



YSGOL UWCHRADD CAEREINION

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Pennaeth **Miss Iona Davies B.A. M.A.** Headteacher

May 22nd, 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

For many years, study leave was granted to year 11 students prior to their GCSE examinations. However, the Welsh Assembly Government has issued strict guidelines regarding the use of study leave for year 11 students as follows:

“At age 15-16 a high proportion of students do not have the skills, or are not inclined, to make the best use of large amounts of unsupervised and unstructured revision time.

Whilst it may be a positive experience for some students, for many study leave can be wholly inappropriate and they are best working in school with their teachers and peers up until their last exam.

Successful preparation for examinations needs to be a deliberate and carefully planned experience for students.

Where a school decides to issue study leave it should do so sparingly and should not exceed 15 days.

Study leave cannot be counted as an ‘approved educational activity’ as it is unsupervised.

When used in excess study leave will ultimately have a negative impact on a school’s overall attendance rate.”

Year 11 are therefore required to attend school as per usual. If a pupil is absent due to illness, you should still notify the school. During this week (May 22nd-26th), pupils will either be in examinations, in usual lessons or in revision lessons, where students will be guided and will practise examination technique and answering examination questions. In a small minority of subjects where all assessments have been completed, students must ensure they have adequate work with them to continue with quiet revision sessions which will be supervised by staff. Please note that pupils will not be allowed to use electronic devices including mobile phones during revision sessions.

After half term, pupils will be able to revise quietly in school, but there will also be targeted revision sessions for certain subjects. Pupils will be notified of the days and times of these revision sessions by their subject teachers. Dates and times will also be published on the school’s website. Pupils who come into school for revision sessions in the morning, will be

expected to stay in school to revise in the afternoon or bring a letter of permission from home, along with details who will be collecting them. Official 'study leave' will begin on **Monday, 5th June**. I would like to request your cooperation as parents to ensure that pupils prepare carefully and revise thoroughly for these external examinations.

I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and also to wish every pupil well during this important period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iona Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Iona Davies
Headteacher

PLEASE NOTE MATHS REVISION TIMES FOR ALL PUPILS

June 7th lessons 1-4 (for pupils re-sitting Numeracy)

June 12th lessons 5 + 6 (English examination in the morning)

June 19th lessons 1-4