

April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Information Update**

Firstly, I hope you and your families are well and managing in these very unusual times.

I thought it appropriate to write and offer updates, where I can, on a number of areas. I have divided this communication into sections for ease of digest.

**School Re-Opening**

The Minister for Education in Wales has announced that it is likely that schools will re-open on a partial basis initially but as yet, there is no indication as to when this will happen. Clearly, any move to re-open schools will necessitate a significant amount of planning around the curriculum with mapping of availability of workforce, health and welfare of pupils and staff and many other considerations associated with social distancing. Please be assured that you as parents will be kept informed of developments.

**Distance Learning**

I wrote to you two weeks ago outlining the arrangements for Distance Learning. Work continues to be replenished and published on a regular basis and is signposted from WorkZone on the school website. Teaching staff are tracking carefully the access and engagement with work and offering support, feedback and guidance. Contact details for staff, along with further guidance for Distance Learning can be found on the website.

The priority for Distance Learning is around engagement, enrichment of knowledge and the development of skills. I have taken the decision to not mandate restrictive or prescriptive timetables recognising that many of you will be working from home and also potentially managing home-education for younger children as well. If however, you would like support on constructing a timetable or would like to access samples of timetables then please contact the relevant Head of Learning who will be able to offer support.

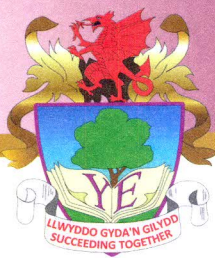
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any form of assistance.

**Year 10 and Year 12 Learners**

Headteachers are currently liaising closely with Qualifications Wales, the examination board regulator, and the Welsh Government with respect to the summer examination series for 2020-2021. Clearly there will need to be a national approach given that all schools and all learners of this age are in the same position. It may be that there are changes in the







specification content, assessment models and standardisation of exams. I can assure you however, that curriculum and wellbeing planning for your Year 10 or Year 12 child will be of paramount importance. I will communicate information as I receive it.

With respect to Year 12 specifically, all learners will receive an AS grade based on teacher assessment; A2 examinations will be sat as normal next year. As with Year 10, liaison is ongoing with Qualifications Wales.

### Year 11 and Year 13 Learners

We are in the process of collecting predicted grades for Year 11 and Year 13 learners. I have asked my Assistant Headteacher, Mr Phil Jones, to put together a simple fact sheet for you that pulls together all of the relevant information.

Results will be issued on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August for AS and A2 Levels; Mr Gavin and the Sixth Form team will be available to support in any way regarding UCAS and University admissions.

GCSE results will be issued on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August. Further details regarding enrolment for Sixth Form will follow but I anticipate that enrolment will occur on the same day as we have done in previous years.

With regards to Year 11 learners specifically, teaching staff are currently preparing 'bridging units' for sixth form study in all subjects; these will shortly be available on the school website.

I am also investigating options around a Sixth Form induction day and will again, contact you in due course with details.

### Year 9 Learners

Year 9 have of course, chosen their option subjects for next years' GCSE provision. Staff members may contact you to discuss this further, especially if your child has opted for a vocational/Coleg Llandrillo provision. Please contact Dr Jones if you are worried or have any concerns.

### Year 7 and Year 8 Learners

I have received a small number of queries regarding ability setting for next academic year. Please do not worry about this; staff members will have gotten to know your child and their ability very well since the start of the year. Please contact either Mr Bowen-Jones (Year 7) or Miss Alexander (Year 8) if you are worried or have any concerns. Year 8 Annual Reports will be issued as usual at the end of the year.

### Year 6 Learners



worklife support



Recognition of Quality award



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD 2017-2018



UK Winner National Training Awards 2008







For those of you with younger children who are due to be joining Eirias in September, I am currently liaising with all primary school Headteachers and the transition team at Eirias in order to plan an appropriate and supportive online transition package. I am also investigating other ways of transitioning your child into Ysgol Eirias. This is a very important process and an area that I am considering most carefully. Thank you to those parents who have returned acceptance forms; if I can ask please for any further forms to be returned as soon as possible.

Finally, we will of course continue to maintain contact with yourselves and your children; teaching and support staff are making regular telephone calls and will continue to do this.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming your child back into school and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs S Sutton**  
**HEADTEACHER**

