

YSGOL BRYN ALYN

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12th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welsh Government has announced that Remote Learning will continue for the foreseeable future. This situation will be reviewed by Welsh Government on the January 29th. As such and in response to parent and pupil feedback Ysgol Bryn Alyn has reviewed its current on-line learning offer and made some changes to further support all our learners during these most challenging circumstances. This letter is to update you on these changes and inform you of the expectations in relation to on-line learning.

On-line Learning

All students working from home will follow their normal timetable via Google Classroom. Our Blended Learning curriculum means that students can expect to see a variety of activities, which **will now** include live lessons/sessions and recorded presentations alongside written work and research and assessments. The content set by our teaching staff will follow the learning plans that they would have experienced had they been in school. Work will be posted as per the students' timetable with a clear completion date so pupils can complete this work at other times if required. However, where there is a live element to a lesson these will only be available during the time indicated.

As teaching and learning will take place online, students will need to access our online platforms that we are using. These are Google Classroom and Google Meet.

The Google Classroom accounts will be used to upload resources for all the lessons and Google Meet will be used to allow teachers to deliver some live/ pre-recorded elements.

Live lessons/sessions:

Students can now expect at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 an element of live teaching starting from Wednesday 13th January to compliment the lessons provided on Google Classroom. At Key Stage 3 for core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science and Welsh) this will be a minimum of one lesson per week. For non-core subjects this will be a minimum of one lesson a fortnight. At Key Stage 4 students will be able to access a minimum of one live lesson/session in all their subjects.

Where teachers have decided to run a live lesson or session this will be posted where possible, 24 hours before it is due to take place and will be clearly identified with the following information. Live Lesson: Subject: Date: Lesson: Time, e.g. Live Lesson GCSE Biology Tuesday 12th January 2021 Lesson 1 9am. Instructions to join the live lessons will be provided via Google Classroom and help guides are available on the YBA Website under On-line Learning via this link [Home \(google.com\)](http://Home.google.com). **Students should join live lessons with their camera off and microphones muted.** This should only be switched on when instructed to do so by the member of staff.

A register of attendance will be taken during the live lesson.

Live Form Time:

From Monday 18th January, our Form Tutors will be hosting a 'live' Form Time. This will take place once a week from 8.50am to 9am on specific days (see below). Students should join this via their Form Google Classroom using the Google Meet link at the top of the page. It is expected that all pupils will attend this wellbeing catch up. Any pupil who does not attend will be contacted by their Form Tutor in order to check-in with them.

This will give students an opportunity to check in with their form tutors, for important messages as well as some of the usual form time activities. Our theme for this term is Rights, Respect & Equality.

Year 7 Monday

Year 8 Tuesday

Year 9 Wednesday

Year 10 Thursday

Year 11 Friday

Expectations of Students

There are a few things that students need to be aware of:

- Students will need to ensure they are logged into their Google Classrooms. If a Google Meet link for that lesson is being used, then it will be posted at the top of the Google Classroom. If students are using a computer, there is no need to download anything. If they are using a tablet or mobile device, they will need to download the Google Meet app from the Appstore/Playstore.
- Google Meet events take time to set up for each lesson; therefore, if a live element is slightly late starting, please ensure students are prepared and do not log out.
- Students should be logged onto the Google Meet with their hwb email and not a personal or parent email – the platform will only work when students use their school email address.
- All Google Meet events are recorded- this is for educational/ training/ safeguarding purposes. Therefore, students are requested to mute their microphone and video, unless otherwise instructed. If the chat function is used, a record of the content is also recorded.
- If students accidentally leave a Google Meet, just re-join.
- If students are unable to attend a live lesson, they should follow the online resources. A recording of the lesson will not be posted so please ensure all students attend live lessons.
- Teachers can be contacted via comments on a Google Classroom post or via email during the students' allocated lesson time. If students message them at other times, there will be a delay in replying as they are probably in the middle of teaching another class.
- Please remember that there may be students in the school classroom too (Key workers etc) so the teacher may well be supporting these students at the same time.

Pupil Engagement:

We will be monitoring student access to online learning. If students are not attending their online lessons, or completing work set, class teachers and Heads of Year will be in touch with parents and carers and we may require these students to attend school for a period of time to get them back on track. If students are ill, then please continue to report this in the usual way.

Laptops

We are still working with parents to distribute laptops to those families who have requested them, but if any family feels they need help with accessing online learning, please contact the relevant Head of Year - we do have a few spare devices, but these are strictly limited. Online learning can also be accessed from tablets, X-box, PlayStations and smart phones. We are awaiting more laptop supplies and if any parents, via their workplace, could donate some spare laptops, or arrange grant funding to purchase some, then please get in touch. We also have a few spare data dongles available on request.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will continue as planned on the dates already set. It was already planned for these to be done remotely and further information will be given as each one approaches.

GCSE Option Choices

Our GCSE option process for Year 9 students will progress, broadly as planned. Mr Hughes will keep you updated on the process and key dates. Our information event will be conducted virtually.

It is important that we are all working together to strive to make the best out of the current online learning situation. Please make sure your child is logged in and ready to learn at the start of each day as normal. We would ask that you familiarise yourself with your child's timetable (available on the SIMs Parent app) and encourage an open dialogue with your child regarding their online learning. If you do not have access to our Parent App, please contact school so that we can issue you with your log-on details. This can only be done with an individual email address, joint addresses cannot access this Parent App.

Date of Return

We will continue to follow the Welsh Government guidance and therefore, keep you updated.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the very best education for our students.



Mrs Slinn
Headteacher