



Dear Parent/Guardian

It's been nice to see so many pupils on the school site this week, and when we return after the Easter holidays all pupils will once again be back. Without pupils a school is a purposeless building and I look forward to seeing every room back in use. You have received a lot of information regarding the return to school so much of this bulletin will focus on the assessment and content of the GCSE and A-level/ AS courses

If you have further questions after reading this bulletin you can contact your progress and wellbeing leader (BI10a11@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk) or BI12a13@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk) or the school office (yholiadau@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk).

I will also run a **question and answer session for parents regarding the assessment process for years 11 , 12 and 13 on Friday at 1.30pm .**

Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting	Friday 26 /3/21 1.30pm
---	---------------------------

LFT Tests

Pupils in years 11-13 will receive a resupply of LFT tests on the first Monday after Easter if they have completed a consent form (or parental consent form for those aged 15). Year 10 pupils will receive a resupply on the following Monday if a parental consent form has been received.

Arriving and leaving school

After Easter school transport will run as normal for eligible pupils. I would be grateful if you could transport your child to school to try and keep the numbers on the buses down - with years 7, 8 and 9 back the numbers on the buses will increase. In order to reduce traffic congestion with the buses we ask that you drop off your children near the school car park rather than immediately in front of the building.

The school has received complaints that some parents are parking their cars at the entrance to Padarn Crescent at the end of the school day which impedes traffic flow. On behalf of the residents, we kindly ask parents to avoid parking there.

School uniform

If you have any problems with school uniform and would like to purchase any items, then you can do so via www.alisonjonesschoolwear.co.uk or call 01970 625288 for 'click-and-collect'. We understand that clothing stores will be open from the 12th of April and there will then be an opportunity to resolve any other clothing issues.

Timetable

It will be **week 2** of the timetable immediately after the Easter holidays. With younger pupils returning registration will continue to be a little longer until pupils aged 7-9 have the opportunity to settle again. The remainder of the timetable will continue as normal.

Canteen

The canteen will be open when pupils return after Easter. At present the canteen continues to use cash, but work has taken place during the lock-down period to prepare the system for a move towards a cashless system.

Health and safety arrangements

Health and safety arrangements will continue - temperature measurement, disinfection, LFT testing, masks and contact groups. Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

INSET days

The designated INSET day for Friday 28th May will continue. The INSET day earmarked for early July will move to Wednesday 9th June. This is a county date and the day will allow secondary schools to moderate the GCSE, AS and A level grades internally and with other schools.

Year 10: Parents Evening

There will be a parents' evening year 10 on the evening of Monday 19th of April. Details of the online system will follow.

Years 10 and 12 : Adjustments to courses

The government has confirmed that the content of GCSE courses for year 10 and A levels for year 12 will be adjusted due to the impact of the lock-downs and this may reduce content to be covered or assessments to be completed. Further details will follow over the next month. (See [Covid: A-level and GCSE exams could return in 2022 - BBC News](#))

Year 11 : Options

The options process will continue once pupils settle back in to school. We have delayed a number of steps in the process to ensure that we are able to give appropriate attention and support to individual pupils as they look towards the future. We have been able to increase the choices available to pupils this year to meet the demand for certain subjects.

I wish everyone a happy Easter holiday and look forward to seeing your child back at school on the 12th of April.



Dr Rhodri Thomas
(Headteacher)

Assessment and examination details (Yr, 11, 12 & 13)

From today your children will have access to the following information:

- School assessment method - the full policy is also available if further information is required.
- Subject assessment plans for each subject
- An assessment timetable showing what and when it will be assessed

I have also attached a letter from Qualifications Wales which summarizes national expectations.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions in tomorrow's Q&A, or by contacting the school. There will be an opportunity for pupils to note questions with their form tutors on Friday mornings and we will try to respond to these before the end of the day.

School assessment system and subject assessment schemes

The school will assess the work pupils have completed. Teachers will not assess work that is part of the course but has not been taught because of the lock-down periods. The assessments will not measure potential or aspiration but will be based on the standard of work pupils have achieved.

