

YEAR 11

Islwyn High School
Class of 2020



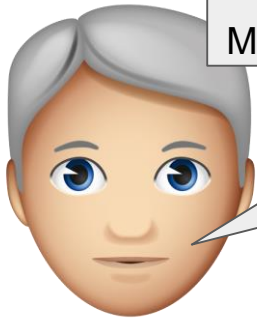
A message from Mr Cotter.....

I hope you are all keeping well in these strange and uncertain times. This is definitely not the end to your school career we were all expecting or hoping for. You have been a fantastic year group for our school and you are and will be missed by all staff at the school. You deserve the same end to secondary school that all other groups have had, more on this later. I really hope you and your family are well and making the most of the situation we all find ourselves in. Look after each other, hopefully you are finding new ways of engaging as a family and using this time to enjoy each others' company, I know I am!

I know this is not the way most of you would have wanted to finish your GCSEs, not having the chance to sit exams and show how much hard work and revision you have done over the last 2 years and get those grades that you need for the next stage in your life! Rest assured that this hard work will be recognised in the grades you finally receive, your teachers know you very well.

I am sure in the near future we will be able to meet up, celebrate and look back at your time at Islwyn High School. Until then, it has been an absolute pleasure being your Head of Year and just being part of your lives for the last 4 or 5 years. Seeing you turn into well rounded young adults from those young children I remember in year 7 and 8 (which I can still see on your Sims photos!) has been awesome. Stay safe and I'll see you all soon.

Mr Cotter (A very proud Head of Year!)



Making Sure You Are Prepared.



It is vital at this point that you are organised around your next steps after school. Make sure you have been in contact with your college of choice and accept any offers of a place made to you. Some pupils are still yet to reply to emails sent by the college.

- I have been in regular contact with the Careers Advisor, she has given me her email should you have ANY queries.

sara.llewellyn@careerswales.com

- Remember there is also a LIVE CHAT option on the Careers Wales website where you can access more help. The website is:

www.careerswales.gov.wales

This is a good site to look at with lots of useful information. Why not take a look?

Click on "Chat now" option.

If you do nothing else PLEASE make sure you are fully aware and organised around your next step after school! Don't leave things to chance.

- More information to follow from Crosskeys College.
- The site below might also be useful for looking at course availability in a vocational route. There should be a list of courses available - <http://www.cymoedd.ac.uk/en/subjects/>
- It would be a good idea to complete any work that was set for you during the lockdown. One, because it will give you a focus and two, it will make sure there are no gaps in your knowledge before you move on to college etc.
- If all this is done, why not do some reading around the content of your new courses that you hope to start in September. This way you will get a head start, I am sure the course contents/syllabus are available online.
- If you haven't applied at all and intend to, please take a look at what is on offer. Send emails and make enquiries, make sure Colleges/ Careers Advisors know your intentions, as they are not mind readers! Meetings will be taking place shortly, to look at where our year group is in terms of applying.

The Plan

I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss some of the things the school is looking to do and I know you have asked Form Teachers about.

1. Hoodies - You will be glad to know that I now have these safe at my house! As soon as it is possible and safe to do so, we will look to get these out to you.

2. Prom -There is still a desire to reschedule this at some point, when it is safe to do so. This will be dependent on how many pupils still want one!

3. Photos - I have still heard nothing about these at this point. As soon as we know the plan you will be informed!

4. Leavers Assembly – Again, hopefully we can plan something in the future to look back and celebrate your time at Islwyn High school.

I am sure there will be opportunities at a later date for us all to meet up and celebrate your school career in different settings. I know this is something the school really wants to make happen in some form.

Yay! Hoodies!!!!
Can't move for hoodies in my house now but at least they are finally here!



Now Some Messages from Form Teachers...

11AL

11LP



Remember this day?! Summer of 2017, where has the time gone? You all looked so young!

I was a bit nervous of meeting you all. I was anxious that taking on a form group half way through their high school years would be difficult. I needn't have worried, you have been the best form I have ever had, and in the last 20 years I have had quite a few form groups!

Seeing you go on that Thursday afternoon was a very sad day for me, and I've missed seeing you every morning since. I haven't missed checking your bags for blazers, and noses for piercings, but I've missed you as people. Watching you all listen to Mr. Cotter, who was trying not to cry, and then seeing you all saying your goodbyes to friends and teachers, made me realise what a fabulous year group you were. I am proud to have been the form teacher for some of you.

In the future I fully expect to hear more about you. Grace will be on the stage, Alex will be a professional footballer, Cory and Sam J will be in a band and I will be reading Amy's best-selling novel. Tom will be Prime Minister, Evan will be an engineer, Arwen, Amelia and Madara will be famous artists, and Iestyn will have bought an alarm clock!

