

NEWYDDLEN ADDYSG COVID-19 EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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Briff Addysg Coronafeirws – ble rydyn ni nawr?

**Siân Gwenllian AC, Gweinidog
Cysgodol Plaid Cymru dros Addysg.**



Sut i godi materion?

Fel **Gweinidog Cabinet yr Wrthblaid dros Addysg**, mae Siân Gwenllian AC yn cael cyfarfodydd briffio wythnosol gyda **Kirsty Williams**. Mae hwn yn gyfle i ddysgu am ddatblygiadau'r Llywodraeth, ac i godi materion a gofyn cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog.

Rhowch wybod i Siân os hoffech iddi godi unrhyw faterion gyda'r Llywodraeth.

Materion allweddol – beth rydyn ni wedi bod yn ei wneud...

1. Prydau Ysgol am Ddim

Dywed Llywodraeth Cymru y bydd **Prydau Ysgol am Ddim** yn parhau dros wyliau'r Pasg ac y cyhoeddir 'Cynllun Talebau Cenedlaethol' i'w weithredu ar ol y Pasg. Hyd yn hyn mae'r rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau lleol wedi bod yn paratoi pecyn bwyd i blant Prydau Ysgol am Ddim ei gasglu ond ar ol y Pasg fe fyddan nhw unai'n gwneud talidiau uniongyrchol neu'n cynnig talebau i deuluoedd.

2. Swyddogaeth a phwrpas ysgolion

Mae cnewyll staff yn cefnogi plant gweithwyr allweddol ledled Cymru. Maent yn cefnogi tua 3,500 o blant, neu 1% o gyfanswm poblogaeth ysgolion. Mae awdurdodau lleol wedi cael llawer o ddisgresiwn ynghylch y ffordd orau o weithredu. Mae rhai'n defnyddio rota ym mhob ysgol, ac eraill yn gweithio fel hybiau. Bydd y ddarpariaeth hon yn cynnwys penwythnosau a gwyliau banc. Mae arweiniad gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gael **yma**.

3. Darpariaeth gofal plant ar gyfer plant dan bedair oed

Mae'r sector gofal plant yn wynebu heriau enfawr wrth i'r galw leihau. Rydym yn clywed am fusnesau'n cau am nad ydynt yn ddichonadwy mwyach. Bydd hyn yn achosi problemau enfawr i deuluoedd maes o law pan fydd angen i rieni ddychwelyd i'r gwaith. Gan fod y sector yn wynebu argyfwng mae Plaid Cymru wedi **galw am gymorth ychwanegol**.

4. Arholiadau

Cyhoeddodd Cymwysterau Cymru na fyddai arholiadau TGAU a Safon Uwch yn digwydd, ac y byddai disgylion yn cael eu graddau rhagamcanol. Bydd dysgwyr a oedd i fod i sefyll eu harholiadau TGAU a Safon Uwch yr haf hwn yn cael gradd deg i gydnabod eu gwaith, gan alw ar yr holl wybodaeth sydd ar gael. Bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn hefyd yn effeithio ar ddisgyblion blwyddyn 10 a 12 gan na fydd y rhain ychwaith yn sefyll eu rownd gyntaf o Arholiadau TGAU a Safon Uwch. Gweler y cyhoeddiad a nodwyd uchod, a holl gyhoeddiadau eraill Cymwysterau Cymru, **yma**.

5. Athrawon Llanw

Er gwaethaf llawer o ansicrwydd am statws athrawon llanw, mae manylion Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig am y Cynllun Cadw Swyddi yn sgil Coronafeirws a'u datganiad am gymorth i bobl hunangflogedig yn golygu ein bod nawr ar ddeall bod dewisiadau ar gael i athrawon llanw i gael cymorth. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth, gan gynnwys cyfeirio a llinellau, ar gael yn y **briff hwn** am athrawon llanw a baratowyd gan staff Plaid Cymru.

6. Iechyd Meddwl a Lles

Mae gofalu am iechyd meddwl yn hanfodol yn ystod yr argyfwng hwn. Mae hyn yn cael ei godi'n gyson â'r Gweinidog yn ystod y cyfarfodydd briffio wythnosol.

- I bobl ifanc, mae'n debyg mai dyma sut bydd y pandemig yn gwneud y niwed mwyaf amlwg.
- Dylid bod yn fwy gwyliadwrus o ran llesiant, yn ogystal â sicrhau bod gwasanaethau cwnsela ar gael yn rhwydd.
- Mae atgyfeiriadau at CAHMS wedi arafu
- Mae Plaid Cymru wedi **galw am i blant gael gliniaduron am ddim** i'w helpu â'u dysgu, a hefyd ag unigrwydd.

7. Myfyrwyr yn colli eu swyddi

Gall pob myfyriwr yng Nghymru wneud cais am gymorth sy'n cyfateb i'r Cyflog Byw Cenedlaethol tra eu bod yn astudio, i sicrhau bod ganddynt ddigon o arian i dalu eu costau byw o ddydd i ddydd a bod y cymorth a roddir i fyfyrwyr rhan-amser, ar sail pro rata, yn gymaradwy â'r cymorth i fyfyrwyr llawn-amser. Ar hyn o bryd, mae llawer o Brifysgolion yn symud eu haddysgu ar-lein, yn ogystal â defnyddio dulliau eraill, i sicrhau y gall myfyrwyr barhau i astudio heb i'r sefyllfa darfu arnynt, ac ni ddylai fod unrhyw effaith ar gymorth i fyfyrwyr.

