



Our Ref: DH/MC

26th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Learners

UPDATE FROM YSGOL BRYN ELIAN

I hope that this update finds you and your families well and healthy.

Although there has been no formal announcement from the Welsh Government on the return date for learners, it is looking very likely that we will not be back to normal working before the end of the February half term.

I feel that I must, in this update, congratulate the vast majority of our student body and also the staff as the attendance and engagement with our online learning provision has been very high and this, without a doubt, is down to the fantastic parental support that we are in receipt of.

Times are still turbulent at the moment with changes coming through on a regular basis. As you are in no doubt aware, this year's GCSE, AS and A Level grades will be awarded through Centre Determined Grades (CDG). These CDGs will be determined by the school based on an assessment of each learner's work. In order to determine a CDG the school will use a range of evidence which may include classroom-based assessments, NEAs and adapted past papers provided by the WJEC. If learning from home continues to be a feature, some assessment may be completed at home. In essence, the grades that learners will achieve this summer will be reflective of the work they complete over the period of this year. It is vital therefore that learners work hard for key pieces of work which may be used to formulate their CDG. If a future piece of work may be used for a CDG, the learners will be warned ahead of time.

Two weeks ago, we carried out an online learner wellbeing survey and received in excess of 550 responses within 24 hours. One thing is certain, that many learners are finding attending online lessons difficult and challenging, and in some cases it is having an effect on their mental wellbeing. As a result, we are adapting the school timetable so that a morning or afternoon session each week is devoted to learner wellbeing and, as opposed to their normal timetable, wellbeing activities will be set instead. The first of these wellbeing sessions will be on Thursday morning of this week, 28th January 2021. On this day, traditional lessons will not start until Lesson 4. Even by devoting time to wellbeing, the school is still exceeding the Welsh Government guide of an average of four hours of lessons per day.

I will, as always, make sure I keep you updated on changes and encourage you to 'like' or 'follow' the school's social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. These platforms ensure we get information to you quickly.

Thank you all once again for your tremendous support and please stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mr Dave Humphreys
Headteacher