



HAWTHORN HIGH SCHOOL

Health, Happiness, Success



School Lane, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, CF37 5AL Tel: 01443 841228 Fax: 01443 846464 Email: hawthorn@hawthornhs.co.uk

Headteacher / Prifathro: Mrs C Crockett BA NPQH

*** COVID-19 UPDATE ***

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Minister for Education, Jeremy Miles has provided an update concerning the return to school arrangements for January 2022, due to the uncertainty regarding the impact of the Omicron strain of COVID-19. I have outlined for you the main points shared in the letter we have received:

Start of the new term:

As you were aware, our pupils were scheduled to return to school on Wednesday, 5th January 2022 due to our planned inset on Tuesday 4th January 22. However, the Government has now instructed schools to undertake **2 planning days** to allow for the assessment of staffing capacity and to ensure that any additional mitigation measures necessary can be put in place to support the return of all our pupils. Welsh Government has stated that all pupils will return to onsite provision by Monday, 10th January at the latest.

I will contact you again shortly to confirm further arrangements for the start of the new term, when further information has been received and all risk assessments and mitigation plans confirmed.

January Examinations:

We will be utilising these planning days to ensure a robust mitigation plan to prioritise pupils to safely sit their January exams, and to ensure exam years are prioritised for onsite provision should there be a need to restrict onsite learning at any time.

LFD tests:

We have been advised by the Welsh Government that all staff and pupils of secondary age and above should test **three** times a week using LFDs (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday), in the week **before returning to school** and to then continue testing regularly **three** times a week after the start of term in January before attending school.

Should you require further test kits, please ensure your child collects LFDs from the school office tomorrow or alternatively these can be sourced free of charge in local pharmacies.

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Blended / Remote Learning:

Can I kindly request that all parents/carers ensure that all pupils have access to their personal Hwb account, as we continue to utilise blended learning as a school, and especially should there be a greater need to move to distance learning in the near future.

If your child does not have access to a laptop, please contact the school to collect a device. Please note that phones and tablets are not deemed as appropriate devices.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

It will continue to be important that no one with COVID-19 symptoms attends school at the start of term and they should book a PCR test.

Parent Contact Details

Please ensure that your contact information is up to date as our main communication is via email.

As you are aware, the Welsh Government has recently announced that weekly updates will be provided regarding COVID-19 considerations and guidance. This is a fast-evolving situation and I continue to be thankful for your support. I will continue to keep you updated as further information is shared.

Yours sincerely,

C Crockett
Headteacher

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