

January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I write to provide you with some important updates:

### **School Re-opening**

Schools have received communication from the Minister for Education this morning regarding the re-opening of schools.

We are informed today that:

*“the First Minister will confirm that decision-making as schools will be brought into line with the Welsh Government three-week review timetable of 29<sup>th</sup> January. This means that students will continue to learn remotely and vulnerable children and children of critical workers will have access to on-site provision until then. At that point, unless the rates of community transmission in Wales significantly reduces by 29<sup>th</sup> January, most students in schools and colleges will continue working remotely until the February half term”.*

We are also informed that upon review, a phased return of examination year groups, years 11, 12 and 13 may be possible during this period.

### **Teaching and Learning**

In the interim then, and as I wrote in my letter earlier this week, remote learning will continue to be led through MS Teams. Teaching and learning is our priority and we will continue to support your child and you as families to the best of our ability. Remote learning is challenging – for children, for you as parents and for staff – working together and supporting each other is very important.

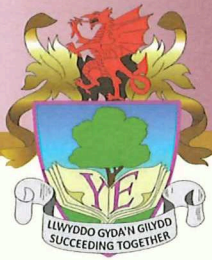
### **Qualifications for 2021: GCSE, AS and A levels**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December schools were informed of the new awarding process for GCSE, AS and A levels.

At that given point in time, we were informed that for most subjects, pupils' grades would be determined by their performance in three areas:

1. Non examined assessments (NEAs) or orals/practicals where applicable
2. Internally assessed work which would be carried out by the class teacher in a flexible manner and standardised by the WJEC, during a 'window' between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.





3. Externally assessed work which would be both set and marked by the WJEC and carried out during the period of 17<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> June.

We have now (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January) been informed however, that in light of the announcement:

*“the planned Spring internal assessment window will not take place for GCSE, AS and A levels and revised arrangements ... will be made. We know that learners need clarity about how they will be assessed and there will be clarity on revised arrangements soon”* Philip Blaker, Chief Executive Qualifications Wales.

As parents and carers can see, this is a rapidly changing and dynamic situation. As soon as I have the necessary clarity and information I will inform both you and our young people.

With regards to Year 10 learners, we are informed that there will be no external ‘unit’ examinations this year; that is, external examinations that contribute to a whole GCSE. There will therefore be, for example, no Science, English Literature or History unit external examinations.

**And finally...**

Regardless of all uncertainty, our young people remain at the centre of our actions. The focus for your child should be on trying their best with their remote learning, and setting themselves up for their chosen pathway next year.

I recognise that it can be difficult but please encourage your child not to worry; it is the role of school leaders and the teaching profession to make sense of this hugely dynamic situation and minimise as far as possible the impact on our pupils. Our focus is on your child.

Many thanks for your support. I will continue to remain in touch.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs S Sutton  
HEADTEACHER**

