

# Ysgol Bryngwyn School

## Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023



### Latest News:

1. **Wizard of Oz**
2. **Yr 11 Summer Celebrations**
3. **Attendance Matters**
4. **Year 6 Transition Day**

### Key Dates:

- **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Wizard of Oz at Forge Theatre, Coleg Sir Gar
- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July:** Taster Day and School Show for Year 5 pupils
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July:** Start of Activity Days
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Last day of Summer Term for learners and staff
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August:** GCSE Results Day



For all future events please visit our diary and planner at:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Diary/>

### Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again, we hope this update finds you and your families well and you have been able to enjoy the weekend together. As we commence the penultimate week of the Summer Term, we would like to express our thanks for your support in contributing to the excellent atmosphere for learning throughout the school. With such a vast range of activities taking place across the school, it is a delight to see learners engaging so well and to see so many happy faces.



### LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES

The most valuable thing you can make is a mistake- you can't learn anything from being perfect.







Adam Osborne

A thought for this week

Yn rhoi o'n gorau  
Giving our best to be the best

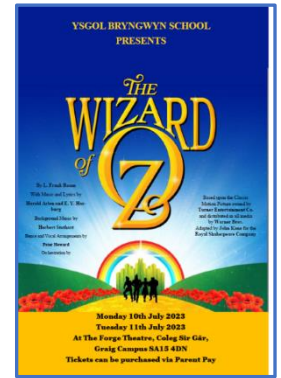
### We continue this half term with this Monday as WEEK TWO on our timetables.

The weather remains largely mild for the week ahead, however there are some suggestions of rain and thundery showers throughout the week with temperatures more around the seasonal norms.

Mon 10th	Tue 11th	Wed 12th	Thu 13th	Fri 14th	Sat 15th
 19° 15°	 19° 12°	 19° 12°	 19° 14°	 18° 14°	 18° 13°

## 1. Wizard of OZ - 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July

We would like to wish the cast and crew who have worked so hard to prepare for this unique experience the very best of luck on our opening night this evening. Tickets are still available on Parent Pay for our school production of Wizard of Oz to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July at the Forge Theatre in Coleg Sir Gar.



If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school on [eng@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:eng@bryngwyn.cymru) or ring on 01554 750661.

## 2. Year 11 Summer Celebration

It was an absolute joy to welcome so many families and friends on site of the evening of **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. Even the sunshine turned out to make for a very enjoyable evening. We are delighted to say that every one of our Year 11 pupils conducted themselves superbly and we enjoyed a lovely meal and dance, together with pupil awards at the Manor Park in Clydach.

All of our pupils looked splendid in their attire, and we received hugely positive comments



from our photographer for the evening together with all members of the Manor Park Hotel staff. As staff we were very proud to be able to spend the evening with such a wonderful group of learners and we are sure parents and carers are also justifiably very proud.

It was a lovely way to wish farewell and express our thanks to the year group who have worked so hard. It goes without saying we now wish them every success as they move into further education, training, and employment.

We would also like to express a special thank you to all the staff involved who worked above and beyond to make the evening such an enjoyable and memorable event, and to Mrs Karen Thomas and Mrs Dawn Evans for all their meticulous organisation. It was hugely appreciated.

More photos and messages will appear in the coming days at:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/Year-11-Summer-Celebration-5-7-23/>

You can also find more photographs on our gallery on the link below:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/Galleries/?SSID=32980&password=#GalleryListHolder>

### 3. Attendance Matters

We have been asked to share the following letter from Carmarthenshire Education Authority ahead of the coming academic year. The link in the letter will take you to the council website for further information and guidance. As you know, attendance is one of our values in our 3As: Attendance, Attitude, Achievement. We hope you are able to support us in this.

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Gofynner am / Please ask for:

Fy nghyf / My ref:

Ffon / Phone: 01267 246524

Dyddiad / Date: 05.07.2023

E-bost / Email: [Cwestiwnecs@sirgar.gov.uk](mailto:Cwestiwnecs@sirgar.gov.uk)  
[QuestionECS@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:QuestionECS@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

Dear parents and guardians,

The summer holidays are almost here and many of us are ready to take a temporary break from the routine of school life. If you get an opportunity to relax, I hope you enjoy it.

Whilst referencing the routine of the academic year, it is appropriate that I draw your attention to an important campaign which we will be implementing in September: "Attendance matters - every pupil, on time, every day".

Carmarthenshire's Secondary school attendance was **93.5%** and Primary pupils' attendance was **94%** during the last full year before covid. (2018-19)

Secondary school attendance averaged **83%** and Primary pupils' attendance averaged **89.5%** in **2021-22**. GCSE aged Year 11's average attendance in 2021-22 was **73%**.

