

Ysgol Uwchradd LLANIDLOES High School



Michaelmas Term (Autumn) Newsletter 2020



<https://llanidloeshighschool.co.uk>

Summer exams update from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the time of writing this newsletter (10th November), we have just received notification from the Education Minister of her intention to direct Qualifications Wales that there should be **no end of year exams for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2021**.

The primary reason for the Minister's decision is concern for children to be treated fairly; the time learners will spend in schools and colleges will vary hugely and, in this situation, it is impossible to guarantee a level playing field for exams to take place.

Instead of exams, Welsh Government intends to work with schools and colleges to take forward teacher-managed assessments. These should include assessments that will be externally set and marked, but delivered within a classroom environment under teacher supervision.

The expectation is that these will form the basis for centre-based outcomes which will be linked to an agreed national approach to provide consistency across Wales.

The overriding priority for any approach to qualifications in 2021 is to ensure that learners in exam years develop the knowledge, skills and experience that they need to confidently progress to their next steps – whether that is employment, training or further and higher education. Removing exams frees up the entire summer term which is normally focused on preparing for and sitting exams, for additional teaching and learning.

A Design and Delivery Advisory Group has been set up and will meet this week, chaired by Geraint Rees. The proposed approach to centre-based outcomes, an appeals process and arrangements for private candidates, will be developed by this group, involving school and college leaders, supported by Welsh Government and advised by Qualifications Wales and WJEC.

It is Welsh Government's intention that this work is finalised in December so that guidance and supporting materials can be in place for the start of the spring term.

We have been reassured by the Minister that the first assessment activities will not need to commence until the latter half of the spring term.

Welsh Government have engaged with universities across the UK and have been assured that this decision will not disadvantage Welsh learners as long as their alternative arrangements are robust and transparent.

The situation for Vocational Qualifications is more complex and will require extra work. Welsh Government officials will continue to support Qualifications Wales as they work closely with other regulators to ensure a pragmatic approach that works in learners' interests and gives them clarity about the way forward.

At this early stage, pupils, parents and teachers across Wales have many questions about precisely how centre-based outcomes will work this year. Will the externally set and marked teacher-managed assessments form a weighted element of the final grade? Or will they just be one piece of a wider range of evidence that teachers can use informally to set pupils' centre-based outcomes? Will the teacher-managed assessments be used to moderate grades suggested by teachers? If so, how? Are teacher-managed assessment questions going to be given to students in all their subjects so they can create model answers that are to be written out in test conditions? What is going to happen about vocational qualifications that do not easily fit the centre-based assessment process?

I will write to you again to update you on progress and provide additional information as soon as it is available. Rest assured, whatever the detail of the final arrangements, we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure all pupils at the school achieve the outcomes they deserve.

Yours sincerely,



Young Reporter Competition



The beginning of the Autumn Term usually sees Year 9 busy preparing for the annual Hefin Bennett Debating Competition. This year, we were of course unable to hold the debate so instead Year 9 took part in Llanidloes High School's Young Reporter Competition, based on the BBC competition.

Students delivered reports on one of the following topics: Me and My World, Coronavirus or an Uplifting story. Year 9 were given advice in a live link-up with Florence Craig (ex LHS student) who now works for the BBC and Sukhi Nagra, the Young Reporter events producer.



On Friday, October 16th the final was held. We were treated to a selection of excellent videos produced by the students as well as reports given in person on the day. The winners of the year competition are as follows:

Best video: **Jack Pugh**

Story with the most potential: **Harri Gethin**

Best speaker on the day: **Ella Steer** (pictured) *Well done everyone!*

Hay Festival—Scribblers Cymraeg

On 26 November 2020, the Hay Festival team are running a series of free digital Welsh language workshops for transition pupils in Years 6 and 7, brought to you as part of the Hay Festival Scribblers Tour and freely available to watch again.

Join poets and authors **Mererid Hopwood, Aneirin Karadog** and **Anni Llŷn** for these free creative and interactive digital events focusing on location, landscape and identity to celebrate the Welsh language, hosted by **Ameer Davies-Rana**.

All events are available from 9am on Thursday 26 November and will include captions in Welsh and English.

#Addo
#1Miliwn
#ScribblersTour
@hayfestival



Free Welsh magazines online!

