Coronavirus Update – March 19th 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I fully appreciate the fact that all parents and pupils are waiting for further information and clarity following the decisions made by the Welsh and UK governments to close schools from Friday 20th March. Any information we currently have is through the news channels and government websites, and we are waiting for further direction from the Local Authority to arrive.

We have, however, been informed that the summer examination series in England and Wales has been cancelled. This is, of course, incredibly disappointing for everyone, especially pupils and staff, who have worked so hard to prepare and find themselves unsure and anxious about what to do next. You will have so many questions which we simply cannot answer at the moment. I know that the examination boards and qualifications regulators will be determining ways of awarding grades to learners this year. However, at this point, it would be unwise and unhelpful to speculate on the process. It is difficult to respond to individual queries about exams and the awarding of grades until the situation becomes clearer. In school, we will be working hard to ensure that any judgements or predictions we are required to make do not disadvantage our learners. We will use all the information we have in order to do this. For this reason, we will not yet be releasing reports, because we want to ensure the fairness and reliability of predicted grades.

In the meantime, we have been providing emotional support for pupils in Years 10 to 13, most of whom are anxious about what lies ahead. We have advised them to continue working and studying, using the online materials which have been provided for them. (Pupils may wish to follow their current timetable in order to organise their time at home).

We have also been informed via news channels that support will be provided for children of key and essential workers, and pupils who may be vulnerable for a variety of reasons. Schools will be deployed for a ‘different purpose’ from next week, in order to support the community through this national emergency. I have informed all staff at Bryntirion that we need to be available to support in ways that have not yet been determined or communicated to us. We will do everything we can to respond and contribute to this effort.

As soon as we have any information regarding next steps, we will communicate it with you. I am so grateful for your patience and forbearance during this exceptionally challenging period. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

RK Pawar