

21st October 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Guardians

We hope that you and all your families are doing well. On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the Welsh Government announced a national 'fire-break' lockdown, which comes into effect from **6:00pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

The fire-break involves tighter restrictions than we are currently experiencing across Wales and will be similar in nature to the restrictions we experienced last spring. This time the lockdown is only expected to last for two weeks. It is being introduced to help reduce the transmission of the Covid-19 virus, reduce hospital admissions and reduce the inevitable increase in pressure being faced by the NHS.

The first week of the fire-break is during the half-term holiday, but the second week is the first week back to school after half-term. **The school be open as normal to students in Year 7 and Year 8 only during the week Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

**All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will access their learning online** through Google Classrooms and this will consist of a mixture of live and pre-recorded lessons. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 should follow their normal timetable and teachers will monitor their progress throughout the day to provide support and help where needed. Students are reminded that their teachers will still be teaching classes to years 7 and 8, as well as carrying out supervising duties throughout the day, so students may not always get an immediate response to their questions. It is essential that all students are encouraged to engage in their learning, especially Y11 who will have some form of examination or assessments later in the year so that they can be awarded their GCSE qualifications.

We are aware that some students in years 9, 10 and 11 may need wellbeing support, or simply to just contact a friendly member of our support staff in school over the lockdown week. To ensure this is possible, we will have our pastoral support staff on hand to offer help and support whenever it is needed. Students just need to ring the school and ask to speak to the relevant Pastoral Support Officer.

Please be assured that we are committed to keeping all our students and staff safe throughout these very challenging times while we do everything we can to support students preparing for their GCSEs this summer.

On a personal note, I am very proud of the hard work of our students, the determination and creativity of teachers in providing consistently high-quality lessons under very challenging conditions, as well as the superb work of our support staff. It is in working together as a team that we have made it possible for the school to operate as smoothly as it does, given all the additional restrictions we have had to implement in order to open safely.

The staff at the school want to wish you all a safe and relaxing half-term and to thank you for your immense support over this first term.

Yours sincerely



John Weir  
Head Teacher