For one year only, all Urdd magazines (Cip, Bore da and IAW!) are available free and online. Urdd magazines are an invaluable resource, as they include a wealth of articles, interviews, puzzles, recipes, competitions, and so on. 'IAW!' is the most relevant magazine for high school pupils and is suitable for both Welsh First and Second Language pupils. Please follow the link below to subscribe to the magazines:

<https://www.urdd.cymru/en/magazines/>

Stop it now campaign

Powys Children's Services are hosting a public facing event delivered by the 'Stop It Now' campaign (see the flyer on the right).

The event will offer information about child sexual abuse to members of the public to raise awareness of this form of abuse. These efforts relate to the Welsh Government's national action plan on tackling CSA.

The event will be held virtually on Wednesday 18th November from 6-8.30pm through Zoom.

Curriculum update

To reflect the need for continued flexibility for schools to respond to the issues and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the statutory curriculum and assessment requirements have been modified to a reasonable endeavours basis for the month of November.

This is a continuation of the curriculum and assessment modifications that were in place for September and October. Notices to modify curriculum and assessment requirements may only apply for a specified period of time, which must not exceed one month.

You are invited to attend the following public education/training session.

Parents Protect

On this session you will learn about the facts around child sexual abuse and our responsibility to prevent it. This session will be useful to parents, carers or foster carers.

Date: Wednesday 18th November 2020

Time: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Hosted by: Powys County Council

Please contact pwbotu@powys.gov.uk to book a place

Location: Virtual session over Zoom

(You need to pre-book onto the session through your host to receive the zoom login). By booking onto this session, you agree for the host to share your email address with Stop It Now! Wales so you can receive evaluation and certificates post session.



For more information visit stopitnow.org.uk/wales

Children in Need

The Sixth Formers can't do their usual fundraising activities for Children in Need this year due to social distancing, but that is not going to hold them back.

We will be raising money through a non-uniform day on **Friday 13th November**. All pupils will need to bring a £1 contribution that will be carefully collected.



Christmas Jumpers

Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Friday 11 December** this year. Wear a silly jumper and make a £1 donation to Save the Children.



Extraordinary pupil achievements

Pupil achievements

Congratulations to Carys Morgan in Year 8 who has met the required selection criteria for Swim Wales National Skills Academy for 2020/2021 season.

This is a fantastic achievement! Carys worked extremely hard during lockdown with river swims. She has been training every day and clearly deserves this fantastic opportunity. We are sure she will inspire others to follow her lead into competitive swimming.



Well done to Matthew Higgins who won the Rotax British Kart championship.

If you want an edge of your seat experience, why not watch Matthew in action. One of his recent events is available on Youtube via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/LtI4blStOqo>

UN Student Conference

Before lockdown, a small group of geographers attended a mock UN conference on climate change in Wrexham County Court. Mrs Harrop said that throughout the day the team did an amazing job of representing China. She said, 'I was really proud of how they performed and how they spoke in front of everyone.' Mr Owen added, 'At a turbulent time on the world political stage, it is encouraging to see green shoots of diplomacy emerging in the next generation.'





New Apple Mac Music Suite

Mrs Powell is delighted to have the new iMacs installed in MU1. Years 9 and 10 are already finding out how easy composition is with GarageBand software; we look forward to hearing great things in the future!



Welsh Government Covid Update

If you are feeling slightly confused about precisely which regulations apply at the moment, you may find it helpful to visit Welsh Government's regulations FAQ page: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

Here are a few noteworthy changes that began to apply from the week beginning 9th November. The main things Welsh Government are asking people to do are:

- Stay out of each other's homes, except in very limited circumstances;
- Limit the times you leave your home, and the distance you travel;
- When you do leave home, try and be restrained in how many different people you see. It is better to see the same one or two people regularly than to see lots of different people occasionally;
- maintain social distancing, including outdoors;
- meet people outdoors rather than indoors where possible, even where the law allows you to meet indoors;
- when you meet people you don't live with away from your home, in most circumstances, the absolute maximum number of people meeting should be four (not including any children aged under 11);
- Work from home if you can;
- Wash your hands regularly and follow other advice on hygiene; Self-isolate if you show symptoms of coronavirus or when you are told to do so by NHS Track, Trace, Protect.

