

15/01/21

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I hope that the distance learning is going as smoothly as possible at the moment. Teachers are pleased with the levels of dedication and commitment shown by our pupils on the whole, so would it be possible to pass on our praise and thank your child / children for their efforts to date. I would like to confirm that not every lesson will be a 'live lesson' and we will continue to provide a blend of distance learning experiences - live lessons, recorded instructions and tasks set in Teams for pupils to complete.

We now have a little more certainty about the current situation and it is likely that we will continue to provide distance learning up until half term, although there is a planned Welsh government review at the end of January. As a result, I would like to reiterate our learning arrangements with you.

Our **pupils follow their normal school timetable** in order to maintain a consistent learning structure and good habits, but it also allows us to be in daily contact with our pupils to monitor their well-being. It is vitally important that pupils attend all lessons on a daily basis.

08:40	Registration session / year assembly (an opportunity to check pupils' well-being)		
09:00	Lesson 1	11:45	Lesson 4
09:50	Lesson 2	12:30	Lunch
10:40	Break	13:15	Lesson 5
10:55	Lesson 3	14:05	Lesson 6

We are eager to monitor the number of hours each day our pupils spend in front of a screen, for their well-being. The **lessons will therefore last for 40 minutes** (rather than a full 50 minutes), **with 10 minutes between each lesson for pupils to take a regular break from work and to lessen screen time.**

As well as a regular break, we have also **delivered work packs** to a large number of pupils to support the learning in 'live lessons'. **Pupils are not expected to do any work in these packs until their teachers explain each task fully.** This will provide further opportunities for pupils to work away from their screens, as well as offering very important opportunities to practise reading and writing skills. We will deliver more packages, as necessary, later in the half term.

Over 130 of the **school's laptops have been loaned to pupils** in order to be able to attend their lessons on a daily basis. If your child does not have a suitable device, please contact us at school, or e-mail Mrs Nerys Vaughan (VaughanN9@hwbcymru.com) to make arrangements to collect a device. Using a phone does not always allow pupils to carry out their work consistently and to the best standard, so we would recommend a laptop or computer as the best device to support distance learning. If you need a second or third device for one of your children, so that they can all attend their lessons at the right time, then contact us to arrange a loan.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our distance learning provision and a number of **pupils at the school have already completed the recent questionnaire** to evaluate distance learning during this term. Can you encourage your child, if they have not already done so, to complete the questionnaire? The information is key for us to develop distance learning and to support the wellbeing of our pupils. Similarly, we are very keen to find out what you as parents think of the provision. We therefore kindly ask you to complete [this questionnaire](#) so that we can further refine our plans.

If you have any questions, or any concerns about your child's learning or well-being, please remember that we are here to support you - please contact us at the school, or via the e-mail below to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Simon Davies



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe
 Heol Gwryosydd, Penlan, Abertawe SA5 7BU
 Ffôn 01792 560600

Ebst: SwyddfaBrynTawe5@hwbcymru.net
www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk

Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



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