

Dear Parents/ Carers,

## **Coronavirus Update**

I'm writing to update you on the current position with regard to Coronavirus and it's impact on schools in Denbighshire.

Denbighshire made the decision at the start of the week to move to on-line learning for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This decision was not taken lightly but was taken in the wider interests of pupils, parents and staff.

Since then we have had further information from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language about planning for the new term in January 2022.

He announced on Thursday that he was providing schools with two planning days at the start of the new spring term. This was to allow schools time to assess staffing capacity and put the necessary measures in place to support the return of learners.

For schools in Denbighshire this means that the planning days will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January. All schools were scheduled to take teaching training days on the Thursday and the majority on the Friday. These training days will now be rescheduled for later in the term and individual schools will notify you at the earliest opportunity of revised arrangements.

This means that all learners should return to face to face learning on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. All schools will use these planning days to plan for operating at the highest risk level. Schools will be able to use these planning days to modify their risk assessments in advance of the return of learners and any operational changes by schools at an individual level will be communicated direct by the school.

Before returning to school after the festive period, the Welsh Government are strongly encouraging staff and secondary learners to use the offer of Lateral Flow Tests. Staff and Secondary Learners are now encouraged to take Lateral Flow Tests three times a week with the recommendation for testing before school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with results being reported.

Clearly this is a changing position and should the overall picture change nationally which impacts on the arrangements for schools in January we will communicate any changes via the Denbighshire web site and social media channels.

Can I thank all for their co-operation with the changing scenario for all and wish you all a merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely

**Geraint Davies**  
Head of Education

**Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts**  
Lead Member for Education, Children's Services and  
Public Engagement