Trin Stephens

We are exceptionally proud of Trin Stephens, one of our talented young artists.

Her work is currently part of a local exhibition. I'm sure you'll agree that her mastery of the graphite medium is breath-taking. Pictured here are two drawings entitled 'Light up the sky' (left) and 'Light behind your eyes' (right).

She has also been shortlisted out of approximately 2000 people for the 'Contemporary Young Artist Award' run by the 'The Biscuit Factory' art gallery in Newcastle. She is the youngest competitor in the competition. Well done, Trin!



Left: 'Hidden' (graphite on paper)

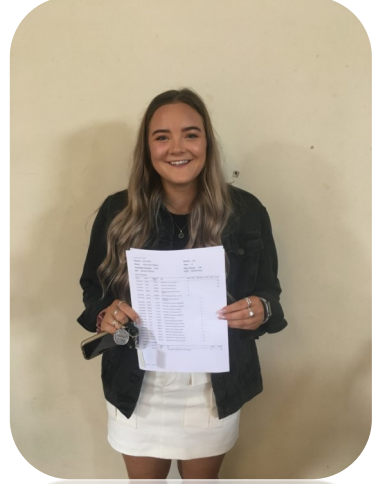
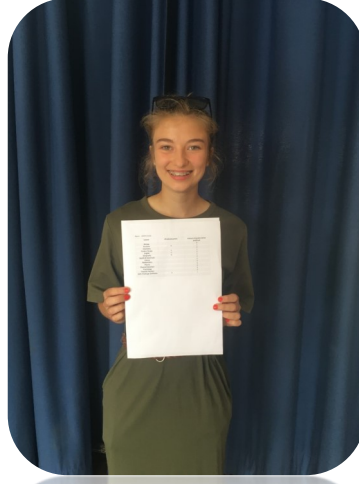


Right: 'Light up the Sky' (graphite and ink on paper)



Left: 'The Light Behind Your Eyes' (graphite and coloured pencils on paper)

A-level results success



Staff and pupils at Llanidloes High School are exceptionally pleased with results this year. Headteacher, Daniel Owen, said: "We are absolutely delighted with our students' splendid results this year and warmly congratulate them on their success."

We are equally delighted that nearly every single student at Llanidloes applying for Higher Education gained a place in his or her first-choice university, which is outstanding.

We are naturally over the moon to have been in The Times top ten Sixth Forms in Wales for two out of the past three years based on the exceptional results of our students. We had hoped to achieve this feat again, but understand why comparative analyses of this kind have been suspended for a year.

I would like to thank all of the students for their exceptional hard work and for being such exemplary role models for our younger pupils. I would also like to thank teachers and staff for supporting students so effectively over the last two years, enabling them to achieve such a strong set of results."

Mr Owen added, "Each year, our A-level results serve as a reminder of why local Sixth Form education is overwhelmingly the most popular post-16 choice of students and parents across the county."

Notable results included

Oscar Crutchley A*AAB - Off to the Navy

Bethany Davies A*AAAB

Eva George A*A*AB - Reading University to do Building Surveying

Alicia Higgins A*AA - University of Chester to do Business Management

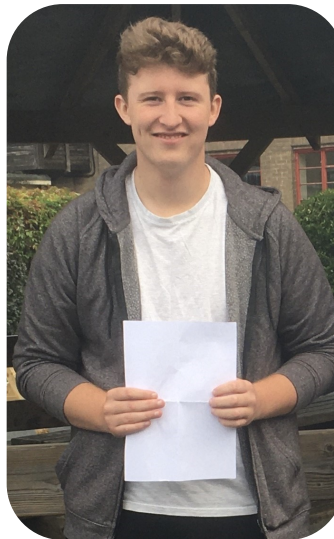
Kate Jerman A*AAA - Veterinary Medicine at Nottingham University

