



Ysgol Uwchradd
CASTELL ALUN
High School

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Acting Head/Pennaeth Dros Do: Paul Edwards B.A. (Hons) N.P.Q.H.

8th January 2021

Dear parent / carer,

I do so hope you and your loved ones are keeping well. I'm sure we are all aware of both individuals and indeed families who are having a rough time at present, and as a school community we will all do our best to help where possible.

It has been a strange start to term, and today's announcement by the First Minister is actually not unexpected. Our remote learning programme will now continue until at least the end of January, and probably February half term, and will comprise all forms of Blended Learning. As our previous email stated, we are very keen to use elements of live-delivery during lessons where appropriate and practical, and our teaching team has made a great deal of progress in both delivery and confidence in this area over recent months.

I find myself politely requesting all the support you can give us to ensure that each and every one of our students engages with their standard yet remote learning timetable daily. As a parent of two secondary students myself I know that it is not always possible to support children through this time in all the ways that we might wish to, often due to unforeseen circumstances, and I understand that it can be frustrating if school staff contact you about missing work when you (and we hope also your son / daughter) are doing everything possible to ensure learning continues appropriately. We all want our children to succeed and we are acutely conscious of potential learning loss for students who do not fully engage during this period of lock-down.

In this context I would kindly ask you to keep in touch with us, providing us with any information you feel may be helpful. In turn, we will monitor attendance and engagement in lessons and learning and use a staged procedure to ensure that we work effectively and efficiently with you in helping our students to derive maximum benefit from their time away from the school building once again. This staged approach will involve emails and phone calls in most cases, and school Conduct Logs will be issued, as is our standard monitoring procedure, where students let themselves down and fail to follow school rules, but obviously not in cases where good reasons subsequently become evident.

The current period is very different indeed from our original lock-down in March 2020 from a school perspective and we have altered procedures to monitor learning accordingly. We are aware that students are likely to return to their learning in school quite soon and indeed many could sit essential assessments in the not too distant future, although the WJEC have now cancelled their planned 'Internal Assessment Window'. Learning or engagement loss could potentially impact final grades negatively. Pastoral check-in sessions will run during Registration time for tutor groups in order to help students be ready for their learning daily.

Irrespective of the length of the current lock-down, through working closely together and showing kindness, understanding and encouragement to one another, we will ensure that all students are able to continue learning effectively.

Thank you once again for all that you do to support your children and our school community.

Best wishes,

Paul Edwards - Acting Head