



## Year 11 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are extremely proud of the commitment and maturity demonstrated by our Year 11 pupils this term. Settling back into school life has been tough for many but our pupils continue to show resilience towards their studies and are making great progress towards achieving their goals.

This has been the most frustrating term for us all and we share the concerns of all of our Year 11 students as to what will happen at the end of this academic year in terms of GCSE awards. Please find below, a number of updates on some key areas:

### Assessment and Awarding of Qualifications

The cancellation of the 'traditional' exam series is a public recognition that this is a school year like no other and that our pupils are facing pressures no other year group has faced. Information regarding the assessments which will replace these exams is expected in the new term.

At the start of September, we certainly did not expect to be ending the first term without knowing how the assessment for current Year 11 would work. There have been a number of 'announcements' which have failed to give us this clarity to date, however as it currently stands, we are expecting clarification on the required assessment regime during January. Once the school is reliably informed, this information will be shared with pupils and parents and an appropriate revision structure and assessment calendar produced. Assessments will be taking place in school, so high attendance will continue to remain a priority.

### Progress Data and Full Reports

All pupils and parents will receive an updated Assessment Sheet and a Form Tutor Report by the end of this term.

The Assessment Sheet will give a *Professional Prediction* (a grade attributed by a subject teacher to indicate the likely grade to be achieved by the end of the year if current work effort is maintained), a *Target Grade* (what each pupil should be striving to achieve) and an *Attitude to Learning* level for each subject. The Assessment Sheet will also provide written 'next steps' targets for each subject.

The Form Tutor Report will be a written narrative explaining how each pupil has settled into Year 11, where they are doing well and where they will need to concentrate their efforts in order to improve their performance.

Should parents have any comments or concerns regarding their child's Assessment Sheet or Form Tutor Report, they are invited to contact the school.



## Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will look a little different this year. We will be using our new SchoolCloud Software to provide a 5 minute appointment with each subject teacher.

The Virtual Parent:Teacher appointments will be held over two evenings with subjects split across the two evenings. The dates for these evenings are Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. More information about this will be sent out before the end of term.

## GCSE Pod

All pupils have been provided with a GCSE Pod account. This online revision tool will enable pupils to independently revise a number of subjects through a range of videos (pods) and quizzes.

Pupils can log on (Google GCSE Pod – or use the link in the Year 11 Team) using their Hwb log in details.

Prizes are on offer for pupils who stream the highest number of Pods – and for the form who – collectively – make the best effort! The leader board is revealed each Friday!

## Online Learning

In the event of absence or isolation, all pupils should access their school work through the Teams App. If devices or Internet connections are a problem at home, parents and pupils are invited to contact the school for support.

Support with software can be received from [ITSupport@Cwmbrombil.org](mailto:ITSupport@Cwmbrombil.org)

## Revision Sessions

Revision sessions are currently 'by invitation only.' This is to ensure that individual pupils receive targeted support to move them forward in their learning. (We recognise that one size does not fit all when it comes to learning). As the Assessment Calendar is produced in the new term, the number of revision sessions will increase.

If pupils are concerned about their progress in any subject, they are encouraged to speak with their subject teacher, Mrs Jones, Mrs Morgan, Ms Burton or Mr Thomas.

## Future Pathways Fridays

Each Friday lunchtime we are hosting representatives from an array of colleges. This is to provide guidance for pupils' next steps in the worlds of education or work. Neath Port Talbot College, St Joseph's VI Form and Bridgend College are all regular attendees.



Next term, we hope to host a range of work based training providers, Armed Forces and representatives from a range of careers to help our pupils establish their career goals and what they need to do to progress towards achieving them.

### Forging Futures Evening

Our Forging Futures' Evening for pupils and parents will look different this year but will be going ahead. This is an evening where pupils receive revision resources and support in the final run up towards exams or, in the case of this year, the assessment period. Further details will follow in January.

### Mental Health

This is a difficult school year for all learners. It is made more difficult this year by the global situation. If any pupil is struggling, we have people in school and links to external agencies who can provide specialist support.

Outside of school, pupils are invited to contact See, Hear, Respond Wales at:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond-wales>

Wellbeing support can also be accessed at [beyondtheblue@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:beyondtheblue@barnardos.org.uk)

### Supporting our Families

This year has been difficult for all families. If you need support, our Foodbank (The Pantry) is accessible. Please contact the school and ask to speak to Mrs Thomas.

If you are able to make a donation to The Pantry or to donate gifts for Christmas (for a range of age ranges), donation places are located in the school reception and canteen.

**Thank you for your ongoing support in this very different school year.** Term ends for all pupils on 18<sup>th</sup> December and begins in the new year on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. **We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a brighter New Year.**