



19/3/30

Dear parents and carers,

Many thanks for your kind words of support and your patience in these most difficult times.

I would like to confirm that school will remain open until tomorrow, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 3:00pm.

From Monday, all schools will open to provide care / recreation / learning for children of essential workers and vulnerable pupils. All staff, teaching, non-teaching, catering and cleaning, other than those who are self-isolating or those who have an underlying medical condition, will be in school.

This is the current list of essential workers from the Local Authority:

- health workers – all those employed within the NHS
- blue light / emergency service officers
- social care workers
- supermarket delivery drivers
- prison officers and other prison staff
- probation service staff
- school staff

This list could still be subject to change by the Local Authority and includes further categories of workers than our original text message.

Our most vulnerable pupils, including those registered with social services with a current Care and Support Plan or on the Child Protection Register should also be in school.

**We would encourage all key workers, who require childcare to respond to our text message as soon as possible.** We will be sending out further enquiries and details to those who have already responded.

The Local Authority are currently making plans for meals for those children entitled to free school meals, we will send out details for this as soon as we have them.

We understand the concern of parents of our pupils who were preparing for GCSEs and the disappointment they must all feel with the current circumstances. I have attached the latest communication from Qualifications Wales below and will continue to share all information as it comes through. We still look forward to our Prom celebration and are determined that even if delayed to an alternative date of October 1<sup>st</sup>, it will go ahead, and we will celebrate the success they have worked for over the last five years.

Take care of yourself and all your families.

Mr R. Rees  
Headteacher.



19 March 2020

Dear Colleague

You will be aware of the impact of COVID-19 on education in Wales and the decisions which have had to be made in the context of serious and rapid public health developments. Welsh Government has had to take the decision to cancel exams for summer 2020 given that there can be no guarantee for when exam centres will be able to re-open and conduct exams safely and securely. The situation is the same in England and we expect similar decisions across the UK.

We agree that cancelling exams for summer 2020 is the right decision. We are working with Welsh Government, WJEC and fellow UK regulators to ensure that learners due to sit their GCSEs and A levels will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work. We are also looking at other qualifications and will update on these when we can.

This is an unprecedented situation at a time of serious and rapid public health developments. It is also an especially anxious time, particularly for anyone preparing for high stakes exams. We appreciate that people have a large number of questions and we aim to answer these as soon as we can, to give clarity for learners, parents, education professionals and anyone else affected at this uncertain time.

We are pooling expertise and experience to protect learners in the exams system. In this extreme circumstance with widespread global disruption, there is no ideal scenario for exams which, by nature, run as carefully controlled events.

Our priority is ensuring fairness for learners while following public health advice.

In terms of our work, we have also scaled back face to face engagement in line with public health advice but will continue to talk to stakeholders using all available technology.

If you are responsible for an exam centre, we ask you to ensure that lines of communication remain open between you and the awarding bodies that you work with so that information –

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and any requests for information – can be shared quickly. We will continue to communicate with you using the email addresses that we have for key contacts at exam centres. Our External Relations team will also reach out to all exam centres over the coming days to ensure that we can communicate effectively.

The situation is clearly changing rapidly, and we will continue to be guided by advice from the relevant authorities. We will be posting updates on our website.

I aim to update you with further details as soon as possible and appreciate your patience. Meanwhile, I hope you are managing at this deeply unsettling time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Philip Blaker  
Chief Executive