



Ysgol Bae Baglan

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Dear parent or carer,

We have completed our first full week of remote learning and I have had a lot of feedback from parents, pupils and teachers about how this is developing. It is clear that remote learning is more difficult for everyone compared to being in school, and I want to say thank you to all parents, pupils and teachers for all of their efforts and commitment to the work you are all doing at this very challenging time.

I recognise that for pupils who are at home alone without access to fast internet and an effective device, the challenge of home learning can feel insurmountable. I know our children with additional learning needs are missing the additional support they normally have. I know that parents at home can find it difficult to motivate their children and support them and not least, I recognise the efforts of my staff who also face the same challenges whilst balancing work commitments.

Whilst meeting the needs of learners at home, we are also running our hub for children of critical workers and identified vulnerable learners. This means that staff are not available for learners at home whilst supporting children in the hub.

I have reviewed our Remote Learning policy which is on the policy section of our website, and we will continue to monitor provision and listen to feedback. This week I have introduced a Daily Check-in for secondary phase pupils because I know it is important to listen to learners. I encourage all pupils to participate in the Daily Check-in to let their registration teachers know of any issues, and to use the feedback in subject tasks to talk to their teachers and let them know how their learning is going.

I know some parents have requested more live video lessons; however, I also recognise the challenge that this presents. I know that many staff are already doing live video lessons. Feedback from these are that attendance of pupils is low, and that interaction with the pupils who attend can be difficult if the pupils there do not want to discuss problems in front of other pupils. Teachers have told me that live video lessons do present some benefit to those that attend, however, with low attendance, often through no fault of their own, many pupils are missing this learning opportunity. We also follow Welsh Government Guidance which states "the safety and welfare of learners is paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations". This means although Welsh Government requirements have changed, I continue to advise our teachers that two staff members are required in live lessons until a new risk assessment is agreed. For these reasons, I have advised our staff that recorded lessons, or those that use video from other sources, or do not use video, often reach a wider audience and offer many of the same benefits, especially when combined with the interactive comments feature of Satchel One. In

fact, feedback from pupils has been that being able to access recorded video at a time which suits them and their families, and the ability to rewind, pause and review, actually offers a better learning experience. Feedback from staff is that submission of work in recorded lessons, and lessons which have other types of resource, is higher than in live video lessons.

For us, the priority is about ensuring that the tasks we set are accessible, that we have the balance of work and family life right, and that all children have the opportunity to communicate with their teachers. At the same time, we need to present the challenge of important learning to pupils so that they do not fall behind and in Year 10 and 11 especially, ensure all coursework and NEA deadlines are met, as failure to submit this work will result in no grade being awarded.

I have asked my staff to consider this balance of work and opportunity for pupils to message their teachers using the Satchel One app. I would encourage all pupils who are not yet on the app to contact ybbITSupport@npt.school to get login details so that they have an open channel to speak to their teachers when they need it during the school day.

Yours faithfully,

R. Rees

Headteacher.