



**NEWBRIDGE**  
SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

This morning all headteachers in Wales were informed by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language that schools should be closed to pupils for the first two days in the January term (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January).

This closure is to allow schools appropriate planning time to:

- assess staffing capacity
- analyse Covid data from the Christmas period to refine risk assessments
- plan for learners to safely sit their January exams (which are expected to go ahead)
- ensure there is a robust plan in place for any potential move to remote learning, depending on staffing pressures (to date, this has not been an issue at our school)

Although I expect many of our safety measures to remain the same, I will write to you with more detail as and when things change. I am sure you share my disappointment at having to close the school to pupils at the start of the term, but we will ensure that our planning is centred on ensuring a safe return to high-quality classroom learning for all pupils as soon as possible (and a continuation of this through the term). The minister is clear that there is expected to be a full return for all pupils on the third day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

This term has been a very successful one for the school despite the Covid pressures, including the creation of a new after-school programme of clubs/societies and new lunchtime sports sessions for all pupils. We have also run a highly effective mock examination programme for Year 11 pupils, who should be commended for the way they approached their exams (and no doubt will do so again in January). Most importantly, we saw a full term of pupils back in school, working hard and enjoying their learning.

As we head into Christmas, please remember that we finish slightly earlier on the last day at 1.30pm. In the absence of a physical school concert, our Music and Drama departments have worked hard with pupils to create a virtual Newbridge School Christmas Concert. Please view this on our website under News and Events: <https://www.newbridgeschool.org.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=12>

I wish you and your family a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year.  
Nadoli LLawen,

Mr. A. Thompson  
Headteacher