

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and

Learners – 4th December 2023



Latest News:

1. **Mock Exams Years 10 and 11**
2. **Year 10 Parents' Evening**
3. **Reports**
4. **Year 9 Options**
5. **Welsh Government Consultation on Changes to the School Year**
6. **Local Authority Attendance Update**
7. **Christmas Carol Concert**
8. **Salvation Army**

Key Dates:

- **Wednesday 6th December:** Yr 10 Parents' Evening (online)
- **11th December onwards:** Mock Exams
- **Wednesday 13th December:** Christmas Lunch
- **Thursday 21st December:** Christmas Carol Service
- **Friday 22nd December:** Last day of Term for pupils and staff

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you and your families well as we embark on the festive month of December. It is hard to believe there are only three weeks before our Christmas break, but they are three very busy weeks with a host of exciting learning activities planned.

Once more we would like to thank you all for contributing to the wonderfully positive atmosphere around school. Pupils are enjoying their learning and engaging wholeheartedly in a range of extracurricular activities. It is also a pleasure to see so many cheery smiling faces coming into school on these cold mornings.



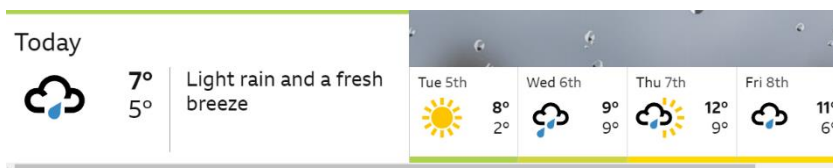
CELEBRATIONS

It is fine to celebrate success, but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure.

Bill Gates

A thought for this week

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



The week ahead appears mild for the time of year with some wet weather also expected. Rain coats may be needed.

This week is week **one** on the timetable.

1. **Mock Exams Years 10 and 11 – commencing Monday 11th December**

All learners in Years 10 and 11 will undertake mock GCSE exams from the start of next week. Learners will have received a detailed timetable to indicate when each exam will take place. This is a very important opportunity to prepare for final exams as it helps learners to practise revision techniques and gain exam experience. Revision should now be underway and subject teachers will support learners in lessons by identifying key topics and approaches. We would recommend that all learners involved spend some valuable time at home designing their own revision plans

and preparing for these exams as fully as possible to help identify which areas to target ahead of the final exams in January and June.

Please see below a link to the timetables given to learners.

Other important dates in the assessment calendar for Year 11 include:

- *w/b 4th Dec Foundation French Listening and Reading exam in lessons*
- *Sept 2023-Jan 2024 History NEA*
- *February 2nd 2024 PE Practical GCSE*
- *Jan & Feb 2024 Science Practical GCSE*
- *Jan/February Food Practical GCSE*

Revision

For some further support with revision approaches, the following links may be helpful:

- Bryngwyn Revision Tips for Learners: <https://sites.google.com/hwbcymru.net/ysgolbryngwynschool/home>
- Bryngwyn Revision Tips for Parents <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Year-11-Revision-techniques-A-Parents-Survival-Gui/>
- WJEC Revision Resources: <https://www.gov.wales/power-up-wales#GCSE>
<https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://collins.co.uk/pages/free-revision-resources>
- <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

2. Year 10 Parents' Evening – ONLINE Wednesday 6th December

Our Parents' Evening for Year 10 takes place online this week via SchoolCloud. Parents and carers with learners in Year 10 should have received a message to make bookings with your child's teachers via School Cloud. There are a limited number of appointments remaining if you have not yet had the chance to book. Please see the link below to make or amend bookings.

<https://bryngwyn.schoolcloud.co.uk>

It can be helpful if your child joins you for the meetings so that they can hear the information provided by the teachers. We appreciate the support, mutual respect and courtesy of parents and teachers and ask that we all follow standard professional protocols for online meetings. For example, the meetings should take place in a quiet, confidential location and no attempt to capture images or recording should be made. Please note, the timings for each meeting are automatically set and controlled by the system. Each meeting is allocated 5 minutes and the time remaining will be displayed but the meeting will automatically close when the timer runs out.

Should you have any queries or encounter any difficulties with the Online Parents' Evening, please contact the school office on enq@bryngwyn.cymru or 01554 750661

3. Reports

Learner progress reports will be distributed over the next two weeks as follows:

- Year 9 – Full Reports distributed this week;
- Year 8 – Interim Reports distributed by the end of term;
- Year 7 – Interim Reports to be distributed by the end of term;
- Year 10 – Interim Reports distributed this week;
- Year 11 – Full Reports will be distributed in January following the mock exams.

4. Year 9 Options

In January, pupils in Year 9 will be selecting their option subjects for GCSE courses. In the next fortnight, pupils will have an opportunity to select preliminary option choices before the Christmas break. These choices are not their final option choices but provide an indication of the options they are interested in to help us plan the curriculum and option blocks ahead of the final choices in the new year. We will send full information out directly by text message for all parents and communicate with pupils through their assemblies.

5. Welsh Government Consultation on Changes to the School Year from 2025 onwards

You may be aware that the Welsh Assembly Government has recently begun to explore making changes to the school year. Please see below a message from the Government with a link to the consultation in order for you to share your views:

Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language has opened a consultation seeking views on the school year. We are seeking your views on proposals to amend school term dates so that terms are more equal in length, with more evenly distributed breaks, for maintained schools in Wales.

<https://www.gov.wales/structure-school-year>

The consultation will be open until 12 February 2024.

