

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
**Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg**  
**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref 211213/Miles J  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/12003/21

Dr Patrick Roach  
General Secretary  
NASUWT

Lynn.Bayliss@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

17 December 2021

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December and for sharing the concerns of your members about the Omicron Coronavirus and the introduction of additional measures in schools.

The Schools Social Partnership Forum meeting on 14 December provided me with the opportunity to update SSPF members on the latest position and to set out our intentions for the immediate return to the Spring term in January. A number of the concerns outlined in your letter and your proposals for the next school term were raised in this meeting and will be considered further in our meetings.

Please let me assure you that we are monitoring the situation with the Omicron variant closely, and we will continue to engage with our key partners on the operation of schools as we go forward. As you know, I have announced today the operational arrangements for schools and colleges from January 2022 and an additional package of support for learners. I welcome your support on these plans.

I hope we continue to collectively work together as the situation evolves. Ensuring learning can continue remains a priority for the Government and we want to continue to do all we can to minimise disruption to education and childcare. This includes engaging with schools with flexibility and understanding, taking into account the context in each school; I expect this approach to be applied universally. It remains vital that we all work together to provide schools with both the space and the support they need in these challenging circumstances.

The First Minister has already announced accelerated plans for the booster vaccination programme to increase the number of people who will receive their booster in the coming days and weeks. Older people and those at greatest risk are being prioritised first. When schools re-open in January, I confidently expect all school staff will have had the opportunity to have a booster vaccine.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

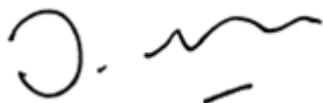
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[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Thank you once again for bringing these concerns to my attention. As mentioned, I intend to provide further updates and to discuss these proposals in more detail in our scheduled meetings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of connected, wavy lines that form the rest of the name.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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