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Chwefror 12fed, 2021

Annwyl riant / warcheidwad,

Diolch i chi am eich cefnogaeth yn ystod y 6 wythnos ddiwethaf wrth sicrhau bod ein darpariaeth ddysgu hirbell mor effeithiol â phosib a bod eich plant wedi gallu cael mynediad i'w hamserlen ddysgu ar-lein. Rwy'n sylweddoli nad yw'r cyfnod hwn wedi bod yn hawdd i neb ac mae eich gwaith o annog, cefnogi a siarsio eich plant wedi profi'n heriol i lawer ohonoch. Rydych wedi cynnal eich plant wrth gydbwyso eich cyfrifoldebau proffesiynol a phersonol eich hunain, ac mae hynny'n medru bod yn flinedig tu hwnt. Mae'r baich emosiynol a chorfforol wedi bod yn drwm ar bawb ac felly mae'n hanfodol bwysig fod pawb yn medru gorffwys ychydig yr wythnos nesaf a hithau'n wyliau hanner tymor Chwefror.

Mae'n anodd rhagweld ar hyn o bryd benderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru ynglŷn ag ailagor ysgolion i ddisgyblion ysgolion uwchradd. Fe fydd yn rhaid aros tan y gwerthusiad 3 wythnos nesaf ar ddydd Gwener, Chwefror 19eg cyn i ni gael rhagor o fanylion am hyn. Os bydd y cyfraddau heintio yn parhau i ostwng yn rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol, mae'n debygol y gwelwn ni rai carfannau o ddisgyblion yn dychwelyd i'r ysgol o Fawrth yr 8fed.

Cymwysterau haf 2021: Anfonwyd llythyr drwy e-bost ddoe at ddysgwyr Blynyddoedd 10 - 13 gan Gymwysterau Cymru yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am drefniadau cymwysterau haf 2021. Mae Cymwysterau Cymru yn cydnabod ei fod yn gyfnod ansicr iawn i unrhyw un sy'n astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau allanol ac maent am roi cymaint o wybodaeth â phosib pan fedran nhw. Erbyn diwedd mis Chwefror, bydd CBAC yn darparu i ysgolion Fframweithiau Asesu Cymwysterau a fydd yn nodi'r gofynion ar gyfer pob cymhwyster. Ni fedraf gadarnhau ein cynlluniau a'n gweithdrefnau asesu nes bo'r canllawiau terfynol wedi eu cyhoeddi. Fe fyddaf i'n ysgrifennu at rieni a disgyblion Blynyddoedd 10 - 13 yn fuan ar ôl derbyn y Fframweithiau Asesu Cymwysterau i gadarnhau ein trefniadau a'n gweithdrefnau wrth ddyfarnu'r Graddau a Bennir gan Ganolfan (GBG).

Gradd ymdrech am yr hanner tymor (Blynyddoedd 7 - 10): Gwnaed asesiad o ymdrech cyffredinol pob disgybl ymhob pwnc yn ystod yr hanner tymor—ystyriwyd presenoldeb mewn gwersi, cyfraniad i wersi a chyflawniad gwaith. Mae'r graddau ymdrech ar gael ar ap Edulink o dan 'adroddiadau'. Mae'r graddau ymdrech yn adlewyrchiad ffit-orau a chyffredinol o ymrwymiad disgyblion i'r profiad dysgu o hirbell ymhob pwnc ers cychwyn mis Ionawr. Mae'r data ymdrech yn caniatáu i ni adnabod pa ddisgyblion sydd angen cefnogaeth bellach gan yr ysgol a phwy sy'n cael y broses ddysgu hirbell yn anodd? Nid oes angen i neb bryderu am hyn; mae'n arf defnyddiol sy'n ein galluogi i fonitro disgyblion ar draws yr ystod pynciau ymhob blwyddyn ac i gynnig cefnogaeth lle bo angen. Tra bo'r cyfnod clo yn parhau, fe fyddwn yn parhau i dracio 'ymdrech' yn gyfnodol ac fe fydd y wybodaeth hon yn golygu na fydd rhaid i ni gysylltu â chi mor aml os oes pryderon bychain yn codi'n ddyddiol am eich plentyn. Fe fyddwn yn cysylltu â chi os oes patrwm o bryderon yn dod i'r amlwg gyda'ch plentyn er mwyn cynnig cefnogaeth i chi.

