



2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

During the first half term, you will be aware that students in Years 7 and 8 have stayed in the same contact group for all their lessons. This was created to minimise contact with different students and to maintain a contact group of no more than 30 students.

Whilst this has benefits in terms of maintaining smaller contact groups, it does bring educational challenges. As the groups are mixed ability, all lessons are therefore mixed ability. This is not a problem in most lessons as most lessons in Year 7 and 8 are taught as mixed ability. However, it is more problematic for the teaching of maths. It also limits the number of times students who need literacy and numeracy intervention can access the extra sessions needed.

Over the half term, through our assessments of students, we have also started to understand the impact of the lockdown period on students' progress. Therefore, this half term, we will be increasing our contact groups to half a year group in Years 7 and 8. This means that the students will be taught in the same contact groups as now for nearly all their lessons, however, they will be placed in sets for Maths, allowing teaching of Maths at the appropriate level for the students.

We will also be identifying students who need further support for both literacy and numeracy and will be organising sessions for these students. Again, these will take place with students from within half a year group rather than just within the contact groups.

I am confident that making this small change will have a positive impact on students' mathematical learning whilst having minimal impact on the safety procedures we have in place.

Should you have any questions, please email admin@penglais.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Hughes
Pennaeth / Headteacher

Pennaeth / Headteacher:- Ms Mair Hughes

