



**YSGOL
LLANFYLLIN**

Opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin – Wales Firebreak lockdown November 2020

28th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write with information regarding arrangements for the opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin after the October half term break. As you will be aware, Wales is currently in a 'Firebreak' lockdown until 9th November.

The purpose of this letter is to provide more detail about how the Welsh lockdown affects the opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin.

From Monday 2nd November the overall approach to schools in Wales is:

- Primary schools and special schools (including PRUs, EOTAS and all SEN units attached to mainstream schools) will re-open as normal after half term on 2 November.
- Secondary schools will be open for children in years 7 and 8.
- Pupils in years 9-13 will receive their education at home from 2 November until 6 November. They will return to school on 9 November.
- Those sitting GCSEs and university entrance exams in November will be able to do so at school/college.
- Free school meals arrangements have already been put in place for half term and will continue for learners in years 9-13 in the week of 2 November.
- Pupils at all stages of education will continue to receive their entitlement to education from 2 November to 6 November.

For pupils and students in Llanfyllin this will mean:

- The Primary Phase will be fully open as normal, including Breakfast Club and Bobol Bach
- Secondary phase – Year 7 & 8 will be in school for lessons
- Years 9 – 13 will not be in school. They will access their lessons online. Pupils should follow normal timetable and access lessons through their TEAMS accounts at the normal lesson times.
- Those Year 11 pupils entered for Numeracy/Maths exams should attend school on Tuesday and Thursday morning only. Parents should arrange to pick up pupils from school at 11:30 am on those days. Students will not be able to stay in school after their exams. We will be communicating further details to those pupils directly.
- All staff in school will be in school delivering face-to-face lessons to Years 7 & 8 and online lessons for Years 9 to 13.

Cysylltwch / Contact

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Assistant Headteachers

Mr Huw Lloyd-Jones

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Mrs Sarah Hunter

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Years 7 & 8: Learning in school

- Years 7 & 8 will be using their 'Bubble' rooms for Cymraeg, Welsh, English, Maths and Humanities subjects (Y7 – Welsh Corridor, Y8 – Mobiles at the back of the Secondary Phase)
- Music, Drama, Art, Technology, PE and Science will be taught in specialist rooms
- They will receive new timetables for the week on Monday morning
- If pupils have PE – they should come into school wearing their PE kit as the changing rooms are still out of use

Years 9 to 13: Online Learning

- Pupils and students in Years 9-13 will follow their normal timetable from home – this will give them a sense of routine
- Lessons will be delivered online via Teams – pupils should log onto their lessons at the normal timetabled times to interact with their teachers
- Staff will introduce each lesson and be available during the lesson to answer questions
- Work will be provided by live teaching (either with camera on or off), via PowerPoint, worksheets, videos, recorded lessons or a combination of some or all.
- If pupils are unwell, or not able to access the lessons for any reason, please contact the school to let us know.

More information from the Welsh Government can be found [here](#).

Other questions:

How will school transport be arranged?

School transport will run as normal

Will students be required to wear face coverings?

Based on current guidance, students must wear a mask if travelling to school on public transport. If travelling on normal school transport, wearing a mask is optional. Pupils must wear a face covering in school in communal areas (canteen, corridors, toilets etc. The wearing of a face covering during lessons is highly recommended, but this is not compulsory.

How will break time and lunchtime be organised?

Each contact group will be assigned a different outside area. Year 7 will use the Tennis Court and games pitches (weather permitting) and Year 8 will use the 'Red Gra' area. They will **not be allowed to mix with other contact groups**. Unless the weather is severely inclement all students (with the exception of a limited number of learners in the Wellbeing contact group) will be expected to go outside. This is again a control measure to mitigate spread of infection. It is therefore **very important that all learners come to school with suitable coats/umbrellas in the case of bad weather**. Students can bring a packed lunch if they prefer, and a breaktime snack if they wish. Further details will be explained to students when they return/start school.

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Please note that students should bring plenty of fluid/drinks with them as access to areas to fill water bottles will be restricted.

How will my child access toilets?

Each contact group will have assigned toilet areas. This will apply throughout the day and during break and lunchtimes. It is important that students respect this arrangement and do not attempt to access toilets assigned to other contact groups.

How will the school be kept clean?

The whole school will be deep cleaned before reopening. Additional cleaning has been arranged during the course of the day across all contact group areas so that high touch areas and toilets are cleaned regularly.

Appropriate wipes will be available in all classrooms so that students can wipe down their personal spaces, as necessary.

What equipment should my child bring to school?

In order to reduce transmission, as few items as possible should be brought between home and school.

Will I be able to meet with my child's teachers in person?

All meetings in person will not be possible until further notice. Please do not visit the school reception unless it is absolutely essential.

How will my child's work be marked?

Assessment of your child's work will continue as normal. Staff should avoid touching any equipment (pens, pencils etc) brought into school by students. We realise that feedback is an essential part of effective learning and we will employ a variety of methods such as book marking, self-assessment, verbal feedback, and digital/online comments, as appropriate.

Will school clubs, after school clubs, fixtures and trips be running?

No. Clubs etc. are suspended until further notice to mitigate risk of spread of infection.

What will happen if my child becomes unwell with possible symptoms of COVID-19 while in school?

School will have dedicated isolation areas. If anybody becomes unwell at school with possible symptoms of COVID-19 they will be sent home immediately where they should self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test. Until they leave the school site contact with others will be minimised through use of the isolation areas. It is therefore **crucially important that we have an up to date**

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contact number where a responsible adult can be contacted if required during the school day. Test, Trace, Protect strategy to be followed.

What should I do if my child or any member of my household develops possible symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19?

Under **no circumstances** should students attend school if they:

- feel unwell with any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms. They should remain at home and self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test
- have tested positive for COVID-19
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please accept my apologies for the length of this letter, but I hope we have provided sufficient information to answer your questions and allay any anxiety about the opening of Ysgol Llanfyllin during the current firebreak. We will be holding further information assemblies via Teams on Monday 2nd November. Please ask your child to check their school email for details.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,
Dewi Owen

Head teacher

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