



March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: CORONAVIRUS / STAFFING

As you will be aware the Government's guidance on the Coronavirus has changed. The current advice means:

1. People in high risk groups will be asked to stay at home.
2. If one person in any household has a new persistent cough and/or high temperature (fever), everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.
3. Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" – but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"

You will also be aware that the UK Government directive is for schools to remain open i.e no mass UK closure of schools.

Whilst we are currently adhering to advice and remaining open as a school we are mindful of the fact that closure may be inevitable in the coming weeks. In addition we are experiencing a large number of staff absences through a combination of:

- Self-isolation as a result of staff members' own symptoms
- Self-isolation as a result of family members' symptoms
- The advice of the Government being for pregnant employees to self-isolate

There may therefore be potential for closures based on untenable staffing levels and the subsequent impact on safeguarding. Closures would be most likely partial closures affecting Years 7, 8 and 9 in the first instance. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause; I assure you it would be a 'last resort'.

I will make every effort to inform you of any closure prior to 7.30am. This will be published on the school website, social media feed and LA website. A group call will also be sent.

In addition, we are currently attempting to project staff absences and map out cover requirements so that I can attempt to provide you with further information moving forward.





Staff members are in the process of collating on-line and hard copies of learning material, including revisions resources for pupils. Further guidance will be provided on how to access this work; you can help us here greatly by checking that your son or daughter know their school log on details and their HwB log on details. If I can ask for your patience here as that work is prepared on a large scale.

In terms of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 specifically we await guidance from the WJEC on any impact to exam arrangements. I am making every effort to maintain a consistent and meaningful provision for our older learners and will seek to minimise as far as possible any impact here. Teachers are discussing work provision with their classes and doing their very best to allay any anxiety.

Finally, please be reassured that we are doing everything we can to manage this unprecedented situation.

Liquid soap supplies are being regularly topped up and pupils are actively and regularly encouraged to wash their hands. We have had significant input from form tutors on expectations around personal hygiene and hand-washing. We have also undertaken and will continue to conduct regular assemblies where information can be disseminated. Government materials are displayed prominently around the building.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this difficult and uncertain time.

In the meantime please continue to check the Public Health Wales website along with our own school website for any updates.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Sutton
HEADTEACHER

