



Return to school update

02 Medi 2021 / 02 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Learners,

Shwmae / Hello, I hope you and your families all had a safe and restful Summer break. The whole school team and myself are really excited to welcome you back to MHS. This letter is to share with you some important reminders and helpful tips to best prepare for a positive return to school this week.

As Friday is an induction day for all learners there will be a programme for the day, looking at the COVID safety measures in place, familiarising learners with their House membership and ethos, assemblies with the senior staff and a variety of further activities to build learners and house tutors. It is hoped that Friday 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 starting the school academic timetable on Monday 6th September on Week 1 for everyone. Our fundamental aim is to have a safe, well-organised and welcoming return to school.

We expect pupils to return to school fully prepared and equipped to engage in their learning. Pupils should bring with them each day their own set of stationery and enough water for the day, as per covid guidance we are trying to avoid the sharing of resources where possible and the water fountains are not in use due to the potential risk they pose in spreading germs.

Another important part of positively engaging in school is wearing the correct uniform, as outlined in many letters that have been issued as well as on our website: <https://milfordhavenschool.co.uk/uniform/>. Hoodies are not a part of our school uniform and should not be worn to school. There is an optional school fleece available that can be worn in class as this too is part of our school uniform. Changing rooms are now available to use, pupils can once again change into PE kit for their lessons during the school day. If you are having difficulty sourcing any uniform items, including PE kit, please contact your child's Head of House so we can help in any way possible.

Pupils should arrive at school no earlier than 8.20am, the school gates will be locked till this time. The school day will always start at 8.40am, as per our asymmetric timetable pupils finish at 3.10pm Monday -Thursday and 1.15pm every Friday. When arriving at school tomorrow (Friday 3.9.21) pupils in Years 8-11 will be expected to go straight to their form room promptly for the **8.40am start**. For year 7 learners they will need to go straight to the Steynton Hall to meet with Miss Mansell and their House tutors.

New markings were completed in the Thornton car park last term, this had a positive impact on the flow of traffic during peak times and we ask for your continued support in adhering to the new parking system. I would also respectfully ask that adults collecting or dropping off their children avoid gathering in groups in the school car parks and at the gates for the safety of our whole school community.

The one way system and enhanced cleaning and hygiene remain as before. The main change for learners will be that of face coverings. Although face coverings are no longer compulsory at this stage, it is highly recommended that learners and staff wear face coverings whilst on the school premises where the social distancing arrangements cannot

be maintained for example in the canteen and corridors. New face coverings will be given to all learners in House form rooms if requested.

Please ring (01646 - 690021) or email the school (admin@milfordhavenschool.co.uk) if there is anything we can support you with. Parents, carers and school staff are all wanting to facilitate a positive start to this new academic year for our young people, so please let us know if there is anything else we can assist you with.

Diolch am ddarllen / Thank you for reading,

Yours sincerely



Ms Ceri Ann Morris
Headteacher

Other important information:

- **Canteen / lunch provision**

The Canteen will be operating as normal from the start of term, but please remember that cards cannot be topped up with cash on school site. All school meal accounts will need to be topped up electronically (<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/make-a-payment>) in advance of your son/daughter coming into school, don't forget it can take 24 hours for the credit to be available for your child to spend. Pupils can still continue to pre-order food on their phones before coming to school and then collect from a grab and go station.

- **Transport**

Pupils will be expected to wear face coverings while travelling on the school bus, and will also be expected to follow their seating plan as per last term.

- **Masks**

Pupils will be required to wear face coverings on school and public transport. New and reusable face coverings will be issued to all learners on our first day of school, this is to support young people in their choice of wearing them around the school should they wish to.

- **Updates**

We will continue to update the website and our social media channels as, and when, we are given further information. I would ask that you regularly check all in case of any changes. Our new SIMS school app is now live, we recommend all parents and carers download the app as it is an easy and quick way to stay up to date with school news and events.

- **Chromebooks**

With our new Chromebooks for all, we will be working on a roll out programme for the issuing of Chromebooks throughout September and will share further information with soon.

- **Visitors**

Please can we politely remind you that any visits to the school site need to be undertaken via an appointment system. Similarly, we would request that parents/carers do not accompany their child onto the school site and also wait outside of the gates at the end of the day.

- **Welsh Government Operational Guidance**

Over the Summer Holidays advice and guidance for schools regarding COVID 19 was reviewed, below is a link to the updated information issued by the Welsh Government for schools.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2021/9/4/1630577614/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings.pdf>