Consider this in light of the fact that a pupil with **80%** attendance is already missing **one** day every week. Socially, every lost day is a lost opportunity to be with friends, create relationships with teachers, have new experiences, develop as individuals, and reach one's potential.

If you feel that there are situations in your life or your child's life that prevent them from attending school/attending on time, you can get advice and support from your school or the County Council. This [link](#) could be a good starting point if you're looking for simple, practical ideas that could help you and your child improve their attendance and punctuality.

Our desire is that we work together to ensure Carmarthenshire's pupils have the best opportunity to be at school as much as possible. We want our pupils to start building good habits and practices that will stand them in good stead for their future beyond school.

Early 2022-23 attendance data indicates that improvements are being made but that there is still a way to go.

Thank you for all your support and best wishes for the summer holiday.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant,  
Neuadd y Sir, Gaerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA31 1JP

 BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS  
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE



The link to Local Authority website is:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/attendance-matters/>

#### 4. Year 6 Taster Day

We were delighted to welcome next year's Year 7 learners to Bryngwyn last week. It was delightful to see all the smiling faces of pupils who visited the school with their teachers and Teaching Assistants. We hope all the learners enjoyed their day and look forward to welcoming them fully in September.

Again, the photos of the day are available on:



<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/Galleries/?SSID=32974&password=#GalleryListHolder>

*If you require any further information or your children have missed out on a visit or know of anybody who is indeed looking to come to Bryngwyn in September and has recently moved into catchment, please ring on 01554 750661 or E-mail [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru)*

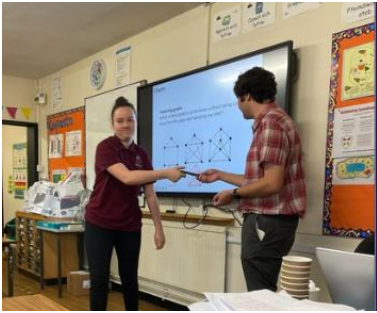
#### General News Round-Up



- **Tennis Success** – With Wimbledon in the air we were delighted to see our Bryngwyn Tennis Squad take part in our very own schools' tournament. The team performed very well to secure second place overall. **Da iawn!**

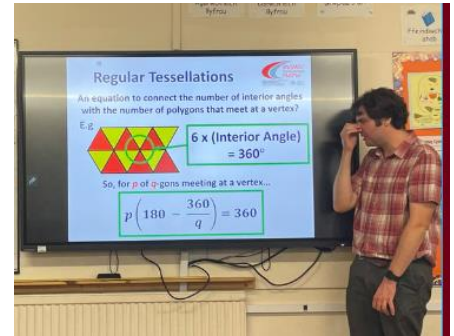
- **Music For Youth Festival** – a huge well done to the following pupils on their exciting achievement of being invited to perform with the County Youth Wind Band at the 2023 Music For Youth Festival at Symphony Hall in Birmingham over the weekend: Amy Barson, Aysha Bozkurt, Grace Barton, Carrie Cook and Cerys Brown. **Ardderchog!**





- **Maths is Fun: Bryngwyn Mathematicians meet Swansea University Colleagues** – It was lovely to welcome maths lecturers from Swansea University to Bryngwyn to work with our pupils and to talk about careers involving Mathematics this week. As part of the event, mathematicians in 9X and 10X also enjoyed a mathematics masterclass on tessellation.

**Outstanding!**



- **Rhythmic Gymnastics British Champion** – Imogen Coslett from Year 7 competed in the British Championships in Telford this weekend and won a medal in all her competitions. With four bronze medals and one silver medal, her combined scores saw her win an incredible third place overall. **Amazing Achievement!**



- **Extra-Curricular PE Activities**

We are delighted to be able to offer a full range of extra-curricular sport activities during lunch times and after school.

This week we have:

ARIL - JULY 2023	LUNCHTIME	AFTERSCHOOL
MON	GCSE BADMINTON (YEAR 10)	
TUES		GCSE TRAMPOLINING (YR 10- - Miss Williams) FESTIVALS ( <i>to commence after half term</i> ) (YRS 7-10)
WEDS		CRICKET (ALL YEARS - Mr Jenkins, Mr Martin) HOCKEY (ALL YEARS – Mrs Vaughan, GC)
THURS	VOLLEYBALL (ALL YEARS)	KS3 BADMINTON / TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS) ATHLETICS (ALL YEARS)
FRI	KS 4 BASKETBALL (YR 10 & 11) – Miss Fair	



- **Extra-Curricular Music Activities**

This week we have:

