



**Pennaeth / Headteacher:** Mr D Owen  
Llangurig Road, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6EX  
**Ffôn / Tel:** 01686 412289  
**Ffacs / Fax:** 01686 413812  
**Ebost / Email:** office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk  
**Gwefan / Website:** www.llanidloeshighschool.co.uk

**Covid-19 Bulletin – 26th March 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,  
I hope this short letter finds you fit and well.

As usual for this time of year, lambing season is in full swing, daffodils are blooming and the sun is shining between occasional spring showers. Apart from that, in case you hadn't noticed, nothing is remotely normal.

The Government has made clear that you are not to leave home if you or someone you live with has either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

Indeed, all of us are only to go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home). When we do, we need to stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people and wash our hands as soon as we get home. The most up-to-date government guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

• **What are the new 'Hub' arrangements?**

In the weeks, perhaps months ahead, schools across the UK are going to be instrumental to keeping the NHS running as well as other services which are vital to how we live.

From Friday 27th March 2020, Powys County Council will be providing emergency childcare through a number of hubs located in Powys schools. These will be open only to children who are vulnerable and those whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response<sup>1</sup> **and cannot be safely cared for at home**. Our emergency childcare hub will be at Llanidloes primary school.

The primary purpose of the hub will be to provide emergency childcare (as opposed to education) within a carefully managed setting.

The hub will be open from 8am – 6pm, 7 days a week including weekends and during school holidays. Meals will be provided to all children attending the hubs. Staff from the five schools in the cluster will share responsibility for childcare. Strict social distancing and hygiene principles will be observed.



<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.uk/written-statement-eligibility-ongoing-provision-children-who-are-vulnerable-or-whose-parents-are>



However, the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 remains clear. It is imperative that, as far as possible, we minimise social contact. This means that **if children can stay safely in their home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

The Llanidloes hub will only be open for those children that **absolutely need** to attend. If this is you, then you can contact the LA to book a place using this email address: [Covid19.hubs@powys.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19.hubs@powys.gov.uk)

Further guidance can be found here <https://gov.wales/how-schools-will-work-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

- **Am I allowed to leave my child at home when I go to work?**

**Given the risk to children gathered at a hub, if they can stay safely in their home, they should.** The law doesn't say an age when you can leave a child on their own, but does make clear that a child shouldn't be left alone *'in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health'*. Use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them alone.

It may helpful to note that the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) says children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time. Babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

- **Is there any more news on how grades will be awarded?**

I know many of you, not to mention your children, are waiting with bated breath for a definitive answer to this question. I am sorry to say that the messages coming from Qualifications Wales remain light on detail. Discussions continue with Welsh Government on the best way forward. The most recent announcement has repeated a commitment to 'ensuring fairness for learners', calculating 'grades for GCSE and A level qualifications in 2020 ... using a range of evidence'.

Year 11 and Year 13: Mock exams or teacher predictions will not be used in isolation to set grades. Rather, grades for GCSE and A level qualifications in 2020 will be calculated using a range of evidence. They will be based on a 'combination of factors' which **may** include marks for work completed to date, for example AS results for A level grades, and standardised teacher assessment grades. *'Teacher assessment grades will be based on what teachers would expect a learner to achieve at the end of the course. They need to represent a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade that might be achieved in normal circumstances. This is a professional judgement based on the combined assessment information held for that learner and will be a holistic judgement rather than focusing on a single source of evidence like mock examinations.'*

Year 10 and Year 12: Given the clear importance of GCSE, A level and Skills Challenge Certificate results for progress in education, work and life, they have been prioritising these qualifications. They are now *'looking at a variety of options'* for AS Levels due to be taken this summer and for GCSE unit assessments due to be taken by Year 10 learners this summer. They will share more detail on those plans *'as soon as [they] can.'* Whether or not Year 12 students have to sit AS levels before sitting A-levels in 2021 is currently under discussion. They are *'working hard to provide greater clarity, as quickly as possible, and will continue to give regular updates.'*

Practical exams: Since schools are now closed to most students, it is not possible for practical work to be completed. Practical work completed previously by students **could** be part of the assessment information that teachers can take into account in producing their teacher assessment grade for each student. For the latest information on grading, following this link:

<https://qualificationswales.org/english/coronavirus---covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/>

- **Is my child expected to start home learning now?**

I am deeply impressed by the five parents and two pupils who have contacted me to ask for work. However, pupils are now enjoying the early days of an extended Easter holiday which comes to an end on 20 April. They needn't complete school work. Rather, they are free to help with lambing, get monopoly down from the top shelf, read books for pleasure, and whatever else they please (within the bounds of Government health guidance about social distancing, and so on).

From 20 April, pupils will start learning remotely. Don't worry, we will send out clear guidance about how this will work. Staff are busy preparing for this online schooling launch date. We will do all we can to ensure your child makes strong progress until things get back to normal.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Owen (Headteacher)