



20 July 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

As we move towards the end of this academic term I wanted to provide you with some early information to help you plan for September. We received Welsh Government operational guidance last Monday which is now being used to guide our provision from September. In principle the guidance is encouraging schools to gradually phase year groups into school, zone year groups together into a 'contact group', restrict their movement to minimise interactions with other year groups and stagger starts and ends to the school day. This is alongside the increased need for hand sanitisation and in school cleaning and having provision in place should there be a local outbreak of Covid 19. Although there is a lot of detail to consider I am at this early stage able to confirm:

The school will open fully for all students on Monday September 14th, however we will be inviting year groups into school on a phased basis to allow us to ensure they are fully prepared for the safe operation of the school. We have prioritised our most immediate examination groups and those at points of transition. The start dates will therefore be:

- Year 11 and 13 -Thursday 3rd September
- Year 7 and 12 - Monday 7th September
- Year 10 - Wednesday 9th September
- Year 9 - Friday 11th September
- Year 8 - Monday 14th September

We will have to operate on 10 minute staggered starts and finish, with staggered breaks and lunch times so that we can control pupil movement around the school. Likewise we will be 'zoning' year groups in different blocks in the school. We will make sure that, before we return, your children know where they must enter the building and which classroom they will be in for their tutor period. We will make sure that each year group has a formal induction on their first day back so that they have all the school's operating procedures fully explained to them. These will be very similar to how we are currently operating but there will need to be some adjustments given the larger number of students on site.

Our priority is to ensure that all members of the school community feel safe when they are in the building and that students will be able to have access to all their subject teachers and their normal school timetable. This will mean that teachers will be moving classrooms more and that there will be limited access to our specialist facilities, such as science laboratories, as working practices in these environments present particular challenges. However, we are determined to make sure our students receive the best possible support when they return to school to enable them to progress with their learning and being in the right teaching group with the subject specialist has been our priority.

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We will be expecting students back to school in full school uniform and they will need to ensure that they have their own school equipment to use throughout the day. With this in mind we will be sending out a list of recommended equipment next week. Details about school lunches are not yet available but I will make sure that they are shared with you when they are.

Students returning to the Sixth Form

We will be arranging time slots for students who have queries about courses or may want to change them on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September. This will be on a needs basis and can be arranged with Mr Williams, Assistant Head, following the release of GCSE results.

Individual meetings

If you have specific concerns you may want to come into school to speak to our Behaviour and Wellbeing teams or Directors of Learning at the start of the term; so we will be making time available on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September. Please contact the school office through general@johnbright.uk to make an appointment.

School Transport

It is unlikely that we will be able to offer the paid Penrhyn Bay bus for children who live less than three miles away, however the Local Authority have asked the school to pass on the following information to parents:

'This year due to COVID -19 situation, it has been decided to delay the processing of any requests for concessionary seats until October half term, we have put a statement on the application screen when parents apply and also put the statement on our social media pages, any applications will be put on a waiting list and processed in October half term, due to the social distancing requirements from the Welsh Government. If seats are available they will be allocated on a first come/first placed basis.'

We will be working closely with the Local Authority over the next few weeks to ensure that we fully risk assess our school provision and I will keep you informed should there be any changes to these arrangements or on any further information that you will need. We have been told to expect updated Welsh Government guidance throughout the summer.

I will send out a final communication at the end of this week and in the meantime if you have any queries then please contact us before we finish so that we can deal with them for you.

Thank you again for your continued support and your commitment to working with us through this challenging period.

Yours faithfully



Ann Webb
Headteacher/Pennaeth