



19th March 2020

Dear parents/ carers,

I am writing to you to give the latest information regarding Coronavirus Covid-19 and how this affects the education of your son/daughter in Year 11. Who would have imagined the circumstances in which I would be writing this letter to you?

We certainly live in a time of unprecedented challenge but as always I feel confident that we can successfully overcome this challenge as a school community.

To be clear, Summer Examinations for Year 11 have been cancelled. The Minister for Education in Wales stated yesterday: *"We recognise that there are no easy choices but we have agreed that the best way forward is not to proceed with summer exam series. Learners due to sit their GCSEs and A levels this summer will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work, drawing on the range of information that is available. We will be working with the sector to announce further details shortly but wanted to give this early certainty."*

We imagine that pupils will be awarded subject grades based on coursework, mock examinations, teacher assessment, predicted grades and other factors. We will use a range of evidence to ensure that the grades awarded to your children reflect their ability and hard work. More information will be provided when we received clarity.

Pupils are advised to keep following the advice of their subject teachers particularly if they have assessments they need to complete. All pupils have been given access to our distance learning platforms and instructions are on our website under the 'coronavirus' tab.

For pupils in receipt of free school meals the latest information from the LA is: *For next week we are hoping to initiate a 'grab and go' provision for efsm pupils from buildings to be confirmed before the end of this week.*

Today, 19th March 2020, we had an emotional assembly in the hall to share this information and to say some farewells. Being Headteacher during your children's time at Pen y Dre High School has been the privilege of a lifetime for me. To see your children grow from being the little ones in Year 7 to the fine young men and women that they are today fills us all with such pride. They have always sought to be the very best versions of themselves and have so much further potential.

Your sons and daughters are amazing! They are talented, kind, compassionate and intelligent. They have given so much the life of this school and to the wider community. I cannot thank you enough for

entrusting your children to us during these last five years. I am sure they will be emotional and more than a little disappointed that they cannot take their final exams, but they have nothing further to prove to us. We already know they are wonderful!

I have told Year 11 this is 'farewell' but not 'goodbye'. Although their final day is tomorrow Friday 19th, when the public health situation is more settled we hope to invite the pupils back to better celebrate their achievements and their time in school. Mrs Richards and the tutor team have so many great memories they want to share! On behalf of the whole staff we ask you to look after each other and stay safe. Please do get in touch if you need anything.

Aspire Achieve Believe

Yours sincerely,

Mr K. Maher

Headteacher