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**Covid-19 Bulletin – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child is in Year 10 or Year 12, then today's brief bulletin is a **must read** for you both. There is also an important update on the Welsh Baccalaureate for Year 11.

The Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, has announced how current Year 10 and Year 12 learners in Wales will be assessed as alternative arrangements are introduced following the outbreak of the coronavirus and the cancellation of summer exams.

As a school, we are carefully considering the best way forward for your child before the new term begins again on 20 April. Further information and guidance will follow in due course.

- **How will Year 10 and Year 12 students be assessed?**

AS levels

In Wales, as well as being stand-alone qualifications, AS levels also contribute to A level qualifications. AS units are usually taken in Year 12, with A2 units taken in Year 13.

**This year's AS learners will still receive an AS grade. However, it will be calculated using a range of evidence, including teacher assessed grades.**

In summer 2021, current AS learners will have two options for their A level award. They will choose whether to:

- **only sit the A2 units, with the A level grade based on their performance in the A2 units; or**
- **sit both the AS and A2 units. They will be awarded the best grade from either route.**

Year 10

Year 10 learners who were ***due to sit exams that would have led to a GCSE this summer*** will be issued a grade in the same way as those in Year 11. **The grade will be based on evidence including teacher assessments during the academic year to date.**

Those who were due to sit units that will lead to GCSE results next summer will not receive a unit result. Instead, those learners will have two choices, to either:

- **sit only the units they plan to take in summer 2021, with their GCSE grade based on that performance only; or**
- **sit the Year 10 units in summer 2021, along with the Year 11 units. They will be awarded the best grade from either route.**



- [Year 11: How will the Skills Challenge Certificate \(Welsh Baccalaureate\) be assessed?](#)

- WJEC **do not** require centres to submit work for any components of the Skills Challenge Certificate.
- **Completed work** for components should be retained and stored securely by teachers/tutors.
- Teachers/Tutors have been asked to keep a record of marks awarded for component work **completed** to date.
- Centres should advise candidates that components will not be moderated by WJEC for the summer 2020 series. This means that **uncompleted work does not need to be completed**.

They have added that they appreciate your ongoing patience and understanding during this difficult time, and we will update you on decisions made regarding the process of grading learners as soon as we can.

#### Non-examination assessment

Externally assessed assessments timetabled on or prior to 6th March will be marked by WJEC.

#### Other qualifications

Welsh Government are currently working with Qualifications Wales and with Ofqual and CCEA to consider our approach to managing our other qualifications including Pathways, Entry level, Level 1/2 and Level 3 awards, certificates, diplomas and extended diplomas, FAD, and Extended Project qualifications. We advise you to retain and securely store, all coursework, controlled and non-examination assessment work until further information is available.

- [How can my child find out their GCSE Pod and Hwb log in information?](#)

All queries about IT can be fielded by our IT technician Neil Gibson at the following email address: [office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk) (On the subject line, make clear your email is 'FOA IT tech')

#### Government and Local Authority updates

- People breaching stringent new rules on going outside could be fined £120
- Stay at home! Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home). If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times. Wash your hands as soon as you get home. Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.
- The Council is urgently seeking more staff recruiting in a wide range of roles. For more information, follow this link: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/8808/Covid-19---Council-urgently-needs-more-staff>
- The Council has also issued a warning to residents not to fall for scams amidst the pandemic. For the full story follow this link: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/8820/Residents-warned-not-to-fall-for-scams-amidst-the-Coronavirus-pandemic>

#### Support

The Council is working with partners to coordinate support for people in our community who may be affected by COVID 19. The team is called Community Services Emergency Response Team (C-SERT). <http://www.pavo.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

Similarly, many staff from the school have been operating the local support switchboard from their home. Here are Jan, Kylie and Nic fielding calls from locals who are self-isolating and in need of support. We're jolly proud of them (though they'll not thank me for putting their photos in this newsletter!)



Once again, if there is anything we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line.

Daniel Owen (Headteacher)