



Dear Parent/Guardian

Happy New Year to you all, and it's a very unusual new year. So far this week we have seen our back to school arrangements changed three times, with the return date for Years 11-13 changed from 6/1 to 18/1 to 29/1 or 22/2. We will be using the 22nd of February as a return date as we plan, but this may change. Last minute changes do not help pupils, staff or parents and it is important that everyone looks after their own and others' well-being. If you need to get in touch for help, please use the current contact details in the attached document.

This bulletin includes:

- A message from the local authority
- Message from Qualifications Wales
- School contact details

Welcome

I would like to extend our welcome to Mr. Dafydd Ellis who is starting school in his new role as head of the Mathematics faculty. He joins us from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. This has led to some changes to Maths teaching groups, and he will be working with a number of Year 11, 12 and 13 groups over the coming months.

External examinations

The WJEC booklet with brief details of the assessment process came out to schools on Tuesday, with plans for all GCSE and A level courses this year. By today a significant part of the document is irrelevant and enclose a letter from Qualifications Wales which explains where we stand at present and we are waiting for more details. We have planned our internal assessment over the year to ensure that we are able to respond to any situation, but at present there is no more information available to us.

ICT equipment

A new set of ICT equipment is due to arrive at school soon. These will be available to try and solve some technological problems that are challenging families during the lockdown. We've already sent out every laptop we have, but there is still more demand for them. When the equipment has arrived we will send out details of how to apply for them, but we will have to prioritize. In prioritizing we will consider the following:

- Equipment currently available to individuals.
- Families claiming free school meals, or claiming other benefits.
- Families with many children educated at home.
- The needs of individual pupils.

Childcare hub

The county manages access to the care hub for years 7 and 8 at the school. There is a link to the application form in the letter from the local authority.

Virtual teaching

A virtual teaching timetable will be shared with you weekly. We will try to increase provision for KS3 when all parents in classes give permission to keep recordings of lessons longer. KS4 and sixth form pupils will continue to follow their usual timetable.

Year 12/13 pupils re-sit GCSE Maths and English

As we look forward to the summer, we want to ensure that we provide for pupils who intend to 're-sit' GCSE Maths and / or GCSE English in the summer. Mr Ceri John has asked these pupils to contact him to ensure that they are included in this provision.

Parents' evenings

The Sixth form parents' evening is coming soon, but we are also looking at our arrangements for other virtual parents evenings. We will be looking to adapt our arrangements to extend the feedback parents receive and further details will follow.

At the moment we as school leaders are trying to respond to the changes coming from government every day. We will consider these changes over the weekend and share our response with you next week. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any concerns as the arrangements change and we will try to answer your questions if we can.



Dr Rhodri Thomas
Headteacher