



Ysgol Bae Baglan

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Dear parent or carer,

Face to Face Learning

As you may already have heard Welsh Government have instructed all schools to continue with online remote learning until face to face teaching recommences on the 18th January. Whilst we continue to prepare for the return of pupils on this date, we also continuously monitor announcements by Welsh Government and the Local Authority and will communicate any changes as soon as possible and continue to publish our latest risk assessment on our website.

Our Hub Provision

We continue to provide Emergency Key Worker provision (The Hub) for the school days until we return on 18th January. This is for those parents who cannot make any other alternative arrangements and are:

- Health and social care workers
- Public safety (emergency workers) and national security workers
- Education and childcare workers
- Track Trace and Protect personnel.
- Those identified as vulnerable by the school.
- For pupils who cannot be left at home alone.

This provision will be in school between the hours of 8:30am and 3pm and **MUST BE PREBOOKED** by email to ybbcare@npt.school and you must receive a reply before bringing children to school.

Home Learning.

I have advised all staff that home learning must continue and that all work should be set through the Satchel One app or Hwb. I have asked staff to set work daily, to help pupils and parents keep track of work. I have also asked staff to provide more opportunities to submit work online, and for them to provide regular feedback and support to pupils through the app. I have also asked staff to provide more feedback to those pupils who are not submitting work or accessing lessons through the app, and parents can look out for these notices through their own account. On the occasional days when staff are working in our Hub they may not be able to provide work online.

More guidance on using the Satchel One app is available on our website under the Parent -> Home Learning section. This includes new guidance for parents on how they can use the app themselves to monitor their child's progress.

We have advised all staff that they must follow Welsh Government guidance for live lessons. This means that the only approved application is through Teams or Flipgrid on Hwb. Pupils will need their Hwb usernames and passwords to access this. Parents can email ybbITSupport@npt.school to request usernames and passwords for Hwb or Satchel One.

Staff must also follow the Welsh Government guidance stating that two members of staff should be on every Teams meeting call. This means that staff can only do live lessons when another member of staff is available for the full period of the session.

Whilst we recognise the value of live lessons, we believe that a mixture of live lessons, recorded lessons and other resources such as interactive quizzes, lesson materials, videos, online material, past papers and booklets, provides the best balance for learners who may access their learning at different times of the day and on different devices. All learners have access to the comments area on Satchel One which allows them to communicate difficulties and provide work back to teachers and staff have been instructed to monitor this regularly, particularly during lesson time, but only during school hours. We also follow Welsh Government guidance and recognise that staff cannot be instructed to do live lessons, and some have circumstances which mean it is not possible.

Keeping contact with Learners.

Whilst we endeavour to make contact with learners on a regular basis, I know parents recognise the challenge this presents. We would encourage all parents to request contact with senior staff through the following email addresses where there are issues with home learning or wellbeing.

- ybbupper@npt.school for pupils in Years 9-11
- ybbmiddle@npt.school for pupils in Years 5-8
- ybblower@npt.school for pupils in Years N-4
- ybbaln@npt.school for pupils in our Learning Resource Centre or with Additional Learning Needs.

Years 10 and 11.

We recognise the frustration and concern of all parents and pupils, but the impact on pupils in exam years is of particular concern.

Mathematics and Hospitality Exams that are scheduled for the week beginning January 11th are continuing. Details will be confirmed with learners this week by telephone and via Satchel One once timings are confirmed.

Education Minister Kirsty Williams on Wednesday, December 16 provided some details of how the system put in place to replace examinations for general qualifications in 2021 will work. No further guidance has been received since then and we continue to wait for further advice. In the meantime, it is particularly important that pupils continue to engage in remote learning so that any future requirement for staff to provide feedback to exam boards on progress can be as well informed as possible.

Yours faithfully

R. Rees

Headteacher