Planned re-opening of the school

“Alone we can do so little; together we can achieve so much”
Helen Keller
Agenda

• Provide an overview of the planned re-opening of the school. Specifically, covering
  
a) Rationale and science behind decision to re-open;
b) Preparations made to date;
c) Delivery model;
d) Staffing implications;
e) Training requirements; and
f) FAQs.

• Share our thinking for the ‘new normal’ as part of blended learning for 2020-21.
Purpose of ‘re-opening’

• Nearly all students have been away from school for equivalent of a full-term

• Face-to-face opportunity for all students to
  a) ‘Check in’ on their wellbeing;
  b) As best possible, ‘catch up’ learning gaps; and
  c) ‘Prepare’ them for the ‘new normal’

• Supplementary to remote learning which will be primary mode of teaching for most of next year

• Students and staff may find any return a challenge as a result of the events over the last few months arising from
  a) lockdown;
  b) social distancing;
  c) illness; and
  d) bereavement.
COVID-19 Impact

1:100 year event;

Scientific evidence highlights four types of ‘harm’ linked to Coronavirus

a) Direct: risk as a result of the virus itself;
b) Inability of National Health Service coping with demand;
c) Closure of National Health Service; and
d) Economic; domestic abuse; mental health impact of lockdown measures.

Remarkably complex situation;

Assess the impact of each ‘harm’ type in coming to a decision around re-opening
Specific Challenges

• How to provide re-assurance for staff, students and parents/carers;

• Core principles focus on
  
a) Wellbeing;
  b) Specific challenges associated with lockdown;
  c) Challenges of returning to physical setting (ie. mental and physical);
  d) Re-introduction of experiences within the physical setting; and
  e) Support provided when not on-site.

• Considering new approaches to distance learning/face-to-face experiences
Scientific evidence

• Key considerations led to the decision to increase operations within school settings. These include:

  a) the severity of virus in children – there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus (COVID-19);

  b) the age of children – there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus (COVID-19);

  c) numbers of children returning – which needs to be limited initially then increased gradually as the science permits; and

  d) systems to reduce the size of the groups coming into contact with each other – such as smaller class sizes spread out across settings.
“Check in; catch up; prepare”

“Check in”
• Students/staff have been off-site for a sustained period and there is a need for pastoral support;
• Daily wellbeing and/or physical activity sessions.

“Catch up”
• Focus on catching up missed learning will be core, knowledge from English, mathematics and science;
• Identifying what is practicable, reasonable and proportionate.

“Prepare”
• Train in ‘new way’ of working from September.
Preparations to date

• School site has been officially closed but premises team have been undertaking regular safety checks;
• Cleaning staff have been on site for past three weeks to ensure environment is safe;
• Comprehensive operations guide and risk assessment completed;
• Identified the control measures which will limit risks to minimal;
• Identified demands for places;
• Preliminary planning for phased engagement with students (and staff);
• Review of a number of policies to include information on Covid-19;
• Risk assessment does need to be owned by all.
Delivery model

- Identified four zones of the school, where smaller ‘bubbles’ will be formed;
- Anticipate that each zone will have six ‘bubbles’ split over floors to reduce social mixing;
- Each ‘bubble’ will be made up of groups of no more than 10 students;
- School day will be split into three sessions, with breaks separating;
- Transport limitations will prevent staggered start/end to the day;
- Designated entrances, unstructured spaces, staggered break times and routes around school to minimise social mixing.
‘Bubble’ Explained

• Students will be placed in a ‘bubble’ and each bubble will have an allocation of staff;
• ‘Bubble’ will remain together for ‘work; break; and lunch times’;
• Students within the ‘bubble’ will not move around the school site freely;
• In effect, it will mirror a primary school model (similar to the existing hubs);
• Each ‘bubble’ will be designated a toilet area and also a stairwell;
• ‘Bubble’ approach is designed to significantly reduce social mixing and reduce threat of transmission.
Typical classroom

All rooms been emptied, cleaned and fitted to accommodate social distancing

Students will have designated tables
Other key areas... catering
Other key areas... rooms in use
Visible signage

Be kind. Stay safe

Please follow these guidelines while at school

- Keep your distance
- DO NOT gather in large groups
- STOP and WAIT when you are asked
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds
- COUGH and SNEEZE into your elbow
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Thank you
Delivery model...

Week Beginning 29\textsuperscript{th} June
• Year 10; key worker students/identified MC students

Week Beginning 6\textsuperscript{th} July
• Year 9 and Year 12; key worker students/identified MC students

Week Beginning 13\textsuperscript{th} July
• Year 7; key worker students/identified MC students

Week Beginning 20\textsuperscript{th} July
• Year 8; key worker students/identified MC students
Staffing

• Staff will primarily work with ‘bubbles’ in a single zone only (c60 students max);
• In line with latest guidance staff will have a mixture of home-working and school-based work;
• More staff available reduces on-site presence;
• On-site working will be for whole-day;
• Staff remain at home when not timetabled;
• Movement around the school will be limited;
• Introduction of one-way systems;
• Staff will move classrooms within zones to support ‘bubbles’. Each room will have anti-bacterial wipes to clean machines
• Limits on staff room and other social areas.
Staffing continued...

• Working within government and local authority guidelines. As it currently stands...

  a) Staff who are **extremely vulnerable**, and have received a **shielding letter** from Chief Medical Officer for Wales, should not attend and continue to work from home;

  b) Staff living with someone who is **extremely vulnerable**, who have received a shielding letter, *may* attend to work **only** if they can safely maintain social distancing;

  c) Staff in **vulnerable group** can go out to work but will need **to adhere** to social distancing guidelines;

  d) Staff who are likely to be absent for a) and b) will need to provide a copy of the shielding letter to the school;

  e) There will be **staff who are unwell** for other reasons, eg. anxiety etc and absence should be communicated in the **usual** way

• **NHS Workforce risk assessment***

• Indication from all staff by Friday 19th June
Training implications

• Between 24th – 26th June, staff can expect to attend school (for one of these days) for training;

• Operational training so staff are aware and confident;

• Reinforced training for
  a) Safeguarding;
  b) Behavioural expectations;
  c) ‘New normal’ learning from September: Microsoft Teams; Google Classrooms; Assessment

• Sessions will be planned to cover the key areas;
• Main hall set up to maintain social distancing;
• Expect existing ‘virtual meetings’ to continue.
Frequently asked questions

• I’ve booked a holiday before 27th July?
• I may have childcare issues?
• I’m not ‘clinically vulnerable’ but still worried about returning to work?
• I work part-time... will work be shared equitably?
• Are we expected to do ‘live-learning’ from now on?
• My room isn’t well ventilated. Will it be used?
• How will school support social distancing during unstructured times?
• What if a student doesn’t behave or cannot socially distance?
• What will contact time look like for me?
• What is staff dress code?
• Will I have to bring my own lunch?
• Will PPE/face coverings be available? Will I be tested?