

Belong . . .
Believe . . .
Achieve . . .



Waterloo
Oakdale
BLACKWOOD
NP12 ONU
01495 233600
ihsca@caerphilly.gov.uk
www.islwynhigh.org

Headteacher: Mr J Hicks

Chair of Governors: Mr G Bryce

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Today, an announcement was made that all schools will continue with a model of distance learning for the next few weeks with a review due at the end of January. From Monday 11th January, all students will continue to follow their school timetable remotely on Google Classroom. I feel it is important to remind you and your child of the way we learn during this time.

Blended Learning@ Islwyn High

All students, although not in school, are expected to fully engage in their online learning and complete all tasks set by their teachers until they return to face to face teaching. It is important students, wherever possible, maintain a good routine and continue to make progress in their studies.

To ensure our distance and blended learning continues to develop successfully and affords all our pupils the best learning experience at this time, we will continue to measure the engagement and completion. The assignments completed will directly inform elements of teacher assessment. As such, subject teachers will continue monitor your child's completion of work and this engagement will be shared with you.

Throughout this period, we will undertake wellbeing calls to students on a regular basis. This has proven very popular for both students and staff.

Specific Instructions for Live Lessons on Google Meets

The school is working hard to try to ensure that a greater proportion of sessions are what might be termed #live sessions' whilst enduring that we comply with government guidelines to safeguard staff and pupils when working in this environment. We are expecting redrafted advice from the Welsh Government which should improve the situation in the coming days.

When on a Google Meet, students must:

- ensure their cameras are turned off for the lesson
- ensure appropriate clothing is worn (this may not be school uniform, but it is helpful for students to get up and dressed to help keep a routine)
- be aware that all live lessons will be recorded via the Google meet App.

Our expectations in live lessons are just as they would be for normal lessons. i.e. use appropriate language, engage with one another in a kind manner and only use the chat bar when requested by the teacher. Students who are not attending these live sessions may be contacted by staff to ensure there are no issues in accessing their blended learning. From today you should have better access to staff with particular responsibilities to support you at this time.

Some useful contacts:

- ICT support – Mr Richard Meade at helpdesk@islwynhigh.org
- Subject specific and pastoral support – see list on the front page of the website
- Blended Learning Lead – contact myself on davism@caerphilly.gov.uk

We continue to thank you all for your on-going support and assure you of our very best endeavours at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Martin Davis
Deputy Head Teacher
(Blended Learning Lead)