

# ST JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH IN WALES HIGH SCHOOL

## RETURN TO SCHOOL- September 2020

Dear parent(s)/carer(s)/pupils,

We are pleased to be welcoming our pupils back in September 2020. In this updated letter, there is information for our return. Please also refer to the 'Frequently asked Questions for Parents/Carers from RCT'. It contains important information on face coverings.

In order for us to get used to our new systems, we will have a staggered start for the first 2 weeks of term with all pupils back in school by 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The plan below indicates when each year group will return.

### Plan for 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks:

Tues 1 Sept	Preparation day
Wed 2 Sept	Preparation day
Thurs 3 Sept	Yrs 7/11/13
Fri 4 Sept	Yrs 7/11/12/13
Mon 7 Sept	Yrs 7/10/11/12/13
Tues 8 Sept	Yrs 7/10/ 11/12/13
Wed 9 Sept	Yrs 7/8/10/11/12/13
Thurs 10 Sept	Whole school inc Yr 9
Fri 11 Sept	Whole school

Our aim is to balance and minimise risks of COVID-19 with providing a full educational experience. One way that we can do this is by reducing the number of contacts and maximising distancing. As a result, pupils will have a staggered break, lunch and end of day.

Pupils will be in '**contact groups**'. In KS3 this will be in classes; pupils will remain in the classroom and teachers will move to each classroom. In KS4 and KS5, the contact groups will be larger due to options and the contact group will be year groups. There will be 3 longer lessons/sessions each day (rather than our usual 5). We will also have a 1 way system in place. At KS3, there will be no practical work until October half term except for PE. If a pupil has PE, they are to come into school in PE kit in order to do PE activities. KS4 and 5 pupils are to enter school via the main entrance and KS3 pupils are to use the side entrance near science/art/DT rooms.

Pupils should bring in limited equipment, for instance lunch, bag, coat, stationery and should not share items. We are asking pupils to bring a **packed lunch** for the first few weeks; those eligible for free school meals will be provided with a meal from the school canteen. When the canteen service is

fully operational, we will be asking parents to please pay online if possible to minimise the times that the 'paying in machine' is touched. Further details will follow.

In the 'Frequently asked Questions for Parents/Carers' from RCT, it says that 'daily washing of uniform is strongly recommended'. As a result and in order to alleviate some of the burden of this, the Governing Body has decided that blazers will not be worn in the first half term. A navy or grey jumper can be worn instead if a pupil is cold. We have a stock of 'preloved' jumpers in school if needed.

Pupil wellbeing is of paramount importance and pupils will be encouraged to seek support if they would like to talk to a member of staff.

We all need to **wash our hands** with running water and soap or use hand sanitizer upon entry to school, upon entry to classroom, before and after food, before and after the toilet. after touching objects, after physical activity, after changing rooms, before going home, before boarding school transport and upon arrival at home; good **hygiene** is essential. The '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' approach continues to be important- tissues and bins need to be used; pupils should cough into their sleeve and encouraged not to touch face. These hygiene rules are equally as important on school transport.

**Face coverings** (3 layer) must be worn by all pupils and staff when moving around communal areas in school including school entrance, corridors, stairwells, toilets, hall, gym, sportshall etc. Face coverings may be removed when pupils are sitting at their desk in the classroom and participating in the lesson. If removed face coverings must be placed in a plastic resealable bag. Pupils and staff must all still adhere to 2m social distancing and good hand hygiene. This is an added safety measure to prevent virus transmission. Face coverings will be available from school if required. Pupils are able to wear their own face covering without any logos. Reusable face coverings should be washed daily. This decision has been made by Governors on the strong recommendation of RCT.

If a pupil wears a face covering they are not to touch face. If it is removed, they are to place it in a sealed plastic bag and take it home with them or in a covered bin. They are then to wash hands.

