



MAH/hc

8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You will have heard on the news today that schools in Wales will now be moving to online learning until the end of this half term unless there is a significant reduction in Coronavirus cases by the end of January. Qualification Wales also announced that they will be cancelling the internal assessments that had been planned to take place between 22nd of February and 23rd of April. Please see the attached letters from Meinir Ebbsworth from Ceredigion County Council and Qualification Wales regarding these decisions.

It is a time of great uncertainty for students, teachers and parents however I am pleased that these announcements have been made in the sense that there is a national approach and we now have some medium-term certainty around length of school closure and can therefore plan better for it.

In these difficult times, these are the key messages I would give to parents and students at the moment:

1. Although of course we always prefer to have students on site, at the moment it is better for everyone to be at home to avoid risk of transmission. Therefore, teachers will be working very hard to ensure that the online provision will as good as it can possibly be.
2. Trust and work with your teachers. Engage with your teachers online – don't be shy to ask questions, respond verbally. The more you engage, the better your learning experience will be.
3. It is right that the internal assessments have been cancelled because it would be difficult and unfair to have those having not been in school for up to half a term.
4. We don't know yet what is replacing them and we are hoping to hear from the Welsh Government and exam boards very soon. Therefore, it is important now that you continue to work hard in every lesson, making sure that the work you complete is to the best of your ability.
5. The purpose of the mocks was to give your teachers and yourselves an understanding of where you are at in terms of your learning and understanding of the topics. Please do not worry that these will have a negative impact on your grades.
6. If you are struggling in any way, please let us know as soon as possible. Speak with your teacher, head of year – email the school. Find ways of contacting us and let us know if you are struggling. It is a difficult time and we are here to help and support you. We will contact you if you are not attending lessons to check that you are okay.
7. Keep positive and try to ensure that you have some fresh air and exercise every day – it helps keep the mind and body in a good place.

In terms of the learning, we are therefore continuing with the online learning in the manner described at the start of the week, with full timetable in place, following the students' normal

Pennaeth / Headteacher:- Ms Mair Hughes

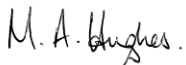
timetable. We will review this provision as we go through the lockdown as we are aware that it is important to balance teaching and learning with student and staff wellbeing. If you have any views on this as we progress through the weeks, please do let us know through admin@penglais.org.uk. If your child is struggling in any way, please contact Mr Fisher (Head of Year 11) or Mrs Elgood (Head of 6th form) in the first instance. You can also call the school as the reception will be manned this time.

If you have any problems with IT, please contact the Ceredigion Helpdesk on 01970 633678 or by emailing servicedesk@ceredigion.org.uk.

We will aim to maintain clear and concise communication over the next five weeks. Once we have further information about the assessments, we will share this with you both through letter and we will rearrange the webinar. Should you have any questions at any time, please contact admin@penglais.org.uk.

Thank you for your co-operation as always.

Yours sincerely,



Ms M Hughes
Pennaeth/Headteacher