



December 18th, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We wish to update you with the latest information following the Welsh Government's decision for all schools in Wales to undertake a staggered return after the Christmas break. We realise that this staggered start may be inconvenient, worrying and frustrating for many parents and young people, however, this must be considered alongside the decision to enter lockdown (Tier 4), immediately after Christmas. These restrictions require the full cooperation of all, including young people, to minimise contact with others to prevent the transmission of Covid-19.

As you will be aware, the prevalence of the virus is placing unparalleled demands on the emergency and frontline healthcare services. These must be supported by us all to provide the required care for those who are suffering critical and life-threatening situations, by staying at home and keeping contact with others as minimal as possible.

Monday 4th January and Tuesday, 5th January will involve remote learning for all pupils in line with the school's Blended Learning provisions. The Blended Learning Curriculum plans for all years have previously been shared with but can also be found on the school website by following this link <https://www.pencoedtrehigh.org.uk/covid-19-information/>
In addition, these days will be utilised in full to enable the Senior Leadership Team to review risk assessments, determine staffing availability and work with teachers to review and establish those learners who are deemed disadvantaged and /or vulnerable. These pupils will be invited into school for face-to-face provision from Wednesday January 6th, 2021 onwards.

We will also aim to accommodate pupils of critical care workers in Year 7 and Year 8 only, from January 6th, 2021. We will prioritise provision for Year 7 and year 8 children of frontline emergency services, social care and education staff and we will consult with you directly prior to Monday 4th January 2021, to ascertain potential pupil numbers. We will confirm availability for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils of critical and frontline services by the end of Monday 4th, January 2021.

We intend for all pupils to be back in school for face-to-face learning by Monday, 11th January 2021. Our aim will be to accommodate all pupils for a full return to face-to-face learning on January 11th, however, we are aware that we will need to establish our staffing



capacity in the new year and by considering the available information from the Welsh Government at that stage. Once we have been able to determine this capacity, we will communicate the final decision as soon as possible and by 12pm Thursday, January 7th.

I wish to thank you for your continued patience and support and, for communicating your appreciation to our staff in the most challenging of times. We send you our warmest wishes for a restful and happy break. We sincerely hope that you will be able to enjoy some relaxation, reflection, renewed appreciation for what is important and take great comfort from having good times with the people dearest to you, even if in smaller numbers, than you would ordinarily choose!

We hope that you will take time to support and give to others less fortunate, whether this is by means of a simple smile, carrying out a friendly deed or donating a gift to those who are struggling and have lost so much in these difficult times.

Regards,

Mr Lee G Humphreys
Headteacher