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Ysgol Uwchradd Llanwern High School

Pennaeth Mrs T Jarvis Headteacher

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16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

As another academic year finishes, I think we can all agree that it has been a year like no other. Despite having returned to school in September 2020 and the hope that we were going to be able to get back to normal, it soon became apparent that this was not going to be the case.

With year group isolations, staff shortages, the firebreak week at the October half term point, an earlier finish at Christmas to revert to remote learning and another period of lockdown, we found ourselves not really returning to school properly until after Easter and the 'normal' school year that we were all keen to have did not materialise.

That said, despite the disruption and despite the challenges that we have all faced I have never been more proud to be the Headteacher of Llanwern High School. Staff have worked incredibly hard to overcome the difficulties with moving between on site and remote learning and support for the pupils, the pupils themselves have been resilient and have managed to adapt to the ever changing situation and, as ever, you as parents, guardians and the wider family units that support our children have been incredibly supportive.

I've always known that there is a great sense of community within Llanwern High School and within the local areas which we serve, but over the past year, the pandemic has only shone a light on this strength and only further enhanced my belief that we are able to work successfully together and in collaboration for the best interests of our young people.

Our pupils have been amazing, but I would like to recognise, in particular, those in examination years. It could be argued that the challenges over the past year have been most keenly felt by these pupils, but the way in which they adapted to the changes with the move away from formal examinations this year and engaged so positively with our centre determined grade processes this summer has been impressive and I know that the provisional grades already issued have been well deserved. These provisional grades will be officially issued by the WJEC and emailed to all pupils over the summer break on the following two dates:

AS/A Level - Tuesday 10th August

GCSE - Thursday 12th August

Whilst I don't doubt that the pupils will already be looking forward to the summer break, September will be with us before we know it and arrangements for our return to September are summarised below:

Thursday 2nd September	Whole school inset day - no school for pupils
Friday 3rd September	Whole school inset day - no school for pupils
Monday 6th September	Y7 and Y12 pupils on site only
Tuesday 7th September	All pupils return to school

When year 7 and year 12 start with us on Monday 7th September they will receive a full induction into the next phase of their school career.

For year 7 the Navy will be on site to deliver team building activities, there will be tours of the school, a treasure hunt and sessions to help them get to know each other and the staff.

For year 12, the focus will be on supporting them to make the move into sixth form, which will include study skills sessions with the University of South Wales and an introduction to the VESPA programme.

On Tuesday 7th September when all pupils return to school from 8.30am there will be an extended pastoral session to welcome the pupils back, issue timetables and revisit key operational details.

On arriving to school from September, the expectation to line up in the separate year group areas each morning with the pupils being collected by their form tutors for registration will continue but a reminder of these arrangements, along with other relevant operational details will be shared with you ahead of our return to school in the new academic year.

Ahead of the return to school in the new academic year, please also find our updated appearance policy for all pupils attached. This has been reviewed and approved by the school governing body and will need to be adhered to by all pupils from September.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to say thank you again for all your support and your continued work with us as a school in the support of our young people. I would also like to wish you and your families a great summer!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Jarvis', written in a cursive style.

Mrs T Jarvis
Headteacher