

# Ysgol Harri Tudur Henry Tudor School

Headteacher/Pennaeth  
Mrs Fiona E.J. Kite  
BA(Hons), PGCE, CLT, FoCT, NPQH

Learners First Dysgwyr yng Nghyntaf

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 BY EMAIL

Dear Parents/Guardians and Carers,

Further to the school's decision to enter into a 'Lockdown' on the afternoon of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, we have received a number of emails from parents, some of whom have asked questions about the reason for the lockdown action, or about the lockdown process itself.

As a school we are incredibly grateful to the parents/carers who have taken the time to make such constructive comments and consequently we have collated the following responses which we hope will reassure parents, carers and the learners themselves about this and possible future lockdowns. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents present on site who showed their support to the staff and the police during the lockdown.

Firstly, can we begin by thanking the numerous parents, carers and indeed learners themselves, who have complimented the school and its staff on the manner in which the lockdown was conducted and how staff took every opportunity to keep the children in their care safe and reassured; **this is always our paramount consideration during any perceived emergency.**

Declaring a lockdown is never an easy decision to make as we fully appreciate that the experience can be upsetting for learners (and indeed parents, carers and school staff alike), **nevertheless it was deemed necessary on Friday afternoon following a written threat that was communicated electronically and received by clerical staff at the school, at approximately 1.10pm**

We refer to the following points in response to some of the queries we have received, which we hope you will all find useful.

- A number of parents and carers have asked for reassurance that any pupil responsible for the lockdown be permanently excluded from school. You will appreciate that as a school we cannot comment on any individual learner(s), however we would like to reassure you that fully appropriate measures have already been sanctioned and will be used for any learners found to have been involved, or who engage in further incidents or threats.
- It is worth noting that there has been much unhelpful speculation about the cause of the lockdown and we would advise learners, parents and carers not to engage in naming names. We have been authorised to inform all parents that the rumour of a pupil coming on site or being on site with a weapon, bladed or otherwise, is completely false and we can assure you that no such incident ever took place. It is worrying that the local media chose to report such an assumption.



[www.henrytudorschool.wales](http://www.henrytudorschool.wales) [www.ysgolharritudur.cymru](http://www.ysgolharritudur.cymru)



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  @YsgolHT

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- Some parents have asked for confirmation that the school site is safe and secure; in response we can offer reassurance that the exterior of the school site is protected by a fence with magnetic locks, whilst the interior has lockable doors to all classrooms and offices.
- A clear lockdown procedure has been shared and practised within the school and we must praise both staff and learners who implemented the lockdown quickly and effectively.
- We have received a request from a parent asking what 'went wrong' and how further lockdowns can be avoided; whilst we completely understand the sentiment of the question, we would say that nothing 'went wrong' in terms of the school policy or practice. We received a threat as an organisation and as such we put our lockdown procedure (designed to respond to such a threat) into action. All schools now have such a policy in order to safeguard learners and staff whilst the nature of a threat is established and the police are consulted. The school carried out this procedure in the best interests of learners and we 'stood down' as soon as it was possible. It is not possible to rule out further lockdowns in our, or any other school, but we would reassure parents that we dealt with the situation safely and the experience has only served to further improve the efficacy of our procedures.
- No 'preventative measures' could have been undertaken to prevent the lockdown as it was made following a dynamic risk assessment from a written threat.
- We have been made aware by a number of parents/carers of social media messages which imply that further threats may be made against learners in the school. Please be assured that we have forwarded these concerns to the police and the school will always remain vigilant to such threats, however, we are equally mindful that social media statements can be completely unsubstantiated.
- Where learners were in the toilet at the time of the 'code red' being called they could have stayed there or made themselves known to members of Senior Staff who were undertaking 'sweeps' of the corridors.
- Any Sixth Form students on-site during a lockdown are to follow the same procedure as any other learners if in classrooms; however, there is also the possibility they will be studying independently in Sixth Form areas. Whilst the Sixth Form study has a lockable inward opening door which can be secured like all classrooms, the Common Room has an outward opening door which cannot be blocked; therefore, we have added a fire escape permission to Sixth Form badges which will allow them to securely move from Common Room to the secure SLC below.
- A parent expressed concern that after there were no school staff visible upon learners' entry on Monday morning in order to reassure learners as they entered; we can confirm that four staff members were present on the pupil gate on Monday morning, the Headteacher was at the internal gate welcoming learners and multiple staff members were present in corridors and the school foyer. This was also the case again this morning.
- We recognise that parents are eager for information in the event of a lockdown and we are considering ways, where practicable, to improve communication in future.



