

Ysgol Harri Tudur Henry Tudor School

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow Dysgwyr Heddiw, Arweinwyr Yfory

19th May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Y11

Re: Keeping In Touch

I hope you are all staying safe and well and looking after one another. I am writing to express my gratitude for all of the hard work and efforts from our pupils over the last five years as well as the overwhelming positive contact we have received since the lock down. I'd also like to directly thank yourselves for the support, guidance and care you have given to your children and our school during this time.

Whilst in contact regularly with the Y11 pupils via Google Classroom, I'd like to use this opportunity to clarify some key information regarding Year 11 and their next steps.

Exams Cancellation and Grade Awarding Process

Senior leaders at the school are receiving and responding to daily advice/information given by Welsh Government. Even though we are working remotely, we are in regular contact with each other. Be assured that we are working closely with our subject teachers and acting in the best interests of every single pupil whilst ensuring we fully comply with the expectations of us as an examination centre.

Ysgol Harri Tudur staff are currently working on predicting grades for pupils in year 11, in readiness for submission to WJEC and other exam bodies. Please be assured that we are determined that no pupil will be unfairly disadvantaged when being awarded their qualifications and wish to support all pupils to follow their chosen pathway.

We are following strict advice from the Welsh Government and WJEC in this process to ensure that our centre assessment grades reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade each pupil would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.

To ensure fairness to all pupils across Wales, WJEC will then standardise the grades that are submitted to them, using a method they are developing in conjunction with Qualifications Wales. Therefore, we are not allowed to discuss/share predictions with parents/carers or pupils.

Below is the web link from the WJEC which contains some answers to some questions you may have and guidance on awarding of grades:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/en/home/supporting-teachers-and-learners-during-coronavirus/>

www.henrytudorschool.wales www.ysgolharritudur.cymru

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Deputy Head/Dirprwy Bennaeth

Mr A Barlow

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Where appropriate, we have continued to provide some pupils with distance learning activities to ensure they are well placed to continue their studies if they choose to return. However, we are aware some may not have access to the same quality of ICT facilities. We will not be using any work produced as evidence to identify predicted grades.

We do know that the intention is for the Examination bodies to publish all results in line with their usual dates in August. At the moment, we plan to issue results on the following dates from school Reception:

- **Y11 GCSE Results Thursday 20th August**

Given the unusual situation we find ourselves in, please check the school website in case of a change to these arrangements.

Sixth Form Applications

Sixth Form confirmation of options have been sent out to all pupils who have applied to study with us for A Levels. These options will only receive final confirmation once pupils have received their GCSE results on Thursday 20th August and are also subject to pupils achieving the grade requirements for the subjects, as stipulated in the Prospectus. Further information as well as information about Sixth Form Induction will be confirmed in the GCSE results pack.

Pupils who have opted for a Federated subject in the D column (to be taught at Pembrokeshire College) will receive separate instructions from Pembrokeshire College later in the Summer Term.

In the meantime, we know there is a temptation to lose sight of the immediate importance of academic work now that Year 11 exams have been cancelled. However, we urge all pupils thinking about taking up a place in the Sixth Form to keep themselves active and engage with the Year 12 prep work and website reading lists that were sent by subjects following the Easter break.

Students and parents are welcome to contact Mr Jones KS5 Leader via email with any enquiries at sixthform@yht.wales

Careers Advice/College Applications

Lots of our Year 11 pupils have applied to college or apprenticeships/jobs and are understandably anxious about getting their results this summer. If your child is still unsure about their next steps, please get in touch and I can put the careers advisor Mr. O. Rees in touch to support this process.
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Well being

I do recognise that Year 11 have undoubtedly missed out on an important milestone in their lives: exam period, finishing school, having the opportunity to say goodbye. Please remind them that it is far better that they are home and safe and it is not just them, the whole nation's Year 11 pupils are feeling the same way. Please ensure that they are taking time for wellbeing and care and engaging in positive past times.

I hope that this time will encourage us all to stay in touch more and look forward to a brighter future. I hope that we will all remember this time and not take things for granted. It has been a privilege supporting your children and I truly wish you all the best.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Claire Jones
KS4 Leader
cjones@yht.wales

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