

# Ysgol Bryngwyn School

## Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023



### Latest News:

1. Retirement of Mr Paul Jones, headteacher
2. Visitors from Lesotho
3. Key Stage Three Reports and National Tests
4. Wizard of Oz
5. Year 6 Taster Day

### Key Dates:

- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Last day of Summer term for learners and staff
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Yr 6 Taster Day
- **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 11 Summer Celebration
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August:** GCSE Results Day

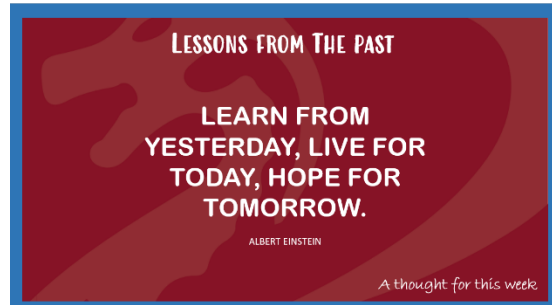


For all future events please visit our diary and planner at:




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

### Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you and your families well and you have been able to enjoy the weekend together. There are currently a wide range of activities taking place across the school and staff have commented on the excellent engagement of learners and positive atmosphere throughout. We would like to thank you for your support that helps to create this.



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

Mon 3rd	Tue 4th	Wed 5th	Thu 6th	Fri 7th
 18° 12°	 17° 11°	 18° 12°	 19° 13°	 21° 14°

part of week and temperatures more around the seasonal norms.

The weather remains largely good and mild for the week ahead, again with some suggested rain or thundery showers throughout the early

### 1. Retirement of our Headteacher, Mr Paul Jones

As you may be aware, after 20 years association with Bryngwyn and 10 years with Glan y Mor School, Mr Paul Jones will be retiring at the end of this academic year. In association with the Local Authority, the Governing Body have asked Mr John Jones, Head of School – Glan y Mor, to assume temporary and interim leadership of the Federation from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

The Governing Body were unable to proceed with an appointment over the Summer term but, with the support of the Local Authority, will re-advertise for the permanent role later in the coming academic year. You will all be kept updated of proceedings as soon as possible. We wish Mr John Jones and the rest of the senior leadership team well as we move into a new period for the Federation, and wish Mr Paul Jones a very happy and lengthy retirement.

Parents and pupils will continue to have the highest level of support provided by our experienced Senior Leadership Team and particularly through Mr Rob Jones, Head of school on the Bryngwyn site.

Your warmth and support in this period of transition will be hugely appreciated and we ask that you continue to provide the same exceptional level of support for both schools as you have done for Mr Paul Jones and his team.

### **Paul Jones – personal message**

“It has been an absolute privilege to have led both Bryngwyn and Glan y Mor Schools and their communities over a considerable period of time. Together we have always achieved the very, very best for our learners who have always been at the heart of everything we have done. Both schools have achieved acknowledged reputations both within Carmarthenshire and nationally by Estyn.

Whilst the last few years have been challenging, particularly during the pandemic, the Governing Body, the senior management team and staff are well equipped to meet some of the exciting initiatives ahead around the development of the new Curriculum for Wales, Additional Learning Needs Reforms and the development of considerable new builds on both sites.

I have no doubt both schools will continue to thrive and achieve whilst always supporting proactively the well-being of the communities we serve. I have many people to thank, and this will be included in the final Newsletter of the term.”

### **Message from Mr John Jones**

"Since joining the Federation in 2017, just prior to inspection, it has been a source of great pride to have led Glan Y Mor and contributed to the leadership of our Federation with Ysgol Bryngwyn School, as both schools have gone from strength to strength in some of the most testing times imaginable, not just for our schools but also for the communities we serve.

It is an honour to be offered the chance to lead the Federation into its next phase of development, and I am thoroughly looking forward to the challenge of leading both schools forward in their development to the benefit of their students, staff and communities."

## **2. Visitors from Lesotho**

Last week saw the return visit to Bryngwyn School from staff and pupils from Lesotho. Our learners extended a very warm welcome and we hope our visitors enjoyed a number of opportunities to engage with our staff, learners and feeder primary schools together with the chance to explore South Wales.

The week came to a climax with pupils from Bryngwyn and Glan y Mor together with all of our visitors across the schools in South Wales at a “Mokete” celebration in the Temple of Peace in Cardiff that was attended by Jeremy Miles, the Minister for Education in Wales.



