

Ysgol Uwchradd
LLANIDLOES
High School



Hilary Term (Spring) Newsletter 2020



LEARNING FROM

HOME



<https://llanidloeshighschool.co.uk>

Message from the Head



Dear Parent/Carer,

I truly hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. You have been at the forefront of my prayers over the past four weeks.

At the beginning of March, less than 1% of pupils across the UK were home educated. As of next week, that figure will rise to nearly 100%. Some of you may find the prospect of supporting your child through their home study jolly exciting, seeing it as a great opportunity to get fully involved in your child's education. However, I am almost certain that many of you will find the prospect more daunting than dreamy, terrifying rather than terrific. Please don't worry! Responsibility for your child's academic progress still rests firmly with your child's teachers. This special edition of our newsletter is all about ensuring you and your child can approach online learning with confidence. There is a great deal of information in here for both pupils and parents. I suggest you keep a copy of it handy, either by printing it out or saving it to your 'desktop'.

Mrs Taylor and Mr Craig have compiled straightforward, succinct guidance notes that talk you through the various aspects of online learning. This includes:

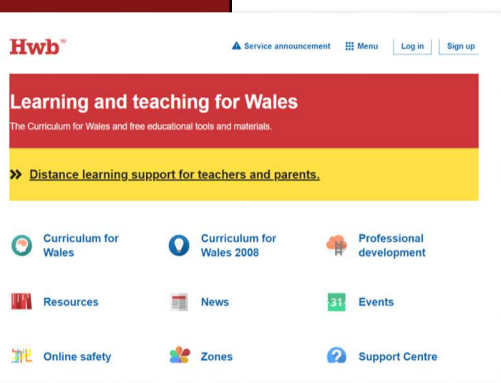
- **guidance on how to access the Hwb website (see below), general advice about online learning (see p3);**
- **behaviour guidance or 'netiquette' (p4);**
- **an overview of a two week learning programme (p5) and step-by-step guide to an average online school day (p6);**
- **common problems you may encounter and how to resolve them (p7);**
- **and some key resources towards which pupils will be directed by staff where appropriate (p8).**

This guidance will be refined as questions crop up and additional resources are made available. Staff will be on hand, albeit electronically, to respond to questions throughout the school day, helping you and your child find your feet and get into the swing of things. No doubt there will be teething issues, but if your child follows the guidance carefully we are confident they will continue to make strong academic progress over the coming weeks and months until we return to school.

I would like to reassure you that there is no rush to master this new way of learning. Indeed, it would be wise to take a day or two simply familiarising yourselves with: the Hwb website and support materials; Hwb subject 'Teams'; GCSE Pod; BBC bitesize; and other splendid resources that will help ensure your child makes strong progress.

On a separate note, I will be producing a second newsletter later this half term for everyone who was due to sit GCSE, A-level and vocational qualifications this summer. This will further explain the process for awarding grades. At present, schools are waiting to be contacted by vocational course awarding bodies to clarify expectations in this particular area.

As always, if there is anything further we can do by way of support, please do not hesitate to ask. Enjoy the online learning challenge!



How to access Hwb

While the school is closed, Llanidloes High School will be offering online educational provision through the **HWB** virtual learning platform. This is the gateway to your child's work. The link for the website can be found here:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/>

All pupils have a username and password in order to access all the resources, including Outlook Mail, Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Office 365 can be downloaded for free on up to five devices. There is also a link to download Minecraft Education Edition for free, an excellent resource full of 'Worlds' created by educationalists to enhance learning in a pain free games-based method.

Office 365 also includes Microsoft **Teams**. Each pupil will access work by logging into Teams through HWB where they can find their year group Team and their subject team. Within the subject Team file folder, the pupils will be able to find a **Subject Task List** outlining what is expected of them and where to find resources, if required. They may also post messages to the teachers to ask for help and advice. The pupils will be given deadlines when they should upload completed work to Teams for assessment.

