



# St. Joseph's RC High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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**Headteacher/Pennaeth:** Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Re: Urgent updated arrangements for the start of the spring term**

This morning all Headteachers across Wales received a letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles regarding plans for schools in January. Please find below key details from this correspondence which impact on our school community:

- There has been significant disruption this term, due to staff absence. In recognition of this and the current levels of uncertainty regarding the impact of Omicron, Welsh Government is putting in place two planning and preparation days at the start of the new spring term to enable us to assess staffing capacity and put the necessary measures in place to support the return of learners.
- These days will take place on Tuesday 4th January and Wednesday 5th January. On both days, staff will be engaged in planning and preparation and putting the necessary measures in place to support the return of learners.
- These planning days may impact on the childcare needed for certain learners. On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, there will be limited hwb provision in school. If your child is in Year 7, and you are a critical worker who has exhausted all alternative options, please telephone school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January between 10am and 11.30am to book a place in the school's hwb provision. A small number of a specific group of learners will be contacted and offered a place in our hwb provision. No food will be available if your child attends school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. However, learners entitled to free school meals will continue to receive vouchers for these two days. At present, I am unable to confirm if school buses will be running.
- We expect learners to return to their learning on Thursday 6th January. At present, we are planning for this to be on site and as normal, but please understand that circumstances may change depending on the evolving health picture. I will, of course, keep you fully informed as soon as I am in receipt of any new information.
- There will be an expectation for all staff and learners to conduct Lateral Flow Tests three times a week from the start of term in January. We expect staff and learners to conduct their Lateral Flow Test on the evening of Wednesday 5th January prior to everyone's return. The school will communicate with you at the start of term about which days learners should test thereafter.

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- As communicated to all schools in Newport, we will continue to operate within the category of 'very high risk' and so all current control measures will remain in place.

My aim is to write to you again on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January to provide you with an update on the arrangements for your child to return to school. We are being advised by Welsh Government that, as a precautionary approach, we should plan mitigations for the return of learners based on the 'very high' risk level as set out in the [Covid Control Framework for Schools](#). In my letter on the 4<sup>th</sup> January, I will share with you any operational changes we will have made to our Covid risk assessment.

I would like to reassure you that, despite once again entering a period of uncertainty, we will continue to work together as one school family, so that all our learners will continue to flourish in all aspects of their life and learning. In the meantime, I very much hope you all manage to enjoy a relaxing and restful festive break. Look after yourselves; look after each other.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Jarrett**

**Headteacher**

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