The event featured on **Heno** over the weekend; if you are interested you can see the programme on the below clip with Bryngwyn School featuring after 14 minutes:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0fvhyxp>

### 3. 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.**

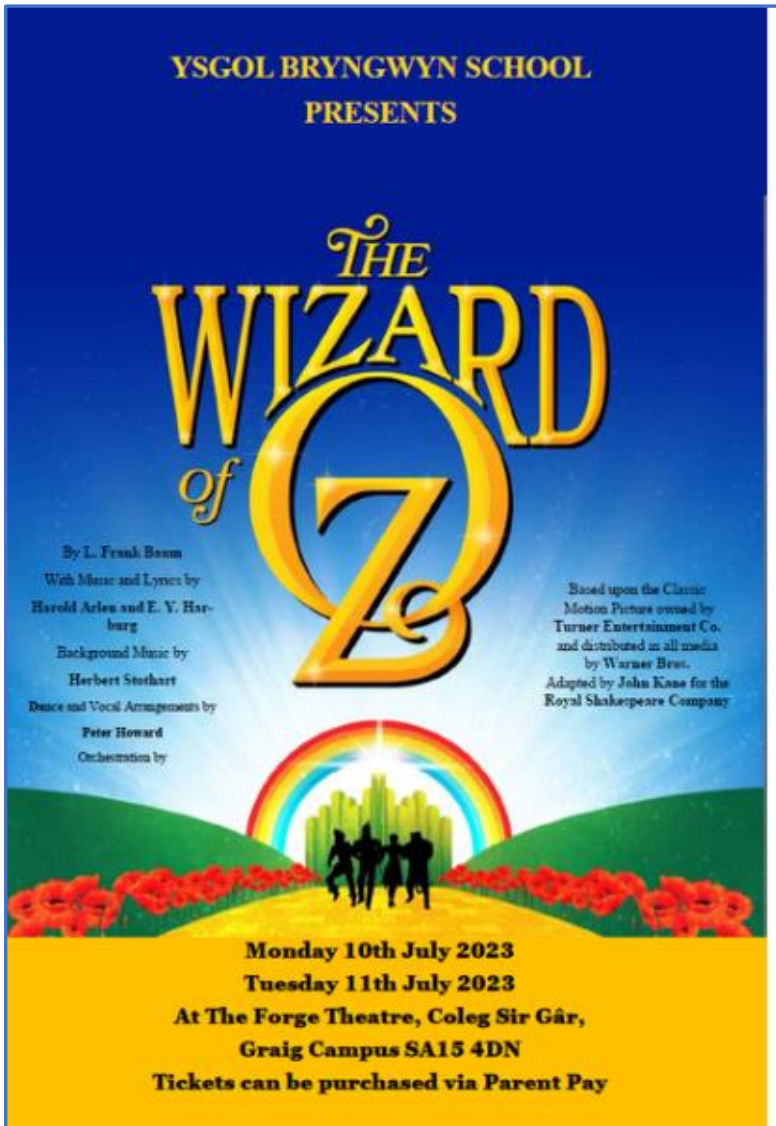
#### Reports

- **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.**

#### 4. Wizard of OZ



Tickets are now on sale via 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.

We are extremely grateful for both staff and pupil input and very much look forward to the curtain going up on these nights. Further information on tickets and arrangements will be available from our Music Department and on our social media accounts. 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.

#### 5. Year 6 Taster Day Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

For those with younger siblings or friends with children in Year 6, a reminder that we will be holding our Year 6 Taster Day on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

If you require any further information or your children have missed out on a visit please contact us on the details below. Similarly, if you 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 [eng@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:eng@bryngwyn.cymru)



## General News Round-Up



- **Swimming Success** – A huge well done to Ffion and her County Swimming Squad who are currently in the Gloria Sports Arena, Turkey, taking part in a Warm Weather Training Camp. Nofio Sir Gar will be training hard for the week in preparation for the Welsh Summer National Competition due to take place in August. **Da iawn!**



- **Bryngwyn Pupils Excel at Welsh Championships in Athletics**– The Welsh Athletics Championships took place at the end of June in the International Sports Campus in Cardiff. Several Bryngwyn learners excelled including:
  - Darcey Coslet who won GOLD for the U15s 300m as well as BRONZE in the 200m,
  - Freya McCarthy who was placed in Triple Jump, Shot Put and Long Jump
  - Oliver Bevan placed in both the 200m and 100m.

**Well done indeed!**



- **Oxford University Triumph!** - Huge congratulations to Emily O-L, Year 9, who was awarded runner up in the Oxford University 2023 French Flash Competition. Emily's winning entry was a short story written in French about Marie Antoinette. With over 950 entries, this success is an outstanding achievement. **Ardderchog!**

- **Bryngwyn Pupils Question Mark Drakeford** – Bryngwyn learners travelled to the Senedd last week to question Mark Drakeford about the influence of Welsh Government on Climate Change. **Well done everyone!**





- **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

### 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




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)”*

## Have Your Say on this Summer's Exams!

This Summer, Qualifications Wales are inviting learners, teachers, lecturers, parents, carers and anyone with an interest in this year's Summer exams to complete their short survey on exams. They want to hear your views about exams this Summer. The feedback they receive will help us monitor the qualification system in Wales.



**<https://haveyoursay.qualifications.wales/have-your-say-on-summer-exams#msdynttrid=e2BCJYw3takANxUyKOScgUU7YBKWASb1EWx1ryQBgRg>**

## 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 well-being 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>**