

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf
Heol y Bont
Ystum Taf
Caerdydd
CF14 2JL

Ffôn - 02920333090
Ffacs - 02920333091
E-bost - hysbys@glantaf.cardiff.sch.uk
Wefan - www.glantaf.cardiff.sch.uk



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf
Bridge Road
Llandaff North
Cardiff
CF14 2JL

Phone - 02920333090
Fax - 02920333091
E-Mail - hysbys@glantaf.cardiff.sch.uk
Website - www.glantaf.cardiff.sch.uk

August 28th

Dear Parent / Guardian,

New Academic Year: September 2020

It is a pleasure to welcome pupils back to school at the beginning of a new academic year although in unique and unprecedented circumstances. What remains the same, is our focus on providing the support and care for your children as they settle back into our school community and to receive the best possible education with us at Glantaf. It is particularly pleasing to welcome Year 7 pupils and those joining from other schools, hoping that our induction arrangements will ensure that they feel at home quickly within the school community.

Welcome back to all of you!

New start

I'm delighted also, to introduce myself as the new Head of the school. Despite the unique situation of education in this Covid-19 period, I am truly enthused to join the community at Glantaf, to build strong new relationships with pupils, staff, parents and the wider community and to lead the school in this new decade. For nine years, I was Head at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera – Bro Dur in Neath Port Talbot, and before that, periods at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Garth Olwg, Plasmawr and Gwynllyw. I very much look forward to working with you and to facilitating an effective three-way partnership between pupils, the school and you as parents for the benefit and success of every individual pupil at Glantaf. I would also wish to extend a warm welcome to those joining our teaching staff, Ms Lucy Rolfe and Ms Katy Edwards (English Dept.); Ms Ffion Jenkins (History); Mr Llyr Gwynedd (Science); Mr Ceri Morris (PE); Mr Owen Pocock (French); Ms Gwenfra Jones (Art) and Ms Nia Wilson (SEN Unit), a very warm welcome to you to Glantaf!



Llongyfarchiadau

I would like to warmly congratulate all students who received their A level, AS and GCSE / BTEC grades during the summer. It is good to note that almost all pupils have received a place in their first or second choice, in terms of College or University and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and contribution to the school and warmly congratulate them on their success. We look forward to welcoming a large number of Yr11 back to the Sixth Form to continue with us here, at Glantaf.

Return to school

We look forward to welcoming all children back during the first two weeks of term, and all pupils full-time from **Wednesday 9th September** (see below).

Of course, we will ensure high standards to ensure the health and safety of everyone as we return to school which includes the following matters:

- Sanitation and hand washing stations are available throughout the school and we kindly ask all school members to ensure high standards of hand hygiene.
- Year 7-8 pupils will remain in the same class for the vast majority of their lessons (although occasionally moving to specialist classes), in order to reduce movement around the school. This creates a different zone for each school year, which reduces social mixing.

- Year groups will remain in their “bubble” for most of the school day including break and lunch times.
- Break and lunch times will be staggered so that pupils stay in their “bubble” / outdoor play area and do not mix with pupils from other year groups.
- We kindly ask you to provide a packed lunch, drink and snack for your child, as we are not able as yet to open our catering service. We hope to offer a limited choice from 14 Sept, (more details to follow).
- There is a one-way system across the school campus (where this is possible)
- We strongly suggest that pupils bring a face mask / covering with them to school and where necessary to wear them when moving around the school / on a school bus or in situations where social distance is not possible. We are expecting a supply of face masks in the coming days, however if you are able to provide a mask this would be appreciated. The school does not expect pupils to wear them in lessons or in class. Cleanliness and correct use of their personal mask is the responsibility of the individual child.
- School transport will be provided, however pupils will be expected to wear a face covering as expected on public transport in Wales.
- Teachers and other adults will keep a distance of 2 metres between each other to ensure that they can teach more than one class.
- Year 9-13 pupils will change classes because of curricular requirements but there will be a reduction in the number of times they move during the day.
- We kindly ask you to ensure that your child has a well-stocked pencil case with relevant equipment because we will not be able to share equipment between pupils.
- At times we will ask / expect pupils to clean and disinfect their own desk before moving to a new class.
- **Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms, or living with someone with symptoms must ensure that they do not come to school and follow self-isolation guidelines in full.**
- All children are expected to wear the standard normal school uniform. We kindly ask that you ensure that the uniform is clean and of a high standard on a daily basis. If you have concerns about school uniform, remember our Facebook link where you can find good quality second-hand uniform, reasonable or free of charge. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gwisg.ysgol.glantaf/?ref=share>
- If you need to visit the school or have a meeting to discuss any matter, we kindly ask you to contact us in advance to make an appointment, as we will not be able to meet with you without prior engagement during these first few weeks of term.

