

08.02.20

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As you know, following the Welsh Government's announcement last Friday, we will receive an update on when and how we can expect pupils to return to school on the 19th February. This means that it is therefore unrealistic to expect the return of pupils to school prior to the 8th March. We as staff are certainly keen to see our pupils return for their benefit, but recognise that this needs to happen when it is safe to do so. Again, as soon as I have more information, I will contact you with the latest update.

We will continue with the **INSET day scheduled for Friday, 12th February** at the end of this week. There will be no formal lessons for the pupils, but it will be a good opportunity to complete any unfinished tasks or to revise topics studied this term.

Emergency childcare provision will continue, but there will be no formal lessons provided on the INSET day. Pupils who require this provision will have the opportunity to attend and continue to work independently. We ask you to ensure that your child brings any work with them in order to complete at school.

We will continue with our model of distance learning after the half-term holiday. You should now have received a **summary report**, via your child's 'Hwb' email, which reflects your child's commitment to distance learning during the second half of January. I hope that this will be useful for you to evaluate your child's distance learning during the half term. It is pleasing to see that a high percentage of our pupils are fully committed and they deserve praise and congratulations for their continued dedication. It is also great to see the improvement that many of our pupils, who did not cope so well initially, have made following joint interventions by school staff and parents. Admittedly, a few pupils continue to find distance learning very challenging, and we kindly ask for your support in discussing these difficulties with your child. Remember we are here to offer support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help.

We are still awaiting further details in relation to the **assessment framework for centre determined grades** this year from WJEC (we expect an update to be issued towards the end of February). Rest assured, as soon as the information reaches us, we will share our plans with pupils in years 10, 11, 12 and 13, and with you as parents. See [this letter](#) from Qualifications Wales (published in January) for more information.

Last week, we celebrated '**Children's Mental Health Week**' and some useful information was shared with the pupils to support them to be maintain their mental health and well-being. Access to this information is available via your child's year group 'Team'. Please encourage your child to access this information, or contact us should you require any extra support.



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MEWN POBL

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It was also pleasing to celebrate 'Welsh Music Day' last Friday – please encourage your children to listen to some Welsh music to enrich their experiences of the language - there are many fantastic artists and groups available on the most popular music platforms, such as I-tunes, Spotify, YouTube etc. I look forward to hearing about their favourite tracks!

Tomorrow (09.02.21) is 'Safer Internet Day', which is extremely relevant given the time our children currently spend in front of their screens. We are acutely aware of the many dangers that can arise from inappropriate behaviour and misuse of the internet, and kindly ask for your support in discussing these potential dangers and encouraging safe online behaviours. There are some useful resources available via the links below:

[Diwrnod Defnyddio'r Rhyngwyd yn Fwy Diogel - Cadw'n ddiogel ar-lein - Hwb \(gov.wales\) Home - Safer Internet Day](https://www.gov.wales/home-safer-internet-day)

We will be conducting year group assemblies focusing on this particular theme on Wednesday morning (10th February) during the registration period and commencing at 08:40am. Can we please ask for your support in ensuring that all students attend this session in order to be updated about the importance of internet safety?

We are going to hold this year's **School Eisteddfod** virtually. It is pleasing to be able to celebrate our culture, albeit in a slightly different context this year! I thank the staff of the Welsh department for arranging the competitions and activities. The information for the pupils is available within their year group 'Teams' and we look forward to seeing and hearing their contributions to this unique celebration of Welsh culture. We will prepare a presentation of the competitions to share with all of our pupils. We would also appreciate it if you could encourage your child to participate. Furthermore, we will be organising our annual St David's Day celebrations immediately after half-term.

Please may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a restful half-term break, and please remember that we are available to support our pupils at anytime, so do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,





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