



Dear Parent/Guardian

It was a pleasure to see so many pupils back in school on Monday, with attendance in lessons topping 98%. We many still be a way away from normality, but watching pupils out on the fields and lunchtime certainly felt like a step forward towards normality.

Most of this bulletin will focus on exams and assessments – it was clear from the question and answer session last Friday that this is a matter that concerns you as parents. It also concerns pupils so we will try to set out where we stand at present. Another pressing question from pupils is one we cannot answer – when will year 11 and 13 pupils finish their time at school and can we give them a chance to celebrate it in some way. Unfortunately we cannot answer this at present – as soon as we know we will let you know.

Firstly, a few administrative points:

Attendance

During the lockdown it has become common for parents to contact the Leaders of Progress and Wellbeing regarding 'absences' but now that we are slowly returning to the school site we would ask that you email abs@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk if a pupil is going to be absent.

LFT Tests

If you have not returned the consent forms for LFT tests, please do so. For pupils over 16 these need to be signed by the pupil after discussion with you, but for pupils under 16 they are signed by the parent or guardian.

School Uniform

if you have any issues with school uniform and wish to purchase any items, then you can do so as a click and collect through www.alisonjonesschoolwear.co.uk or phone 01970 625288.

Canteen

The canteen will be open when pupils return after Easter.

Additional Support

If pupils have concerns or need additional support then we can refer to the school counsellor who will be returning to face-to-face counselling after Easter, or other support through the Hafan. Please contact Mrs Nia Wyn Williams or Mr Ceri John if you have concerns for your child.

Year 10 & 11
Year 11 & 13

Mrs Nia Wyn Williams
Mr Ceri John

bl10a11@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk
bl12a13@penweddig.ceredigion.sch.uk

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.

Assessment

On **Thursday 25/3/21 we will be sharing information about our formal assessment process** and how this will work for specific topics. You will then have the opportunity to ask any specific questions in a **question and answer session on Friday afternoon at 1.30pm**: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

The basis of the assessment process:

The assessment process will assess pupils "achievement in the work studied" - if there is content not studied then this will not form part of the assessment. We will consider a school of evidence:

- Non-Examination Assessments (NEA): These are non-exam assessments that contribute to pupils' grades each year and examples include oral work, controlled assessments / coursework, practical work, art sketchbooks etc.
- Historical 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. The marking of these tests will be moderated to ensure fairness.

As we draw up an assessment timetable, we will try to avoid too much assessment on the same day. There will not usually be two substantial assessments on the same day, but teachers can put two small assessments into the timetable for the same day.

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 the evidence with an explanation for this.

During June we will be sharing the grades and reasons with pupils. They will have an opportunity to discuss and if there is an error in the information we can review the gradings. In any internal appeal different members of staff will look at the grading to consider whether the it is reasonable. This will take place before the grades are sent to WJEC. WJEC will look at the attainment profile of the school 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.

Once you receive the details of the assessments fore each course next Thursday we will be available on the Friday to respond to any questions that arise – we will try and answer these straight away to avoid and concerns waiting over the Easter holidays.



Dr Rhodri Thomas
Headteacher