Please see below a summary of return dates, entrance and lunch times for each year group

Year	Return date to full time	Entrance	Lunch break
7	Thursday, 3/9/20	Science Block entrance	12.10 - 1.00pm
8	Wednesday 9/9/20	Entrance near to Sports Hall	12.10 – 1.00pm
9	Tuesday 8/9/20	Entrance to PE Block	1.10 – 2.00pm
10	Monday 7/9/20	Entrance from Bus Bay	1.10 – 2.00pm
11	Friday 4/9/20	Main Reception	12.10 – 1.00pm
12	Thursday 3/9/20	Main Reception	1.10 – 2.00pm
13	Friday 4/9/20	Main Reception	1.10 – 2.00pm

Arrival at school

Staff will be on duty in the morning to welcome pupils, but we kindly ask pupils not to arrive before 8.10am, because we do not have areas (particularly in wet weather) where they can wait before the start of the school day. All pupils should arrive at the school by 8.20am and go directly to their registration class. At the end of the school day, we will organise a staggered departure from the different blocks in order to maintain social distancing. This could mean that school buses will leave a little later than usual.

Hwb

Over the next few weeks we will migrate the school's communication system to the national learning platform, which is called, **Hwb**. This will mean that your child will receive a new email and **Hwb** login details which means that they will be able to use all programs (Microsoft Package, Word, Excel Powerpoint etc) **for free** on any device and be able to access all distance learning resources in Welsh and English. We will arrange specific sessions for your child on **Hwb**, and introduce all pupils to Microsoft Teams systems to ensure that we can contact / support them and continue to teach if there is once again, a time of restrictions on schools. This will of course build on the good work already achieved through Google Classrooms, to support and teach our students.

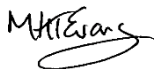
Bereavement

The school community has certainly experienced significant losses in recent months, including a teacher who made a lifetime career contribution here at Glantaf. Mr Keri Evans was an inspirational teacher, a caring Pastoral Lead and moreover a true gentleman, respected and admired for his significant and distinguished contribution to the school and wider community. It was remarkable, in difficult circumstances to see so many of the school community paying a sincere and heartfelt tribute to him this week. We also fondly remember Mrs Ethni Jones, who was a former teacher, parent and keen friend and supporter of the school in particular in establishing and securing an Additional Learning Needs Centre at Glantaf. She was an individual with tremendous joy, enthusiasm and energy for Welsh-medium education, and a true benefactor to her community and nation. We were also sad to hear of a significant loss within the community of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in the harsh and unexpected passing of their Chair of Governors, Mrs Emma Goad, who was also a much loved parent, here at Glantaf. Our deepest and most sincere sympathy, to all these families and to all of you, who have suffered loss at such difficult times.

Contact us

At the end of my first newsletter to you, I very much hope that you have enjoyed the summer break in each other's company. I look forward to working with you energetically and in partnership, for the benefit and progress of all our children and young people. If you would like more details or want to discuss any matter further, please contact us at the school,

Yours,



Matthew H T Evans

Head