# **Q & A: Coronavirus firebreak w/b 2nd November 2020**

1. Are Yr. 9 to Yr. 13 pupils able to travel to school on school transport to attend i.e. examinations?

Yes, but it will be an expectation that a face covering should be worn throughout the journey. Transport will only be available at the start and end of school day as per normal arrangements.

1. Are pupils who travelled into school for their examinations able to stay at school for the day?

It is highly recommended that pupils are collected by a responsible adult immediately after their examination to continue their learning from home. In only very exceptional circumstances should pupils remain at school for the duration of the day.

1. Will Powys LA share a letter for all schools to communicate a central message to parents?

Yes along with a press release.

1. Can peripatetic staff attend school?

Yes, if they are providing essential learning for pupils. Peripatetic staff should only attend one school / day.

1. What arrangements can be expected for vulnerable pupils in Yr. 9 to Yr. 11 to attend school?

Each school should consider very carefully which pupils are most vulnerable and would benefit from attending school in person (even if only for part of the week / day) to ensure that they are kept safe.

Schools should ensure that they undertake regular communication with vulnerable pupils to support their wellbeing and learning if they are not attending school in person.

The WG coronavirus firebreak guidance states: (<https://gov.wales/schools-coronavirus-firebreak-guidance>)

* We must ensure all children and young people are safe, seen, heard, nurtured, and developing.
* During this firebreak, children and young people from years 9-13 cannot attend school for their learning. In these circumstances schools and local authorities should work together to identify those who would exceptionally benefit from accessing the school.
* The decision should consider the impact of any restrictions on the child or young person’s emotional, mental and physical health, and educational development.
* The decision should consider how risks of not attending school could be mitigated through the most appropriate support for the child or young person.
* The decision should take account of the views of the child or young person and their parents and carers, so their needs can be understood and delivered through the most appropriate support.
* Children and young people should be categorised according to decisions about their risks and benefits, and prioritised accordingly for support.
* Parents and carers should be informed of the decision.
* The risks to children and young people should be regularly reviewed and monitored on a multi-agency basis.
1. What expectations can be expected for blended learning?

It is an expectation that pupils will follow a full and suitable school timetable with teachers available throughout. However, as per the WG learning guidance, schools can agree a more flexible approach, but this should be shared with all pupils and parents to ensure learning, motivation and pupil wellbeing is maintained.

Teachers could either share pre-recorded lessons, live lessons, or a mixture of both, depending on the learning needs. It would be considered good practice that pupils register their attendance at the start of each lesson through accessing the ‘team’.

During live lessons, it is advised that staff should be using school equipment and usually the school site for the delivery of lessons and all staff must ensure they are familiar with the latest safeguarding school policies and protocols.

Teachers should continue to provide appropriate feedback for pupils i.e. through online comments on the work submitted by pupils or oral feedback as part of a live group discussion. For older pupils, flipped learning approaches may be very beneficial where pupils read / prepare in advance and then provide spoken responses / discussions online with the teacher and a small group of pupils at a pre-arranged time.

1. Do staff have to be on site for the whole of w/b 2nd November?

The LA position is that all staff should be on site for the week, as the guidance indicates.

1. Will Powys teachers have some preparation time at the start of the half term?

It is an expectation that face to face learning for Yr. 7 and Yr. 8 and online learning for Yr. 9 – Yr. 13 will start from the outset on Monday morning. School expectations should be shared through a staff meeting on Monday morning before the start of the school day.

We would reasonably expect all staff and schools work collaboratively together to share resources. The Local Authority will arrange subject and wellbeing online sessions during the week so that resources and expertise can be shared.

1. What if a pupil does not have the appropriate learning equipment?

It is expected that all schools will identify any pupils that will need to be re-issued with Mi-Fi units and / or suitable school IT equipment. Schools should share with pupils that Hwb resources can be accessed through a wide range of methods (including i.e. x-box).

1. What suitable use should school make of their Accelerated Grant?

As per the plans submitted and issued on the school website; all schools should plan carefully to make full use of the additional staffing capacity available to support all learners to address gaps and misconceptions in their learning. Capacity should also be built to support staff in their workload to address the face to face and remote learning needs as well as the professional development needs of all staff.