	Morning Sessions 8.35 – 9.00 am	Lunchtime 1.10 – 1.40 pm	After school 2.50 pm – 3.50 pm
<b>Monday</b>	Wizard of Oz rehearsals	Double-Reed Workshop M2	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 7 Choir in M1	Wizard of Oz rehearsals	
<b>Wednesday</b>		Little Big Band	Year 10 Band Theory Club in M1
<b>Thursday</b>		String Group in M2	Year 9 Band
<b>Friday</b>	Wizard of Oz rehearsals	Senior Choir in M2	

**As a school, we would like to thank everyone who works so hard to make these opportunities happen, and especially our pupils who take part with such enthusiasm.**

***Proud to be Bryngwyn!***

## Reminders of Important Information

### Key Stage Three Reports and National Reading and Numeracy Tests

#### Results

Results for the National Tests in Reading and Numeracy are now available through your child's Hwb account. To access the tests, please complete the following:

- a) ask your child to log in to Hwb
- b) go to the icon marked "Personalised Assessments" (you may be asked to log in once more)
- c) Click on the heading "Learner Feedback"
- d) The first group of reports under the heading "Your Feedback" gives formative feedback on performance in the tests completed this year. Click on the blue boxes to find an outline of strengths and areas to develop for each test.
- e) If you scroll down the page you will see the heading "Your Progress." This group of reports will indicate your child's standardised score and their progress over tests from previous years.

#### Catch up Sessions

**There will be catch up sessions this week for anyone in years 7-9 who missed the tests.**

#### Reports

- **Year 9** Spring Interim reports have been issued. These reports include the end of key stage level for each subject.
- **Year 7** Full Reports will be issued this week.
- **Year 10** Full Reports will be sent at the end of term.

Once issued, reports can also be accessed via the Sims Parent App. Please be aware that if you do not use the app regularly you may find an error message and will need to re-enter your log in and password.

**We would be grateful if you could please complete the parent reply slip at your earliest convenience.**

#### Safety in the Community

- **Leaving School Safely**

Thank you for all your efforts in parking safely near the school at the end of the day to ensure our learners are able to enter and exit the school site safely. We often remind learners to keep safety in mind whilst using the pavements around school and would also be grateful if parents could have similar discussions at home to remind everyone that the roads and pavements are used by many people, therefore it is important that we take care to keep ourselves and others safe. This is particularly important for learners who come to school on bicycles or scooters.

- **At the end of the day**

Just to reaffirm we close our main gates at 2:45 pm in order that all pupils can leave the site without any traffic movements. Parents are welcome to come on site and park up before this



time, but please support us in not moving until the 4 main buses and taxis have left the site. This ensures everybody's safety. This is very much appreciated.

- **The Local Community**

Whilst it is always nice to enjoy the warm weather and indeed the long hours of daylight around this time of June, we have had some reports of large numbers of pupils of primary and secondary age across all Llanelli schools coming together in public open spaces like parks. Can we always support our residents with whom we enjoy such positive relationships by always ensuring that we act responsibly, politely, and respectfully at all times. This is much appreciated.

### **Water Bottles**

Whilst the weather continues to remain warm and largely settled, staying hydrated is a priority for everyone. There are water dispensers throughout school that can be used to refill bottles, and we would be grateful if parents can ensure all learners bring their own bottle in their bags to be filled as and when needed. This is very much appreciated.



### **Summer Weather Conditions**

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that our pupils come to school ready and equipped to learn and this includes maintaining our high standards of uniform and presentation which is such an important part of our school ethos. By working together, we continue to ensure that we are able to give our pupils excellent learning opportunities and the chance to prepare for their future roles in the world of work.

A number of learners and parents have suggested that we change our uniform in the light of summer weather, possibly by wearing PE kits or shorts instead of school trousers. The comfort and wellbeing of our pupils is of paramount importance to us, and during exceptional weather conditions, such as “weather warnings and heatwave” conditions recognised by the Met. Office, we have taken the initiative to make similar suggestions.

At present, we are not enduring an officially recognised “heatwave” as temperatures are not predicted to reach the heights we have experienced during recent years. In particular, the forecast for the week ahead suggests temperatures will become cooler and fresher. Should this change, we will of course consider adapting our uniform temporarily to maintain comfort.

The current advice is to wear loose fitting cotton clothing during warmer temperatures. Our school uniform includes loose cotton polo shirts which are in line with this advice. Furthermore, our PE kits are made of a blend of nylon and lycra which is even less conducive to keeping cool in warm temperatures than polo shirts and loose trousers.

Moreover, pupils often become very hot during PE lessons and appreciate the chance to change into different clothing for the rest of the day. While we appreciate that wearing PE kit may be entirely appropriate for the physical exercise of a PE lesson, remaining in these clothes for the entirety of the school day might become uncomfortable and unhygienic.

We would appreciate if you would continue to support us by ensuring that learners continue to wear their uniform as normal to school and only wear their PE kit for the PE lessons for which they are designed.



