

# Ysgol Harri Tudur Henry Tudor School

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow    Dysgwyr Heddiw, Arweinwyr Yfory

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

**Headteacher/Pennaeth**  
Mrs Fiona E.J. Kite  
BA(Hons), PGCE, CLT, FoCT, NPQH

**Deputy Headteachers/  
Dirprwy Benaethiaid**  
Mr A Barlow  
BSc (Hons), MSc, PGCE, NPQH  
Mr T Crichton  
BA (Hons), PGCE

**Assistant Headteachers/  
Penaethiaid Cynorthwyol**  
Mrs A Andrews  
BA (Hons), PGCE, Dip SpEd AMBDA,  
Cert PT, MBPS  
Mr R Ellis  
BSc (Hons), PGCE  
Mrs A James  
BSc (Hons), PGCE  
Mrs S Smith  
BA (Hons), MA, PGCE

**Business Manager/Rheolwr Busnes**  
Mr N Makin OBE  
BSc (Hons), MA

Dear Parent/Carer

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the Welsh Government outlined specific guidelines regarding attendance. I would like to draw your attention to the following school expectation on attendance for September 2020.

## Attendance expectations

All learners are expected to return to their school or setting in the autumn term unless they have a medical/health reason not to. School attendance from the start of term will be essential to help our learners catch up on missed education, make progress and promote their well-being and wider development.

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct



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Pembroke/Penfro SA71 4RL  
Tel/Ffôn: 01646 682461  
Email/E-bost: [contact@yht.wales](mailto:contact@yht.wales)  
[www.yht.wales](http://www.yht.wales)

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### **Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating**

We now know much more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and so in future there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school. You should note however that, **Under no circumstances should learners or staff attend schools/settings if they:**

- feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, or a high temperature or loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days
- live in a household or are part of an extended household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we expect schools to be able to **immediately offer them access to remote education.**

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

### **Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school**

**All pupils must attend school.** Schools will bear in mind the potential concerns of pupils, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and put the right support in place to address this. This may include pupils who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary, those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes.

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, we recommend parents/carers discuss their concerns with school, where school measures to reduce the risk in school can be shared.

With kind regards,

Mr Barlow  
Deputy Headteacher