



NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Unfortunately we now find ourselves in another period of lockdown, and I wanted to keep all parents and carers updated with the situation for the school and all pupils over the next few weeks. All staff are working hard to provide all students with remote learning, equivalent to their weekly allocation, as well as providing on-site learning for children of critical workers and vulnerable students (all of whom will be working on their online lessons).

We have worked hard since March to continually refine our Blended Learning programme, including during and since the November 'firebreak'. The current arrangements are set out in the document at the end of this letter, including contact details for any pupils who need assistance. All pupils will receive their usual timetable of lessons (with the exception of compulsory PE, RE and PSE lessons for Key Stage 4, which are replaced with study time for the pupils' examination classes) and these lessons will be a mixture of live-streamed lessons and pre-recorded video teaching (with supporting resources). The learning each day should take in the region of 3 ½ to 4 ½ hours, which does mean that all pupils need to approach each day as a 'full school day'! Please encourage all children to be up and ready for work at the usual time, as if they were leaving to attend school physically. We understand that some children find working and learning at home difficult – if this is the case with your child, please support them as much as possible and persevere - if they are really struggling, it is better that they submit small amounts of work for each lesson rather than fall behind completely. Equally, for those pupils and families who would like further learning activities to keep them engaged, I would recommend the Oak National Academy website which has a wealth of online lessons covering almost the whole curriculum.

Although Welsh Government have given 18th January as a potential return date, as a school we are planning for all eventualities and it is therefore imperative that our distance learning is as effective as it can be. If we need to make further changes to improve the learning, we will do this as we move forward.

Regarding examinations, we await further Welsh Government and WJEC guidance on whether this lockdown will affect GCSE assessments and grading. Our BTEC exams next week are carrying on, as continuing to sit these exams is currently the best option for our pupils.

Finally, although the school site is closed to all but children of critical workers and vulnerable students, reception is contactable from 8.00am – 3.00pm. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

As always, thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. A. Thompson
Headteacher

NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL – YSGOL TRECELYN

Remote Learning – Information for Parents

Structure of the learning

- A full timetable of lessons (5 lessons per day) will be delivered to all pupils during this period, using the Google Classrooms that all pupils have already joined.
- The only exceptions will be for compulsory PE, compulsory RE and PSE lessons for pupils in Years 9 -11, where work will not be set for pupils to complete. Pupils should therefore use this time to complete the work set by teachers in other lessons.
- Pupils have already been invited to all of their classes. However, should a pupil not have access to a particular class, a full set of class codes is listed within the ‘Year Group’ Google Classroom.
- Work will be uploaded to Google Classrooms daily for pupils to complete. Teachers will upload work to their Google Classrooms at the start of the day, which allows pupils (and parents) to plan the activities for the day. All work will also have a date and time set for completion. This will usually be for the same day that it is set. Pupils must ensure they turn in the work by this date or mark it as completed.
- All lessons will include a full set of instructions explaining how pupils are to complete the set work. In addition, teachers will provide all of the accompanying resources needed to complete the work, as well as details on where the work needs to be completed and whether or not it needs to be submitted for marking.
- Lessons will also include elements of live streaming, pre-recorded presentations or interactive chat. Welsh Government currently forbids live streaming from outside a school (eg. from the teacher’s home) unless there are two members of staff on the live stream, so this limits the amount of live teaching that can occur (ie. members of staff have to ‘double-up’). However, we feel that a mixed approach is best for the pupils anyway – while live sessions are very engaging, prerecorded videos allow pupils to access the learning at different times (eg. if sharing a device at home). We also feel that 5 hours at a screen with few breaks is not conducive to good learning. The minimum expectation for each lesson is that there will be a pre-recorded video introduction from the teacher at the start of each lesson, outlining the learning objectives for the lesson and explaining how the tasks need to be completed for that lesson, with supporting resources. In addition, many teachers may choose to use live streaming or pre-recorded video teaching to support pupils in completing the work. The live chat facility may also be used to give pupils the opportunity to ask questions directly to their teachers in relation to completing work.
- Whenever a live stream is planned within a lesson, the class teacher will inform pupils in advance. These streams will then happen at the following times, unless the teacher informs the class otherwise.

Period within normal timetable	Time of Live ‘Google Meet’
1	8.40am
2	9.40am

3	10.55am
4	11.55am
5	1.35pm

- The work set by teachers each lesson should take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete. This will ensure there is sufficient time for pupils to access the work and resources online and get the work completed within the timetabled hour of the lesson. It is expected that pupils will have approximately 2 ½ - 3 ½ hours of work to complete each day, on top of approximately 1 hour of explanation and accessing resources.
- Forgotten Google Classroom login details can be obtained from Mr. Guillou at guillmp@newbridgeschool.info). Forgotten Mathswatch and Educake login details can be obtained from the class teacher directly. Forgotten Hwb login details can be obtained from Mrs Morgan at morga19@newbridgeschool.info
- Please note - as we work through this lockdown period, we will continue to develop and review our online provision for learning. We thank you for your continued support during these very difficult times.

Welfare Support

- We will continue to monitor pupil engagement with online learning throughout the lockdown period
- Staff from school will be making contact with all families and pupils in different ways, including phone calls and emails, to support with pupil engagement with the learning or just to check in on all pupils' wellbeing

Monitoring and Viewing Your Child's Work

- Parents are able to monitor and view the work that has been set within Google Classroom through the email summaries that are sent by Google to the parent email address linked to each pupils account. Each parent will receive a summary from Google Classroom at the end of every week which will inform parents of the work that has been set for their child and details of work that has not been completed.
- It is possible to change the setting to receive daily summaries of the work set, if required. This can be accessed within the managing summaries section of the settings of your google account. Full details on how to do this can be found at <https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6388136?hl=en>
- Unfortunately, the MyEd and Class Chart Apps do not provide direct information to parents about the work that has been set within Google Classroom. There is, however, a Google Classroom tile, within the student section of the MyED app, through which parents can access all of their child's Google Classes. This will enable you to monitor the work that is being set within the Google Classes. You do not need a parent login to do this - you will need to login as your child! If you wish to use this facility, you will need to obtain the login details from your child.