We would also like to reassure parents that our classrooms and the school buildings are cool areas that remain conducive for learning. There are water fountains where pupils are encouraged to replenish their own water bottles and cold drinks are on sale during lunch times. There are also plenty of shaded areas and sheltered quad areas with benching and tables outside where pupils can relax. We would also encourage wearing sun hats and sunscreen if pupils wish to enjoy the sunshine. We are also happy for pupils to continue to change into their PE kits or shorts if they would like to engage in physical activity during the lunch break, provided they change back into uniform for the remaining lessons of the day. Many pupils have been doing this successfully over recent weeks.

Due to the wide range of differing needs around uniform, we would be more than happy to consider adapting our uniform policy to provide greater choice and flexibility for individual learners. This would likely include the option of wearing formal, tailored shorts instead of trousers or a skirt. Understandably, we are conscious of the current concerns raised by the “cost of living crisis” and recognise that we would not wish to add additional pressures by the extra cost of bringing in such changes at short notice.

We have taken this suggestion to our Governing Body last week and they are happy to engage in a stakeholder consultation along with other large secondary schools in Carmarthenshire. Should sufficient parents request this proposal, we are happy to begin the consultation process ready for future summer terms.

This will involve a notification to all stakeholders including parents, with a short Google Form for parents and learners.

Moving forward, we are always happy to discuss individual concerns in the spirit of partnership and support that makes our school so special. Please don't hesitate to contact us to share any further ideas you may have. We will continue to monitor the weather predictions from the Met Office for the Llanelli area and will contact you as soon as possible should this situation change.

Thank you once more for your ongoing support that helps make our school such a happy learning environment.

## **Uniform**

As a reminder for pupils and parents, our school uniform is published on our school website. Please see the link below:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/School-Uniform/>

**Pupils are expected to wear normal uniform as specified.**

A grant is available for school uniform and equipment for families who are eligible. Please see the link below for more information:

[School Uniform & Equipment Grant](#)

## **School Uniform Recycling Request**

We would like to thank those parents who have recently donated school uniform and PE kits to our school initiative to recycle uniform that children have either grown out of or have left school. This is hugely appreciated.



Our school uniform recycling drive is designed to support our work as part of the Eco Schools agenda as we aim to recycle and reuse wherever possible. We are also aware that many learners grow through their uniform items quickly and suppliers have recently faced delays in obtaining new stock. We would very much appreciate if anybody has any uniform pieces that are spare or no longer required that they could be donated to the school. Clothing can be donated at the School Reception or through your child's Head of Year.

**Thank you for your continued support in this matter.**

## Support for year 11 Leavers

Please see below an offer of assistance for any learners or family members who may be seeking employment next year:

**Cymunedau am Waith  
Communities for Work +**

## Out of work? Looking for Employment?

**We want to help you:**

- + Develop your skills and gain experience
- + Acquire the training and qualifications you need
- + Volunteering and Work Placement Opportunities
- + Find the right job

For more information contact the team on:  
01554 744303  
c4wplus@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire**  
**Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government**

Carmarthenshire Communities for Work + is a Welsh Government funded project, that supports individuals to get into employment.

We have support available for individuals leaving school who want to enter employment rather than going onto further education. We can offer one to one mentoring support to individuals to help identify free training opportunities, offer CV and application support, interview skills and so much more.

*“Are you 16+ and not in education or unemployed? The employment support team can help you overcome barriers to get you into work, making sure you have all the support you need along the way. If you want to find out more about the free support and training available, please visit;  
<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/jobs-careers/help-to-find-a-job/>  
or call 01554 744303 or e-mail [employmentsupport@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)”*

## Free School Meals

For those who have not registered for payment or anyone new to claiming Free School Meals, please ensure you apply using the link below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-meals/free-school-meals/#.X4gaJNBKiUI>

## Keeping Informed of Changes

During these times it remains fundamentally important we remain in contact. We will always do our best to keep parents informed of any changes as quickly as possible. **Please therefore check our text messages, SIMS Parent App, websites and social media pages on a regular basis.** If you don't receive such updates or have changed your phone or contact details, please ensure we have up to date information by emailing us on [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru)

If you have any questions or would like a conversation about any aspect of learning or wellbeing please contact us on 01554 750661 between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or at [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru) as usual.

**Thank you as always for your continued support of our school and wider community as well as your families and our learners. Please stay safe and well and we look forward to continuing to work together to provide the very best experiences for all our learners this week and into the remainder of the Summer Term ahead.**

Diolch,

**Mr Paul Jones**

**Head teacher**

**Telephone: 01554 750661**

**Email: [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru)**

**Website: <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/>**

**Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bryngwynschool/>**

**Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/bryngwynschool>**