

04 January 2021

Good afternoon,

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope you continue to enjoy the remainder of your holiday.

When I last communicated with you, I promised that I would keep you updated whenever I had something new to share. Please note that this email contains new information for all year groups and so is applicable for the full school community. In order to help clarify the information we are sharing today, I have attempted to break up the letter under a variety of the following headings:

Remote learning - all year groups

Following the initial guidance for remote learning to be put in place for Y11 and Y13 only, we are now pleased to share that we are able to provide support for all students to work remotely at home from **Tuesday 5th January**. This means that all students in all year groups will follow their normal timetable and teachers will ensure that work is provided for each of their lessons.

Teams & Go 4 Schools (G4S)

I thought it would be helpful to provide a link to a one-page guide to the use of Teams, which is the platform that we use to deliver lessons remotely:

<https://www.waleshigh.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Teams-information-for-families-JAN-2021.pdf>

A range of styles of delivery will be adopted according to the subject covered and the needs of each group. Not all lessons will be delivered live via Teams, instead a variety of learning tasks will be set to ensure that students aren't sat at a screen for every lesson. There will also be invitations sent to students to check in with their pastoral teams and regular assemblies whilst they are working remotely. Students must log onto G4S and their email accounts daily to check for Teams invites, work set on G4S and important email correspondence from teachers and departments; please ensure that this is prioritised. Finally, if your child has any issues or concerns regarding logging onto their email or G4S, they should email their HOY to ask for support. If their questions are specifically related to their subject work, their teacher is the first point of contact.

Mass testing

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that we will be able to test our students as they return to the spring term. Although as of yet I cannot confirm the timings and format for this to happen for Wales, what I can reassure you of is that we aim to have these systems set up and trialled during this week and then available for students in Y13 and then Y11 in the following week with other year groups being scheduled following this.

Sixth Form mock examinations

I know that sixth formers will appreciate clarity around their return to school and their mock examinations as soon as possible, the sixth form team will be contacting students directly tomorrow with further information regarding these arrangements.

Y9 examinations

The Y9 internal examinations will not take place this week as planned, due to the school closure; further information will be shared with Y9 students and families once the school is fully open.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of all our staff for the positive feedback and support that we have received over the New Year period. It is vital that we continue to work together to ensure that all students get the very best experience from their remote learning and so please do not hesitate to get in touch should you need further help or guidance.

I am aware that we are in a very fast changing situation and so I will write to you at the end of this week to update you on any changes to our plans and prepare for week 2 of the spring term.

Thank you all again for your ongoing patience and positive support – it makes all that we do possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pepe Di'lasio', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Pepe Di'lasio
Headteacher