

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 13th February 2023



Latest News:

1. INSET Day Friday 17th February
2. Industrial Action- update
3. Year 7 Parents' Evening
4. Year 11 GCSE Preparation
5. Hywel Dda Questionnaire

Key Dates:

- **16th February:** Year 7 Parents' Evening
- **Friday 17th February:** INSET Day – Staff only
- **Mon 20th – Fri 24th February:** HALF TERM
- **Monday 27th February:** Pupils return to school
- **Wednesday 1st March:** School Eisteddfod
- **Thursday 2nd March:** Whole School Prize Evening



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

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you and your families well and you have been able to enjoy the sunny weekend together.

While this half term may be comparatively short, we are sure you will agree it has been very busy with a wide range of engaging activities and events taking place here at Bryngwyn. Staff have noted how happy and enthusiastic learners are, both in lessons and in extra-curricular events. We are very proud of all our learners and the positive learning environment in our school. We would also like to say a big thank you for your help and support over the half term; this is always appreciated.



POSITIVE CHANGE

Be the change you want
to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

A thought for this week

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

Mon 13th	Tue 14th	Wed 15th	Thu 16th	Fri 17th	Sat 18th
11° 2°	13° 3°	11° 5°	11° 7°	12° 3°	11° 3°

The weather for the week ahead is fairly mixed with a bright and dry start giving way to periods of rain towards the end of the week.

1. INSET Day Friday 17th February 2023

We would like to remind parents and pupils that we will be holding an **INSET day on Friday 17th February.**

Therefore, the last day for learners in school before half term will be **Thursday 16th February.**

Furthermore, there is no Industrial Action planned for this week; the school will be open to learners this week as normal up to and including Thursday 16th February.

2. Industrial Action

As communicated last week, following an increased pay offer and a proposal to hold further discussions, the National Education Union (NEU) have released a statement that states that they intend to “to postpone the action originally scheduled for 14th February until the 2nd March”.

Further industrial action is currently planned for Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March 2023. As ever we will continue to update you closer to those dates.

3. Year 7 Parents’ Evening ONSITE Thursday 16th February 3.30pm

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of learners in Year 7 to our face-to-face Parents’ Evening at Bryngwyn this week on Thursday 16th February between 3.30pm and 7.00pm.

The Parents’ Evening will take on a new format this year. The evening will provide the opportunity to meet subject staff to discuss your child’s progress in each subject, and we would also like to take this opportunity to share examples of some of the exciting work undertaken by our pupils during ‘Freedom Fortnight’. As part of our work on the New Curriculum for Wales, Year 7 pupils have been developing their skills and applying their knowledge across all subjects. Staff have worked collaboratively in Areas of Learning Experience (Science & Technology, Maths & Numeracy, Humanities, Languages and Expressive Arts) to plan activities for pupils to develop their learning skills including independence, confidence and resilience. Recently we enjoyed some exciting learning with a whole school focus on ‘Courage’ during our ‘Freedom Fortnight’ for Year 7 and examples of the work will be on display for you to see.

Teachers will provide a brief overview of your child’s progress in class, their homework, how they are working towards their target levels and suggestions for improvement. Each individual meeting should last no longer than 5 minutes but you are welcome to spend longer in each area to view the work on display. This is necessary to allow all parents the opportunity to meet with the teachers of their choice. It would be appreciated if you could complete the slip on the letter already circulated to pupils, so that it can be returned to the form tutor, if you have not already

4. Important Information for Year 11 - Preparation for GCSE

- English Speaking and Listening Assessments – February 13th onwards**

The English GCSE Speaking and Listening Group Discussion assessments will take place during February. Marks will contribute to the overall GCSE grade. English lessons prior to the assessments will be dedicated to preparing for the group discussion which will be based on topics provided by the exam board. Attendance at all these preparatory lessons will be of utmost importance.



- **GCSE Art and Textiles Practical Exams – After February Half Term**

Practical exams in GCSE Art and Textiles will be held over a series of days from 27th February onwards. Please remind learners to confirm the correct dates for their class with their teachers.

- **Science Practical Exams**

Well done to all learners who have engaged so well in their GCSE science practical and written exams over recent weeks. There are some further dates for any learners who have not yet been able to complete these important assessments.

- **Year 11 Motivation Day – Independent Learning**

Following our Year 11 learners visit to Coleg Sir Gar when they engaged in their “Positively You” motivation and revision sessions, Year 11 are encouraged to keep up their independent learning.

One of the key messages of the day was the importance of independent learning as well as revision and exam techniques. There are a wide range of online resources readily available to pupils from the WJEC and other external agencies. These are really helpful and useful in the build up to the summer exams. The resources may also be useful to year 10 learners preparing for GCSE exams this summer.

Independent Learning Resources:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/>
- <https://collins.co.uk/pages/free-revision-resources>
- <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

5. Hywel Dda Community Health Questionnaire

Hywel Dda Community Health Council have provided the following information to be shared with parents and carers. Please see below a link to the questionnaire to record your responses.

Hywel Dda Community Health Council Plans and priorities in 2023-2024

[LINK TO QUESTIONNAIRE HERE](#)

**Hywel Dda Community Health Council
Plans and priorities in 2023-2024**

In April 2023 the CHC will be replaced by **Llais**, the new Citizen's Voice Body (CVB) for health and social care. **Llais** will reflect the views and represent the interest of people living in Wales about health and social care.