The assessment process will include evidence of:

- Non-Examination Assessments (NEA): These are assessments that contribute to pupils' grades each year and examples include oral work, controlled assessments / coursework, practical work, art sketchbooks etc. .
- Previous assessments: Pupils completed a significant range of work in the term from September to December. This included tests, essays, class work, past exam papers etc. Teachers can use evidence from the first term as part of the assessment.
- Formal assessments: WJEC has suggested a number of possible assessments to be completed during the half term between April and the end of May. Teachers can choose a sample of these to complete. These do not have to be done as one large assessment - teachers can turn individual questions into small tasks. An assessment worth 80 marks can be done as an hour test, or two tests of half an hour each or four tasks of 20 marks each. Teachers will identify a focus for any given task and share this with pupils. The marking of these tests will be moderated to ensure fairness.

Details of each subject assessment will form part of a subject assessment plan, and a booklet will be distributed to pupils setting out the arrangements for each subject. The plans set out the nature of the assessment and a guide to its content in each subject assessment scheme. We cannot say exactly what will be asked in an assessment eg we can say an assessment is a Shakespeare essay but we cannot identify whether the essay is on a particular character in a specified play. There will be some information in the assessment plan and teachers will share subject information with the pupils.

Some pupils receive special exam conditions and arrangements will be in place for these. We understand that COVID has affected all students and the national arrangements make a general allowance for this. There will also be special consideration for pupils who face greater challenges than other pupils during the assessment period. Evidence is required for special consideration eg doctor's note.

Teachers will weight assessments – longer, teacher-supervised assessments will be worth more than small assessments done at home with the help of books. At the end of the assessment process teachers will collate all the evidence, taking into account background information for any special consideration / adjustments. The teacher will draw up a best fit grade based on all the evidence available with an explanation for this. This is not a matter of adding up the marks of each test and finding the total - the process is holistic.

As we draw up an assessment timetable, we try to avoid too much assessment on the same day. We will minimise occurrences of two significant assessment on the same day, but two shorter assessments on the same day may occur more often. Please note that some classes do assessments on different days, and pupils are expected to avoid discussing assessments.

We will use the INSET days in late May / early June to assess, collate information, agree grades and moderate both within school and with other schools.

During June we will be sharing the grades and the reasons for these with pupils. They will have an opportunity to discuss with teachers and if there is an error in the information we can review the grading. The school will consider any comments but there will be no automatic entitlement for pupils to have the grade changed - any grade must be evidence based.

In any internal appeal different members of staff will look at the grade to consider whether this is reasonable. This will take place before the grades are sent to WJEC. WJEC will look at the school's attainment profile in individual courses and consider whether grades are appropriate. WJEC will not change grades but may ask for justification of the grades and ask the school to consider again.

The final grades will be announced in early August. There will be an opportunity to appeal to WJEC at this point.

Specific Points for individual years

Year 11

The assessments for most subjects will take into account the work of pupils in years 10 and 11. A small number of subjects take module examinations in year 10 in a normal year. When these examinations were scrapped in 2020 it was noted that pupils would not have to sit the exams again, so the work for these is not part of the assessment. This affects science significantly - Year 10 science work is usually assessed at the end of year 10, and Year 11 work assessed at the end of year 11. This year's science assessments will focus on year 11 work.

Year 12

The assessment will use year 12 work only. Many AS courses consist of two units with unit 1 taught before Christmas and unit 2 after. In these subjects it is likely that unit 1 has already been assessed through tests and assessments before Christmas. AS 2020 grades do not contribute to A-level results this year, and this is very likely to be the case for year 12 as well as they move into year 13.

Year 13

The grades will use year 13 work only. It was announced in the summer of 2020 that the AS grades would not contribute to A-levels in 2021 so our assessment scheme will focus on year 13 work only. The structure of year 13 units varies considerably so assessment processes will vary. Subject teachers can explain the situation in their individual subjects.