



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

17 July 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Pupils,

I sincerely hope that you and your families, as members of our School community, continue to keep healthy and safe. Thank you for your co-operation during the last few months of lockdown.

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

PENWEDDIG UPDATE ON HUGH OWEN SITE

Once again this week, arrangements for re-opening the school have gone smoothly. As parents and guardians, we thank you for your co-operation and compliance with the school requirements whilst being relocated to the Hugh Owen building. It has been an excellent opportunity for the pupils to experience life on campus. As staff, we hope that this experience will instil in our pupils a feeling of increased ambition and confidence on their future educational journey. We are extremely grateful to Aberystwyth University for their invaluable co-operation during this period and the assistance and support received from Aberystwyth University staff.

BACK TO SCHOOL PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER

On Monday, 13.07.20, Welsh Government published updated guidance to support schools prior to the return of all pupils in September. The guidance reflects the latest medical advice striking a balance between structured national guidance and local flexibility. The guidance sets out what learning priorities should remain constant, regardless of where learning takes place. The guidance supports our school in ensuring that pupils continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum and continue to make progress in their learning.

For further information regarding the new guidance to support September schools return, please see operational guidance and guidance on learning in schools and settings in the autumn term below, published by Welsh Government on 13.07.20:

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-covid-19>

<https://gov.wales/guidance-learning-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-covid-19>



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At present, the school continues to work with the Local Education Authority to plan for the opening of the school in September at Penweddig. Over the next weeks, further meetings will be held with Local Authority Senior Education Officers to present and discuss our individual September opening plans. In addition, meetings will be held with the Board of Governors and staff to present our plans for September and discuss operational matters.

On return to Penweddig site in September, our priority is to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. An on-site risk assessment will be undertaken before our return to site in September and an on-site visit will be held with Education Officers as well as a Health and Safety Officer.

We are aware that the national situation could change over the Summer.

PUPILS RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER

During the first fortnight, pupils return to school will be phased, as follows:

03.09.20	Year 7 and Year 12 pupils only
04.09.20	Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13 pupils only
07.09.20	Year 7, Year 12, Year 13 and Year 11 pupils only
08.09.20	Year 7, Year 12, Year 13, Year 11 and Year 10 pupils only
09.09.20	Year 7, Year 12 Year 13, Year 11, Year 10 and Year 9 pupils only
10.09.20	Year 7, Year 12, Year 13, Year 11, Year 10, Year 9 and Year 8 pupils
11.09.20	Year 7, Year 12, Year 13, Year 11, Year 10, Year 9 and Year 8 pupils

Pupils will enter the school at specific entrances at the school – further details to be shared with you in the summer.

All pupils will have their temperature taken on arrival.

For health and safety issues, please note that the school site will not be open for pupils until **8:30 am**.

THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND PREPARING FOR THE ‘NEW NORM’ IN SEPTEMBER

In light of the recent operational guidance from Welsh Government and revised guidance provided by our Local Authority this week regarding returning to school in September, it is clear that the school environment will look and feel very different to staff and pupils, in order to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. As a result, our over-reaching principle will be to minimise the number of contacts between staff and pupils and minimise the number of contacts that every pupil has during the school day to reduce the risk of transmission. You will receive further information during the Summer. We will also produce a short film so that you can familiarize yourselves with the requirements of the school site before September.

As a school, we will also need to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how we ensure continuity of education within a broader framework of local restrictions.



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ESSENTIAL MEASURES TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER

MINIMISING CONTACT

As a school, we will, as much as possible, minimise contact between pupils, avoid contact between different groups of pupils as well as avoid mixing between staff and pupils. It is our overarching principle to reduce the number of contacts between pupils and staff, to reduce the potential of transmitting the virus, where reasonable practicable.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR KEY STAGE 3, KEY STAGE 4 AND KEY STAGE 5 PUPILS

KEY STAGE 3

Years 7, 8 a 9 will be organised into fixed groups of around 30 pupils for the entire day within their year group. Each group will stay in the same classroom for the day. Key Stage 3 pupils will receive every lesson within these groups.

KEY STAGE 4

For Years 10, 11, 12 a 13, the contact groups will be the size of a year group so that we can deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and for students to receive specialist teaching. Key Stage 4 pupils will be suitably grouped in fixed classes for the core subjects and in their usual classes for their individual option groups.

KEY STAGE 5

Key Stage 5 pupils will continue in their usual subject classes.

In order to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff, groups of pupils will receive different break and lunch-times and groups of pupils will be unable to mix with each other.

Classrooms will be arranged with forward facing desks.

Staff will maintain a 2m distance from pupils and other staff, where possible.

Zones will be established within the school for specified groups of pupils. Pupils will be required to stay within their allocated zone.



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PREVENTION

We will undertake the following:

- Continue to take pupil temperatures on arrival at school, based on a revised 37.8 degree threshold (i.e. 37.8 or over - pupils will be sent home)
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing of 2m wherever possible between teachers and pupils
- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Maintain robust hand hygiene for the foreseeable future. Pupils will be required to clean hands regularly, when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Provide separate toilets for separate year groups. Pupils must be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet
- Put in place a cleaning schedule that ensures cleaning is generally enhanced and includes cleaning of frequently touched surfaces often and any shared areas after they have been used by different groups
- Ensure appropriate ventilation, where possible
- We will engage with the 'Test Trace Protect' strategy
- Ensure a one-way system through the school
- Ensure different entry points to the school building for different groups- further details to follow.
- Ensure different exit points from the school building for different groups – further details to follow



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FOR SEPTEMBER, PUPILS WILL NEED TO BRING :

- A packed lunch (including an ice pack) **no canteen facilities will be available** until 14.09.20
- Their own large water bottle clearly labelled with their name. Pupils will **not** be able to fill their water bottle on site due to hygiene reasons
- A pencil case
- School books for the school day
- A coat (to be kept in the school bag, in the classroom and stored under the desk when in school)
- Sun cream and a sun hat (we will be unable to provide suncream)

It is no longer practical to borrow equipment from friends and the school will not be able to provide equipment.

