MEd, PhD, NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mr J. Grashoff

LEWIS GIRLS' COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL / YSGOL GYFUN I FERCHED

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Groupings:

Students will be in 'contact groups' and we will avoid mixing groups as much as possible. Each year group or 'contact group' is allocated a zone and organised into classes within the zone, that allow us to ensure teaching and learning is very specifically pitched with the right level of challenge and support for students. They will remain in the same classroom with their group for most lessons unless they need specialist equipment, such as in science, where they may need access to a lab. This will effectively restrict movement and reduce contact with other year groups, but not affect the quality of learning. On days where students have PE, they can come to school in the school PE uniform. All students will wear full school uniform unless they have a PE lesson. We will continue with the practice of no sharing of equipment. This will be in all lessons. At key stage 4, students will need to separate to attend their different option subjects. However, most option groups have smaller numbers of students than those of core subjects. This means they will be able to maintain an appropriate distance in lessons. Where subjects have larger numbers of students, the allocated classroom will also be significantly larger. Sixth form subjects are taught in smaller groups. Breaks will be taken within zones. As I have said, we will not reduce any teaching time and I expect high quality teaching, learning and engagement. Our well being team have worked with many children over recent months and they will continue to support children throughout the new term.

Safety:

We continue to observe the following measures:

- Anyone who displays symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home
- Regular and thorough hand washing and sanitising
- Regular and focussed cleaning of areas and surfaces
- Full engagement with Test, Trace, Protect
- Established contact groups in zones to reduce mixing and movement, maximised distancing, facing front tables.
- No visitors unless by prior appointment.

(I would also request that you ensure we have a relevant contact number for you in case your child presents with symptoms and you are needed to take her home. The form your daughter will bring home next week will record this information from you).

The measures comply with health and safety guidance and are in place ready for September. As usual, we will adapt to any changes in advice or circumstance, and we will review the actions and plans every two weeks, continuing to adapt to change as the new term starts and progresses. **We will need to continue to ensure that if anyone is ill and presents with symptoms, they do not attend school. This is very important to keep the community safe.** However, I did not want parents or children to be worried or anxious about the return, so I hope you will feel reassured to know what we have planned and how we aim to provide engaging and purposeful learning in a safe environment.

Stay safe and well.

Kind regards and very best wishes,

H Harding

Mrs H Harding
Acting Headteacher