6. Local Authority Attendance Update

Please see below a link to a letter from Carmarthenshire Local Authority regarding pupil attendance at this important time of the year:

https://www.bryngwysnyschool.co.uk/Llythr_Nadolig_Uwchradd.pdf

Christmas – despite its exam pressures for many - is an opportunity for our schools to offer pupils many different experiences. Hopefully you still remember the excitement and benefits of sharing social experiences with friends.

That time is coming up for your own children at school during the next few weeks.

We do realise that Christmas is also a very busy time for families that can bring many pressures.

At times like these attendance at school can sometimes suffer. If you have difficulties which cause your child to be absent from school, you don't have to face them on your own. Carmarthenshire County Council, through your local school can support you in many practical ways.

Our goal always, is to see Carmarthenshire's pupils benefit socially and academically from being part of school life. We can only do this with a parent/guardian's support. Working together to make sure a pupil attends school is the first step to help your child develop life skills that last forever.

Thank you.

7. Christmas Carol Concert Thursday 21st December

We are delighted to once more be able to invite parents and friends of Bryngwyn to celebrate with us in our delightful Christmas Carol Concert. Everyone is welcome to join us for a festive fun-filled evening showcasing young musical talent from Bryngwyn's orchestra, choirs, drama group and soloists. The audience will also be able to participate by singing Christmas carols.

The Carol Concert will be held at Bryngwyn School on the evening of Thursday 21st December commencing at 6.30. All are welcome and it is free to attend. Refreshments will also be on sale. Festive dress is encouraged!

8. Annual Christmas Salvation Army Appeal



For the 26th year running, we are very proud as a school to be involved in the Salvation Army Christmas Charity Appeal. Captain Karen Symonds from the Salvation Army joined us last Thursday and Friday and will be with us on Monday and Tuesday to officially launch our Christmas Toy Appeal at Bryngwyn. We hope all year groups will have enjoyed a fantastic assembly which really focused the pupils on Christmas as a time of giving.

Every year group is raising money to support other children at Christmas by undertaking a range of activities including a sponsored walk and a variety of corridor-based events. This year these events will take place during the week **of 4th - 8th December**. As always, your support is greatly appreciated as our contribution as a school makes a significant difference for a large number of children at Christmas in the Llanelli area. Cash donations will be collected and used to buy gifts for children or if you would prefer you can donate via ParentPay. For many families this Christmas will be one of the most difficult due to the ongoing economic issues we all face. In these difficult times even a small donation can make a huge difference and all donations will be gratefully received from those who are able to, but we also appreciate that not everyone will be able to contribute. Your support is never taken for granted but hugely appreciated.

9. Year 6 Transition



If you have a pupil due to start with us or indeed have friends that are interested, then please be aware all applications need to be made directly to the Local Authority.

There is a booklet for parents which is available online on the link below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-admissions-and-changing-schools/information-and-guidance-for-parents/#.Yzn4q3bMKUI>

Please note the closing date for applications to commence 2024-25 is **December 20th 2023**.

We would recommend completing the application before the deadline to avoid disappointment.

All applications need to be made online on the Carmarthenshire website (link below):

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-admissions-and-changing-schools/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-11-year-olds/#.YzLS7nbMI2w>

Schools and parents will be informed of the outcome on the National Offer Date of **1st March 2024**.

If you, or anyone you know, would like further information or a tour of the school, please contact us on enq@bryngwyn.cymru or by telephone on 01554 750661.

General News Round-Up



- **Wellbeing** – We are delighted once again to be able to offer **free toast** to learners before school. Toast is served each morning in the dining area to ensure all our learners have the chance to start the day with a breakfast to boost learning power!
- **Drama Club Success at Shakespeare Festival** – Bryngwyn's drama club performed A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Taliesin Theatre last week as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. The pupils put in a great deal of work to bring the play together, and the performance was fantastic. They conducted themselves professionally and represented Bryngwyn wonderfully. **Congratulations drama club!**



- **Tyisha Food Bank Appeal – Huge Thank You!** – Bryngwyn learners have once more exceeded expectation with their amazing contributions to the Tysha Food Bank Appeal to help feed more families this Christmas. We would like to thank you all for your donations on behalf of the team at Tyisha Food Bank. ***Diolch pawb!***



- **A Bryngwyn Christmas** – A huge thank you to learners who helped decorate the Bryngwyn Christmas Tree last week. ***Well done!***

- **Christmas Lunch 13th December 2023** - Christmas lunch will be served in the dining area for all pupils on **Wednesday 13th December**. A vegetarian option will also be available. Please note that this will be the only menu on this day. If pupils do not wish to have a traditional dinner, they may prefer to bring in a packed lunch. **Thank you.**



- **Extra-Curricular Activities** – we are delighted to be able to offer a full range of extra-curricular sport and music activities during lunch times and after school. See the link below for the full range of clubs available this week:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Learner-Experience/>

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!

Links to important information

- Canteen Prices: <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Catering/>
- [School Uniform & Equipment Grant](#)
- **Free School Meals** - <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-meals/free-school-meals/#.X4gaJNBKiUI>
- **New School Menu** - <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Catering/>

Keeping Informed of Changes

In order to make sure you receive all of our messages and updates immediately, it is important that the contact details on our school systems remain up to date. If any details have changed, please let us know by emailing us on enq@bryngwyn.cymru .

Thank you as always for your continued support of our school. We look forward to continuing to work together to provide the very best experiences for all our learners.

Diolch,

Mr R S Jones

Head of School

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