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Dear Parent / Carer

**Change to Lunch Time Arrangements**

We are gradually working our way through the difficulties which you have been highlighting to us about our new ways of working, seeking to balance our safety measures, to reduce the risk of viral transmission, against the need to make school as normal a place as possible and ensure that it is a comfortable place to learn. I hope that we have now dealt with concerns that have been expressed about the coldness of some classrooms as a result of increased ventilation and the colder weather. The school heating is now on and we have reduced the amount of ventilation required, while still ensuring that there is fresh air coming into every room. Those measures, combined with pupils taking responsibility to wear appropriate layers of clothing, seem to have improved things significantly. I haven’t had any more complaints this week about that issue, so I am hoping that all our pupils are now warm enough to learn comfortably.

Another area of concern has been our canteen and the requirement for pupils who bring a packed lunch to school to eat this outside. It remains and will remain our recommendation that pupils bring a packed lunch to school and that they eat this outside. That is the safest thing to do in relation to Covid-19. However, we have a significant number of pupils choosing to use the canteen service and those pupils who bring in a packed lunch are understandably unhappy about eating outside when the weather is poor. We have limited undercover space at Penyrheol, which adds to the challenges we face.

We have decided to trial new lunch time arrangements for the two weeks leading up to half term from Monday 12th October. There are two key changes. Firstly, Year 7 will finish Lesson 4 every day at 1.00 p.m. Those who wish to use the canteen service will go straight to the canteen. Those who have a packed lunch and would like to eat this inside the building will go to the theatre, where they will be supervised to do this. Those who wish to go outside to eat or who aren’t eating lunch and simply want to play will be supervised to do this in the quad area between the canteen and Science block.

This means that Year 8 and Year 9 can access the canteen in their separate queues at 1.20 p.m. and Year 10 and 11 can access the canteen in their separate queues at 1.30 p.m. (this is 10 minutes earlier for Year 11 than was previously the case). These arrangements will help to ease the pressure we have been experiencing in the canteen.

Secondly, the theatre will remain open as a supervised space during the lunch break for pupils in Years 8, 9 10 and 11 who wish to eat a packed lunch inside the building. Each year group will have designated spaces, which have already been marked out. We will expect our pupils to eat their lunch in a tidy fashion and ensure that their rubbish is placed in a bin. Unfortunately, if the theatre is not left in a tidy state, we may need to revert to our previous arrangements. Please note that the theatre will only be open for pupils who are eating a packed lunch. Other pupils who wish to be inside during the lunch break because of poor weather should access their designated areas within the main block or the annexe.

We are hopeful that these new arrangements will deal with the difficulties faced by the pressure on our canteen and by pupils having to eat their packed lunches outside in inclement weather. As ever, your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL

Headteacher