Pupils must ensure that they have prepared their bag beforehand and bring the necessary equipment to school every day.

Learners and staff can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided, especially where this does not contribute to learners' education and development.

SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER

All schools have been encouraged to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. In September, we will be adhering to the expectations as noted below. Please note, however, in the current climate, **no ties** will be allowed for Sixth Form pupils.

Years 7-11
Black sweatshirt, round neck with school badge
Penweddig polo shirt with school badge (green, white or red)
Long, black , plain formal trousers - no shorts in winter (summer term only) Formal black knee length skirt
White or black socks Plain black tights
Plain black shoes, which can be polished - no logos No boots or canvas shoes are allowed
6th form uniform
Penweddig sweater/cardigan with school badge
White or black shirt/blouse



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Physical Education Kit

Blue t-shirt with the school logo

Navy shorts

We appreciate every effort made by parents to ensure that their children wear the correct uniform, and that parents support the school in its effort to maintain a neat appearance by all pupils, by ensuring that pupils do not wear 'fashion' clothes which are inappropriate for the daily life of the school. **These include tight trousers, such as jeggings/leggings, short and tight skirts, jeans style or denim fabric trousers and wearing trainers. Clothing of this kind will not be allowed as part of the school uniform from 3.09.20 onwards.**

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Year 7, 8, 10 and 12 pupils will receive their end of term reports at the beginning of next week via e-mail.

FAREWELL TO STAFF

We are very grateful to the dedicated and hard-working members of staff who are leaving us at the end of this term. The staff include Mrs Elizabeth Pritchard-Evans (Science Department), Miss Hawis Lloyd (Welsh Department and Progress and Welfare Leader for Year 6 and 7), Mr Tom Williams (Head of the Maths Department) and Miss Sioned Jones (Additional Support Department). All have made a valuable contribution to the school. We wish them well for the future.

FAREWELL TO YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 PUPILS

It is a cause of great sadness that we were unable to bid farewell to years 11 and 13 in the usual way following the unprecedented events of recent months. We hope to see many of our year 11 pupils return to us for the Sixth Form, and we wish every success to those who are taking different paths. We also send our best wishes to those year 13 pupils who are leaving us for further education or employment, and sincerely thank them for their valuable contribution to the school community throughout their time with us. Hopefully, we will have an opportunity to bid you farewell formally in due course.

Please see below videos by staff for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils.

Year 11 - <https://spark.adobe.com/video/TDP7mIaKNxGsI>

Year 13 - <https://spark.adobe.com/video/HPWWEX7STFAg9>



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RECENT APPOINTMENTS

We extend a warm welcome to all the new staff who will be joining us in September 2020. Congratulations to the following:

Dr Rhodri Thomas	Headteacher
Beth Mars Lloyd	Science
Sam Jones	Science
Suki Morys	English
Carol Izri	French
Sion Alun Jenkins	Welsh
Wil Bowen	Acting Progress Leader 8&9
Sara James	Acting Progress Leader 6&7 (dros-dro)
Michelle Matthys	L2 Teaching Assistant (maternity)
Betsan Siôn	L3 Teaching Assistant (progress)
Elen Macey	L1 Teaching Assistant

They all are committed to maintaining and promoting Penweddig's values and standards.

MESSAGE FROM DR RHODRI THOMAS PENWEDDIG HEADTEACHER FROM SEPTEMBER 2020

At the start of March, I was honoured to be offered the post of headteacher at Ysgol Gyfun Gymunedol Penweddig and it is hard to believe how much has changed since. I will take over at the start of September and I look forward to seeing all the members of the Penweddig community returning to the school site for the first time since March. This will be another step towards normality, whilst still heeding the advice of the experts.

I would like to start by thanking Miss Morgan for all her hard work as acting headteacher, and thank all the staff for their efforts over this challenging period. I appreciate the contribution of all members of the school community over the last few months and this, of course, includes your efforts as families. Your support will be key as we look to the future and aim to ensure that each pupil has the best possible experiences to help them succeed academically, culturally and socially.

At the start of September I will be there to welcome pupils in years 8 to 13 back, and welcome year 7 pupils for the first time. I hope that it also will be possible to speak with many parents and carers over the following months.

Until then, I wish you all a happy and safe Summer holiday,

Dr Rhodri Thomas
Headteacher (from September)



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PENWEDDIG NEWSLETTER JULY EDITION

The July edition of “Pobl Penweddig” is available via the link below:

https://issuu.com/ygpenweddig/docs/poblpenweddig_haf2020

Thank you to Mr Jonathan Brayley, Mrs Rachel Jenkins, Miss Hawis Lloyd and Mrs Eirian Davies for preparing and editing this edition.

We look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school in September at Penweddig as we prepare for the ‘new norm’. I would like to thank you as parents and guardians for your continuous support during this academic year, especially during the last few months. I would also like to thank all Penweddig members of staff for all their efforts and hard work during this unprecedented academic year.

I will inform you of the latest news and developments regarding returning to school in September during the summer. You are also welcome to e-mail me via [ymholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk](mailto:yholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk).

Wishing you a happy and restful summer. Look after yourselves and keep safe.

Sincerely,

Rhian Morgan
Acting Headteacher