

AFON TÂF HIGH SCHOOL

Yew Street - Troedyrhiw -
Merthyr Tydfil - CF48 4ED

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YSGOL UWCHRADD AFON TÂF

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Headteacher / Prifathro
Mr S James BSc(Hons), MA, NPQH.

13th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, following the announcement made by the Welsh Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, on the 3rd of June regarding the reopening of schools, we greatly appreciate your patience in awaiting further information. As you will be aware, we will begin a phased reopening of our school during the week commencing the 29th of June. Unfortunately, we had to wait a further week for the Welsh Assembly Government to release the guidance needed to effectively plan for the next stage. We are confident that we have now established a plan which will allow our pupils and staff to return to school safely.

It is important to emphasise that the school will, in no way, be functioning in its normal capacity. In this letter, I hope to clearly explain the experiences our pupils will receive should they return prior to the summer holidays, allowing you to decide whether you wish for your child to return at this time. To reiterate, it has been confirmed that there will be no consequences for those parents choosing to not send their children to school as a result of any concerns over their safety in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After giving you the opportunity to consider the information provided here, we will be asking parents and carers to complete an online questionnaire indicating whether you intend to send your child to school. In addition to this letter, we will also be sending a video link to all parents at the beginning of next week which will enable both yourselves and the pupils to visually understand the adaptations we have had to make to our school building in an attempt to mitigate the risks to both pupils and staff.

Below are the key points we feel you should know regarding the way in which the school will operate over the coming weeks:

- The school will be open to small groups of pupils 5 days a week.
- The school day will be 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Each pupil will be allocated 2 contact days prior to the summer holidays.
- Classrooms will hold a maximum of 5 pupils and 2 adults at any time.
- No catering will be provided; pupils should bring a packed lunch.
- Pupils will be split in to groups of 5 by their form tutor. Your child's form tutor will be contacting you next week to confirm the two dates your child is able to attend school; if you receive a phone call from a withheld number, please answer as it is likely to be them. Any pupils attending school on days that have not been allocated to them will be refused entry.
- On arrival to school, pupils must go straight to the toilets to wash their hands. The downstairs toilets will be for Year 7 and 8 pupils and the upstairs toilets for pupils in Year 9 and 10.



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- After washing their hands, pupils must go directly to their form room. They will remain there for the duration of the day; limiting the amount of movement within the school is one of the key components to mitigating the risks to both pupils and staff. However, should the weather allow, pupils will be provided with an allocated time to use the outside space we have at school with their form tutor.
- Pupils will not be taught in the traditional sense of the word. The purpose of these contact days is to 'check-in' with pupils during this difficult and uncertain time. Distance learning for pupils to complete at home will continue to be provided by staff.
- We would like pupils to be in school uniform where possible, however, pupils must not wear their blazers. Pupils should also not bring any books with them.
- We are currently awaiting local authority decisions regarding the provision of school transport.

As we are sure you can ascertain from the above, the next few weeks will be very different to 'normal' school. We understand that many of you will be anxious to know the situation for September; believe us, we are too! As soon as we have any further information on this, we will, of course, communicate this to you. What we can say is that we do not believe that school will operate as normal for the foreseeable future. Should you choose to send your child to school prior to the summer holidays, we are very excited to see them. If you have any further queries that have not been addressed here or by the video we share next week, please email pupilenquiries@afontaf.merthyr.sch.uk and we will do our utmost to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S James
Head Teacher