

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Coronavirus Information Update: Continuation of education away from school

As you are no doubt aware, the Welsh Assembly Government has now advised us that all schools in Wales will be closed indefinitely from Monday 23 March 2020.

In order to try to minimise the disruption in education provision, the school's staff have spent the last week formulating a method in which students can continue to study all their subjects at home. This will primarily focus on online distance learning; although in many cases hard copies of learning materials have also been distributed.

In order to maintain a clear structure to our students' week all departments will be posting digital resources and weekly tasks through Google Classroom, which is part of the Google Education platform. These tasks and assignments will be posted at 8.30am every Monday morning via department classrooms with the expectation that pupils complete all tasks during the week. All set tasks can/will be able to be viewed by the appropriate teachers via Google classroom. Using this platform feedback can then be offered from teachers, as comments or marks, dependent on the nature of the task set.

Whilst Google Classroom and this method of learning may be very unfamiliar to parents, I would like to assure you that most students are very familiar to this platform, and are currently using it as part of their digital learning experiences across a variety of subjects. For students to make use of the provision they will need to have access to a digital device that has internet capability and need to use Google to access Google Drive and Google Classroom Apps to enable them to login. Each student has their own individual school based google account that they are familiar with that gives access to their respective subject classrooms.

To support parents in ensuring that their children complete their weekly tasks and learning activities, the class codes relevant to their year group with a brief explanation of the task will be emailed to parents on a Monday morning. There are also three useful resources attached to help those unfamiliar or uninitiated in using the Google Education platform. In these difficult and unprecedented times, our children will need support in trying to maintain as much normality as possible in the absence of school. I therefore encourage all parents to play an active role in helping to maintain their child's focus on their studies to hopefully ensure their return to school is as smooth as possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Iowi-gmbys> - YouTube parental guide to using Google classroom

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6072460?co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid&hl=en&oco=0> - How to sign in to Google Classroom (instructions for android, windows, and apple)

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6118412> - How to install the Google Classroom App (not needed on Windows machines)

Yours faithfully

Mr K Francis

Assistant Headteacher