Face coverings must also be worn on school transport. Please read the information on school transport provided by RCT in the 'Frequently asked Questions'. RCT have indicated that school transport will be suspended for any pupils who fails to comply with the requirement to wear a face covering. Pupils are encouraged to carry tissues on school transport. RCT are providing re-usable face coverings for those who travel on school transport. For the first journey, the bus driver will issue a disposable face covering until the re-usable face coverings are distributed in school. Pupils must wear a three layer face covering.

No-one is to attend school, board school transport or travel to school if they have **signs of COVID-19** (a new continuous cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell) or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days; or of they live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID 19 or who has tested positive in COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Anyone displaying symptoms in school will be kept separate until collected and supervised at a distance of 2m. (for clinical advice dial 111Wales).

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate for 10 days and while making arrangements to be tested; if the test is negative the individual does not need to complete the 10 day isolation; anyone one who lives in the same household with anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms or is on an extended household arrangement with someone displaying symptoms must stay at home for 14 days from the 1<sup>st</sup> day the 1<sup>st</sup> person became ill or until the outcome of the COVID-19 test is known. All must adhere to 'test, trace and protect.'

We are respectfully asking that parents(s)/carer(s) do not to congregate at the school entrance. Unfortunately, parent(s)/carer(s) or visitors are not permitted on site. However the school can be contacted for a telephone conversation or online meeting. As usual, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

The school's 'Positive Behaviour' policy will need to be rigorously enforced. Good behaviour will be essential in school and on school transport. Poor behaviour that puts the health of staff and other pupils in jeopardy may well be met with immediate exclusion. Deliberately coughing or spitting at someone will be deemed an 'assault' and may result in the permanent exclusion process. Pupils need to show a high level of maturity and personal responsibility.

Staff will be social distancing of 2m from each other and will remain at the front of the class. **It is essential that pupils remain 2m from staff.** There are 2m lines in classrooms that pupils must not cross. There will be screens in classrooms and in the main hall.

If the fire alarm rings, pupils are to congregate on the bottom yard in contact groups.

### Timing of the day:

Due to supervision needs, please can pupils not arrive in school before 8.25am

Arrival/hand cleansing	
Session 1 includes form prayers, announcements for pupils, 15 minute break and hand cleansing	8.40am
Session 2 inc 40 min lunch+ hand cleansing	11.15am
Session 3 inc hand cleansing +dismissal	1.55pm
End of day	2.55pm

Pupils will have double lessons to help reduce contacts and movement across the school. CVC lessons take place lessons 1 – 4. We usually run a 2 week timetable. The timetable will now take four weeks to complete but there will be no reduction in the total number of teaching hours.

### Break:

Dry break will be in designated areas on bottom yard; wet break will be in designated areas in the Hall; the sixth form will be in sixth form area. No food will be available from the canteen at break.

**Lunch times** will be staggered and pupils are asked to bring a packed lunch. Those eligible for free school meals will have a lunch provided in school.

### Rooming:

Yr 7	R 33/41/42/43/44/49	RE/maths/ALN
Yr 8	R 45/46/47/48/26/27	Maths/Music/Science -top floor
Yr 9	R 37/38/39/40/29/31	Languages/Music -top floor
Yr 10	See Timetable	Long corridor/1 <sup>st</sup> floor tower block
Yr 11	See timetable	Long corridor/top floor tower block
Yrs 12/13	WBQ + R3/4/5/6/7/8	Long corridor/identified room tower

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I understand that this is a time of anxiety. If you have any concerns please contact us at the school. In addition to this, please can you let us know if a pupil has been shielding or living with a person 'at increased risk' in order for us to offer additional support.

I recognise that this has been a difficult time. I want to reassure you that decisions that are made are always made in order to try to protect our whole school community as best as we possibly can. Unfortunately, the situation is a changing one, and this means that sometimes new information needs to be acted upon at short notice. Decisions are taken in line with information provided from the Welsh Government and RCT.

I am very much looking forward to seeing our school community again in September 2020.

Stay safe everyone

God Bless

Dr S M Mitchell  
Headteacher