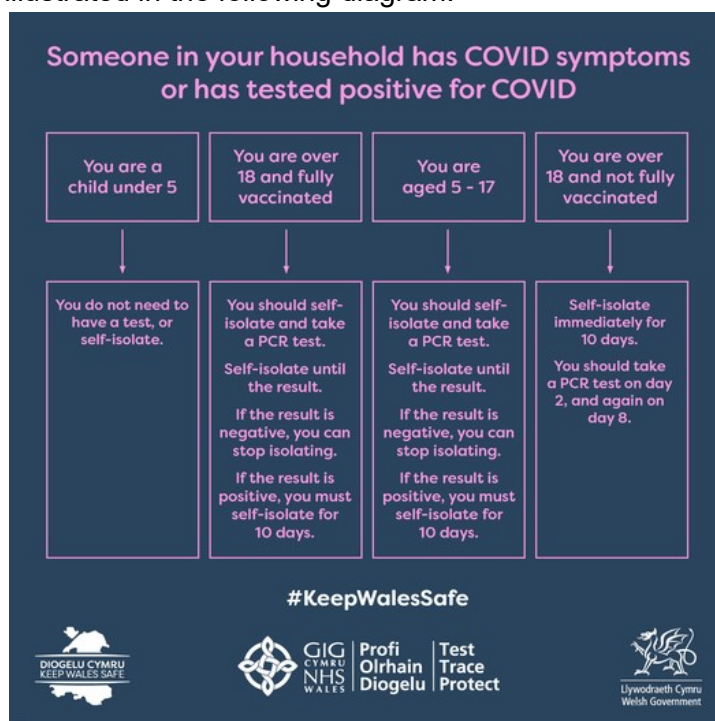


Dear parent/carers,

As we welcome pupils back after half term, it is an opportune time to update you on key developments and dates for your diary.

Covid-19.

You will be aware that Welsh Government have revised their advice to schools regarding Covid-19 testing. The key changes relate to household members who have tested positive for covid. From now on, pupils who do not display symptoms, but who do live in the same household as someone who has tested positive, or is awaiting a PCR test result should remain at home. If the PCR test of the family member returns a positive result then all members of the family should book a PCR test and self-isolate until all of the results are returned. Pupils should only return to school if the outcome of their PCR test is negative. The changes are illustrated in the following diagram.



To remind you, the guidance regarding covid cases states:

- If your child has tested positive using an LFT test, you should book a PCR test as soon as possible. You should keep your child at home until the outcome of the test.
- If your child displays any of the symptoms associated with covid-19, you should book a PCR test as soon as possible. As above, you should keep your child at home until the outcome of the test. The symptoms for covid include a combination of continuous coughing, a high temperature and loss of taste (and possibly smell). Additional symptoms may include feeling sick or tired and possibly diarrhoea.

Please inform the school if any of the above apply to your child. Pupils who are unable to attend school for covid-19 reasons will be able to access their school-work through Google Classrooms.

Cyfeiriad/Address: Heol Dyfed, Abergwaun, Sir Benfro SA65 9DT
Rhif ffôn/Tel: 01348 872268 Ffacs/Fax: 01348 872716
E-bost/E-mail: office@ysgolbrogwaun.com



We are experiencing an increasing number of positive cases at the school across all year groups and also including some members of staff. Also, as a consequence of the new rules, an increased number of both staff and pupils are self-isolating and awaiting test results. The school continues to function well however with attendance levels remaining high for all year groups. Again, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support and sensible decision making regarding this matter. As ever, ensuring good communication between the school and home is key to maintaining an effective response to the continuing challenge of coronavirus.

I urge all pupils to take part in our Lateral Flow Testing programme. This is a key strategy to help us combat the virus. Please contact wendy.davies@ysgolbrogwaun.com to receive your free testing kits.

School production of 'We Will Rock You'.

We have taken the difficult decision to postpone the production planned for December. The production will now take place during the week of the 7th of March, with the aim of running 3 evening performances during that week. We will provide you with details of how to purchase tickets and any covid related procedures nearer to the time of the performances.

Sports training and school fixtures.

The PE department continues to run after-school training programmes and school to school sports fixtures will also continue. The weekly training programme is advertised across the school. If your child is interested in getting involved, please ask them to see Mr Hughes or Mrs Page-Jones in the PE department, who I'm sure would be delighted to welcome them.

Year 7 Parental consultation evening - Wednesday 17th November.

This is an opportunity for us to share with you the progress your child is making at YBG and to give you an indication of how well they have settled. This will be a virtual event using an online system called School-Cloud. This is a system we used successfully last year with all of our year groups and will allow you to speak with teachers in a 'speed-dating' style format. Details of how to access the application and how to book meeting slots will have already been sent to you. Please contact the school if you are a parent/carer of a pupil in year 7 and have not received any information regarding this evening. We look forward to seeing you on-screen on the 17th.

Year 11 mock examinations and GCSE examination information.

GCSE Mock examinations will take place from Wednesday 17th November to Monday 29th November.

Pupils in Year 11 will have received their Mock exam timetables. A copy can be found [here](#).

It is currently Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales' position that examinations should return to normal in the Summer of 2022, with pupils sitting externally set and marked examinations in a formal exam setting such as the school hall. The mock examinations will provide pupils with the valuable experience which they have missed out

on over their last few years at school. It will also provide both pupils and teachers a measure of progress and information regarding areas that pupils need to improve. Whilst the goal of Welsh Government is to see a return to normal examinations, their most recent letter recognises that this may not be possible due to covid restrictions and that consideration may have to be given to an alternative approach to assessing performance and determining grades. They indicate that it may be necessary to adopt contingency arrangements in the form of a 'Centre Determined Grading' process, similar to the process carried out in schools this year. We will be informed of their decision closer to the time of the exams. Whilst we all hope that adaptations to the exam process will not be necessary, we should consider the worst case scenario, in that pupils may be graded on the evidence that they produce during the school year, including the outcomes of their mock examinations. I stress that final GCSE grades will not depend solely on mock results, however the outcomes from the mock examinations may be used as part of the evidence base used to make final judgments on GCSE grades. Other evidence gathered throughout the year may also be used and pupils will be informed of which assessments may be used to inform our judgements. Please see the [latest letter](#) from Qualifications Wales. We will of course keep you informed of developments as we receive them.

Year 8 Examinations.

Year 8 examinations will take place from Tuesday 30th November to Friday 3rd December. The timetable can be seen [here](#).

Thank-you very much for your continued support during these challenging times.



Paul Edwards