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## YSGOL GATHOLIG CRIST Y GAIR CHRIST THE WORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

17 December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Term starts on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

I hope you are all well. I have received a letter from Jeremy Miles, Minister for Education and Welsh language regarding plans for the start of term in January.

There is clear recognition that the emergence of the Omicron variant poses a real threat to society. It will be necessary for us to adapt school operations accordingly. In order to do this the Welsh Government has designated the first two days in January (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>) as planning days to ensure that schools have robust plans in place to minimise the potential risk of transmission in school and to move to remote learning where absolutely necessary.

Our student engagement with lateral flow testing has been reasonable and alongside daily temperature checks this continues to be a key control measure moving forward. From January, it will be our expectation that all our upper school children test three times a week using LFD's (Sunday evening, Tuesday evening and Thursday evening).

The Welsh Government will also be issuing a Coronavirus Act 2020 notice to allow schools to operate staggered start and finish times from the start of the new term as an additional mitigation in their risk assessment processes, if this is deemed necessary.

The INSET day (staff training) that was originally planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 will now take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The calendar on the school website will be updated to reflect this.

I will write to you again on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January, following the planning days, to inform you of arrangements for your child's return to school, which we anticipate, will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The children have been fantastic this term. All of lower school have had a visit from Father Christmas today, they were all delighted. We have had Yr 7 performing their class pantos to the leadership team. Some classes in Foundation Phase have performed their Nativity play, this will be shared on our 'you tube' channel with the families next week. It has been lovely to see the school returning to some normality as the school term progressed. The number of clubs and activities on offer for our children across the school is fantastic. It's a reflection on the high-quality supportive staff we have working here at Christ the Word Catholic School, they all go that 'extra mile' for our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families a peaceful and safe Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Amanda Preston

Headteacher