Cat Jones AAAC - Law at Aberystwyth

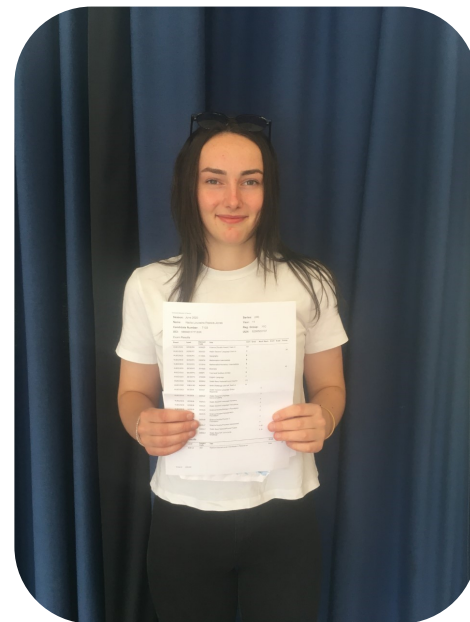
Dafydd Jones A*AAB - Chemistry at Liverpool University

Rhian Jones A*AAB - University of West of England, Bristol, to do Urban Planning

Chair of Governors, Mrs Margot Jones, said, "Congratulations to our wonderful students on their excellent results. We now need our councillors to listen to pupils, parents, teachers and governors in smaller, rural secondary schools like ours, by fighting alongside us for the continuation of local Sixth Form provision."



GCSE results success



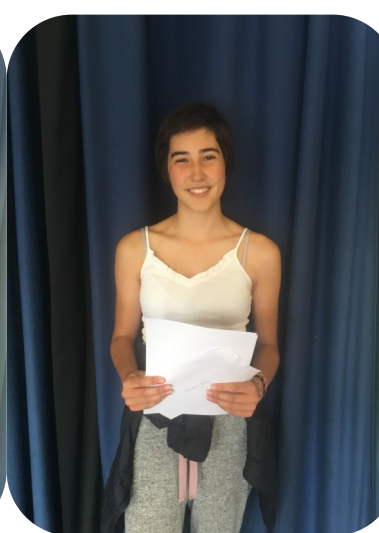
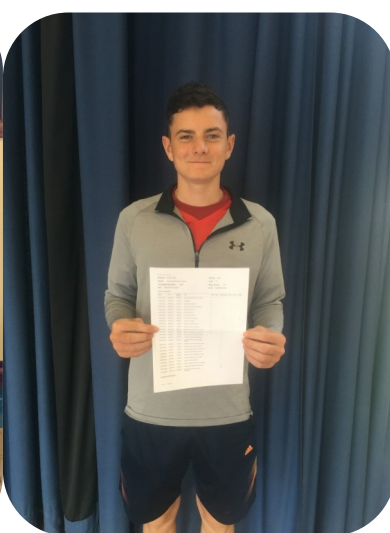
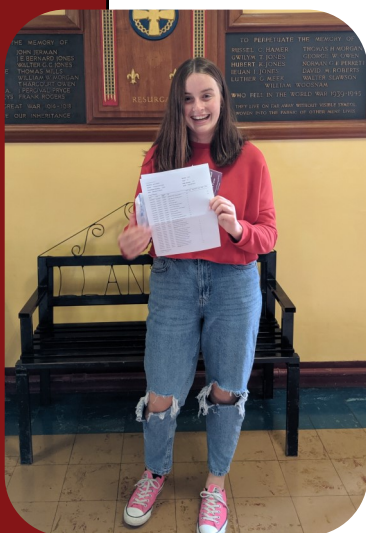
Headteacher, Daniel Owen, said: "We are delighted with the splendid results of all of our students at both GCSE and A-level. Their hard work, superb attitude to learning and excellent prior performance were used to generate Centre Assessment Grades that were richly deserved.

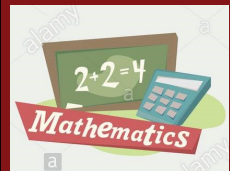
"There are many notable individual performances, including: Asha Sylvester with 10 A*s and 1 A; Francesca Brandon-Higgs with 8 A*s and 2 As; Perry Jolly with 7 A*s and 5 As; Eleanor Taylor with 7A*s and 2 As, Maddie Morris with 7A*s and 3As; Tom Owen with 7A*s and 3 As; and Jess Taylor with 6A*s and 4 As."

"Other pupils, such as Lewis Richards, made exceptional progress through hard work, in Lewis's case achieving 3Bs and 6Cs enabling him to go on to an apprenticeship. He has emulated the hard work and success of many of our students who have consistently excelled for the two years."

