

# Ysgol Bryngwyn School

## Update for Parents, Carers and

## Learners – 12th December 2022



### Latest News:

1. **Local Authority Advice Regarding Strep. A and Scarlet Fever**
2. **Year 11 Mock Exams**
3. **Year 10 Parents' Evening**
4. **Salvation Army Appeal**
5. **Christmas Carol Concert 21<sup>st</sup> December**
6. **Christmas Lunch 14<sup>th</sup> December**
7. **Bryngwyn Support Tyisha Foodbank**
8. **Last Chance: Have Your Say on New GCSE Qualifications**







### Key Dates:

- **12th December:** Year 11 Mocks begin
- **14<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Lunch
- **14<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 8 and 9 Reports issued
- **21<sup>st</sup> December:** Carol Service
- **22<sup>nd</sup> December:** End of Term- Bryngwyn's Got Talent
- **23<sup>rd</sup> December -** INSET day

### Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you and your families well as we progress through the festive month of December. It is hard to believe there are only two weeks before our Christmas break, but they will be two 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.

Mon 12th	Tue 13th	Wed 14th	Thu 15th	Fri 16th	Sat 17th
 3° 0°	 4° -2°	 4° -3°	 5° -2°	 6° 1°	 7° 4°

December has certainly brought colder temperatures by day, well below the seasonal norm, combined with risk of frost and ice by night and in the early mornings. This seems to continue throughout the coming week until Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Could we therefore remind pupils, parents and staff to take care on site and please stick to the main footpath areas, particularly on the way in during the mornings.**

### 1. Local Authority Advice Regarding Strep A and Scarlet Fever

Quite understandably, the topic has been in the media for much of the week and we appreciate that parents might feel anxious.

The Local Authority letter sent out last week offers advice and what to look out for. Please see the link below for a copy of this letter:



### 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*

[https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Llythyr\\_i\\_rieni.pdf](https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Llythyr_i_rieni.pdf)


The following poster from Public Health Wales also includes some very helpful advice regarding the symptoms of iGAS and Scarlet Fever:

## Understanding the symptoms of iGAS and Scarlet Fever

 **Treat at home**  
If your child has any of the following:


- Sore throat
- Headache

Cold and flu like symptoms are very common at this time of year, especially in children.

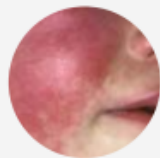


[Read more](#)


Most will have a common seasonal virus, which can be treated at home by keeping the child hydrated, and with paracetamol.

 **Contact NHS 111 Wales**  
If your child also develops any of the following:

- Fever
- Nausea or vomiting
- A fine red rash, which typically first appears on the chest and stomach. Older children may not have the rash.




Contact NHS 111 Wales or your GP for advice.

 **Contact GP straight away**  
If your child has any of the following:

- Fever (a high temperature above 38°C)
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle tenderness
- Redness at the site of a wound

Contact your GP or get medical advice straight away.

 Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health

In addition, you may wish to consult the following recommended websites for any further advice, support or reassurance:

- <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/encyclopaedia/s/article/scarletfever>
- [Scarlet Fever - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](#)
- [All Wales Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Educational Settings FINAL May 2017x.pdf](#)
- <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/scarlet-fever/infection-prevention-and-control-for-childcare-settings-2014/>

## Reporting Your Child's Absence

We would also like to remind parents of the updated procedures for reporting your child's absence are as follows.

- To report your child's absence for the day please **text** 07480 632 718 by 9.30am.
- Please ensure the text message contains:
  - **your child's name,**
  - **year group/registration class and**
  - **reason for the absence.**
- *To ensure validity of the message, our systems will check the number of the phone that sent the text against the contact details we hold for your child.*

**We would appreciate it if you could be as specific as possible when indicating the reason for your child's absence.**



Furthermore, we are reminded of the importance of good hygiene and mitigations that stop the spread of disease especially:

- **Catch it, bin it, kill it**
- **Regular handwashing and hand sanitising**

## 2. Year 11 Mock Exams Underway

We are pleased to note that Year 11 Mock Exams began this week very successfully and teachers are impressed with the mature and sensible way learners have approached these very important assessments. Attendance is vital to give learners the experience of sitting formal exams and practice completing whole papers as it is an invaluable part of building confidence and preparing for GCSEs.



