

Belong . . .
Believe . . .
Achieve . . .



Waterloo
Oakdale
BLACKWOOD
NP12 0NU
01495 233600
ihsca@caerphilly.gov.uk
www.islwynhigh.org

Headteacher: Mr J Hicks - BA (Hons) MA (Ed) NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mr G Bryce

14th May 2021

Re timings of the school day

Dear Parents/Carers,

In discussion with staff and Governors and in the light of current transmission rates of the Covid 19 virus in Wales, we feel that we are in a position to reintroduce a wellbeing period at the start of each day so that pupils are once again able to have a daily point of contact with their form tutors and we can begin to reinstate the crucial work that goes on at such times. This will give us the opportunity as a school to better ensure that there is one member of staff who is able to keep a close eye on a designated group of pupils and be better placed to deal with any pastoral issues that may arise.

In order to facilitate this change within the current confines of county wide arrangements for transport and catering and until further notice the **internal workings of the school day will be organised as per the attached schedule. These arrangements will be implemented during the final week of this half term (week beginning 24th May)** once the vast majority of Centre Determined Grades assessments have been completed by our Year 11 pupils and partly in order to give those pupils the opportunity to spend some time with form tutors with whom they may have developed relationships over many years in the school during some of their final days at Islwyn High. This CDG regime has been very demanding for our oldest pupils and we really hope their final days in school can be more enjoyable than some of what we have unfortunately had to put them through in recent weeks.

These arrangements have been designed so that they do not affect the start and end of the school day and therefore should have no impact on any childcare or transport arrangements.

We are also liaising closely with Caerphilly Council Health and safety officers to look at proposals to open our sports changing facilities during the next half term and potentially reinstate some of our specialist teaching rooms for their intended purposes (subject to risk assessments). If approved this development would begin the process of pupils being able to move to some classrooms at different times of the school day which should provide a welcome relief from some of the zoning which continues to be so crucial for our health and safety arrangements but can be a little monotonous at certain times for our youngest pupils in particular. Rest assured that we shall proceed with caution in the coming weeks and everyone's health and safety shall continue to be at the top of our agenda.

Many thanks for your continuing support and please enjoy your weekend,

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.N. Hicks'.

Mr. J.N.Hicks
Headteacher

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8.25am	Warning bell for start of school
8.30 to 8.50	Wellbeing
8.50 to 9.45	Lesson 1
9.45 to 10.40	Lesson 2
10.40 to 11.00	Break to include warning bell
11.00 to 12.00	Lesson 3
12.00 to 12.55	Lesson 4
12.55 to 13.20	Lunch to include warning bell
13.20 to 14.15	Lesson 5