

# Ysgol Bryngwyn School

## Update for Parents, Carers and

## Learners – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023



### Latest News:

1. **Welcome Back**
2. **Parent Information Evenings**
3. **Exam Queries**
4. **Prize Evening**

### Key Dates:

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Yr 10 Parents' Information Evening  
ONSITE

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year 11 Parents' Information  
Evening - ONSITE

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year 7 Settling in Parents Evening -  
ONSITE

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept:** INSET day and Open Evening for  
prospective pupils and parents.

**19<sup>th</sup> October:** Prize Evening

### Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you well as we begin our second week of this new academic year. Last week we enjoyed a very positive start to term as we welcomed the return of all our learners and especially our new learners to the school. It has been a delight to see so many happy smiling faces as pupils arrive in school eager to learn and looking very smart with **high standards of uniform and punctuality**.

We would also like to thank you for your support. Staff also noted how engaged in their learning our pupils have been and the very positive atmosphere throughout the school is much appreciated by everyone.

The week ahead is **week two** on the timetable.

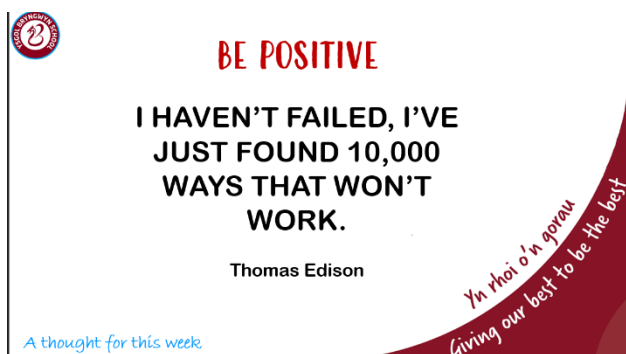
Tue 12th	Wed 13th	Thu 14th	Fri 15th
 18° 10°	 19° 12°	 18° 13°	 18° 10°

The week ahead brings a change in the weather with more rain forecast and cooler temperatures as expected at this time of year.

### 1. Welcome Back

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to everyone. As we look ahead to a year filled with exciting learning opportunities, we extend a very warm welcome to new pupils in year 7, as well as those who have joined us in our other year groups. We would like to welcome and introduce our new staff joining the school this year:

- **Mr Adam Beddow** joins us in the Maths department.
- **Miss Hollie Burkl-Filer** has joined us to teach Design Technology, especially Catering and Food Technology.



- **Mrs Amy Northcott** has joined our Art department
- **Mrs Lucy Paradice, Miss Rachel Woods and Mrs Rebecca Reilly** also join us in the science department.

### **Catering and Lunch Time Arrangements**

Our canteen staff have noted the excellent behaviour and politeness of all our learners at lunch time, especially as our new pupils adapt to new lunch time routines. All learners should now have accessed their ParentPay accounts in order to purchase food at lunch times. If there are any queries around this please don't hesitate to contact us. A list of canteen prices is also included on the link below to help learners and parents make lunch choices:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Catering/>

### **Car Parking and End of Day Arrangements**

We appreciate your support in ensuring the safety of all our learners as they arrive and depart school. When dropping off pupils in the school car park, please use the designated areas and be mindful of other drivers and those walking to school. Following advice from the Local Authority, our school gates close at 2.45 p.m. at the end of the day. For the safety of our pupils, no vehicles are to move in the car park until after pupils have left the area and school buses have departed.

### **3 As and 3 Rs**

We are very proud of our learners and the excellent attitude to school they display which is part of our school ethos of "3As and 3Rs", and we would like to thank you for your support in helping to achieve this.

<p><b>3As:</b> Attendance Attitude Achievement</p>	<p><b>3Rs:</b> Respect Relationships Responsibility</p>
--	---

As we know, attendance is vital to ensure everyone is able to achieve their potential. The Local Authority have also issued a letter regarding attendance which is included at the end of this update.

For additional support, a grant is also available for school uniform and equipment for families who are eligible. Please see the link below for more information:

[\*\*School Uniform & Equipment Grant\*\*](#)

## **2. Parent Information Evenings**

We are looking forward to meeting parents and carers for our Parent Information Evenings this week as outlined below.

Letters with more information have been sent home with your children along with a reply slip. We would appreciate if you could return the slip to indicate whether you will attend in order to help us prepare for the evening.

- **Year 10 Parent Information Evening –Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 6.00 p.m.**

This will be an important evening for parents with learners in Year 11. There will be the opportunity to hear key information about the important learning that is to take place this year, especially in preparation for the GCSE exams, and to find out more about how best to support your child. There will also be a chance to have an informal conversation with key staff about any questions or concerns that you may have in supporting your child.

- **Year 11 Parent Information Evening – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 6.00 p.m.**

As above, this will be an important evening for parents with learners in Year 11. There will be the opportunity to hear key information about the important learning that is to take place this year, especially in preparation for the GCSE exams, and to find out more about how best to support your child. There will also be a chance to have an informal conversation with key staff about any questions or concerns that you may have in supporting your child.

- **Year 7 Settling in Evening – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 6.15 p.m.**

This is a valuable opportunity to meet the teachers now that your children have started school and settled into Bryngwyn. There will be some key information for Year 7 parents as well as the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor. We will also be giving a presentation on our new curriculum, including RSE education, so that you are fully informed as to what we are developing as part of our new curriculum.

