



Ysgol Bae Baglan

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very positive start to the new term and I hope both staff and pupils and their families have had a pleasant Easter holiday. This is a very important time, most especially for pupils in Year 10 and 11 with external examinations starting from 7th May and many pupils already completing coursework which will contribute to their overall grades awarded. To support GCSE success, additional revision classes will continue over this half term. Details can be found on our website under the Pupil -> GCSE EXAM INFORMATION page. We would encourage anyone who has questions about revision classes or examination timetables or procedures to look at this page.

- Year 11 will attend school full time until May half term. All have been issued with individual timetables and are expected to return to their normal classes after exams. After the May half term holiday, they will only attend school for examinations, or if they arrange to meet with their class teacher for more support.
- Year 10 will follow their normal timetable unless they are sitting a GCSE exam. All have been issued with individual timetables and are expected to return to their normal classes after exams.
- After May half term Year 9 will begin their GCSE curriculum which will include their chosen Option subjects, so it is important that they fully attend all lessons. New timetables will be issued.

I would also like to thank parents and pupils for the improvements we have seen in punctuality. I would like to remind all pupils that school starts at 8:30am and the school gates are locked at 8:35. Pupils arriving after 8:35am are required to sign in at main reception and those without a reasonable explanation for being late, or who are late on a regular basis will receive a text home. Continued lateness will result in detention and may result in the involvement of the Education Welfare Service.

I would also like to remind parents that attendance targets of 95% have been set by Welsh Government and pupils who are persistently absent will be referred to the Education Welfare Service. School will not authorise absence due to holidays during term time and may request additional information from medical professionals where parents regularly phone to say pupils are ill.

After our previous correspondence about access to toilets during lesson time, we received some questions and feedback from parents and pupils which I would like to answer. I want to make it clear that the school policy on allowing pupils to go to the toilet has not changed. Pupils will be allowed to go if they need to. More than half the toilets are open during lesson time. The toilets closest to classrooms on two floors are open all of the time. The distance between the closed toilets and open ones is about a 30 second walk. Access to accessible toilets is unchanged. All of the toilets are open when pupils arrive at school, at break and at lunchtime when they are supervised and more heavily in use. I would also like to emphasise that the changes we have made, including adding single gender toilet areas to school have been overwhelmingly positively appreciated by our pupils who understand that we are trying to make their experience better.

Yours sincerely,

R. Rees, Headteacher