Rhieni Blwyddyn 10: Cofiwch am y noson rieni rithiol ar ddydd Iau, Chwefror 25ain. Anfonwyd atoch drwy lythyr eisoes drefniadau'r noson. Cynhelir y noson trwy ap Edulink One, felly mae'n bwysig bod gennych chi'r ap ar eich ffôn neu'ch cyfrifiadur er mwyn i chi gael mynediad i'r llwyfan ddigidol hon. Mae'n bwysig eich bod yn defnyddio eich cyfrif Edulink eich hun ac nid un eich plentyn. Os ydych yn ansicr ynglŷn â'ch manylion cofrestru, cofiwch gysylltu â'r ysgol. Mae yna nifer o athrawon sydd yn dysgu mwy nag un dosbarth ym Mlwyddyn 10, ac er y byddant yn cynnal cyfarfodydd gyda rhieni trwy'r dydd, yn ymarferol ni fyddant yn medru cyfarfod â phob rhiant. Os na

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fyddwch yn medru cael slot i weld pob athro ar y noson neu yn ystod y dydd, cysylltwch â Miss Catrin Edwards (Pennaeth Blwyddyn) er mwyn iddi drefnu eich bod yn derbyn adborth trwy e-bost gan yr athro. Gan fod sawl athro (pynciau craidd yn bennaf) yn cychwyn eu cyfarfodydd yn ystod y dydd, ni fyddant yn medru darparu gwersi 'byw' y diwrnod hwnnw, ond fe fyddant yn darparu gwaith trwy Teams.

Rhieni Blwyddyn 9: Byddwn yn lansio ein hopsiynau Cyfnod Allweddol 4 ar nos Iau, Mawrth 4ydd. Bydd yr holl wybodaeth angenrheidiol ar safle Moodle yr ysgol y noson honno, sef y wybodaeth a fydd o gymorth i'ch plentyn wrth benderfynu pa bynciau opsiwn i'w hastudio ym Mlynyddoedd 10 ac 11. Daw mwy o fanylion atoch am drefniadau'r noson yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf.

Camerâu ymlaen: Neges glir a ddaeth yn rheolaidd o'r sesiynau adborth gan ddisgyblion ac athrawon oedd bod troi camerâu disgyblion ymlaen mewn gwersi yn caniatáu lefel o ymrwymiad nad sy'n bosib pan fo'r camera wedi ei ddiffodd, a bod hyn yn llesol i bawb. Ar ôl y gwyliau, fe fyddwn yn parhau i ddisgwyl i ddisgyblion droi eu camerâu ymlaen yn ystod y wers ar gais yr athro fel bo'r athro a'r disgyblion yn medru gweld ei gilydd a rhyngweithio. Bydd disgyblion yn diffodd eu camerâu yn ystod y wers wrth weithio ar dasg neu ar gais yr athro. Bydd athrawon yn deall os nad oes camera ar gael neu ddim yn gweithio ar liniadur neu gyfrifiadur y disgybl. Mae'n bwysig bod gan bob disgybl ficroffon yn gysylltiedig â'r ddyfais er mwyn medru cyfrannu ar lafar i drafodaethau grŵp neu i gyfathrebu â'r athro. Os oes gan ddisgybl reswm penodol i beidio troi'r camera ar y ddyfais ymlaen, mae croeso iddynt gysylltu'n uniongyrchol â'r athro drwy e-bost i gynnig esboniad. Mae disgwyl bod disgyblion yn 'cuddio' eu cefndir. Mae'r nodwedd hon ar gael wrth wasgu'r tri smotyn "... " yn y bar offer (*tool bar*) yn ystod y cyfarfod / gwers Teams. A fyddai modd i chi annog eich plentyn i droi eu camerâu ymlaen ar ôl y gwyliau, gan fod llawer wedi bod yn amharod i wneud hynny? Buaswn yn gwerthfawrogi eich cefnogaeth ar y mater hwn er lles y disgyblion a'r staff.

