



Update for Parents/Carers 19th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. Thank you all for your patience, support and kind messages to the staff at Milford Haven School and most of all for your care, support and guidance to all our learners whilst they have been virtual learners during these challenging times.

It is hard to believe we are now entering the 13th week since lockdown began and 80 days since our school closed. Many of you know we have supported our learning with online learning and regular phone calls home whilst continuing to support the Childcare Hub in Haverfordwest. It has been inspiring how you as a community have supported and helped each other and we have truly loved being a part of that support.

I am writing to you to outline our provisional arrangements for the reopening of Milford Haven School to our learners on Monday 29th June 2020. This letter inevitably focuses on the decision announced by Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education, that there will be partial opening of Milford Haven School from Monday 29th June to enable the majority of learners to 'check in, catch up, and prepare' for the summer and September. We also received the long-awaited guidance from Welsh Government which was published on the 10th June.

Plans will be reviewed weekly to take on any further advice from Welsh Government (next update is today) and Public Health Wales as well as that provided by Pembrokeshire County Council. The reopening of schools hopefully supports some parents to return to work but is also part of the gradual easing of lockdown procedures being introduced by Welsh Government. Please be aware that changes can be made abruptly so it is of vital importance that you check our website and social media regularly.

1. Where to find additional information

- Updates will be available from the Pembrokeshire County Council website daily:
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-guidance>
- There is also a FAQ section from the local authority called Children and Schools - Transition to the new normal.
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/children-and-schools-transition-to-the-new-normal/coronavirus-return-to-school-frequently-asked-questions>

2. Guidance has also been issued by Welsh Government.

The full version of which can be accessed at:

- Operational guidance:
<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-keep-education-safe-covid-19>
- There is also learner guidance now available Learners guidance:
<https://gov.wales/guidance-learning-over-summer-term-keep-education-safe>

3. Reassurances

I know that parents/carers and pupils might be feeling apprehensive and have many questions about returning to school. We would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of learners and staff is, as always, our primary concern. Our school is working hard to plan for the safe return of our learners and to put all the appropriate safeguards in place.

Risk assessments about the way the school will be arranged and the routines involved will be the subject of in-depth analysis by the Local Authority. The re-opening phase will not commence without the signing off and certification of this compliance and all Health and Safety procedures being in place.

4. What the Provision Will Look Like

The phased return has been planned to meet the needs of our learners, staff and whole community with everyone's safety and wellbeing being the main priority. We have endeavoured to create a model which will work for us within these national guidelines.

Given the need for social distancing, presently 2m, we have divided our form groups into four pods, your child's house tutor will be in contact with them during the week beginning the 22nd June, with year 7 & 8 pupils contacted on either Monday or Tuesday, Year 12 on Wednesday and year 9 & 10 pupils contacted on Thursday or Friday. I would like to thank those of you who have completed the return to school google form that was in my last letter, as this has helped the school plan for numbers and ensure safety is maintained.

In general, the plans are as follows:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
am 8:35 - 11:40	7 & 8 Pod 1	7 & 8 Pod 3	12 Pod 1	9 & 10 Pod 1	9 & 10 Pod 3
pm 12:15 - 15:20	7 & 8 Pod 2	7 & 8 Pod 4	12 Pod 2	9 & 10 Pod 2	9 & 10 Pod 4

Deep Clean and 1-to-1 meetings (by appointment only) for yrs 11&13 will take place on Wednesdays

A leaflet is currently being created by the Heads of House putting together the schools guidance that will hopefully explain further what happens next. This includes information on: What will be the same? Travel to and from school, drop off and pick up, uniform, groupings and transition, social distancing around the school, hygiene, cleanliness and toilets!

5. Transport

Active travel is advised (walk, scooter) wherever possible, followed by private (car) and only if absolutely necessary by public transport (bus).

This will be finalised once the school has received your completed google form responses indicating whether your child attends school via a school bus. The house tutor will place any pupils needing school buses into either pods 1 or 3 so that the transport companies can work on the timings for the morning sessions only. This is perhaps the area greatest affected by social distancing.

Therefore as a school we would always advise Active travel (walk, scooter), wherever possible, followed by private and when it is only absolutely necessary to come by public transport or school bus. As indicated by WG on Tuesday 9th June 2020 it is virtually impossible to maintain social distancing on public transport, therefore they issued advice that face coverings should be worn at all times when travelling on public transport. Pembrokeshire county council in their FAQs explain that "We will have the exact same issues on school transport and although we will be ensuring as much distance between passengers as practically possible this may not always be 2m and therefore we would advise all pupils to wear face coverings to ensure not only their own safety but that of everyone travelling on the transport."

