

# Addysg / Education



Pennaeth Addysg /  
Head of Education – Garem Jackson

☎ (01286) 679089 Ein Cyf / Our Ref:  
📄 (01286) 677347 Eich Cyf / Your Ref:  
✉ GaremJackson@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



15 June 2020

TO: PARENTS/CARERS OF GWYNEDD SCHOOL CHILDREN

A fortnight ago, the Education Minister in Wales announced the gradual reopening of schools for check in and catch up arrangements.

This will provide an opportunity for children and young people to attend schools for allocated periods in order that they can be supported in their wellbeing and learning. The check in and catch up arrangements will vary from school to school; they should focus on responding to pupils' emotional health and wellbeing needs and on ensuring that there is continuity between school-based support and home learning.

At this point, we need to thank you most sincerely, as parents and carers, for the educational support you have been providing over the past weeks and the way you have nurtured a vibrant partnership with schools. It is unlikely that schools will return to the way they were operated prior to the lockdown for some considerable time; it's difficult to place a timeframe on this. We need to approach the check in, catch up arrangements as first steps towards inspiring and exciting pupils about learning once again.

Our school staff have been fantastic in the way they have kept learning going. It is clear from recent experience that learning knows no boundaries and will not be locked down. However, the restrictions placed on schools will be lifted carefully and cautiously. Each individual school will make decisions on how they will open and which age groups will be prioritised. We expect this process to be developmental and as schools and their communities gain greater confidence and rhythm, they will progress towards admitting up to a third of pupils at any one time, though it may take time to reach this level of operation.

We appreciate that there will be apprehension and uncertainty. Schools will engage with parents and carers over the next few weeks to inform them of their reopening plans and to provide reassurances where they are needed.

Staff are preparing schools to ensure that their operation complies with local and national guidance and ensure that they are as safe as possible for pupils and staff.

Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd LL55 1SH  
01766 771000  
www.gwynedd.llyw.uk

Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian  
*Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money*

We expect schools to contact pupils, preparing them to make the most of their time at school and explaining how their learning experiences will be enhanced.

We will require schools to ensure that pupils and parents understand as soon as possible how environments, procedures and operation have been adapted in order to accommodate, as safely as possible, the return of pupils to schools. These arrangements will be reviewed regularly and will be subject to change wherever necessary, placing the safety of pupils and staff at the centre of consideration.

Childcare provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable learners will continue to be provided in schools until the end of term. Details concerning the childcare provision over the summer holiday will reach you as soon as possible.

Owing to the regulations set by Welsh Government on social distancing, our home to school transport provision will be significantly restricted. All parents are encouraged to transport their own children to school. Your school will inform you of these arrangements in more detail.

We will support schools to approach their check in and catch up arrangements with care and confidence, with diligence and detail and with assurance and optimism. We will also provide you with guidance which will answer the key questions you will have concerning this process.

I invite you to engage with this process in order that we can take these steps forward together, supporting our children to continue to learn and to succeed.

Yours sincerely



**Gareth Jackson**  
**Head of Education**



**Councillor Cemlyn Rees Williams**  
**Cabinet Member – Education**