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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a delight this week to welcome all students back into school. Despite the new expectations and the challenging circumstances, students have been brilliant. They have shown maturity, resilience and adaptability in responding to the changes made in school.

We have been monitoring the day very carefully since students have started returning to school. As a Leadership Team we have been meeting after school every day, reviewing and evaluating the day. We have been pleased with how the days have gone on the whole and have made some changes as needed. For example, we have adapted the one-way system around the school so that students can move more freely in the corridors. We have also adapted our outdoor spaces for students to ensure that every year group has a safe and as pleasant a space as possible to have their break and lunchtime. The arrival of a marquee on the lower court has helped this. When sitting inside for their lunch and break times, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are sitting in their contact groups and are in their year group in the outside spaces.

There are some new points to inform you of and other reminders:

Canteen

The canteen will be re-opening with a limited cold food meal deal offer from Monday 14th September. The meal deal will be a choice of sandwich, piece of fruit and a cold drink. The menu for next week is attached. Students in Years 8 – 11 will be able to put money in through the machines or bring a cheque into school, and they will be able to purchase the meals from the canteen or small hall where they are based, at either breaktime or lunchtime. Students in the canteen need to sanitise their hands using the foot operated pumps before they purchase the meal deal.

Students in years 7, 12 and 13 will need different arrangements. 6th form students will need to order their lunch by lunchtime the previous day. They will be able to tick a sheet which will be up in the 6th form centre to order their choice of lunch. They will need to bring in money / cheque in a sealed envelope with their name and year clearly labelled on the envelope and take it to Miss Sian Thomas on Monday. A minimum of £10 should be brought in. Their lunch will be delivered to their room in the sixth form centre before their lunchtime.

Year 7 students will be able to place an order for their lunch during tutor time every morning. Their lunch will then be delivered to the Main Hall ready for their lunch. Year 7 students will also need to bring in money / cheque in a sealed envelope with their name and form group clearly labelled on the envelope on Monday. A minimum of £10 should be brought in. Students in receipt of free school meals will have £2.50 added to their canteen account everyday.

We are aiming to move to an electronic way of managing money as soon as possible. Please look out for further details in the future.

Pennaeth / Headteacher:- Ms Mair Hughes

We will be reviewing the menu offered in the canteen towards the end of September and will inform you of any changes then.

Please remember that the water fountains are not in use at the moment therefore your child will need to bring in enough water to last the day.

Start of the day

A reminder for parents not to drop off children before 8.25am as we cannot manage students on site before then.

Behaviour, uniform and mobile phone policy

Thank you to all parents who ensured that the students have been able to return in their full, smart uniform. A reminder that the uniform policy has to be adhered to at all times and that any jumpers other than a school jumper is not acceptable. Students may bring a coat to keep warm when outside.

Mobile phones are not to be seen or heard on site. They must be switched off and put in the bag until the end of the day. Any student seen with a phone will take their phone to Student Services where they will leave them until the end of the day.

We have reviewed our behaviour policy to accommodate changes due to Covid and a copy will be sent to families next week. Please read this carefully with your child to ensure that they are clear about expectations.

Visits on site

Currently, we cannot accept any visitors on site. Should staff need to contact you, we will contact you by phone initially. If a meeting is required, we will aim to do that virtually where possible. You may also notice that we have new gates installed on site and these gates will be locked at 8.45am and reopened at 3.20. Between these times only permitted vehicles will be allowed to enter the site through the intercom system. If you are collecting a child that is ill, you are permitted to come onto site to collect your child. If this is the case, please drive to the reception area, stay in your car and your child will be brought out to you. You will then leave through the front gates. If you are bringing your 6th form student to school, please leave them at the front gate, or they may use the pedestrian gate by the sixth form centre on Cefn Llan road.

Medical Appointments

If your child has an appointment at a health setting (eg. Hospital, surgery) they must go home, shower and change before returning to school.

Should you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year, or email admin@penglais.org.uk.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

M. A. Hughes.

Ms M Hughes
Pennaeth / Headteacher