



Ysgol Gyfun Gymunedol Penweddig Ffordd Llanbadarn Llangawsai Aberystwyth SY23 3QN
T (01970) 639499 F (01970) 626641 E [ymholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk](mailto:yholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk)

1st May, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Pupils,

On behalf of all school staff, I sincerely hope that you and your families, as members of our School community, are keeping healthy and safe during these exceptional circumstances.

It is a challenging time for everyone. We are aware of the pressures that you face as parents and guardians. This is an unprecedented situation and your child's school daily routine has completely changed.

As staff, we are missing seeing you, our pupils, every day and being in your company. We acknowledge that you are unable to follow your normal daily routine and you are unable to socialise, meet with your friends and participate in your leisure activities. Despite this, we want you to know that we are very proud of each and everyone of you during this time. Although we are unable to see you on a daily basis, we, as school staff, continue to be here for you and to support you. You are welcome to contact your progress Leader anytime via their gofal e-mail and any teacher by using " Show My Homework."

This week, I would like to inform you of the following:

Conditions for re-opening Schools

On Monday, 27.4.20, Welsh Government Education Minister Kirsty Williams announced plans for the gradual re-opening of schools, as and when medical advice states that it is appropriate to do so. The statement notes that a careful planning period will be required before this can happen, and all actions will need to be in line with the social distancing guidelines. In planning for that next phase for schools, there are a set of key principles for decision-making:

- The safety, and mental, emotional, physical wellbeing of students and staff
- Continuing contribution to the national effort and strategy to fight spread of Covid-19
- Having the confidence of parents, staff and students – based on evidence and information – so that they can plan ahead
- Ability to prioritise learners at key points, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Consistency with the Welsh Government's framework for decision making, to have guidance in place to support measures such as distancing, managing attendance and wider protective actions

I would like to emphasise that no date for a gradual re-opening has been discussed or decided.



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For further information regarding the Government's conditions regarding re-opening schools, please see below documentation published by the Welsh Government on 27.4.2020

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-covid-19-recovery-phase-planning-operation-schools>

Extra £3 million to support "digitally excluded" learners

Welsh Government Education Minister Kirsty Williams has also announced an extra £3 million to support "digitally excluded" learners during the Coronavirus pandemic. We are working with the Local Authority to try and support our learners. Please can you contact me, by Tuesday ,5.5.20 via ymholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk if you are:

- a family without a suitable device to access distance learning
- a family which shares a device between 4/5 in the family
- a family with no wi-fi access

Guidance for Parents and Carers

Welsh Government have published useful advice for parents and guardians in relation to promoting home learning.

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-guidance-parents-and-carers-support-families-stay-safe-healthy-and-learning>

Distance Learning – Changes to the timetable from 4.5.20 onwards (week 1) in response to feedback from parents, guardians and teachers

Thank you to everyone who completed our on-line questionnaire regarding distance learning.

We have considered parents, guardians and teachers views and have adapted the distance learning timetables for learners in every key stage. As a result, we have reduced the number of tasks that are presented during the week. We believe that the changes provide a more realistic expectation of what learners can accomplish as every learner works at a different speed and finds aspects of tasks difficult or easy.

The weekly tasks will be available bilingually on "Show My Homework" by 9:30 a.m Monday morning. This provides you as parents and guardians with an opportunity to plan an achievable timetable according to your weekly home or family routine as well providing time for your child to undertake physical exercise and have social and leisure time. We want every learner to do their best completing the work, but we also don't want anyone to worry. We recognise that this is a difficult time for many of you.



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If you are in a situation where you require more tasks for learners to complete, BBC Bitesize have launched daily activities in various subjects for KS3 learners and KS 4 Bitesize already exists for Year 10 and Year 11 learners. Learners can also use HWB for distance learning activities.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/dysgu-o-bell/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z4kw2hv>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

I would like to note that this period of distance learning is new to everyone. I confirm that, following your recent feedback, we will continue to develop our distance learning provision in partnership with the Local Authority. I will inform you of these developments in the weekly bulletins.