6. Other information

The focus of the sessions are to check-in on pupils' wellbeing, catch-up on their effort and engagement regarding their online learning and prepare pupils for future weeks. These days on site will not replace the existing online learning. Instead, they will reinforce, support and run alongside the continuation of our online learning provision.

In this interim period the school meals catering service will not operate so there will be a need for all of us, pupils and staff alike, to bring our own small snack and drink for the 15 minute breaktime planned into the session.

Pupils will be working in small groups of 5-7 and have a base room for their sole use with their house tutor. Teachers will not be rotating between classes to minimise movement and reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Pupils do not need to bring any equipment to school.

Cleaners will be on site throughout the day sanitising door handles, desks, chairs and toilets several times a day. Pupils must arrive and leave through their designated entry and exit points and follow the social distancing markers. Social distancing and hygiene facilities will be clearly present throughout the school.

Each house will work within a specific tower block within the school which will have its own set of toilet facilities and medical/isolation room. Breaks will be staggered to reduce cross-contamination.

	Daring Mr C Davies	Defender Mrs C Wilcox	Diamond Miss L Griffiths	Dragon Mr S Thomas	Bay Mrs J Reynolds	Dauntless For Childcare arrangements Mrs E Kedward	Year 12
Tower location	Humanities Tower	English Tower	Maths Tower	DT Tower	Hafan Tower	Harbour	Steynton Hall
Entry and Exit points	Rear - Humanities Middle Gate	Rear - Humanities Bottom Gate	Front - Steynton Pedestrian Path	Rear - Astro Gate	Front (staggered) by appointment	Steynton Gate 8am - 5pm	Front - Steynton Pedestrian Path
Road entry point	Thornton Road	Thornton Road	Steynton Road	Thornton Road	Steynton Road	Steynton Road	Steynton Road

7. Uniform

Pupils are encouraged to wear uniform wherever possible. This could consist of summer uniform, normal uniform or PE kit. If this is not possible please find a suitable alternative that must meet health and safety regulations, as if we have a non-uniform day i.e. a school polo shirt with jogging bottoms.

8. Years 11 & 13

As part of our continued transition support for year 11 and 13 learners, we would like to offer the opportunity of a 1 to 1 meeting as a support for pupils. This is not compulsory and is offered to pupils who feel that they need the support in person. These meetings will be available on a Wednesday only and appointments should be made via the year 11/13 Google Classroom. Mrs Griffiths will confirm a time and location for the meeting on receipt of the request.

9. Hub pupils

Learners that will access the childcare provision will attend Milford Haven School from the 22nd June, before school reopens on 29th June 2020. The school will be provided with a list of the pupils involved from the LA and ask those that have booked their places to come to the Steynton entrance directly on the required days. This Hub provision will be in a discreet block of the school away from the attending cohort so as to reduce contact wherever possible. It will operate on similar procedures and protocols as in the previous hub schools. Please note that no further childcare places may be booked, but current bookings may be amended by contacting Mrs Emma Kedward.

10. Moving Forward

It is important to emphasise that this is an interim period from 29th June to 24th July 2020.

Within the key principle of Keep Wales Safe, we will continue to evolve this provision over the remainder of Summer Term into what will be the 'new normal' in September. At the same time, we will be ensuring our practice is always in line with the latest medical, scientific and safety advice. The situation will be regularly reviewed. As ever, we will ensure that we will make you aware of any important changes through our social media, Weduc App and our website.

While our plans for reopening are well underway, they are still dependent upon a great many factors. We will ensure that we conform to all aspects of the guidance, in a way that keeps our staff and pupils safe when attending. We will continue to develop a comprehensive plan constructed between the school and Local Authority. We hope that we will be able to share our more detailed arrangements in due course before opening.

We all know that such a long period away from school, friends, and the classroom has the potential to have a detrimental impact on a large number of our young people in terms of their wellbeing or their learning. We hope these arrangements go some way to re-establishing the positive relationships that existed in the school before lockdown and of reducing the anxieties around return for us all. It is about us all; staff, parents and learners working together in what is a difficult situation on a journey to re-establishing learning and positively supporting each other's wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support. I once again wish you well for the coming week and would just like to thank you all for being so



Kindest regards and please stay safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ceri Ann Morris'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ms Ceri Ann Morris
Headteacher