

YSGOL UWCHRADD BODEDERN

November 2020

Headteacher's Newsletter

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

With it now being the half term, there is an opportunity to look back, and I must say that I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting and getting to know our fantastic pupils. I wish to thank all parents also for the support you gave us with our re-opening model.

It has certainly been a very different half term for all pupils and staff, and I wish to thank our pupils for showing respect to all the new guidelines and rules. Who would have thought that every school year would be taught in different parts of the school; that teachers would be teaching in 2 meter boxes and that everyone would be walking the corridors wearing masks?



The resilience of all our pupils and my staff has been excellent and even though this wasn't the opening anyone would want to see, least of all me as a new Headteacher, it has been a privilege over the past few weeks to lead my excellent staff and pupils.

OUR PLANS BEYOND THE HALF TERM

External zones and Year 9 canteen

In addition to re-opening the school safely and in accordance with Government guidelines, we also wanted to try and keep as much normality as possible, and while we are still unable to offer food and snacks at break time, we have been able to offer hot food from day one. I wish to thank all the Caterlink staff for their co-operation in working with us on our new model.

I can confirm that we will continue to use the marquee for Year 10, however, we are making some changes to the Year 9 zone and outside.

From the 3rd of November the external marquee will not be used. We will be serving lunch to Year 9 in the small gym. This will also mean that we can extend the external zone for year 7 incorporating the area previously used by the marquee which will provide additional dry areas for year 7. The Theatre will continue to be used as an additional canteen for our Year 8 pupils.

On-line Lunch Orders



Years 10 and 11 have already proven a success with our on-line ordering lunch system, and from the 9th of November year 9 will also be ordering their lunches on-line.

This will mean that lunches will be prepared for them and will be delivered in pre-labelled bags with their names and order.

These will be delivered to the small gym at the start of the lunch break and the gym will be their canteen over the winter months.

We will share the details on how to order with you next week and the cost of each meal will be automatically deducted from your child's School Gateway account.

NEW MENU FOR THE WINTER!

in addition to the choices currently available the popular Past Pot and Curry and Rice will return!

BREAKFAST

From the 9th of November we intend to trial a grab and go breakfast. Orders will have to be placed the day before and pupils will grab their breakfast from the canteen and move onto their zones safely. Breakfast will be available between 8:15am and 8:30am. Social distancing will be in effect. This will of course be optional and the cost of the breakfast will be deducted automatically from the school Gateway account.

This service will be a trial before considering the option of making it a permanent feature of school life.



TEMPORARY CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY

08:35-08:55	<u>Cofrestru</u> , <u>Gwasanaeth a dal fyny</u> / Registration, assembly and catch up
08:55-09:45	<u>Gwers</u> / Lesson 1
09:45-10:35	<u>Gwers</u> / Lesson 2
10:35-10:50	<u>Egwyl</u> / Break
10:50-11:40	<u>Gwers</u> / Lesson 3
11:40-12:30	<u>Gwers</u> / Lesson 4
12:30-13:15	<u>Cinio</u> / Lunch
13:15-13:20	<u>Symud i wers 5 a chofrestru</u> / Registration in lesson 5
13:20-14:10	<u>Gwers</u> / Lesson 5
14:10-15:00	<u>Gwers</u> / Lesson 6

As mentioned in previous communications Welsh Government has given schools additional powers in order to amend the school day. Although we opened very successfully, I am fully aware that the long winter months are ahead of us. Ensuring the continuation of our timetable has been priority, but in my opinion, these short term changes will give our pupils and staff a greater experience and will help us to reduce the risk for everyone.

From 3/11/20 the school day will end at 3pm.

There will not be a reduction in teaching time, but we will reduce the lunch break by 15 minutes. This will also reduce the movement in zones during the lunchtime period. Another factor is to ensure that all our pupils arrive home during the winter daylight hours.

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PUPIL EXPERIENCE DURING LUNCHTIME FILM AND TV PROGRAMMES WILL BE SHOWN IN THE THEATRE AND SMALL GYM FOR YEARS 8 AND 9.



The local authority transport team and all the bus companies have agreed to this short term arrangement.

Calendr

The staff training held on the 23rd of October was very successful. Please remember also that 2nd of November is also staff training and therefore there is no school for our pupils. The focus of the training will be on "Blended Learning and Teaching and Digital Teaching".



The last day of the Autumn term is Friday 18 December and at the moment the school will re-open on Wednesday 6 January 2021.

Parents Evenings Open Evening

Unfortunately, due to Government guidelines, we are unable to hold parents evenings or open evenings. We will soon share with you our plans for engaging with you as parents in order to share with you your child's progress.

FIRE-BREAK WEEK

Please see the links for information by the Welsh Government

<https://llyw.cymru/cyfnod-atal-y-coronafeirws-cwestiynau-cyffredin>

https://llyw.cymru/ysgolion-canllawiau-cyfnod-atal-y-coronafeirws?_ga=2.168409569.1977824414.1603985530-2047317889.1599828546

Year 7 and Year 8

There will be no change for you, we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 3rd November and you will be following your usual timetable.

Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

You will be following your usual timetable from home, and the teachers will be providing lessons and support to you online.

However, we do not expect and don't want any of our pupils to be in front of a screen all day, therefore there will be a mixture of "live" lessons with either live presentations or recordings, and lessons and tasks on Google Classroom.

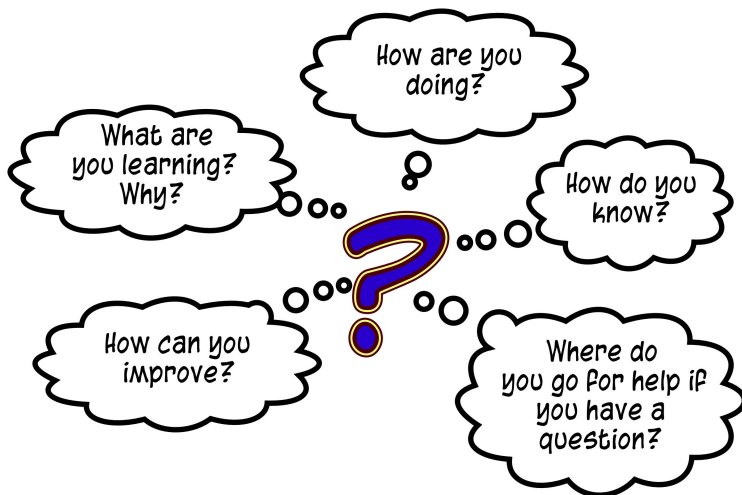
The teachers will be available to you during the lesson on the stream to answer any questions and to provide you with more help. We all hope that the broadband connection will cope!

We are aware that obtaining laptops and computers is a challenge for anyone home learning and with others in the household doing the same or working from home. We have already distributed 50 laptops and we plan to share an additional 40 laptops by Tuesday, with priority given to Year 11 pupils. Google Classroom and HWB can also be accessed through handheld devices and below are guidelines on how to log on via the Xbox or Play Station consoles. Please contact us on Monday if you require a keyboard or mouse.

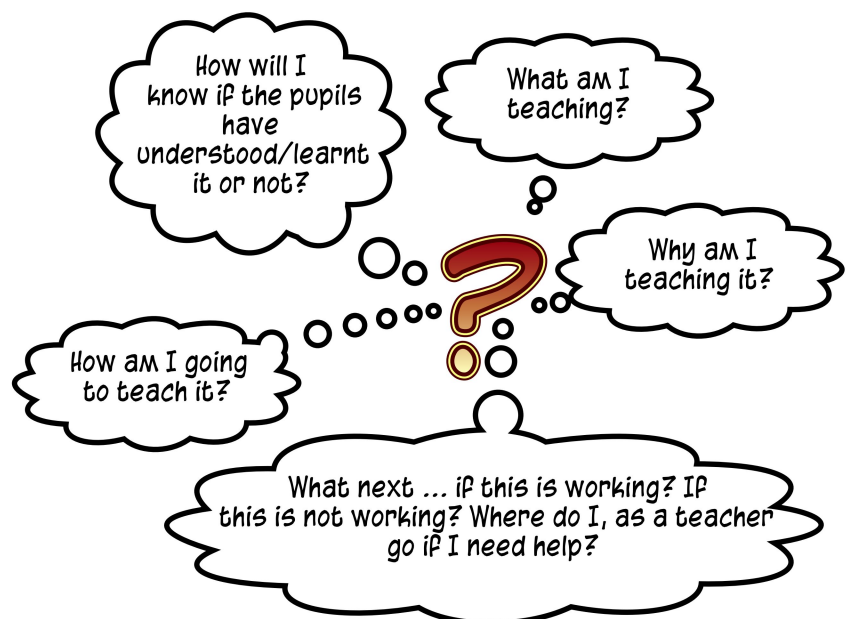
OUR WORK - THE 5 QUESTIONS

Previously, I have shared with you our work, and we will continue to focus on the 5 questions based on international research by Dr Lynn Sharrat.

5 QUESTIONS FOR THE PUPILS



5 QUESTIONS FOR THE TEACHERS



Questions parents can ask teachers:

"What is my child learning?"
"How is he/she doing?"
"How do you know?"
"How can he/she improve?"

Questions parents can ask at home:

"What did you learn today?"
"How did you do?"
"What did you do if you didn't understand?"
"How can you improve your learning?"
"What are you most proud of?"





Using Xbox or Play Station to access Hwb

Xbox

Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot

Go in to my games and apps

Find Microsoft Edge and select

Type in: Hwb and log in as you would in school

You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:

Word, Teams, Excel, PowerPoint. Your emails

To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)

Press the PlayStation logo on the controller

Go to the library and find options for games and applications

Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser

Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school

You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:

Word, Teams, Excel, PowerPoint, Your email

AND FINALLY ...

During the next few weeks we will be working on our virtual open evening, and this and all our videos and vlogs will be available on our website:

<http://www.ysgoluwchraddbodedern.org>

Thank you for your continued support, the improvement journey continues.

Kind regards and please stay safe everyone

*Paul Matthews-Jones
Headteacher*