Whatever your plans for the future are, I hope you will look back and remember your school days as happy ones. I might be biased, but I think you all deserve the very best for the future. Try to make the most of every opportunity that comes your way, your future is what you make it. I am looking forward to seeing you all in August on results day, so set those alarm clocks!

All the best, and stay safe.

Mrs. Lewis

LP Legends! What an epic few years it has been! Despite the blazer battle each day, I couldn't have spent my mornings with a better bunch of people. As a form class you were chatty, bubbly and funny. You filled 308 with your different personalities that created one brilliant group of people. You made me sad when you told me my dancing was embarrassing; that Harry Potter is awful and you will never like Westlife! But you also made me smile and laugh each morning; kept my days busy with your requests and impressed me with the knowledge you had (academic or gossipy)! My mornings at home are certainly not the same. I have to say though, I'm probably missing the Newsround presenters more than you lot ;)! Seriously? What am I going to do without my LP Legends? The hole you have left in 308 won't be filled by any other class. You're fabulous people with a cracking future ahead of you; I can't wait to hear about your success stories as you continue to achieve big things! You really have made the first four years of my teaching career special – thank you! Stay safe! Stay positive! Stay awesome!

Ps. You've finally got a goodbye message without having to watch me blub!!!!

Miss Poole

11SH

Our last day was not the best. Not enough time for assembly or to say a proper goodbye.

Although it seemed unfair, it was the dreaded bug and not the school that caused it.

We will have time, at our prom to say a proper goodbye. There is so much that we all wanted to say but you will have time when this is over.

Keep safe and healthy, concentrate on getting prepared for college. You have my school email and you know where our form room is, so if you need any help or advice you know how to get hold of me.

11SH, you know you were the best and always will be.

11JC



I did not get the chance to tell you all how much I enjoyed being your form teacher. I'm going to miss you all, I'll miss your jokes and your smiling faces. I'll miss the funny things you say that crack me up. I will miss the debates we had, they made me reflect on my own views and opinions. Some of you were loud, some of you quiet, in fact a few of you just slept! But all of you are special and I wish you every success and happiness in the future.

Stay safe

Mrs. Collins

11AW2

Dear 11HR,

Well, here we are six weeks in and I hope you are all still keeping well and looking after yourselves and your loved ones. I think we are probably over the shock of your last day happening so quickly but it was still a very strange feeling that following day to have a quiet, empty classroom without you all (even though I used to joke I was looking forward to it!)

It has been great to keep in touch with you and your family over this lockdown period and hearing all about what you've been up to since you left Islwyn High such as painting (good job, Alicia!) riding your bike (hope the pedal is fixed, Sophie!) mowing the lawn (nice one, Chaz!) and many other activities which have involved you helping others, keeping healthy and, above all, staying safe. It has really kept me going throughout this challenging time as I try and stay sane while home schooling my own children – give me a rainy, lesson 1 with Year 11 any day!

So, as we approach the summer, please continue to keep positive and plan for all the exciting times you have ahead of you in whatever route you are taking. Remember to keep in touch, don't hesitate to ask if you need any advice or guidance and know that myself and the whole Year 11 team are looking forward to seeing you very soon, whenever that may be.

Keep smiling!

Year 11,

Having been lucky enough to get to know most of you at some point over the last 5 years, I just wanted to say a huge good luck to all of you! Seeing how mature you have become and how hard you worked towards your Maths this year has been a pleasure; you've reminded me daily (well most days anyway) why I became a teacher in the first place so thank you.

11GP2

My days will certainly not be the same without seeing your faces every morning. No more nagging about chewing gum, coats, jewellery... but in all seriousness despite all my grumbling I am extremely proud of every one of you and I know you will achieve everything you want because you deserve it. Looking forward to seeing you all at some point in the near future. Stay safe.

Miss Phipps

And More

11AW2

Year 11, you are an incredible bunch. In the time I've known you, as your teacher and your form teacher, you've made me laugh, and you've made me cry (sometimes both at the same time!). You are brave, curious, hilariously funny, and infuriating at times!! I will miss you more than I care to admit. It's been a privilege witnessing you become such lovely young people, and I wish the very best for each of you going forward, whatever you choose to do.

Look after yourselves, you lovely lot. Please stay in touch!

Miss Woodcock

11ME! I can't tell you how much I wish we were in school and this was a normal Monday assembly. I even wish I was listening to you moan about going to assembly! It has been very odd not to have seen you every morning over these last few weeks, but I know that we are all safe which is the most important thing. Make sure that you keep on being safe: make the most of the lie-ins, and the box sets, and the sun in the garden. Try to read a book every now and again to stop your brains from turning to mush.

I am missing you loads. Trying to home school these two little people here makes me miss you even more!

Take lots and lots of care, and I hope to see you all really soon.

Mrs Edwards 😊