We would like to thank parents for helping pupils feel ready to give of their best in these exams.

## Year 10 Mock Numeracy Paper Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December



Learners in Year 10 will also sit a mock GCSE Numeracy exam next Monday. Please note learners will need to bring in mathematical equipment, **calculators are especially required for this paper.**

## 3. Year 10 Parents' Evening Last Week

All of us at Bryngwyn would like to thank parents of learners in Year 10 following our onsite Parents' Evening last week. We were impressed with the excellent turn out and despite the cold evening everyone enjoyed a very warm welcome. The evening had a lovely positive

energy and parents' feedback extremely complementary about the information they had received. They welcomed both the comments on progress and also the positive suggestions for the way forward. Teachers were very grateful for the opportunity to once again meet with parents after what seems like a very long break (since yr 7). We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their efforts and contributions.

If you did not have the chance to share your feedback on the night, we would be grateful if you would please complete the following form to share your opinions:

<https://forms.gle/Ku9rC5WA97ydkN4C9>

#### **4. 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. A range of events including our Sponsored Walk for all year groups took place last week and all form classes are now in the process of purchasing gifts for the children of Llanelli.



***A huge thank you to all who have donated so far.***

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 you may be unable to contribute at this time. Your support is never taken for granted but hugely appreciated.

***Proud to be Bryngwyn!***

#### **5. Christmas Carol Concert – 21<sup>st</sup> December**





We are delighted to once more be able to invite parents and friends of Bryngwyn to celebrate with us in our first on-site Christmas Carol Concert since before Covid. 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 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December commencing at 6.30. All are welcome and it is free to attend. Refreshments will also be on sale. Festive dress is encouraged!**

## 6. Christmas Lunch 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 –

Last reminder that.....

Christmas lunch will be served in the dining area for all pupils on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.**



**Pryd Bargaen Cino Nadolig**  
**Christmas Lunch Meal Deal**

<p><b>Cinio Nadolig Traddodiadol</b> (Twrca) neu Rost Llysieuol Gyda'r holl drimins, dewis o ddau fath o dato, drau fath o lysiau a fi</p> <p>Sbwnj siocled cartref gyda saws gwyn NEU Bwdin Nadolig NEU Fins Pei</p> <p><b>Teimlo'n llwglyd</b> beth am gael cinio rwy o f aint am 50c ychwanegol (bargaen)</p>	<p><b>Traditional Turkey Christmas</b> Dinner or Vegetarian Roast Served with all the trimming choice of two potatoes, two portions of veg and gravy.</p> <p>Homemade Chocolate Sponge and White Sauce OR Christmas ● Pudding OR Mince Pie</p> <p><b>Feeling hungry</b> have an extra-large dinner for 50p extra (great value)</p>
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**DIM OND £2.67**      **ONLY £3.67**

Cyngor Sir Gâr  
Carmarthenshire  
County Council



We would also invite all staff and pupils to wear a Christmas Jumper on that day, so make it a good one! Pupils are asked to wear their normal uniform with jumper over the top. Voluntary donations can be

made to the Salvation Army (via parentpay) or to Save the children via the link: [www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate-here](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate-here).

**Please raise awareness of this with your children; it would be great to finish the term with a good dose of Christmas cheer! Thank you for your support.**

## 7. Bryngwyn Supports Tyisha Foodbank



We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone, both pupils and staff, who donated to the Tyisha Food Bank Appeal. Representatives from the Food Bank collected our donations of tins and packed food items on Friday and were immensely grateful for our generosity. They said that on an average month they would normally have 100-150 requests for meals, with the current pressures this went up to 480 meals provided last month!