General advice for parents/carers

Questions you can ask your child about the work?

- ◆ What work have you been set that needs to be completed this week?
- ◆ Can you show me what you need to do?
- ◆ Do you have a list of everything you need for this topic? Can you show me?
- ◆ How long do you think you should spend on this work?
- ◆ What is the most difficult thing about this work?
- ◆ Is there any extra reading or research you could do about this topic?
- ◆ What is the most interesting thing about this topic?
- ◆ How can I help?
- ◆ When is the deadline to send completed work to your teacher?



Volume of work

It is difficult for teachers to know exactly how much work your child can do through distance learning. We realize that every individual is working at different speeds, finding different elements of tasks easy or difficult, but there maybe other circumstances that make it very difficult for your child to complete work set by the specified deadline. We want to see each pupil doing their best whatever their circumstances. Please help your child strike the right balance between diligently completing work set and enjoying leisure time; we don't want them becoming overwhelmed and anxious. Protect them from over-work but encourage them, over time, to keep on top of their studies. If you feel your child is drowning in school work because they are going the extra mile for every teacher, please reassure them that they will not get into trouble if every piece of work is not of pulitzer prize winning standard. Feel free to send a message to the school office for the attention of the teacher/ teachers concerned. Our staff are working very hard to produce meaningful work and it will take time for us to get the balance right.

General advice for pupils

If you study through the medium of Welsh but don't speak Welsh at home

- ◆ It is essential that you make every effort to maintain the standard of your Welsh. You have worked so hard to become fluent and need to preserve this valuable skill
- ◆ Use Welsh in your conversations on TEAMS
- ◆ Talk to your friends / family on the phone in Welsh, or better still, facetime or equivalent in Welsh
- ◆ Watch S4C
- ◆ Read Welsh books
- ◆ Use the Welsh BBC Bitesize



Balance between subjects

The table on page 3 gives an indication of the time that should be spent on the different subjects. Please balance your time carefully. It is very likely that some of you will want to spend more time on work set in your favourite subjects by your favourite teachers while avoiding work set in your least favourite subjects. You need to resist this temptation!



How to behave online



Staff at Llanidloes High School are very proud of your standards of behaviour. As a student body, you give us far more cause to hand out rewards and praise than sanctions. We are used to your common courtesy, kindness towards more vulnerable pupils and sincere support for those in need. Within our classrooms, you are quick to help your peers, listen respectfully to others during discussions and ask pertinent questions.

In short, when you are in school you behave in a way that makes Llanidloes High School a pleasant environment for everyone.

Your conduct online shouldn't be any different. The internet can be a very impersonal place and some pupils are tempted to write deeply unkind things because they are not face-to-face with the person with whom they are communicating. They do not see the real upset these typed words can have on others and the usual consequences of this kind of communication can feel distant and less real.

However, what you say to people online is real. You are speaking to real people. Moreover, the internet records and retains what you say for the rest of your life.

Bearing this in mind, there are useful rules that ensure working online remains pleasant and safe. We call appropriate online behaviour 'Nettiquette'. Please follow the guidelines below to ensure everyone gets along during the lockdown period.

Netiquette
Be Respectful - Classmates and teachers are real people with feelings just like you.
Caps and exclamation marks mean you are shouting - People can't see your face when you are posting. They don't know if you are really annoyed or just joking. Avoid using strong language or vulgar expressions.
Write sensibly and with maturity - Use accurate spelling and grammar. Your academic work and communication within 'Teams' is not a text to your friends. You are in a school environment and need to approach communication in suitably academic manner.
Do not post inappropriate content - Do not post rude or inappropriate comments or pictures. This will be treated very seriously by staff.
Do not post personal material - Do not post personal content about you or anyone else. If there is something upsetting you, either let your parent/carer know or post a message to the teacher privately and they will advise you. You can also ring the school on 01686 412289.
Do not post when you do not need to - Some people get carried away and post too many messages, emojis or images when there is no need. Resist this temptation. Keep communication succinct. Keep focused on academic matters.
Report anyone who you think might be misusing the class chat or cyberbullying - Report online bullying through a private post to your teacher or Year Leader. This kind of behaviour will not be tolerated.
Help others who are struggling - Some people are not as adept at online working as you. Help them out!

