



Return to school update

09 Mawrth 2021 / 9th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Learners,

Shwmae pawb, I hope you and your families are safe and well, and that you are very much looking forward to returning to school this term. This letter is to share with you some of the preparations ready for your return next week.

The Governing Body and staff at Milford Haven School are delighted to be welcoming learners back following Welsh Government's announcement with regard to Wellbeing check-ins for Key Stage 3 learners, and the widening participation of learners from 15th March. This comes with three considerations:

1. That learners undertaking essential exams and learners in years 11 and 13 are to be prioritised for learning.
2. There is flexibility then to include Years 10 where possible.
3. There is further flexibility then to provide learners in Years 7, 8 and 9 with the opportunity of a check-in, to be focused on support for wellbeing and readiness for a return to their onsite learning after Easter.

This does not mean a full return to secondary school from the 15th March, and the guidance reinforces that this stage is about gradually increasing school operations where the intention is to proceed cautiously. The full return for all learners is currently planned for after Easter, unless advice and guidance changes.

At this time the plans for pupils to return are as follows:

Week 15th-19th March - Timetable Week 2

	7	8	9	10	11	13	10 Harbour	Hub for key workers
Mon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Week 22nd-26th March - Timetable Week 1

	7	8	9	10	11	13	10 Harbour	Hub for key workers
Mon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Year 11 and 13 learners who will have external qualifications at the end of this academic year will be expected to **attend school every day from Monday 15th March through to Friday 26th March 2021**. These learners will have a focus on wellbeing, preparation for Centre Determined Grades, and also preparation for their next stage of learning or employment. The Harbour provision will continue with the pivoted curriculum arrangement already in place.

Pupils in Years 7-10 will have the opportunity to return to school on selected dates as in the table above. The focus for these pupils will be on wellbeing and re-familiarisation with school routines, ahead of what is expected to be a full return to school after the Easter holidays. These pupils should attend school for one day a week, with years 10 having two days on site each week.

Currently we intend to have **all learners** back on site as of **Tuesday the 13th April**, where all age groups will be back in the classroom for full teaching timetables at the start of the Summer Term 2021.

The Hub that has been operating in school since January will continue to be open to those pupils currently attending, our booking system will also remain in place to ensure appropriate levels of provision is available for those who require it.

Our intention in offering a combination of days on and off to all other learners is to ensure that all year groups have an opportunity to become accustomed to the school day once again and their usual routines and support at home. Once again the year zones for breaks will continue, along with the split break for years 7 and 8 and the allocation of toilet facilities also. There is a new addition that our learners will notice in the new food cabin that has been sited on the inner quadrant of the school grounds. It is intended to open after the Easter break and more news will follow in later letters.

It is hoped that these two weeks will support our young people to familiarise themselves once again with these arrangements and to allow them the chance to settle before we become our usual busy community following the Easter break. Our fundamental aim is to have a safe, well-organised and welcoming return to school.

We wish pupils to return in school uniform as part of the process of returning to normal operation. However, we do accept that there might be some temporary difficulties as some pupils will have grown. We will work with you to be flexible in cases of genuine difficulty about individual items on uniform. (see note below)

On their return, pupils should arrive onto the school site no later than 8.30am for an 8.40am start. Neither should they arrive too early before 8.20am when the school gates will open. School will finish as normal at 3.10pm Mon-Thurs and at 1.15pm every Friday.

When dropping off or collecting pupils from our school site, can I please remind all adults to maintain social distancing from other adults and from pupils in order to keep the whole school community safe. When arriving at school, pupils will be expected to go straight to their form room promptly for the **8.40am start**. The one way system and enhanced cleaning and hygiene remain as before.

The main change for learners will be that of face coverings. **It is expected that all learners and staff will wear face coverings whilst on the school premises where the social distancing arrangements cannot be maintained.** Where pupils carry a card from Mrs Reynolds and her team, these learners will be exempt. New face coverings will be given to all learners in form rooms and they even come with a handy storage pocket.

