

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 18th July 2023



Latest News:

1. **Activities this week**
2. **Summer Concert**
3. **Year 11 Summer Celebration**
4. **Water Safety**
5. **Catering Questionnaire**
6. **Uniform Consultation**

Key Dates:

- **Monday 17th July:** Taster Day and School Show for Year 5 pupils
- **Tuesday 18th July:** Start of Activity Days
- **Friday 21st July:** Last day of Summer Term for learners and staff
- **Thursday 24th August:** GCSE Results Day
- **Tuesday 5th September:** Start of new school year for ALL LEARNERS



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 as we commence the last full week of what has been an exciting school year at Bryngwyn. We will end the Summer Term at the end of this week on Friday 21st July.

We would like to say well done to everyone for all their efforts throughout the year and look forward to one more week of exciting activities together, both in lessons and as part of our end of term activities later this week before we embark on the summer holidays.

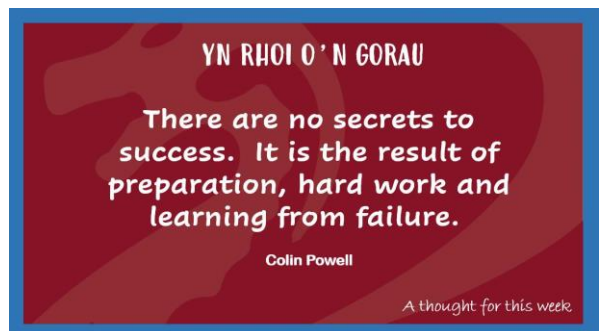
Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your unwavering support throughout the year. It is wonderful to see learners arrive at school each day with happy smiles and with such positive engagement in lessons, and we are grateful for all your help in this.

For Years 11 and 10 a reminder the GCSE results day will be Thursday 24th August 2023. Full details will be sent out at a later date.

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

Mon 17th	Tue 18th	Wed 19th	Thu 20th	Fri 21st
18° 13°	18° 14°	20° 11°	19° 11°	19° 12°

The weather remains largely mild for the week, however there are some suggestions of rain and showers in the first part of the week and temperatures more around the seasonal norms.



1. Activities This Week

We have a range of exciting extra-curricular activities as we look to end the year by celebrating all the hard work of our learners and promoting wellbeing. Activity days will take place from Wednesday 19th July as follows:

- **Wednesday 19th July: Years 7 - 10 trip to Oakwood** – buses will leave school at 8.45am on Wednesday to head to Pembrokeshire for the rollercoaster thrills of Oakwood Theme Park. Learners going on the trip are not required to wear uniform. Suitable clothing including raincoats and / or suncream are also advised. Pupils may choose to bring packed lunch or money to purchase refreshments at the park. Packed lunch will be provided for learners who usually receive free school meals. Buses will leave the park late afternoon and aim to return to school by 6.00pm. Transport home from school will need to be provided.
- **Thursday 20th July: Range of Activities** – there are a number of different trips available that have already been booked via ParentPay. Further details include the following:
 - **Dynamic Rock Climbing Centre** – the bus will leave school at 9.00 am to arrive at the climbing centre for the climbing activity. This will include calling in at McDonalds for anyone who wishes to purchase food. Alternatively, please bring a packed lunch. Packed lunch will be provided for those who receive free school meals. Learners going on the trip will not need to wear uniform but should wear clothing suitable for climbing: sports / comfortable clothes and trainers, and bring a drink. The bus will return to school by 2.50pm and the usual transport arrangements at the end of the day will run as normal.
 - **Surfing at Llangennith** – the bus will leave school at 8.45 to arrive at Llangennith for a day of fun carving up the waves at Llangennith with Progress Surf School. Learners will need to bring a packed lunch and drinks for the day. All equipment will be provided. Learners will not need to wear uniform but will need to bring suncream and a towel. The bus will return to school by 2.50pm and the usual transport arrangements at the end of the day will run as normal.
 - **Swansea Bay and Mumbles Walk** – the bus will leave school at 8.45 and head for Swansea Bay where learners will enjoy a leisurely walk to appreciate the Mumbles coastline. There may be some time at the beach weather permitting. There will also be opportunities for pupils to purchase ice cream and fish and chips along the way. Learners may wish to bring money to purchase lunch or can bring a packed lunch. A packed lunch will be provided for learners who receive free school meals. Learners will not need to wear uniform but appropriate clothing including a raincoat and / or suncream is advised. The bus will return to school by 2.50pm and the usual transport arrangements at the end of the day will run as normal.
 - **School based activities** – for each of the days above, there will be activities at school for those learners not taking part in any of the excursions. Learners should wear uniform or PE kit for activities on these days.
- **Friday 21st July** – fun sports day and last day of term. Pupils can wear sensible leisure wear in their house colours and there will be a range of activities on site. Lunch and the end of the day arrangements will be as normal.

SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT

Monday 17th July 7 p.m.

Senior Choir

Junior Choir

Little Big Band

String Group

Solos

Duets

Trios

Wind band

Rock Band



Date: Monday 17th July 2023

Time: 7 p.m.

Venue: Sports Hall.

Tickets available at the door.

Adults £3 Under 16's free.

3. Year 11 Summer Celebration

Professional photographs from the Summer Celebration have now arrived and are available to collect from Reception

You will also find more general photos from the evening in the Manor park on our gallery at the link below:

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





4. Water safety a message from Carmarthenshire County Council in association with RNLI

There has been a stark increase in the number of tragedies in and around water amongst young people, and we must work together to prevent more deaths.

Four people under 20 died in accidental drownings in Wales in 2022 – the highest number since comparable data became available from the National Water Safety Forum’s Water Incident Database (WAID) in 2015. In total, there were 22 deaths in Wales from accidental drowning in 2022 across inland and coastal locations, and we have already seen a number of drowning fatalities this year.

We at Swim Wales, the RNLI and Water Safety Wales, would like your support in raising further awareness of our water safety messages to children and young people on the importance of staying safe around the coast and inland waterways like rivers, lakes and reservoirs during the summer period.

One drowning is too many. Below are four simple live saving tips to children and young people to help them stay safe around open water:

- Stop and Think
- Stay Together
- Float
- Call 999 or 112

The StayWiseCymru website is easy to use – just select an age group, subject, or theme, and you will find a collection of resources to keep students busy. Find it now at www.staywisecymru.co.uk



5. Catering Questionnaire

We have been asked Carmarthenshire Local Authority to share the questionnaire below with parents and carers as part of their ongoing monitoring of the quality of provision in our schools. We would be grateful if you could take the time to share your views on the catering service that provides our school lunches here at Bryngwyn.

<https://carmarthenshire.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/dlwi3j>

6. Uniform Consultation

Last week we sent out to parents a consultation, as promised, on some minor modifications to our school uniform, particularly the introduction of black tailored shorts into the uniform as a Summer option.

Details of the consultation have been sent to parents via text message.

A big thank you to the large number of parents who have already responded and the many positive and helpful comments made.

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/>. We would be grateful if all parents could check the website ahead of preparations for return to school in September.

Pupils are expected to wear normal uniform as specified. A grant is available for school uniform and equipment for families who are eligible. For more information on the grant, please see the link below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/financial-support/school-essentials-pupil-development-grant-access/#.YO6klz2SmMp>

General News Round-Up



- **Flying the Flag for Wales** – a huge well done to Darcy Coslett who was selected to represent Wales in the SAIB international athletics competition in Glasgow at the weekend. Darcy was chosen to compete in two events for the Under 17s category, against athletes two years older than herself. This is an immense achievement and Darcy's performance was outstanding. We are all very proud of our national athletics superstar. Well done Darcy!
Ardderchog!

- **School Show – Wizard of Oz** - It was lovely to see so many parents and friends at the Production the Wizard of Oz last week. A huge thank you to our pupils for making it such a special night and to the many past pupils who returned to help. A special thanks to Mrs Marjorie Thomas and Mrs Tara Armstrong for all their hard work. A lovely couple of nights. We will hopefully be loading some photos onto website during the week. A big thank you for the lovely comments from many parents, much appreciated. **Well done everyone!**



- **History Castle Visit Fun** – Bryngwyn learners explored medieval life and had fun on their visit to Cardiff Castle last week. The humanities department were very impressed with the engagement and conduct of the pupils. **Da iawn!**



- **Year 9 Scholars** – Congratulations to our Year 9 students, who all graduated with a 1st in their Scholars Programme projects, working with a university tutor through the @brilliantclub. The ceremony, held at Swansea University, recognised their commitment and effort! **Gwych!**

- **Bryngwyn Athletes in the medals representing West Wales** – Well done to the Bryngwyn athletes selected to represent West Wales in the inter-regional athletics competition at the weekend. Athletes from the four regions of Wales took part in a full day of events at the Ron Jones Stadium in Aberdare including the following from Bryngwyn:
 - **Freya McCarthy** – Triple Jump, silver; Shot put, bronze (in an age category two years older)
 - **Amelie Campion** – 100m; 4 x 100 relay, silver
 - **Oliver Bevan** – 4 x 100 relay, gold; 100m silver; long jump, silver



Ardderchog pawb!



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 Test 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:

- ask your child to log in to Hwb
- go to the icon marked "Personalised Assessments" (you may be asked to log in once more)
- Click on the heading "Learner Feedback"
- 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.
- 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.

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
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/>

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 year, we have had 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.



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.

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

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 remainder of the Summer Term ahead.

Diolch,

Mr Paul Jones

Head teacher

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Email: enq@bryngwyn.cymru

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

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

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