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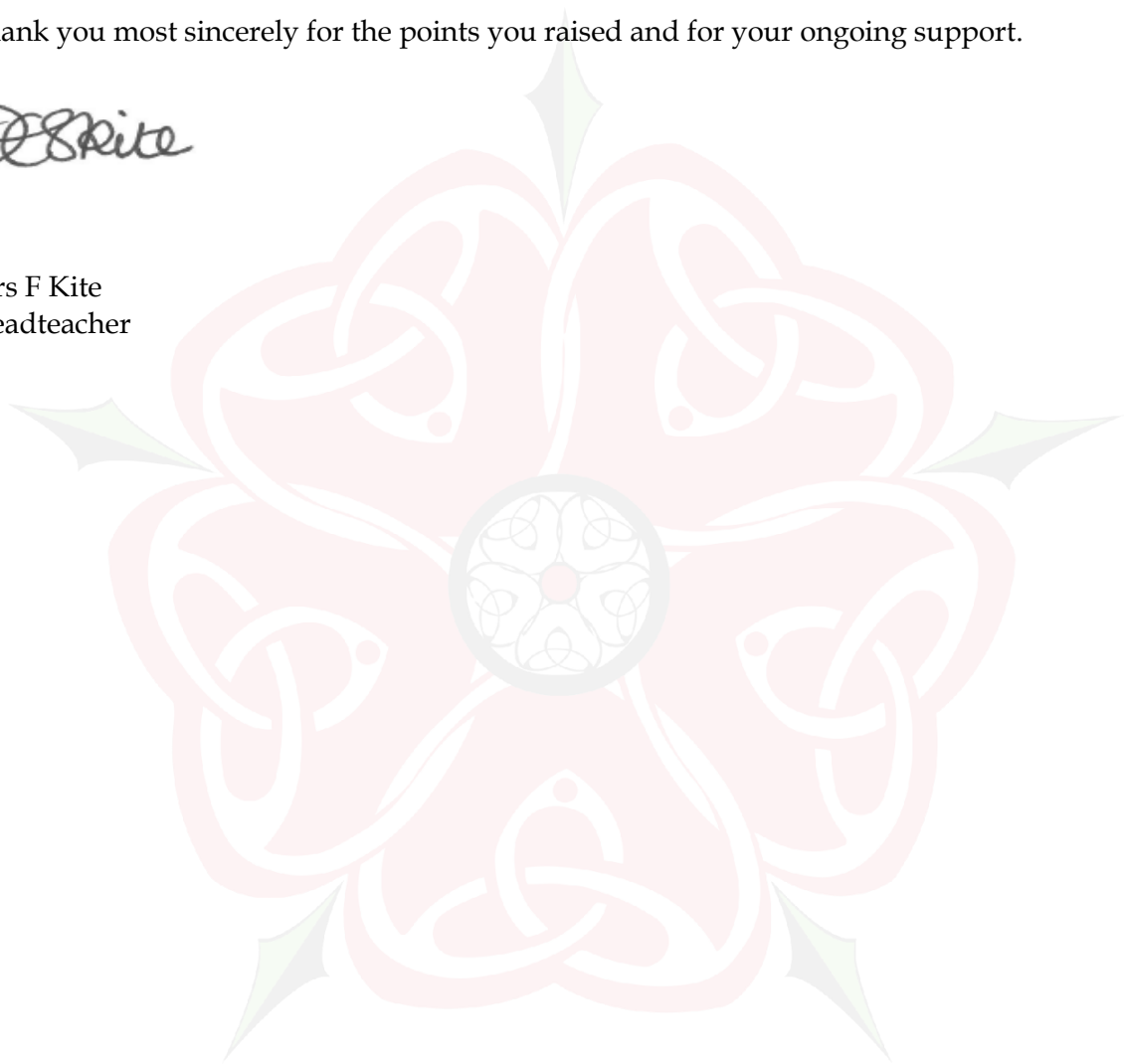
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However, I am sure parents and carers will agree that as a school our first priority is to ensure the safety of the learners in our care and clarify the nature of any threat so that communication is clear, informative and reassuring, thereby reducing the risk of social media speculation by the local community which can be inaccurate, unhelpful and distressing for everyone involved during and after the event.

Thank you most sincerely for the points you raised and for your ongoing support.



Mrs F Kite  
Headteacher



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