To help **Llais** identify its priorities in the first year, we want to hear your views on the things that matter most to people in the Hywel Dda area about health and social care.

Please provide us with your views to the following questions by **28 February 2023**. We will share your feedback with **Llais** to inform and influence its plan for 2023-2024.

What do you think will be main issues and issues for health and social care services in your area?

What kinds of things in respect of the provision of health or social services do you think **Llais** body should be aware of?

Do you think that everyone feels part of the community you live within and listened to, what does **Llais** need to think about in respect of health or social services?

If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please
Phone: **01646 697610** Email: hyweldda@waleschc.org.uk

Or you can let us have your feedback on line at the following link: <https://rb.gy/fr34rb>

Thank you for your help

CHCWALES
COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

6. Welsh Water Support for Families

Please see below important information regarding Welsh Water's offer of support for families:

Families who are eligible for The Pupil Development Grant and are in receipt of a qualifying benefit may also be entitled to help towards their water bills from Welsh Water.

What financial support is available from Welsh Water?

By switching to Welsh Water's Help U tariff, customers could save up to £230 off their water bill. Find out more [here](#).

More information on the help available for households can be found, [here](#).

The poster features the Welsh Water logo (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water) in the top left. A blue circle in the top right contains the text: "You could save up to £230 on your annual water bill." The main title "Support for families" is in large white font. Below it, text explains that with half term approaching, some families may be worried about affording daily essentials and meals for children off school. A "Did you know?" box states that families receiving a pupil development grant and a means tested or disability benefit may be entitled to help. A cartoon illustration shows a woman with glasses carrying a large shopping bag, with a young girl holding an orange next to her. A QR code is located at the bottom right of the illustration. Contact information includes the phone number 0800 052 0145 and the website dwrcymru.com/supportwithbills.

General News Round-Up

- **Lesotho Visit 2023** - We wish both pupils and staff who are traveling to Lesotho over half term the very best. They are part of an incredible experience thanks to the Dolen Cymru exchange. We are fortunate that both Bryngwyn and Glan y Mor Schools were selected to take part in this project.

The Kingdom of Lesotho, is a country landlocked as an enclave in South Africa. It is situated in the Maloti Mountains and contains the highest mountains in Southern Africa. It has an area of over 30,000 km² (11,600 sq mi) and has a population of about 2 million.



- **School crossing patrol** - Unfortunately we still remain without a crossing patrol person. The Local Authority are hoping to recruit a new colleague and have readvertised the position (please see link below.) In the meantime, we request all our pupils to be vigilant in crossing the road on their way to and from school. If you, or someone you know may be interested in this employment, please see the link below:



<https://saas.zellis.com/carmarthenshirecountycouncil/wrl/pages/vacancy.jsf?latest=01010840>



- **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:

JAN – MARCH 2023	LUNCHTIME	AFTERSCHOOL
MON	GCSE BADMINTON (YEAR 10 AND 11)	
TUES	VOLLEYBALL – (ALL YEAR GROUPS)	KS3 RUGBY 7s (YR 7, 8 & 9) – Mr Martin & WRU KS4 Rugby 7s (YR 10 & 11) – Mr Jenkins & WRU NETBALL (ALL YEARS) – Miss Williams
WEDS	NETBALL (YEAR 7)	KS3 FOOTBALL (YR 7, 8 & 9) HOCKEY (ALL YEARS)
THURS		KS3 BADMINTON – (YR 7, 8 & 9) HOCKEY (ALL YEARS) GCSE PE Revision - (Starts Feb 7th)
FRI	KS 4 BASKETBALL (YR 10 & 11) – Miss Fair	



- **Extra-Curricular Music Activities**

This week we have:

	Lunchtime 1.10 – 1.40 pm	After school 2.50 pm – 3.50 pm
Monday	Double-Reed Workshop M2	
Tuesday	Year 7 Choir in M1	Theory Club in M1
Wednesday	Brass Group in M1 Wind Band in M2	Year 10 Band
Thursday	String Group in M2 Samba Band in Gym	Year 9 Band
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!

Reminders of Important Information

Uniform



We would like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support in helping us ensure we maintain excellent standards of uniform for all our learners. We especially appreciate these efforts as the weather turns colder.

As a reminder or in case anyone is in any doubt, our school uniform is published on our new school website (see link below):

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

It is also very helpful if pupils' names are written inside uniform. This is of huge importance for items such as coats which can be easily left behind or mislaid.

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

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/School-Uniform-and-Equipment-Grant/>

Parking in the Community

As you know, the roads around the school can be very busy at the end of the day when learners are being collected and buses are leaving the school. As requested by the Local Authority, the gates are closed from 2.45pm to ensure **no vehicles move**



in the school car park until pupils have vacated the area. We appreciate your help in further ensuring pupil safety by **not parking on the yellow zigzags** on the road around the school and being mindful of local residents if parking on nearby streets. For those who use the car park of Prince Phillip Hospital when collecting learners from school, we appreciate your help in parking sensitively so as to ensure the buses and ambulances that use the hospital have easy access to the roads, and that patients can park conveniently for their appointments.

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

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 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 second half of the spring term ahead.

Diolch,

Mr Paul Jones

Head teacher

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

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