



19 March 2020

Dear Parent

Each day we receive new up-dates and guidance from Government on the current situation of managing the Covid-19 virus. It is an ever un-folding picture. I am indebted to your patience, resilience and your community spirit. Please prioritise the Government guidance on keeping safe and helping each other at this time.

As you know, our school will close tomorrow and from Monday, Welsh Government will re-purpose the roles of schools during this period of 'supressing' the virus. I have not received any information yet regarding the re-purposing of schools. There has been a proposal that front-line workers' and essential workers' children will be able to access support through schools. What that currently looks like, I do not know. Our Local Authority will be directing us in this matter with Welsh Government.

You will also have heard that the Education Minister for Wales, as well as for England, has stated that the governments will not proceed with the 'summer examination series'. I have printed below the statement from the Education Minister For Wales.

*"We are in an unprecedented period, one that is changing hour-by-hour, and governments around the world are having to make quick decisions. We recognise the worry and anxiety that the uncertainty around the summer exam series was causing. Today I met with Qualifications Wales and WJEC to consider options that are in the best interests of our learners. We recognise that there are no easy choices but we have agreed that the best way forward is not to proceed with summer exam series. Learners due to sit their GCSEs and A levels this summer will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work, drawing on the range of information that is available. We will be working with the sector to announce further details shortly but wanted to give this early certainty. We also won't be using the results to publish performance measure outcomes in 2020."*

Moving forward, we will be guided by Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales, the regulator for examination and assessments. Information will be provided to parents and students as soon as it is received by school.

All this week at school, we have been preparing students for the up-coming weeks as we navigate the way through the situation.

1. All students have received detailed guidance on how to access learning programmes from home. This guidance is on our school website. We have also sent the information home via MILK.
2. We have also prioritised supporting the feelings and emotions of our students as they have received information over the last week. Our aim has been to inform about the current situation; provide guidance on how to keep positive as well as keeping safe and healthy. We have provided a PowerPoint called 'Stay Safe, Stay Healthy' on MILK for all students. Students who have had to self-isolate this week may access this information digitally



3. Students have been asked to take their books home with them to continue with learning. Students who have not been in school, have been asked to ask a friend to collect their books for them and leave their books on the door-step of their friend's home. This is the most efficient way we have of getting books to students. If this is not possible, **then please do not worry**. Teachers will be able to place onto MILK or FOLDR any learning resources students require.
4. During this time we will be using our website and SIMS Intouch to keep communication open. Please make sure we have your correct email address.

Please look after yourself. The priority is to keep safe. The priority is to work as a community on what matters to protect all of us. This time is not, as some say, 'unprecedented'. We have experienced challenging and difficult times before. History has taught us that no matter what, the human spirit in the face of adversity, is able to cope with anything and everything. We have already seen extraordinary examples of human spirit in dealing with this challenge.

Students at our school have continued to show extraordinary resilience. As always, they are brilliant.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

**Mr R. V. Davies**  
**Headteacher**