



Ysgol Maesydderwen

School & Sixth Form Centre | Ysgol a Chanolfan Chweched Dosbarth

Engaging all to learn, inspiring all to succeed | Hybu pawb i ddysgu, ysbrydoli pawb i lwyddo

COVID-19 Update

2 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am no doubt you are aware we were informed on Wednesday 30 September that one of our learners had tested positive for COVID-19. As a precautionary measure, to safeguard the wellbeing of learners and staff, we ensured that a number of learners immediately left the school to start self-isolating at home. In line with current government guidelines we have worked closely with Powys LA and Public Health Wales to identify the learners who were contacts of the positive case.

During the afternoon of Thursday 1 October we started to phone parents and inform them of when their child can end their self-isolation and they have been provided with a return date. Learners fall into 3 main categories:

- Learners who have been identified as a not being a contact and can return immediately to school – parents have received a phone call with this information
- Learners whose self-isolation ends next week and they are able to return to school next week – parents have received a phone call with their own personal information
- Learners whose self-isolation ends on Saturday 10 October 2020 and are able to return to school on Monday 12 October 2020 – parents in this group have not received a phone call

Hence if your child has been asked to self-isolate and you have not received a phone call then they must continue to self-isolate until Saturday 10 October 2020 and then return to school on Monday 12 October 2020.

To further confirm the above the school will provide an additional letter to parents and learners via parental emails. If your child has been asked to self-isolate and you do not receive the letter by the end of Friday 2 October 2020 then please email office@maesydderwen-hs.powys.sch.uk.

For all learners in other year groups who have not been asked to self-isolate and have attended school this week they need to continue to attend school as usual.

Self-isolation advice requires your child to stay at home, not to go outdoors to exercise, to visit shops, family or friends, or to other public spaces. Please do not invite people to your house. If your child remains well then no other members of the household need to self-isolate and can continue with their normal activities. If your child is still well at the end of the period of self-isolation, they can return to school and their other usual activities.

Whilst your child is self-isolating work will be provided by our usual blended learning approaches via Google Classroom. If there are any issues with the work then learners can email their subject teacher or Head of Year in the first instance.

Additional advice for all parents

I will take this opportunity to remind parents of the protocols around COVID-19.

Please be alert for symptoms of COVID-19 in your child, which are:

- A new or continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

If your child develops any of these symptoms, even if they are mild:

- Inform the Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) team who will be in daily contact with you
- If advised by TTP book a test for them by phoning 119 or through the online portal: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Inform Ysgol Maesydderwen Comprehensive School that they are unwell with COVID-19 symptoms and that you have requested a test
- Your child should remain in self-isolation
- All other household members should isolate for 14 days from when your child developed symptoms
- Do not visit a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital but if you require medical advice please contact NHS 111 or telephone your GP; if there is a medical emergency phone 999. If you require medical advice for COVID-19 symptoms or another reason, please inform the healthcare worker that your child is a contact of a case of COVID-19 and in self-isolation
- Please follow the advice provided when your child receives their test result

The key to the above is self-isolation. If your child (or anyone in the household) develops symptoms then the whole household needs to self-isolate. As indicated above please inform the school and we will support you in the above process. As a reminder any child who is self-isolating can only return to the school when it has been sanctioned by the Headteacher.

Finally, may I thank you for continued support over the last few days. I appreciate for parents it has been an anxious and worrying time but it is important for the safety of all that we took the correct amount of time to ensure we provide correct details of self-isolation. There are areas in this process we will learn from and if we are in this position again our service will improve. I would like to particularly thank those parents that both myself and staff of the school have spoken to over the last few days for their positive comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "PDL Grimes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single blue stroke.

Phil Grimes
Headteacher