Given your exceptional behaviour and attitude in school, we do not envisage any issues. However, if a pupil lets their high standards slip by repeatedly breaking these rules and failing to respond to admonition from staff, parents will be contacted. Further consequences will be applied for more serious misconduct.

Overview of the online school week

From 20 April, each week's work will be available on Monday morning in your Hwb Team folders. Just follow your teacher's instructions. From 27 April, each week will begin with an online school assembly from the Headteacher. This will appear in the 'files' section of your 'Assembly' Team.

The table below provides a rough guide regarding the amount of time you are expected to work on each subject area over the course of a fortnight. You will notice that some time is given to pastoral care, where you and your parents/carers can access resources aimed at the non-academic side of school life, such as dealing with physical and mental health, spiritual/faith matters and overcoming challenges caused by isolation.

Year 11 work will eventually include A level / post-16 materials based on your option choices. The coming weeks will provide a perfect opportunity to sample several subjects if you have found it difficult to decide what to do next year.

Suggested study hours over two weeks for subjects in Years 7, 8 and 9

English	3-4	ICT	1-2
Maths	3-4	R.E	1-2
Welsh	3-4	Music	1-2
Science	3-4	Art	1-2
Daily exercise	3-4	Drama	1-2
D&T (PD, Electronics, Textiles, Graphics)	2-3	Well-Being / Tutor-Pastoral	1-2
Geography	1-2	'Homework' and Catch-up	c. 5
History	1-2		
French	1-2		

Suggested study hours over two weeks for subjects in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13

	Year 10		Year 12	
English	3-4	Option Subject A	4-6	
Maths	3-4	Option Subject B	4-6	
Welsh	3-4	Option Subject C	4-6	
Biology	2-3	Option Subject D	4-6	
Chemistry	2-3	Option Subject E	4-6	
Physics	2-3			
Daily exercise	3-4	Welsh Bacc	2-3	
Welsh Bac	1-2	P.E. (daily exercise)	3-4	
Option Subject A	2-3	Tutor/Pastoral	1-2	
Option Subject B	2-3	'Homework' and catch-up	c. 8	
Option Subject C	2-3			
Tutor- Pastoral	1-2			
RE	1-2			
'Homework' & catch-up	c. 5			
College pupils see Year Group Team for resources – between 3 - 6 hours per week				

One of the benefits of online learning is the flexibility it affords. The time allocations above are merely **guided** learning hours. The actual time required will vary based on pupils' aptitude for different subjects and the nature of the tasks set. Moreover, pupils are free to follow a normal school day or work at entirely different times. If lambing season takes up most of the morning, there is no reason why pupils cannot work in the evenings.

The School Day

Monday morning

Check the school website to see how many hours of study you should plan for this week



Available
from 27 April

Listen to the podcast of the weekly **School Assembly**

Or read the transcript

There will be school news as well as the usual worship and reflection



Log in to **HWB** then **Microsoft Teams from Office 365**, and join your Year Group Team in case there is a message from the Year Leader. You can also download the Teams app for free. The app sometimes works better than the Office365 link to it.