During this period, pupils will follow their normal timetable. When at home pupils will be expected to undertake home learning on the days they are not in school. We will continue to support them with this through their google classrooms and blended learning. This will also mean that the google classroom remains as a ready contingency in case of any localised closures.

Currently our Site team and staff are making sure that the final preparations are underway to get all of our classrooms and learning areas ready for pupils. All of our risk assessments have been reviewed and updated and all

staff will receive updated training in the processes and systems to ensure that we welcome everyone back safely to school.

I will be placing all of these plans on the website under the COVID 19 section. Please do keep checking the website, our school app and social media pages, as if any new changes come to us they will be added here.

Finally, I would like to thank you. These past three months have been the strangest term in education since March 2020, placing additional stresses on everyone. It has been challenging for many but particularly for parents and carers across the country who have had to quickly adapt their homes into classrooms and the offices at times and once again adjust to educating their children at home and balance work themselves. Thank you once again for the high level of support and understanding as well as your kind words, that you have given during this unprecedented time. I will write to you again regarding the period after the Easter holidays before the 26th March.

Diolch am ddarllen / Thank you for reading,
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Morris', written in a cursive style.

Ms Ceri Ann Morris
Headteacher



Other important information

Canteen / lunch provision

The Canteen will be operating as soon as pupils return next week, but please remember that the school can no longer take money into the machines and that these will need to be topped up in advance of your son/daughter coming into school. Pupils can still continue to pre-order food on their phones before coming to school and then collect from a grab and go station.

Uniform

All pupils will be expected to wear our full school uniform where possible. If learners have PE lessons then they can as before wear their PE kit on these days. We understand that at the moment the purchasing of uniform is classed as non-essential and that some stores may also be closed as Wales remains in Tier 4 lockdown. Therefore we also will understand that a suitable alternative will be worn to school until this is lifted and stores open again, **with the expectation that they return in uniform following the Easter break.** However as we do with non uniform days, ask that no jeans or hoodies are worn. Please don't worry if you are unable to obtain some items, just contact the school and we can discuss the best way to support you.

Transport

It is our understanding that the bus service will run as normal. Pupils will be expected to wear masks while travelling on the school bus and follow their seating plan.

Face Coverings

Pupils will be required to wear face coverings for use in school and on public transport. New face coverings will be given to all learners in form rooms. (see note above) Recent guidance from Welsh Government refers to the wearing of face coverings and states that "...if social distancing cannot be maintained, face coverings should be worn anywhere on the school estate, including in the classroom."

Year 7 Exams

Following the extended lockdown we have taken the decision to postpone the scheduled year 7 exams which were due to take place between the 12th to the 23rd March until later in the year. This will allow our pupils to concentrate on returning to school and not worry about exams.

Chromebooks

There is no requirement to return any loaned IT equipment such as Chromebooks and WiFi dongles before Easter. We will communicate to you closer to the time how and when we will require you to return any loaned equipment.

Welsh Government Updated FAQs

<https://gov.wales/schools-coronavirus-guidance>

Testing of Pupils

The Minister for Education and the Minister for Health and Social Services announced that the offer of regular, twice weekly, Lateral Flow Tests will be extended to all those learners in years 10 and above. These tests will be for use at home. We are awaiting further information regarding this and will update you as soon as possible.

Testing of Staff

The Welsh Government has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in education and childcare settings across Wales. Along with the primary protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help pupils and staff members to continue working in as safe an environment as possible. All staff are being asked to take part in twice weekly home testing using Lateral Flow Device (LFT) tests. If the test is positive, staff and their close contacts will immediately need to start self-isolating, and a second test will be arranged to confirm the results. If the confirmation test is negative, all those who have been asked to isolate will be able to return to school. If the confirmation test is positive, the self-isolation period will continue for a total of 10 days.

If a member of staff working with a pupil contact group records a positive LFT result, this may mean that pupils within the contact group will need to self-isolate. Given the routine nature of the testing, this may mean that you may be notified that your child should not attend school at very short notice.