Casgliadau ar gyfer elusennau Tŷ Hafan a Phlant Mewn Angen: Rwy'n falch i ddweud ein bod wedi anfon symiau anrhydeddus o £1,065.00 at elusen Tŷ Hafan a £900.00 at elusen Plant Mewn Angen yr wythnos hon. Diolch i bawb a gyfrannodd at y ddwy apêl y tymor diwethaf drwy gefnogi'r diwrnod gwisg anffurfiol, diwrnod siwmperi Nadolig a'r gyngerdd Nadolig. Fe dderbyniais neges o ddiolch yn ddiweddar gan elusen Dolen Cymru yn dilyn ymateb ein cymuned ysgol i'w apêl COVID yn Lesotho.

Wythnos yr Enfys: Rydym wedi bod yn dathlu wythnos yr enfys drwy'r wythnos, gan godi ymwybyddiaeth o fodelau rôl ysbrydoledig a rhoi sylw i elusen Mind Cymru a'r gwaith y maent yn ei gyflawni wrth gefnogi'r gymuned LHDT+. Cafwyd yr hawl i recordio cân arbennig o'r sioe gerdd 'The Prom', sydd ar gael ar gyfrifon Trydar yr ysgol, Digon a'r adrannau Cerdd a Drama. Mae yna ddolen yno hefyd er mwyn gwneud cyfraniad ariannol at elusen Mind Cymru.

Gobeithio y bydd pawb yn cael cyfle i ymlacio rhywfaint dros y gwyliau'r wythnos nesaf. Buasai lleihau'r amser a dreulir o flaen sgrin a chynyddu'r amser a dreulir y tu allan yn yr awyr agored (gan gadw at y canllawiau cenedlaethol) yn fuddiol i bawb. Wedi eu hatodi mae Heriau Hanner Tymor i annog eich plant i ymlacio a gofalu am eu hunain yn ystod y gwyliau. Cadwch yn ddiogel yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn a chofiwch gysylltu os oes angen unrhyw gefnogaeth ar eich plentyn. Mae eu lles emosiynol yn hollbwysig i ni, ac rydym fel staff eisiau gwneud popeth y gallwn i sicrhau eu bod yn cael yr addysg a'r gofal gorau posib yn ystod y cyfnod yma.

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Pennaeth

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February 12th, 2021

Dear parent / guardian,

I would like to thank you all for your support over the past 6 weeks in ensuring that our distance learning provision has been as effective as possible and for ensuring that your child / children have been able to access their online timetable. I can fully appreciate that the past half term must have been quite challenging for you in attempting to strike a balance between supporting the education of your child/children with your own professional and personal responsibilities. Thank you for all your efforts in encouraging, cajoling or even bribing your child/children into getting them out of bed and dressed in the morning and ready for learning! The emotional and physical strain has been enormous for all and extremely tiring. It is essential that pupils, parents and staff find some time to relax, rest and to enjoy some fresh air next week during the February half term holiday.

It is currently too difficult to predict the Welsh Government's decision on the reopening of secondary schools to pupils. We will have to wait until the next 3 week assessment, which is due on Friday February 19th, before we know for certain what happens next. If the infection rates continue to fall both regionally and nationally it is likely that some cohorts of learners may be allowed to return to school from Monday, March 8th. We'll have to wait and see what happens.

Summer 2021 qualifications: A letter from Qualifications Wales to learners in Years 10 - 13 was circulated yesterday via e-mail, giving an update on the current situation regarding the Summer 2021 qualifications. Qualifications Wales realise that these are uncertain times for anyone studying for a qualification and want to give as much information as they can, when they can. By the end of February, WJEC will provide schools with Qualification Assessment Frameworks that will set out the requirements for each qualification. I will be unable to confirm our assessment arrangements until the final guidance has been published. I will write to pupils and parents of Year 10 – 13 pupils as soon as possible following the release of the frameworks from WJEC, explaining how we will determine the Centre Determined Grades (CDG).