I would like to extend my warm congratulations to every student on their results and for reaping the rewards of their hard work. We have already welcomed most of these exceptional students back into Sixth Form where we are continuing to ensure they excel academically and enjoy the tremendous variety of extra-curricular activities, including Gold Duke of Edinburgh, here in Llanidloes High School.

Once again, I would like to thank every member of staff for their professionalism, hard work and high standard of teaching and pastoral care that have made these results possible."





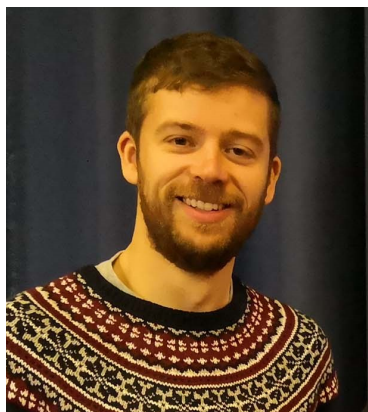
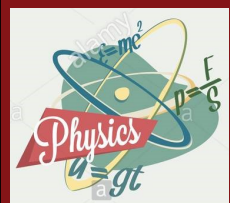
Virtual Open Evening for Year 11

We look forward to welcoming all Year 11 students and their parents to the virtual Open Evening on Thursday 13th November.



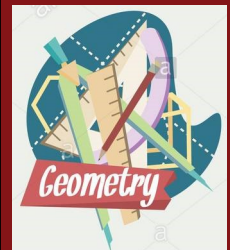
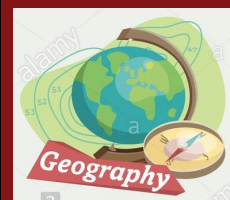
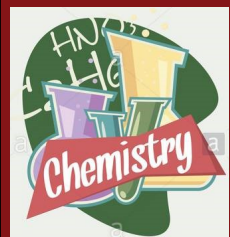
Whatever your child's chosen career pathway, we will be sharing key information about the wide variety of post-16 pathways and responding to questions about specific subjects.

In addition to a series of narrated PowerPoints and the school prospectus that are available on the school website, we also hope to replicate as closely as possible the enjoyable, personalised, interactive, conversational aspects of a regular open evening. To this end, once the brief initial presentation are complete, teachers will be on hand during the webinar to field any subject specific questions.



Whether your child is set on a highly academic programme of study in Oxbridge or a Russell Group University, or keen to pursue more vocational routes, or wants to go into sports coaching, creative arts or criminology, the open evening presents a golden opportunity to explore what's available.

Come ready to be inspired!



LHS 6FM

Open Evening Invitation



CHWECHED DOSBARTH

Llanidloes
SIXTH FORM

We would like to invite you and your parents/guardians to our Sixth Form virtual open evening.

LOCATION/LLEOLIAD:

Online via the school website
<https://llanidloeshighschool.co.uk/>

DATE/DYDDIAD:

Thursday 12th
November 2020

EMAIL/EBOST:

office@llanidloes-hs.powys.sch.uk with
the subject '6th Form' to confirm your
place and receive your live link

TIME/AMSER:

18:00

The evening will begin with a live welcome from the Head Teacher and Sixth Form Staff at 18.00 prompt. You will then have a chance to find out more about the wide range of subjects on offer. There will then be the opportunity to ask questions of subject and Sixth Form staff via a live Webinar.

Year 6, apply soon! We're oversubscribed

Llanidloes High School is enjoying a record breaking year. In September this year, the school was oversubscribed by the largest number of pupils on record.

Chair of Governors, Mrs Margot Jones said, "In the past three years, the school's roll has increased by 20%. Demand for places in Year 7 significantly outstripped our maximum admission number. It's a lovely problem to have and there are various reasons for our popularity with pupils and parents."



Some parents are attracted by our reputation for academic excellence. For two out of the three years before Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs), we were placed in 'The Times' top 10 state schools in Wales. We have a well-established track record of enabling students to gain places in Oxford, Cambridge and many other Russell Group universities. We are equally adept at preparing students to establish their own digital businesses, learn valuable trades, begin careers in agriculture, the public sector, armed forces, health sector and a plethora of other pathways to success depending on our pupils' aspirations."

She added, "Other parents appear to have been attracted to Llanidloes High School by our being placed in the highest green category of support, indicating that we are a self-improving school."

