



20th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

RE: Amendment to Dinnertime Procedures from 2nd October 2023

We hope you are all well and life is being kind to you. As the Board of Governors at Ysgol Treffynnon Secondary School, it is our duty to ensure the safety, welfare, and academic progress of our students. Considering this commitment, we are writing to inform you of an impending change to our school's dinnertime procedures, which will commence from Monday, 2nd October 2023.

This year, there has been a marked increase in the number of students requesting passes to leave the school premises during the dinnertime break. Many students leaving school are not going home for lunch, which means they are not supervised in any way. Recently we have had another incident involving the intimidation of students by members of the public during lunchtime, this is concerning but avoidable if students remain in school. This escalation, coupled with an increasing number of students returning to school late, has presented multiple challenges. Not only does it raise concerns about student safety off-site, but it also disrupts the learning of others. When students return late, it interrupts lessons, impacting both their own learning and that of their peers.

In response to these concerns, starting from **Monday 2nd October 2023, no student will be allowed to leave the school grounds during dinnertime**, unless there are exceptional reasons, such as significant home care responsibilities. In these unique cases, we will closely liaise with the affected families to ensure we cater to their circumstances while not compromising on safety and learning time.

The safeguarding of our students is a primary concern for both the school and you as parents. The decision we have made may not be popular with some students, but it does agree with our shared priority to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your children. Given the importance of academic qualifications to the futures of your children, it is also imperative that we maximise the time students spend in the classroom. This change not only ensures your child's safety but also increases their chances of academic success as they are better prepared for the start of lessons.

We sincerely hope you can understand and support this decision as we continue to work together to offer the best possible environment for our students to flourish both in character and in learning.

We thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

John Weir
Head Teacher

Norma Collin
Acting Chair of Governors