Half term effort grades (Years 7 – 10): An assessment of general effort has been conducted by teachers for this half term period. Effort was measured according to broad indicators—attendance in lessons, interaction with teachers and engagement with work—and a best-fit grade was determined for every pupil in every subject. The effort grades are available on the Edulink app under 'reports'. This data will allow us to identify those pupils who would benefit from additional support from school or who are having difficulty in engaging with our distance learning provision. There is no need to worry about these effort grades; they are a valuable tool for us to monitor our pupils across the whole year group and to be able to offer support where necessary. As long as the lockdown period continues, we will track effort periodically, which should mean less daily contact with parents for minor issues and we will only contact parents if difficulties appear across a range of subjects in order for us to offer our support and assistance.

Year 10 parents: You will have received arrangements for the forthcoming parents evening arranged for Thursday, February 25th. The parents evening will be delivered through the Edulink app, which you should all have downloaded to either your phone, PC or both. It is imperative that you have your own account, as you will not be able to use your child's account. If you have forgotten your account details, please contact the school.

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Several teachers have more than one class in Year 10 and, despite the fact that they will be allowed to commence their appointments during the school day, practically they will not be able to offer enough slots for every parent. If you are unable to book a slot with a teacher, please contact Miss Catrin Edwards (Head of Year) who can arrange written feedback to you from a particular teacher. Those teachers who have to begin their appointments during the day (core subjects mostly) will not be able to provide 'live' lessons on that day, but they will have provided assignments in their Teams group.

Year 9 parents: We will launch our Key Stage 4 presentation evening on Thursday, March 4th. All the presentations and details required for your child to be able to make their subject option choices for Years 10 and 11 will be available on the school's Moodle site. All the necessary details about the presentations will be sent to you over the course of the next few weeks.

Cameras on: A clear message that has regularly came up in discussion with pupils and teachers is that allowing pupils to turn their camera on during a lesson allows greater engagement with the teacher and is generally beneficial for all. After the half term holiday, we will continue to expect that pupils turn their cameras on during a lesson when the teacher requests for this to happen in order for the teacher to see the pupils and to engage with them. Pupils will switch their cameras off when on task or when the teacher requests for this to happen. Teachers will understand if a pupil is accessing the lesson on a device without a camera. It is important that every pupil has a microphone facility in order to engage in group work and to engage with the teacher. If a pupil has a particular reason to keep the camera switched off, they may want to explain this reason to the teacher through a direct message. We will expect every pupil to blur their background whilst on camera. This feature is available through pressing the three dots "…" on the tool bar whilst in the Teams call / lesson. Please could you support us after half term in encouraging your child to turn his/her camera on, for the benefit of our pupils and teachers, as many have been reluctant to do so. We would really appreciate your support in this issue.

Donations for the Tŷ Hafan and Children in Need charities: I am delighted to report that we have transferred donations to both charities this week following our fundraising activities last term. Thank you to all who donated. Tŷ Hafan received £1065.00 and Children in Need received the sum of £900.00. I also received an e-mail of thanks from the Dolen Cymru charity, who realised that a sudden upsurge in donations last month for their Lesotho COVID appeal could be attributed to Plasmawr parents who had responded to their appeal. Thank you, all.

Rainbow Week: We have been celebrating rainbow week throughout the week through various activities, including celebrating individuals as important role models and supporting Mind Cymru in their work of raising awareness of mental health issues in the LGBT+ community. We were permitted to release a song from the musical 'The Prom', which is available on the school, Digon, Music and Drama Twitter accounts. There is also a link should you wish to make a financial donation to Mind Cymru.

I sincerely hope that everyone will take time to draw breath next week and to reduce their screen time and enjoy some fresh air and exercise following a busy and tiring half term for all. Attached is a Half Term Challenge sheet, which is meant to encourage pupils to relax and to look after themselves over the half term holiday. Please keep safe during these difficult times and remember to contact the school should you require any support that we may be able to offer you as a family. Your child's emotional wellbeing is of paramount importance to us and we will do

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everything in our means to offer the best possible academic and pastoral support for your child during this lockdown period.

John Hayes
Headteacher