"But possibly the greatest appeal for many parents to whom I speak is the culture and ethos of the school. Everyone who visits the school comments on the peaceful, calm atmosphere, strong sense of discipline and the courtesy of our wonderful pupils. We are not only committed to academic excellence, but also to supporting pupils to develop integrity, compassion and humility."

Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Catrin Taylor said, "In Llanidloes High School, we certainly benefit from the excellent start our pupils receive in feeder primary schools. From Llanbrynmair, Carno and Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the north, to Rhayader in the south, and everywhere in between, our primary colleagues do a marvellous job of instilling a strong sense of respect and boundless enthusiasm for learning."

Headteacher, Mr Daniel Owen added, "A school cannot enjoy academic or pastoral success without a superb staff team. Every single member of staff at Llanidloes High School works tirelessly to plan and deliver enjoyable, inspirational and challenging learning experiences. They give up countless lunchtimes, run innumerable after school activities and go well beyond the extra mile to provide the support and opportunities every single child needs to thrive and excel. It is a privilege to work alongside such a gifted, caring and committed team."



Queue for Year 6



Mr Jamie Jones taking a break from inspiring our budding historians?



In September, Llanidloes High School also welcomed its largest ever cohort of Welsh Medium students. The school now has six tutor groups in Year 7, two of which are Welsh Medium.

Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Catrin Taylor said, "We are delighted to see our Welsh Medium stream flourishing. Given both the beauty of the Welsh language and growing demand for Welsh in the workplace, it is little wonder that there is a corresponding growth in demand for Welsh Medium education. It is especially exciting to see how many of our Welsh stream pupils come from English speaking families who want to give their children the opportunity to become fluent in Welsh."

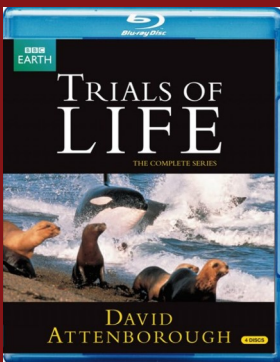
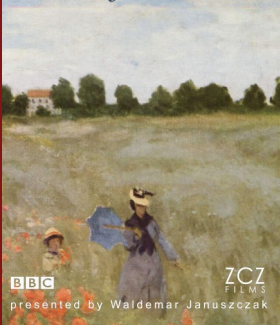
Headteacher, Mr Daniel Owen said, "It must be noted that these wonderful milestones and successes are very much a team effort. In addition to the pupils, parents, staff, governors and primary feeder schools, I am also thankful for the support we receive from colleagues in other Powys secondary schools. The days of competition and rivalry between schools are thankfully a distant memory. The relationship between each and every secondary school in Powys is now characterised by collegiality and a readiness to freely share advice, resources and support. No-one enters the teaching profession to engage in one-upmanship, but to make a positive difference to the lives of as many children as possible."

*(If you know someone who would like to speak to a member of staff about admissions, please ask them to **urgently** contact the reception on 01686 412289 as we are already approaching our admission number for our 2021 intake).*

Bitesize

The Impressionists

Painting & Revolution



Dates for the diary

November

12/11—6th Form virtual open evening
W/b 16/11—Year 11 English prep week
W/b 23/11—Year 11 English recordings
20/11—Year 8 interim report home
26/11—Year 9 virtual parents evening*
30/11—6th Form exams (not part of centre-based assessments!)

December

10/12—Year 11 virtual parents evening*
17/12—6th Form interim report home

January

14/1—Year 7 virtual parents evening*
18/1—Year 9 & Year 11 exam fortnight (not part of centre-based assessments!)

*Further details to follow

February

4/2—Year 10 virtual parents evening*
5/2—6th Form Full Report Home
24/2—Year 9 Interim report home
25/2—Year 9 Virtual Options Eve

March

1/3—6th Form exams (TBC)
2/3—Free choice options forms
4/3—Year 11 mock results day
9/3 - Options forms out
16/3 - Options forms back
18/3—Year 8 virtual parents evening*

Useful resources—BBC Bitesize

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 The lessons are supported by new videos, practice tests, educational games and articles. 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

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. The exams may have been cancelled, but learning remains vital.

gcsepod
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 >>

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