Join your subject class **Team**

Check the messages, then find the **Subject Task List** in the **Files** Folder in your **Teams** menu



Complete the work set in the

Subject Task List

The **Subject task List** will have guidance and links to resources and worksheets

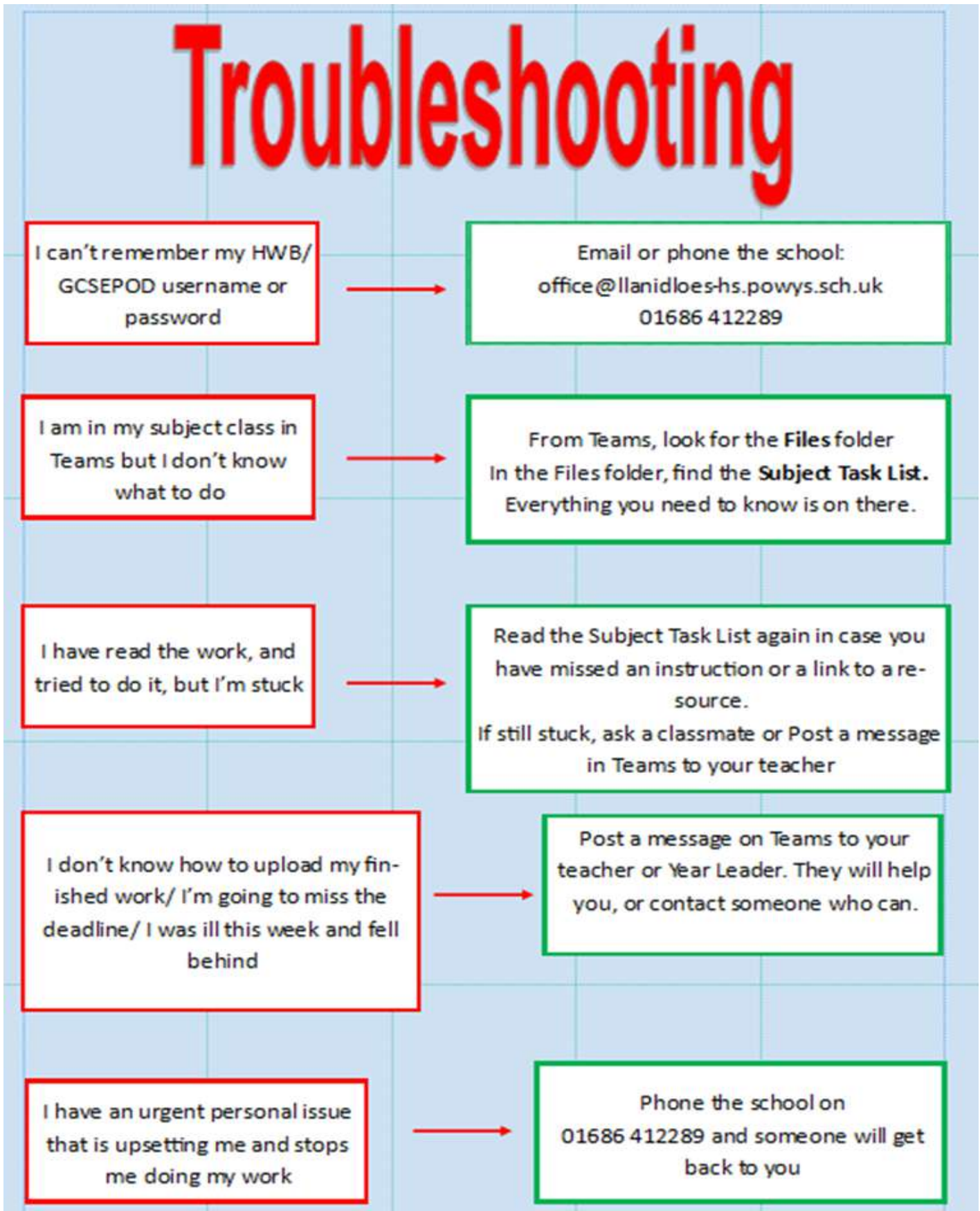


When you have completed the task set in the **Subject task List** then upload it to **Teams** or **Class Notebook** in the way described in the **Subject Task List** by the given deadline

Overcoming common problems

Sometimes things don't go according to plan, or problems arise as you go along. The problem solver flowchart below is for those who can access online learning.

