

# Parentmail Year 11 Update 22.11.21

Dear Parent/Carer

## Impact of Covid-19 on staffing levels in school

In our last 2 Parentmail updates, we informed you that staff illness and Welsh Government Covid-19 isolation regulations were having a considerable impact on staffing levels in school.

We have been managing to cope with these impacts and have maintained face to face teaching for all year groups. However as outlined previously the situation is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. We are now at a stage where we need to implement contingency plans to ensure that most pupils continue to attend school as normal until the last day of term (Thursday 16 December).

One of these measures will affect Year 11 pupils as outlined below.

Pupils in Year 11 will not sit traditional mock exams this December. These will be postponed.

The School has to comply with Public Health Wales guidance which tells schools to avoid large gatherings of people for prolonged periods of time. This would apply to conducting examinations in the Sports Hall with up to 200 pupils present for up to 2 hours at a time.

Uncertainty also remains regarding the status of external exams in 2022. Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales have yet to decide whether these exams will go ahead or not. The School will have to react quickly to the final decision regarding these exams. This decision will have an impact on the precise timing and nature of mock exams

Therefore, formal mock exams will be held later in the academic year in the spring term (probably 4 to 6 weeks before the start of formal external exams, if they go ahead). However, the exact nature of the mock exams will be dependent on:

- the public health situation;
- Public Health Wales guidance; and
- decisions made by Qualifications Wales regarding 2022 exams.

However, as part of the School's 2022 examinations contingency plan, pupils will continue to sit in-class assessments during December which may count as "evidence" should the 2022 exam season be cancelled. The nature of these in-class assessments will be dependent on the requirements of individual subject areas.

Regards,  
Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior Leadership Team.