



CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL

THE BEST FROM EACH, SUCCESS FOR ALL
Y GORAU O BOB UN, LLWYDDIANT I BAWB

YSGOL UWCHRADD CANTONIAN

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Executive Headteacher: **Mrs D Gill**
Pennaeth Gweithredol:

Head of School: **Mr G Jones**
Pennaeth yr Ysgol:

01 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you as the spring term draws to a close to thank you for the support you have given to the school so far this year and to outline our preparations for the remainder of the academic year ahead.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to see the exciting images of the new school building. They can be accessed on the school website at the following address:

<https://www.cantonian.org/newbuild/>

The last day of term on Friday 8 April December will be a contracted day. The day will end at lunch time, 12.35pm, when pupils will be free to leave. If your child has free school meals and you prefer, they can have their lunch at 12.35, and leave school at 1.00pm, but this must be pre-ordered by sending a note to your child's Head of Year. If you wish your child to remain in school until 3.05, please write to the school to be given to the relevant Form Tutor by Wednesday 6 April.

When we return from our Easter break, we move into exam season; pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 will be undertaking their Welsh National Tests, years 10 and 11 their GCSEs, and our sixth form pupils their AS and A level exams.

COVID-19 Update

Following the recent changes in legislation regarding COVID-19, I would like to provide an update on how the ongoing challenges presented by the virus continue to be met by our school.

Case rates within the Cardiff and Vale region have been climbing over the past few weeks. The rise in cases continues to present challenges with staffing and, as a last resort, there may be instances of class closures due to self-isolation and illness etc. In such cases, and wherever possible, school staff have continued to deliver online learning, to minimise disruption to pupils.

From Monday 28 March, the legal requirement for self-isolation and use of face coverings in public areas is no longer in effect. However, while the legislation has changed, the current Operational Guidance for schools has not changed. COVID-19 has not gone away and continues to present challenges. While we continue to work through the transition in line with the Welsh Government's strategy of living with COVID-19, it is still strongly advised that anyone with classic COVID-19 symptoms continues to take a test, and in the interests of public health, anyone with a positive test continues to self-isolate.

Details on the current guidance in relation to self-isolation can be found online at www.gov.wales/self-isolation

Currently, any pupil who tests positive for COVID-19 will be asked to not attend school. This is because a COVID-19 infection will be treated like any other communicable disease (e.g., Norovirus) and in such cases, the school can recommend certain measures to protect the health and safety of other pupils and staff. This is not an exclusion, but an authorised absence.

Schools are continuing to operate in accordance the Welsh Government COVID-19 Local Decision Framework. We will continue to monitor and review our COVID-19 arrangements on a regular basis and are taking proportional responses based on local infection rates, to balance the need for face-to-face learning, and keeping our school a safe environment.

You can help us to continue to disrupt the transmission of the virus by:

- Self-isolating when you feel unwell
- Wearing masks in crowded places
- Keeping up to date with your vaccinations

Continuing with protective behaviours is important and will help to minimise exposure to and spread of COVID-19, as well as other respiratory infections and other diseases.

If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and take a lateral flow test (LFT). You can order LFTs online at www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or call 119 between 7am and 11pm (calls are free).

The main symptoms of COVID-19 continue to be:

- a high temperature
- a continuous cough
- loss or change of taste or smell

The next few months will see further work in transitioning to Welsh Government's Living with COVID-19 strategy, and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure a safe school environment. We are grateful for your ongoing support and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Should you have any specific queries regarding attendance, please contact us.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your ongoing support for the school.

I wish you and your family a relaxing Easter break.

Yours sincerely



MR G JONES
Head of School