It's lovely to know that with Bryngwyn's help there will be so many families provided with a Christmas Dinner this year. **Diolch!**

## 8. Last Chance: Have Your Say on the new GCSE Qualifications

Qualification Wales have launched their 'Have Your Say' on GCSEs consultation and is now open until **14 December**, and they want your help to shape the new qualifications in Wales. You can access the consultation below:

<https://haveyoursay.qualifications.wales/>

**Please take the time to look and respond to this important consultation that will shape the future of GCSE qualifications in Wales.**

## General News Round-Up



- **School crossing patrol** - Unfortunately we 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>

- **Year 11 Enterprise Fayre** – Year 11 hosted very successful Enterprise Fayre this week selling the items they had made through their enterprise project as part of their Skills Challenge. Lovely to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit! Some fantastic enterprise ideas have been created and learners will develop their pitch ideas after the Christmas break. A big thank you to everyone involved and the Year 11 Tutor Team for supporting pupils throughout. All profits raised will be donated to the Salvation Army Appeal. **Da iawn pawb!**



- **Extra-Curricular Music Activities**

This week we have:

	<b>Lunchtime 1.10 – 1.40 pm</b>	<b>After school 2.50 pm – 3.50 pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Double-Reed Workshop M2	

<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 7 Choir in M1	Theory Club in M1
<b>Wednesday</b>	Brass Group in M1 Wind Band in M2	Year 10 Band
<b>Thursday</b>	String Group in M2	Year 9 Band
<b>Friday</b>	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

### School Admissions / Transition

The Local Authority has contacted all parents of pupils in Year 6 with information regarding applying for secondary school. All applications to the school must be made directly to Carmarthenshire LA on their website 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>



Please note the closing date for applications to commence 2023-24 is **December 20<sup>th</sup> 2022**.

Schools and parents will be informed of the outcome on the National Offer Date of **1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**.

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

### Saturday Club at Coleg Sir Gar

Coleg Sir Gar offers a Saturday Club to our learners which is an excellent opportunity for pupils to find out more about the courses available and even an opportunity to engage in new subjects. Saturday Club is also a chance for pupils in years 9 – 11 to engage with the college to help with planning their own future career pathways and ensure a smooth transition at 16.

## Year 9 Options

Learners in Year 9 have recently attended an options assembly and you may find your children will increasingly discuss subjects and career choices at home.



In KS4 (Year 10) there are several 'new' courses that pupils will not have studied previously. In order to help you and your children to have a clearer understanding of what these may include, pre-recorded video information will also be available to

both parents and pupils. Furthermore, some vocational courses will be available in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar. There is information available on your child's Google Classroom that you may like to watch together.

Learners will choose their final options by the end of January 2023 after receiving further information including an options booklet, information website and parents' evening.

### **Preliminary Options Choices should now be submitted.**

We are also supported by our Careers Advisor from Careers Wales. Her name is Mrs Marcia Evans and she is always keen to support parents and pupils through this process. There is also a great deal of further information on the Careers website which can be accessed at:

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/>

Or for further support and careers advice please call 0800 028 4844

### **Information from Careers Wales for Years 8 and 9**

Careers Wales have produced some important information to help learners as they begin to make their first choices leading to a future career path. Careers Wales work with pupils, parents and carers to provide information, advice and guidance that will help them to consider all of the options available. This will help pupils make informed choices about the career path that is right for them.



This is an important time for pupils in years 8 and 9 as they begin to take more control and responsibility for planning their future careers.

[Careers Wales](#) are here to support pupils, parents and carers during this time.

**How can Careers Wales help?**

**Careers Wales** can support you and your child in making the right decisions to help them achieve their career ambitions. This includes supporting them to:



- [Choose which subjects, courses and qualifications](#) to study in years 10 and 11
- Understand more about [continuing in education](#);
- Use tools and resources like the [Buzz Quiz](#), [Career Match Quiz](#) and [CareersCraft](#) to generate ideas about jobs;
- Understand more about work-based learning and [apprenticeship opportunities](#);
- Find out more about the [world of work](#);
- Know how to [contact us](#) for more information, advice and support.

Head over to the new [parents section of our website](#) which explains more about our services, how we deliver them and how you can support your child at different stages of their career journey.

### 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 are moving 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. It is important that we don't park across drives and restrict the mobility of local residents.



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.

**Your support is always appreciated.**

### 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 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>