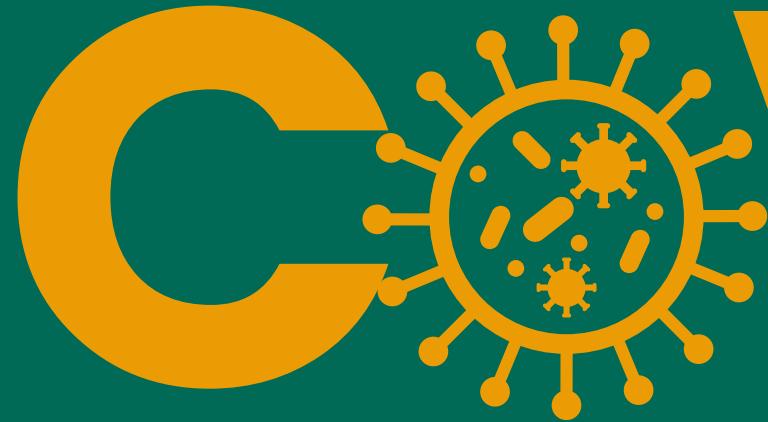
Mae'r Cwmni Benthyciadau Myfyrwyr, sy'n darparu'r gwasanaeth Cyllid Myfyrwyr Cymru, yn gweithio'n galed i sicrhau y gwneir taliadau mewn pryd. Nid yw llesiant yn fater datganoledig, felly ni all Gweinidogion Cymru ymyrryd yn uniongyrchol. Mae atebion Undeb Cenedlaethol y Myfyrwyr i Gwestiynau Allweddol ar gael **yma**.

8. Addysg Uwch

Bydd Sian yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog ynglŷn â chymorth ariannol brys i Brifysgolion, ac yn gofyn a yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau â'r Trysorlys am gymorth ariannol mwy hirdymor i'r sector.

Byddwn hefyd yn ceisio casglu gwybodaeth am fyfyrwyr sy'n rhentu mewn neuaddau preswyl preifat.

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Coronavirus Education Briefing – where are we now?

Siân Gwenllian AM, Plaid Cymru's Shadow Cabinet Member for Education.



How to raise issues.

As Shadow Cabinet Minister for Education, Sian Gwenllian has weekly briefings with Kirsty Williams. This is an opportunity to learn about government developments, and to raise matters and ask questions of the Minister. Please let Sian know if there are any issues you would like Sian to raise with Government.

Key issues – what have we been doing:

1. Free School Meals

The Welsh Government said that Free School Meals will continue over the Easter break and that a 'National Scheme' will be announced.

Up to now most local authorities have been preparing a packed lunch for FSM pupils to collect. After Easter an opt-in voucher scheme will operate or direct payments will be made to families.

2. School function and purpose

Skeleton staff supporting the children of key workers is operational across Wales. 3,500 children being supported or 1% of the total school population. Local authorities have been given a lot of discretion on how to best operate. Some are working to rotas in all schools others are working as hubs. This provision will cover weekends and bank holidays. Welsh Government guidance can be found [here](#).

3. Childcare provision for those under four years

The childcare sector is facing massive challenges as demand reduces. We are hearing of businesses shutting because they are becoming unviable. This will cause huge problems for families down the line when parents need to return to work. With the sector in crisis, Plaid Cymru has [called for extra support](#).

4. Arholiadau

Qualifications Wales announced that GCSE and A-Level exams would not go ahead, and that students would receive projected grades. Learners due to sit their GCSEs and A levels this summer will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work, drawing on the range of information that is available.

This announcement will also affect year 10 and 12 students who also won't be sitting their first round of GCSE and AS Level Exams.

See the above mentioned announcement, and all other announcements by Qualifications Wales [here](#).

5. Supply Teachers

Despite much uncertainty regarding the status of supply teachers, the UK Government's detail on the Corona Virus Job Retention Scheme and statement on self-employed support means we now understand that support options are in place for supply teachers.

For more information including signposting and lines, see this briefing on supply teachers prepared by Plaid Cymru staff.

6. Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Maintaining mental health is essential during this crisis. This is continually being raised with the Minister during the weekly briefings.

- For young people this may be how the pandemic will take its most obvious toll
- Wellbeing vigilance as well as readily available services such as counselling should be stepped up
- Referrals to CAHMS have slowed down
- Plaid Cymru has [called for children to have free laptops](#) which will not only assist with learning, but also with loneliness.

7. Students losing their jobs

Every student in Wales can apply for support equivalent to the National Living Wage while they study, ensuring they have enough money to meet their day-to-day living costs and support for part-time students is, on a prorated basis, comparable with that for full-time students. In this current time, a number of Universities are moving teaching online, as well as using other methods, to ensure students can continue their studies uninterrupted and student support should continue unaffected.

The Student Loans Company, which provides the Student Finance Wales service, is working hard to ensure that payments are made on time. Welfare is not a devolved matter and therefore Welsh Ministers are unable to interfere directly.

Key Questions answered by NUS can be found [here](#).

8. Higher Education

Sian will be asking the Minister about emergency financial support for Universities, and whether Welsh Government has had any discussions with the Treasury about longer term financial support for the sector.

We will also be seeking information about students renting in private halls of residence.