

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come towards the final days of the summer break, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers, and students for the ways in which you have supported Rossett School in the last academic year. As a school and as a staff, we have really appreciated your understanding through these uncertain times. Our task now, working closely with you – our families – is to ensure that the school year begins promptly with all students and parents aware of the expectations for learning, behaviour, uniform, the organisation of the school day, and of course the testing schedules that will run from the first day of term until, currently, the end of September.

Many of you will be aware that other plans for students aged 11-19 are currently being discussed at government level; these include *possible* national programmes for monitoring ventilation and vaccination. I can confirm that, at this moment in time, no concrete plans regarding these possibilities have been communicated to schools; we will update you if anything changes over the next two weeks.

Asymptomatic Testing

Within the guidance updated in July was the Government expectation that *'all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow tests, three to five days apart, on their return in the autumn term'*. This instruction was in recognition that students and families will have mixed with others in society over the summer, and in recognition of the important role that regular testing plays in the reduction of the transmission of COVID-19.

As a consequence, where consent has been provided, students will be asked to complete two on-site lateral flow tests (LFTs) in our testing centre, upon their return. These tests require a nasal swab only and have a rapid result time, allowing us to quickly identify and isolate any student with a high viral load. Schools are not now required to contact parents in a 'track and trace' capacity; any such phone call or e-mail alert to potential close contacts will come from the NHS or PHE (Public Health England), directly to students and families.

As parents and carers of students in Years 8-13, you can rest assured that any previous consent that you have given is still valid for these autumn tests. New Year 7 parents have been e-mailed separately to obtain new consents for their year group.

If you did not consent previously, and now wish, or if you wish to withdraw consent, having given it previously please re-submit the [consent form](#).

If any of your details have changed since completing the original consent eg: change of email or mobile phone number for receiving results we would ask that you complete the [consent form](#) again.

Students in Years 7 and 12 will have their first test on Tuesday 7th September; Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will be tested on Wednesday 8th September.

All students will be given enough tests to complete home testing, twice a week, on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, until the end of September. These will be distributed after the second on-site tests are completed.

Start of Term Notices

As previously communicated, Monday 6th September is a staff training day; students do not attend school on this day.

The School Day and Expectations

Following the most recent guidance issued by the Department for Education relating to the new academic year, it is clear that we no longer need to organise the school into consistent groups (bubbles). This allows greater flexibility of curriculum delivery, access to practical learning, and the resumption of Year Group Assemblies.

There are, however, some aspects of last year's organisation of the school day that we have decided to continue with following consultation with students and staff.

School will start at 8:45am each day.

Students should arrive in time for the start of school. The school buildings will not be open until 8.45am and so, on arrival, students should make their way to their designated 'before school' area (see below). When the 8.45am 'start of school' bell goes, students will enter the school building using the external door that is closest to the location of their form room and go straight to form rooms.

Morning Break and Lunchtime will continue to be 'split'.

Morning Break for Years 7, 8 and 9: 10:05am.

Morning Break for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13: 11:05am.

Lunchtime for Years 7, 8 and 9: 12:25pm.

Lunchtime for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13: 1:25pm.

Designated areas have been allocated for each Year Group for the start of the day and for social times. Please see the table below for details of these areas:

YEAR GROUP	BEFORE SCHOOL AREA	BREAK/LUNCH INDOOR AREA	BREAK/LUNCH OUTDOOR AREA
7	OUTSIDE JUNIOR BLOCK	BLUE DINING HALL	TOP TENNIS COURTS
8	BOTTOM TENNIS COURTS	JUNIOR DINING HALL	BOTTOM TENNIS COURTS
9	BOTTOM TENNIS COURTS	BROWN DINING HALL	BOTTOM TENNIS COURTS
10	TOP TENNIS COURTS	BLUE DINING HALL	TOP TENNIS COURTS
11	TOP TENNIS COURTS	BROWN DINING HALL	BOTTOM TENNIS COURTS
SIXTH FORM	OUTSIDE SIXTH FORM CENTRE	INSIDE SIXTH FORM CENTRE	OUTSIDE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

School Uniform and PE Kit Information

Taking pride in the way that students present themselves is a key priority at Rossett School, and as such we expect full school uniform to be worn correctly every day. Full details of our School Uniform expectations can be found [here](#).

