



14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEAR 11

Writer Marty Rubin said, "Books end. Stories never end." And what stories children in Year 11 have to tell after one of the most extraordinary years in our history! As we approach the end of statutory education for this year group, I would like to pay tribute to the remarkable resilience and spirit they have shown. For the vast majority of learners, the process of evidence-gathering for Centre Determined Grades has been simple and straight forward (if not a little joyless). But, for a few, I know that the return to school after lockdown has been marred with difficulty. For this, I am sorry.

With a heavy heart, we are not permitted to mark the end of Year 11 in the usual way; there will be no celebration assemblies and no prom. Staff will, in their own way, ensure that goodbyes are said. For most, of course, our focus will shift quickly onto continuing studies in the Sixth Form. However, for some our journey together will end. We must not be despondent. In the words of poet Seamus Heaney:

"Since when," he asked,
"Are the first line and last line of any poem
where the poem begins and ends?"

Change of dates

There is a need to amend the date of the final assessment for English from Thursday 27 May to Friday 21 May. This change will allow us to facilitate a 100-minute masterclass prior to the assessment which will increase learners' confidence as energy levels begin to wane. The final assessments take place between Monday 24 May and Wednesday 26 May. Year 11 will no longer be required to attend school from Thursday 27 May onward and I will contact you once more nearer that date.

Acceptance to the Sixth Form

I am grateful to those who have applied for a place to study with us in the sixth form. For current St Teilo's pupils, admission to our sixth form is guaranteed. However, I wish to remind families that strict entry criteria apply to courses at level 3. The full details about these programmes of study (including insights from current students) can be found here: <http://www.stteilos.com/students/sixth-form/>

For some young people, it is appropriate to continue to study at level 2. This means that the types of courses offered at colleges of further education are more likely to meet their needs. With the support of Careers Wales, school staff have worked directly with every child to

secure a destination. Please do ensure that your child is confident about their next steps and, should you have any questions, please contact Mrs Phillips (j.phillips@stteilos.com) or Mrs Johnson (c.johnson@stteilos.com) directly.

Sixth Form Foundation Course

All pupils who intend to study with us in the Sixth Form are invited to take part in a foundation course to prepare for the demands of study at level 3. In the weeks commencing 28 June and 5 July, children will be invited back to school to follow a 32 lesson programme, over four subjects, to address gaps in learning prior to commencing Year 12. These sessions will also act as a useful 'taster' if pupils are unsure about which subjects they wish to pursue.

From 12 July, 'bridging modules' will be available online to further prepare students for life and study in the sixth form. Sign-up instructions will be made available with provisional Centre Determined grades in the week commencing 21 June.

Further information

Much has changed for Year 11 in the previous few months and families, quite reasonably, may feel confused. Should you have any questions or queries, please do feel free to contact me directly at headteacher@stteilos.com. I will, as ever, seek to assist you as quickly as I am able.

With every prayer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Loynd', written in a cursive style.

Mr I Loynd
Headteacher