



Eastern High / Ysgol Uwchradd y Dwyrain

Eastern Community Campus / Campws Cymunedol y Dwyrain

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Dear parent/ carer

I hope this finds you and your family well and that you have settled into some kind of routine, in what is no doubt a frustrating and difficult time for many of you.

As you are no doubt aware, there is still no definite word as to when schools will return. Personally I imagine there will be some form of phased return after Whitson half term, but I'm often accused of being too optimistic. The bottom line is we just don't know yet and so it's important that your child is encouraged to take part in the online learning we are providing.

Online learning

National guidelines are suggesting at least three hours per day. We are providing 4 lessons per day on Google Classroom as well as the additional activities and competitions. Your child's teacher will normally be online at the same time as the normal lesson to monitor and check work as well as giving feedback and support.

If your child has not been logging on to Google Classroom, then they may feel daunted to see all the work that has been set. We'd rather they just started at the most recent classes and work with their class at the same time, rather than going back to earlier work.

We are noticing increasing numbers asking for paper copies of work. While we recognise that some pupils may not have access to the internet and some households may only have one device, I have a plea - If your child does have easy access to a device and the internet, we'd be grateful if you would use our online materials rather than requesting a paper version. It is very costly for us to copy and post paper copies (And we are mindful that there will no doubt be cuts in subsequent years) and it is also difficult for us to arrange collection of completed work for marking (although we are working on a solution to this).

There are two online learning sites that staff will also increasingly use and you may wish to look at these yourself:

- [Oak National Academy](#)
- [Secondary Teaching Resources](#)

Welfare and wellbeing

Our number one priority during this time is student welfare and all of the work that goes on to support our most vulnerable students. We have been calling some students on a daily basis and some weekly. This term we have asked Tutors to message or call the pupils in their learning family once every two weeks, just to check in and ensure they are managing the work we are setting as well as offering any support they may need.

There is a separate Welfare advice letter with all the latest information also published on our site.

Finding information on our Website

We have been publishing quite a bit of information since our closure and we're aware that it is not always easy to find on our site - www.easternhigh.org.uk To make it easier if you scroll down to where it says latest news, you will see the following three boxes (if you are using a phone, you will need to scroll along at this stage to see all the boxes):

- **All General Information Regarding Our Closure** - Letters and information regarding: Free School Meals; Key worker Cardiff Hub; GCSEs; Y6 Transition; and any other news that may arise regarding our closure."
- **CoronaVirus Updates, Advice and Messages from Staff** - Including: Latest advice and guidance; Video messages from staff; Wellbeing information.
- **Pupils Working from Home Information** - Including: Where and how to access our online learning; Advice for those without access to the internet; latest competitions and challenges; useful links.

It's essential that you regularly check our website as this is where all the latest information is published.

GCSE Results

There is up to date information regarding GCSE results on the website in the first box mentioned above. Quite a few parents have been in touch with the school asking what their child's predictions will be and giving reasons as to why they think their child's results may be higher than we are likely to predict. I can understand your concerns; my first thought when this began was to phone my daughter's school and tell them about all the additional work she had been putting in recently for her A Levels. I didn't in the end. The reason is: we are not permitted to discuss grades until after they have been published (I don't think this will happen until the usual date in August).

Please trust us that we have all the information we need along with course and class work to be able to make accurate predictions of grades. These predictions will be moderated by the exam boards and

Qualifications Wales. For this reason, I ask that you don't contact staff regarding results until after they are published. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

School Community

I'm sure what many of us are missing the most, is interaction with the school community. We will begin to post regular assemblies online as well as messages from staff. Please look out for these. There will be a weekly assembly being posted online for students and families to access where we hope you'll appreciate seeing some friendly and familiar faces.

Finally

A huge thank you to all those of you who have contacted us to offer your support and words of encouragement. All of us would prefer to be in school in front of our pupils, but for now hopefully, you continue to make the most of the provision the staff at eastern High are working hard to provide.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Take care and best wishes

Armando Di-Finizio
Headteacher