

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Students and Families

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and one that sees the end of Coronavirus restrictions and a return to some form of normality. I hope that you and your loved ones had a great Christmas and that you are all keeping safe and not struggling too much as we negotiate yet another lockdown and school closure.

The First Minister's [announcement](#) today was not unexpected due to the increasing numbers of positive cases across Wales and the unsustainable pressure it is placing on many hospitals and emergency services in particular. I also know that it is placing an enormous pressure on all of us and we want you to know that we are here to do what we can to help.

Remote/online learning will continue for all year groups in keeping with their normal school timetable. As a parent of three, two who are in secondary school and were due to take exams this year, I can also appreciate the stress this current closure will be placing on our GCSE students and their families. I am appealing to you to ensure your children fully engage with their online learning, especially students in Year 11.

Qualifications Wales have cancelled the [spring assessments](#), which means there is a strong likelihood that teacher assessed grades could be required again. If this is the case, we will need evidence to produce those grades. It is essential that all Year 11 students are accessing their online learning. When we have further updates on the assessment plans for the summer, we will keep Year 11 students and informed of any updates.

Our highly trained pastoral team will continue to make regular contact with you each week to check in and help support you with any issues you may be having. This contact is an integral part of our safeguarding procedures, so it is important that all families engage with this on a weekly basis. The welfare of all our students and their families is of paramount importance, especially at this difficult time, so your ongoing engagement with this is greatly appreciated.

Please keep monitoring the school's social media for updates, keep following the Covid-19 restrictions, and stay in touch. We are always here to support you.

Yours sincerely



John Weir  
Head Teacher