

To: Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Gofynnwch Am:  
Please Ask For:  
Rhif Est:  
Telephone N°:  
Ffacs:  
Fax:  
E-Bost:  
E-Mail:  
Cylchlythyr:  
Circular:

Gaynor Davies

Fy nghyf: GD/TM  
My Ref:

Eich Cyf:  
Your Ref:

Dyddiad: 17/12/20  
Date:

Dear Parent/Carer,

With transmission levels continuing to increase across Wales, and uncertainty over the potential impact on school staffing levels over the Christmas break, I am writing to advise you that there is a need to build some flexibility into the start of spring term arrangements.

Schools will be closed to learners on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of January, when there will be an opportunity to assess staffing levels and plan for the transition of learners back into school. All schools will plan to get priority learners back to school from the 6<sup>th</sup> onwards, with the expectation that all schools will be providing face to face learning for the majority of their pupils by 11<sup>th</sup> January, leading to a full return in the days before 18<sup>th</sup> January at the latest.

Where a school has moved to remote learning because of exceptional and specific local circumstances, schools will be expected to make special arrangements for vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers to attend.

In these circumstances, vulnerable learner provision will be made in all schools for high priority children

- that have additional learning needs;
- are looked after;
- are young carers;
- are in need of care and support; or
- with child protection needs.

**Tŷ Trevithick**  
Abercynon, Aberpennar, CF45 4UQ  
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**Gaynor Davies**  
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant | Director of Education and Inclusion Services

### **Dewiswch iaith a diwyg eich dogfen | Available in alternative formats and languages**

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog. We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



**MAE EICH DATA O BWYS** [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/diogeludata](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/diogeludata)  
**YOUR DATA MATTERS** [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection)



Critical worker provision will only be made available in primary schools, special schools or PRUs when a setting is not open to all year groups. Your child's school will notify you on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> if this offer is available to the following eligible workers:

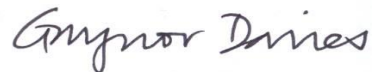
- Blue light workers, including NHS, Police, Ambulance and Fire Service staff;
- Social care workers (including care homes); and
- Childcare or education staff.

The plan to return to schools in January will give some certainty, whilst also allowing for flexibility to take account of local circumstances. These measures are required to protect our children, staff and communities and to ensure that we minimise disruption to our children's education.

Teachers, school staff, learners, parents and carers' response has been remarkable throughout this pandemic and I thank you for your continued patience and support.

Best wishes for a safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guynor Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Director of Education and Inclusion Services**