Please bear in mind that as we approach winter, your child will need to come appropriately dressed to remain outside the school building until 8:45am; a warm coat is expected.

On the days that students have PE lessons, they should arrive at school in full school uniform with their PE Kit in a bag. This is a change from our COVID instructions. Students will return to normal routines at the start and end of PE lessons, using the changing rooms in the Sports Centre. Full details of our PE Kit expectations can be found [here](#).

If there are any issues relating to School Uniform or PE Kit, please make contact with your child's Director of Learning or Student Support Officer.

Student Conduct

Rossett School has high expectations of the conduct of our students and this is reflected in our Behaviour policies. Our updated Behaviour Policy will be available on the school website from the beginning of the new school year.

Our Students' Charter sets out our Rossett '3Rs' culture of responsibility, resilience and reflectiveness. These aspects underpin all that we do at Rossett School to achieve our aim of 'Success for everyone'. Students are expected to act accordingly in their attitudes to their own behaviours.

Students will also be reminded of our 'Rossett Basics':

I will.....

- Be on time for my learning.
- Wear my uniform with pride.
- Bring the correct equipment.
- Focus on my learning.
- Show respect at all times.

Recognising, acknowledging and celebrating the positive conduct of our students is of great importance. Details of positive conduct, as well as incidents of negative behaviour, are communicated directly to parents/carers through ClassCharts. It is important that all parents/carers have a login to this system to keep up with the progress of their child. Details will be provided to all parents/carers during the first week of the school term of how to obtain this login, or how to re-apply for it, if contact has been lost.

Teaching and Learning

Curriculum

Amidst the disruption of the last two academic years, we have been working hard to redevelop our Rossett curriculum to ensure it offers the best possible quality of education for our students.

Following the easing of restrictions in secondary schools, we will be able to implement the curriculum in the way it was originally intended. From the start of the autumn term, we will continue to teach our ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. We know that some students have 'gaps' in their knowledge as a result of the school closures and periods of isolation. Teachers will do all they can to support students in addressing these gaps. There will be an assessment of students' starting points and addressing of any identified gaps in their knowledge and skills, making effective use of regular formative assessment (for example, quizzes, observing students in class, talking to students to assess understanding, scrutiny of students' work etc.). We expect all students to return with a positive attitude to learning so that they can make the most of our excellent curriculum.

Personal Development

We have redeveloped our PSHE curriculum which will relaunch with a changed name. It will be known as 'Personal Development' in September 2021. The new curriculum has been designed using the latest educational research, student voice and statutory content prescribed by the Department for Education to offer the best knowledge, guidance and support for our young people as they navigate their way to adulthood. All students in the school will receive one personal development lesson per week which will cover topics such as careers, relationships and sex education, citizenship, personal safety and health education. This will replace PSHE sessions which traditionally ran during period 2 on Wednesday and will be delivered by a small group of expert teachers including several members of the Senior Leadership Team. We are excited about the new curriculum and following the disruption of the last two academic years, it comes at a critical time for our

students. More information regarding the new Personal Development curriculum will be shared with you during the first term.

Practical Subjects

For the last eighteen months, access to our specialised practical classrooms has been limited as a result of the pandemic. Following the latest government guidance, we are pleased that practical lessons will resume for all year groups from the beginning of the autumn term. This will give your child the opportunity to develop essential skills and apply their theoretical knowledge.

Equipment

Having the correct equipment for learning is essential for all students. Please ensure that your child is equipped with the following as a minimum, so that they can access learning right from the beginning of term:

- 2 pens (black or blue)
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Maths set
- Green pen
- Scientific calculator
- Hand sanitizer

NB: If your child is eligible for free school meals and you would like support in getting basic equipment, please email your child's Student Support Officer.

ClassCharts

Following a lot of positive feedback from parents, students and teachers, we will be continuing to use ClassCharts from September 2021. Our new Year 7s will receive their logins during the first week of term.

Remote Learning

Following our receipt of many e-mails from you, our parents, commenting on the high standard of remote education that we provided during the school closures, we will be keeping a 'shadow' remote curriculum running for any student who must follow medical advice to isolate.