- **Years 8 and 9 Parent Information – online**

A range of information regarding the year ahead will be available for parents and carers to access online for Years 8 and 9. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of staff, please contact the school either by telephone on 01554 750661 or email at [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru)

### **3. Exam Queries**

For any learners with questions regarding external GCSE results achieved this summer, the deadline for remarks is approaching very soon. Please contact us **as soon as possible** if you have any questions regarding these results by emailing our dedicated exams email address on [exams@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:exams@bryngwyn.cymru)

### **4. Prize Evening**

Our annual Prize Evening will take place at school on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 p.m.** This is an excellent opportunity to share the excellent achievements of all our learners in both their academic and extra-curricular activities. Further information will be provided in

advance and we look forward to an evening of celebration where the efforts of our pupils are rewarded.

## General News Round-Up

- **RAAC in Schools** – you may have heard on the news a range of schools across the country are experiencing issues with crumbling concrete that has affected the start to the school year. We have been advised by the Local Authority that our buildings are regularly checked and are safe for our learners. A letter to parents is included at the end of this update with more details.
- **Free School Meals** - If your child is entitled to free school meals at school don't forget to apply via the link below:

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

- **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 the following:

## SCHOOL SPORT CLUBS AUTUMN

	LUNCHTIME	AFTERSCHOOL
MON	GCSE BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS [YEAR 10-11]	
TUES	GCSE BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS (YEAR 10 – 11)	NETBALL (YEAR 8 – 11)
WEDS	NETBALL YEAR 7 (SPORTS AMBASADORS) KS 4 RUGBY FIXTURE PREPERATION (ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN NOTIFIED)	BOYS & GIRLS FOOTBALL [ALL YEARS] BASKETBALL (ALL YEARS) TBC
THURS	RUGBY – TURN UP AND PLAY (KS3)	BOYS & GIRLS RUGBY [KS3] BOYS & GIRLS HOCKEY [ALL YEARS] BASKETBALL (ALL YEARS) TBC
FRI	GCSE TRAMPOLINE (YEAR 10 – 11)	

- **Extra-Curricular Music Activities** – we also enjoy a variety of music activities as follows:

## Music Extra-Curricular Clubs

	Lunchtime 1.10 – 1.40 pm	After school 2.50 pm – 3.50 pm
Monday	Year 7 Keyboard Club in M1	Year 8 Band in M2
Tuesday	Year 7 Choir in M1 Double Reed Workshop in M2	
Wednesday	Little Big Band in M2	Year 10 Band in M2 Theory Club in M1
Thursday	String Group in M2	Year 9 Band in Drum Room Composition Club (Years 10/11) in M2
Friday	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!***

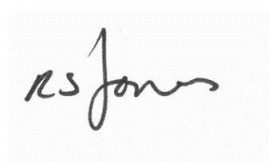
### Keeping Informed of Changes

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 very 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 through the busy half term ahead.

Diolch,



**Mr R S Jones**  
**Head of School**

**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>**



## Attendance Matters

every student, on time, everyday

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome back after the summer holidays.

I wish to take this opportunity to remind you of the important campaign which we will be implementing from today: "Attendance matters - every pupil, on time, every day".

Pre pandemic, Carmarthenshire's Secondary school attendance was **93.5%** and Primary pupils' attendance was **94%**. Parents and carers should be doing absolutely everything they can to ensure their children are in school and that we return to these previous levels of attendance.

A pupil with **80%** attendance **is** already missing **one** day every week.

As you know, regular attendance is essential for a pupil's wellbeing and learning. When pupils miss school, they miss out on important instruction and learning opportunities. This can lead to gaps in their knowledge and make it more difficult for them to keep up with the rest of the class.

In addition, being late to school can also disrupt your child's learning and the learning of others.

There are many reasons why pupils may miss school or be late. Sometimes, it is due to illness or family emergencies. However, there are also times when pupils miss school or are late because they are not motivated or because they do not see the importance of attending school regularly.

As parents, you play a critical role in helping your child develop good attendance habits.

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.

The following QR code 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.

Thank you for all your support and best wishes for the new year.



Eich cyf / Your ref:

Fy nghyf / My ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 08.09.2023

Gofynner am / Please ask for:

Llinell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line:

E-bost / E-mail:

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am writing on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council to address the recent concerns surrounding the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools. As we share a profound commitment to the safety and well-being of our students, educators, and staff, we wish to provide you with an update on our proactive measures in this regard.

Carmarthenshire County Council has a strong partnership with the Welsh Government, which has introduced a comprehensive survey covering schools across the area. The Council has also carried out and finalised initial desktop inquiries, and I am happy to report that these preliminary assessments have not identified any immediate issues within Carmarthenshire Schools.

Our dedication to ensuring a safe and secure educational environment remains unwavering. Consequently, we have fully committed to the timely commencement of the forthcoming academic year in all our schools. However, our commitment to safety goes hand in hand with ongoing vigilance.

Following on from our initial inquiries, Carmarthenshire County Council intends to validate the preliminary results through additional extensive surveying efforts on schools which were built or extended between the 1950&60s and 1990 to fully clarify the situation. We will not be conducting assessments on schools built before 1950, nor new schools. Although we do not anticipate discovering any signs of RAAC, if its presence is detected in any of our schools during these follow-up assessments, rest assured that we will promptly and decisively address the situation. Our utmost priority is ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, educators, and staff members.

Carmarthenshire County Council will continue to work diligently in conjunction with the Welsh Government to monitor the situation closely, prioritise safety, and implement appropriate measures in response to any concerns that may arise.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. The safety and the well-being of our school community remain our utmost priority.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Jones

**Jason G Jones BSc**

Rheolwr Cynnal a Chadw Eiddo

Depo Cillefwr, Heol Alltynap, Tre-ioan, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA31 3QZ

Property Maintenance Manager

Cillefwr Depot, Alltynap Road, Johnstown, Carmarthenshire SA31 3QZ



BUDDSODDWR | INVESTORS  
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

You are welcome to contact me in Welsh or English