



# **Blackwood Comprehensive School**

## **Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon**

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**Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed**

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Coronavirus Update**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

We hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

This has certainly been a challenging couple of months and so, as we start to enter the eighth week of school closure, we would like to share some information and updates with you.

### **Distance Learning**

We are continuing to reflect on our distance learning strategy following feedback from parents, carers and pupils. Staff are working hard to create engaging resources and lessons which enable learning to continue during our closure, but while many of you are grateful for the changes we made after Easter a number of pupils say they are still finding their work difficult to organise, as most of it is being set on the same day. With this in mind, we have contacted staff and pupils to tell them that no further work will be set this half-term. This will enable pupils to use next week to finish off any incomplete work and reflect on their learning so far. After half-term, subjects will be setting work on different days and we will develop a timetable so that pupils know which day to expect it. We hope this will help them to manage their work more effectively and reduce their anxiety. We will also be sending out resources and assemblies to try to help them develop as more resilient and independent learners, as we believe this is a vital life skill.

A few parents and carers have said that they are finding it difficult to keep track of their child's learning at home. Most of it is set via Google Classroom, which pupils access via a tablet, Chromebook or other electronic device. In order to have an overview of the work that they are doing, we would suggest that you download the Google Classroom App on your mobile or tablet and use your child's username and password to access their account. This way you can check what work has been set and what they have completed.

### **Wellbeing**

Whilst it is important to carry on with learning at home, it is also vital that we keep ourselves healthy, both physically and mentally. Mrs Griffiths and her wellbeing team continue to make a large number of wellbeing calls and we have now contacted nearly all pupils and their families. The team continue to share wellbeing tips and information on our website, Class Charts and social media but we have also started delivering virtual Mindful Monday, Wonderful Wednesday and Focused Friday assemblies to provide some support, and a bit of light heartedness, in these strange times. If you haven't done so already, please try and take the time to have a look at them on our website or Facebook page.

### **School Trips**

Two school trips have been cancelled due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic: a ski trip to Italy and a science trip to London. Despite continuing discussions with the travel providers and the local authority, we have not been able to secure the refunds as yet but we will update you as soon as we have further information.

We also have a Year 8 French trip in July, but in the current climate it is looking increasingly unlikely that this will go ahead. The trip will be discussed at our Governing Body meeting next week and we will be contacting parents, carers and pupils with an update after that.

### **Year 11 Centre Assessed Grades**

Staff have now identified Year 11 pupils' Centre Assessed Grades. They have considered a range of evidence such as class and homework, results in assignments and mock exams, any non-exam assessments completed and pupils' general progress during their course. This information will allow the WJEC and other exam boards to compare grades across schools and will ensure that pupils are not advantaged or disadvantaged due to variations in judgements across Wales. We look forward to sharing these with pupils and their families on results day, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

As you are aware we have no firm indication of when we will return to school, and that uncertainty makes the situation we find ourselves in more unsettling. We are very proud of our pupils and how they are coping but if you need any support or advice, please remember that we are always ready to help you, even while our doors are closed. Contact us via our school email address [BLKCA@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:BLKCA@caerphilly.gov.uk), and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

In the meantime take care and stay safe.

Kind regards



Jane Wilkie

Headteacher/Pennaeth



Andrew Farina-Childs

Chair of the Governing Body