As part of our contingency planning, we will offer immediate remote education should there be any imposed closure in future. As before, this education provision will be predominantly supported using the 'Assignments' function of Microsoft 'Teams'. Assignments, will be set on a lesson-by-lesson basis and supplemented by regular 'live lessons.'

Our new Year 7s will receive a comprehensive introduction to this remote platform in the first few weeks of term and we would encourage any other students that have any difficulty in using this system to contact us for support, through tutors or the IT team at the school (StudentITHelp@rossettschool.co.uk).

Student Well-being, Health and Attendance

Safeguarding and Mental Health

The safety and wellbeing of all students at Rossett is our primary concern. We have a strong culture of safeguarding and student welfare support to ensure we are able to quickly identify any students who may need help coping with the challenges of school life. Our staff are well trained to identify welfare concerns such as any mental health issues, and we have robust procedures in place to ensure rapid and effective action is taken.

We also continue to work closely with external support agencies such as Just B, CAMHS, Childrens' Social Care and Early Help to support our young people. Our updated Safeguarding Children Policy will be available on the school website from the beginning of the new term and staff will be trained in new aspects of government guidance around safeguarding before your child returns.

If you have any questions about safeguarding or you are concerned about your child, or any other young person in our school community, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mr Royles (droyles@rossettschool.co.uk) or Mr Warren (jwarren@rossettschool.co.uk).

Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment

Although as a country we have reached Step 4 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown, it is critical that your child understands their responsibilities in ensuring they are implementing excellent personal hygiene measures. Please go through the following hygiene expectations with your child so that they are ready for their return to school:

- In addition to hand-washing facilities, Hand sanitiser stations are available throughout the school. Your child should use these stations throughout the day, especially upon entering and exiting the building and before and after eating.
- Additionally, we ask that you provide your child with a pocket-sized hand sanitiser to use on their journeys to and from school, and in school, where necessary.
- Each classroom has tissues to allow your child to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' guidance when sneezing.
- Your child should have their own equipment such as pens, pencils etc.

As a school, we will maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule which includes regular cleaning of teaching and communal spaces, and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently used areas. Steps will be taken throughout the school buildings to monitor ventilation levels.

Attendance

Excellent attendance at school is paramount to success and we know many students are really looking forward to returning to school and learning again with their teachers.

The Department for Education has reinforced the following expectations from September 2021:

- Attendance for all students is mandatory
- Parents are responsible for ensuring regular attendance by their child (regular is defined as no more than 5 days off per academic year)
- Schools must resume their responsibilities in recording and following up absence
- Schools can issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the local authority's code of conduct for unauthorised absence

At Rossett, we will only refer to the local authority for legal action as a last resort where absence has not been authorised by the school. Please note absences caused by imposed self-isolation due to positive Covid-19 cases or while awaiting PCR test result will be authorised.

Please also note that we will not be authorising any term time absence for holidays. We must stress that parents and carers communicate with the school if their child is to be absent for any reason through the school absence line 01423 564444 (option 1).

Our updated Attendance Policy will be available on the school website from the beginning of the new school year.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Students

All Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend school unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care, who have been advised otherwise by their GP or clinician.

NB: If your child has developed a recent health condition, or you feel the school may not know about a condition which makes them clinically extremely vulnerable, please contact our First Aid & Health Manager, Ms Rogers (hr Rogers@rossettschool.co.uk).

Entitlement to Free School Meals

If your child is currently in receipt of Free School Meals, they will resume their usual entitlement to free school meals in the form of a daily allowance to spend in the school canteen. The payments are dealt with centrally with credit 'loaded' onto a student's account. Students are therefore 'anonymous' at the point of payment.

If your child is not currently entitled to Free School Meals but your circumstances have changed, and you want to know if you are now eligible, please complete the short online application found [here](#).

Please ring Finance if you have any questions about support and the provision of Free School Meals.

Should you face any challenges or issues with being able to provide your child with the correct equipment and/or uniform, please contact your relevant year team who may be able to help and assist you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience in reading this communication; I hope that you understand the need to share these important details ahead of the first day of term.

I would like to wish you and your family an excellent Bank Holiday weekend, and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely

Ms H Woodcock
Headteacher