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Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: **Dr Lowri Brown**

 **01492 575599**

 **dr.lowri.brown@conwy.gov.uk**

Ein Cyf / Our Ref:

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware following the Welsh Government's announcement on 19<sup>th</sup> October that a two week "firebreak" lockdown comes into force at 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020. Welsh Government have said repeatedly that children would be their top priority if further restrictions are needed, and as a result have looked to keep disruption to education to a minimum.

We hope that the following information will help explain the arrangements that will be in place in Conwy to help minimise any disruption to your child/children's education.

### **School Attendance Arrangements**

The following groups of pupils will return to school as normal after half term:

- All Primary School pupils
- All Ysgol y Gogarth pupils
- Secondary age pupils in Years 7 and 8
- Pupils attending a Pupil Referral Unit (including Years 9 and above)
- *Pupils sitting GCSEs and University entrance exams in November will be able to do so at their school/college.*

All other pupils will continue their learning from home the week beginning November 2nd.

Individual schools may also contact you directly about arrangements for vulnerable learners in Years 9 and above.

## **Distance Learning**

Distance learning and support will be made available to all pupils in Years 9 and above who are not returning to school immediately after the half term break. Guidance on the minimum expectations for learning is being issued by Welsh Government.

Work is also continuing to ensure that all pupils have access to digital equipment so that they can access distance learning. Please contact your child's school directly if you need any support with this or have any questions.

Distance learning arrangements will vary between schools so please contact your school directly after the half term break should you require further guidance or support.

## **Children in years 9-13 who may need additional support**

Schools are working to identify the children who would exceptionally benefit from additional support. This will be done with children and families, so their needs can be understood and delivered through the most appropriate support. These children will be regularly reviewed and monitored by the individual schools. It will be considered how risks could be mitigated through the most appropriate support in order to ensure all children are safe, seen, heard, nurtured and developed.

## **Transport**

If your child receives school transport by Conwy County Borough Council and have been told that their group\* still needs to attend school during the Welsh Government 'firebreak' then please contact your taxi firm to arrange. If you are unsure which firm transports your child please contact Home2school team on 01492 577899.

School buses will be running as normal.

(\*Secondary schools will re-open after the half-term for children in years 7 and 8. Pupils will be able to come in to take exams)

## **Free School Meals**

Free school meal arrangements have already been put in place for half term and will continue for pupils in year 9 and above for a third week. Pupils in Conwy who are eligible for free school meals will receive direct payments for the two week half term break and this will be extended for an additional week for those learners in Years 9 and above.

Payment will be made in to Parents'/Carers' Bank accounts on 5/11/20.

We understand that this continues to be a concerning time for everyone, and we want to assure you of our commitment to working together to keep your children, their families and our community safe in Conwy.

Please also find attached a link to the Government Wales website which you may find useful.  
<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-circuit-break-frequently-asked-questions>

Yours Sincerely



**Dr Lowri Vaughan Brown**  
**Prif Swyddog Addysg/Chief Education Officer**  
**Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Addysg/ Head of Education Services**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ymateb i unrhyw ohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at unrhyw oedi. Gwnewch yn siŵr fod unrhyw ohebiaeth wedi'i labelu'n glir gydag enw, teitl ac/ neu enw llawn yr Adran fel y nodir uchod.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. We will respond to any correspondence in Welsh which will not lead to a delay. Please ensure any correspondence is clearly labelled with the name, title and/or full name of the department as detailed above.