



8 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **KEEP WALES SAFE, KEEP WALES LEARNING**

On Wednesday of last week, I received a letter from the Minister for Education setting out her ambition to begin the phased reintroduction of face-to-face teaching before Easter in a safe and flexible way. Today, I received the operational guidance from Cardiff Council that will allow us to realise that ambition. This is, indeed, welcome news!

In designing our approach, we must balance the interests of children and young people across the age and ability range, and consider the impact on learning and progress, public health and planning. There is no 'one size fits all' approach and each school will organise provision in a way that best meets the needs of their learners.

#### **At St Teilo's, this means:**

- **From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, there will be a phased return to school for all pupils for two weeks.**
- **In Years 12 and 13, this will be a full return with the timetable operating as usual.**
- **In Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, this will be a 'one day on, one day off' model. When in school, learners will follow the timetable as usual. When at home, learners will complete their end of term assessments online.**

It is intended that this approach most effectively provides for continuity in education whilst reducing the risk of transmission (and, hence, reducing the likelihood of further school closure). It also brings about significant operational advantages. You can read the rationale for my decision in more detail by clicking [here](#).

#### ***How will my child know which days to attend?***

From tomorrow, timetables will be emailed to pupils. Years 7-11 will attend on alternate days, beginning on either Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Over the ten day period, they will attend school for five full days.

#### ***Will school transport be running?***

The local authority intend for school transport to be running as normal.

***What will my child need to bring with them?***

Pupils will require their school equipment, drinking water and packed lunch as usual. We recommend that every child also carries their own small bottle of hand sanitiser.

***Will face masks be required?***

Yes. In line with new government guidance, all pupils will be required to wear a face covering when inside the building.

***Is uniform required?***

Yes. This fortnight is a transitional period to reintroduce children and young people to the demands of school life before a broader reopening. The closer to 'normal' things can be, the better. If your child has outgrown certain items of uniform, please provide them with a note to explain this.

***Will children be tested for COVID?***

No. There will be no routine testing in school. Learners in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be provided with lateral flow devices to use at home. Information will be sent separately about this.

***What about centre-determined grades?***

The final assessment framework will be issued by the examination board in the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. I will write to you with our assessment plan after that time and invite you to a live question and answer session.

***Will live lessons continue?***

No. From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, all teachers will be teaching face-to-face. On the days children are at home, they will be required to complete their end of term assessments online.

***Will provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers continue?***

This phased return to education applies to all pupils and there will be no additional provision for vulnerable children, who themselves will be focused on reintegration. Supervision of children of critical workers will continue by arrangement.

***Will it be safe?***

The public health situation continues to improve. The control measures in school that we have become familiar with will continue to be important in reducing transmission. An updated COVID-secure strategy will be published on our website in due course.

***I have questions...***

Please, ask! Email [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com) and I, or a member of my team, will reply as quickly as we are able.

There will, as always, be a mixed reaction to this news. Many of you will welcome a sensible and measured return to school. Some will expect us to move faster. Others will feel this is too much, too soon. I can only emphasise my deep commitment to the learning and wellbeing of your child and provide you with every reassurance that I have considered all possibilities thoughtfully and intentionally - and with the flourishing of your child in mind.

With every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ian Loynd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "I".

Mr I Loynd  
Headteacher