Please see below new timetables for learners from 05.04.20 onwards.

Recommended timetable for KS3 (KS4 could adapt for their 14/15 tasks)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 2 tasks	Morning 1 task	Morning 2 tasks	Morning 1 task	Morning 1 task
Afternoon 1 task				

Parents/Guardians

We kindly ask that you encourage your child to follow the weekly timetable for distance learning as well as undertake physical exercise and have social and leisure time. Please feel free to contact us should you require further information.

	CA3 / KS3 (Bl 7, 8 a 9)														Cyfanswm tasgau Total of tasks	
	Craidd / Core					All-graidd / Non-core										
	Mathemateg Mathematics	Gwyddoniaeth Science	Saesneg English	Cymraeg Welsh	Addysg Gorfforol Physical Education	TGCH ICT	Celf Art	Cerdd Music	DT	Bwyd a Maeth Food and nutrition	Dearyddiaeth Geography	Addysg Greyddol Religious Education	Hanes History	Ffrangeg French	Sgiliau Skills	
Wythnos 1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1			1	1			1		12
Wythnos 2	1	2	1	2	1			1	1			1	1		1	12

The core subjects will set 3 tasks every fortnight, and the non-core subjects will set 1 task every fortnight. The table below explains which tasks are set for each week.



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CA4 /KS4 (BI 10)										
Craidd / Core						Opsiyneu / Options				
	Mathemateg Mathematics	Gwyddoniaeth Science	Saesneg English	Cymraeg Welsh	Y Fagloriaeth The Baccalaureate	Chwaraeon Games	Opsw'n 1 Option 1	Opsw'n 2 Option 2	Opsw'n 3 Option 3	Cyfanswm Total
Wythnos 1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	14
Wythnos 2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	15

O1	Add Gorff / PE	Hanes / History	TGCH / ICT	Cerdd / Music	Bwyd a Maeth Food and Nutrition
O2	Celf / Art	Amaeth Agriculture	Daearyddiaeth Geography	DT	Ffrangeg French
O3	Gwydd Triphlyg Triple science	Gofaint Blacksmithing	Iechyd a Gofal Health and Social	Add Gref / RE	Busnes Business

The core subjects will set 4 tasks ever fortnight, and the optional subjects will set 3 tasks per fortnight. The Baccalaureate will set 2 tasks per fortnight.

CA 5 / KS5 (BI 12)						
	Pwnc 1 Subject 1	Pwnc 2 Subject 2	Pwnc 3 Subject 3	Pwnc 4 Subject 4 (os yn berthnasol)	Y Fagloriaeth The Baccalaureate	Cyfanswm Total
Wythnos 1	3	3	3	3	2	11
Wythnos 2	3	3	3	3	2	11

6 tasks will be set by each subject every fortnight, and the baccalaureate will set 4 tasks per fortnight

Year 9 GCSE Options – Update

We will be sharing the GCSE options columns with year 9 learners, parents and guardians next week. Teaching Year 10 courses will commence after Whitsun.

Returning to the Sixth Form

Thank you to learners who have returned their Sixth Form subject choices to us. Our learners' views are important to us, and next week we will be sharing a questionnaire with current year 11 learners to get their views on post-16 provision. We will also be contacting individual learners directly who are not sure of their plans. Follow the Sixth Form's Twitter account at @6edPenweddig for the latest news.



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May Day Bank Holiday, 8.5.20

Just to remind you that the May Day Bank Holiday will be held on Friday, 8th May, therefore no tasks will be set for this day. Please ensure that you have time to participate in family activities and enjoy each other's company.

Next Thursday, you will receive correspondence from me to inform you of the latest news and developments. You are also welcome to e-mail me via [ymholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk](mailto:yholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk).

This is an anxious time for everyone, but please rest assured that health and well-being of every member of our school community is priority.

Look after yourselves and keep safe.

Sincerely,

Rhian Morgan
Acting Headteacher