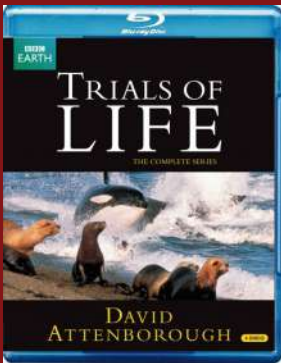
If you are unable to access or complete online learning, please email the office: office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk



Useful resources—BBC Bitesize

Bitesize

The Impressionists
Painting & Revolution





Daily lessons start Monday

No school? With a new TV channel, podcasts, videos, and lessons each day online, we've got you covered. Beginning Monday at 9:00.

More about daily lessons

Learn & revise >

Primary

Age 3 to 11

Go to Primary >

Secondary

Age 11 to 16

Go to Secondary >

Post-16

Age 16+


Go to Post-16 >

BBC Bitesize can be found at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

The Bitesize website has been expanded to offer additional online help for students and their parents. New maths and English lessons will be available every day for all ages. These have been created from resources from Bitesize, other parts of the BBC and other education providers. The lessons are supported by new videos, practice tests, educational games and articles. Parents can get advice on how to support their child's academic progress at home, including support for children with SEN (special educational needs). This is a bilingual website and the language can be changed back and forward using the tab on the top left hand side.

GCSE Pod



education on demand

Next Level Learning

With pedagogical content knowledge for 27 GCSE/ IGCSE subjects, GCSEPod make it easy to learn and revise from wherever you are, on any device and is particularly suited to remote learning. The ability to build knowledge in sequence through our unique pods, enables retention and recall when it is most needed. Teach, assess, monitor, manage and engage with an award-winning resource that puts evidence and progress at the heart of everything we do.

[Find out how we are helping with school closures >>](#)

[For parent resources click here >>](#)

LOGIN

f

twitter

Instagram

YouTube

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GCSEPOD is a comprehensive video resource platform that covers virtually every subject. Though it is intended for GCSE it can be used by all pupils. The videos are scripted by teachers and take no more than three to four minutes to watch.

Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



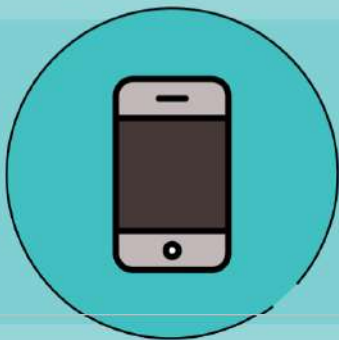
Children may respond to stress in different ways such as being more clingy, anxious, withdrawing, angry or agitated, bedwetting etc.

Respond to your child's reactions in a supportive way, listen to their concerns and give them extra love and attention.

Children need adults' love and attention during difficult times. Give them extra time and attention.

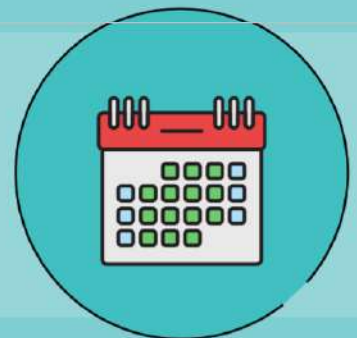
Remember to listen to your children, speak kindly and reassure them.

If possible, make opportunities for the child to play and relax.



Try and keep children close to their parents and family and avoid separating children and their caregivers to the extent possible. If separation occurs (e.g. hospitalization) ensure regular contact (e.g. via phone) and re-assurance.

Keep to regular routines and schedules as much as possible, or help create new ones in a new environment, including school/learning as well as time for safely playing and relaxing.



Provide facts about what has happened, explain what is going on now and give them clear information about how to reduce their risk of being infected by the disease in words that they can understand depending on their age.

This also includes providing information about what could happen in a re-assuring way (e.g. a family member and/or the child may start not feeling well and may have to go to the hospital for some time so doctors can help them feel better).

If you need any support from staff, just call the school or email the office. We will try and respond within 24 hours.