

Date · Dyddiad 15 July 2021
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**Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am**

Steven Richards-Downes

Dear Families and Children

I wanted to take this opportunity to write you at the end of what has been a difficult academic year for everyone associated with schools and education generally. I would like to thank all learners in our schools for the resilience they have shown this year. Families have done a great deal to support learners and schools through the challenges we have faced in the light of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

We are seeing some optimism from the Welsh Government about the future of school operations and what their expectations are for the next academic year. Recently the Minister for Education published a letter setting out his expectations for schools in September.

The most relevant extract from the letter his below:

“In the meantime I want to be as clear as I can be at this time about the basis on which you should currently plan for September to limit the disruption for you and your learners:

- We will no longer be recommending the routine use of face coverings in Classrooms.
- Contact groups/bubbles will no longer be recommended. However, we will use our TTP system in order to identify close contacts of learners who have tested positive, and TTP may contact your school to supplement the information they have gathered with any further intelligence you may have available. Our expectation of your school is that you follow the specific advice you receive from TTP about whether individuals need to self-isolate.
- Normal session times will resume.
- Secondary school children and education workforce should be encouraged to test, before returning to school.”

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise). / Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

In order to continue to protect our learners and staff we are planning on the basis above but given the current situation this may be subject to change as necessary.

Additionally, schools will have to continue to take account of the overall alert level measures, which are in place at the time. The local authority will continue to support schools and work with Public Health Wales and the Hywel Dda Health Board to support schools.

Schools will also need to comply with the measures that are outlined in the revised operational guidance, which is available on the Welsh Government Website. This guidance talks about maintain many of the mitigating measures and a strong risk assessment which schools will continue to need to have as COVID19 remains a notifiable disease.

Free school meal payments will continue for learners throughout the school holiday period as has been usual throughout school holidays this year.

We will continue to work with schools and families in the best interests of everyone and I am sure that you will want to ensure that both learners and staff remain safe.

Please be respectful of the measures schools will be taking this will continue to include safe distancing where possible, wearing of masks on transport will continue in Wales and additionally anyone who wishes to wear a mask may continue to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a good summer break and we look forward to returning in September and continuing to support our recovery process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Richards-Downes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Steven Richards-Downes
Director of Education

