

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 15th May 2023



Latest News:

1. Year 11 Exams Update
2. Have Your Say on New GCSEs
3. Lesotho Concert
4. A Message from Welsh Water
5. Accessing the School Site

Key Dates:

- 12th May – onwards start of GCSE exams
- Friday 26th May – Last day before the Half Term break
- Monday 5th June – All staff and students return to school.



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 that our learners have had the chance to enjoy some sun over the weekend. Once again, we would like to thank you for your contribution to the hard-working and warm atmosphere throughout the school. Learners are engaging wholeheartedly in a full range of educational activities and their enthusiasm is delightful. Thank you.



LOVE

How do we change the world? One act of loving kindness at a time.

Morgan Freeman

A thought for this week

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

We begin the week with this Monday as WEEK ONE on our timetables.

Mon 15th	Tue 16th	Wed 17th	Thu 18th	Fri 19th	Sat 20th
14° 5°	16° 6°	17° 7°	16° 9°	17° 8°	18° 9°

before becoming more overcast.

The weather for the week ahead appears to reflect continued warmer temperatures and some lovely sunny spells mid-week

Year 11 Exams Update

All Year 11 learner should now have a final exam timetable showing where and when each exam will take place.



We would be grateful if you could please check the timetable carefully with your child and help to ensure they are ready to attend each exam with the right preparation.

Revision timetables

Revision sessions are available after school along with support for completing any remaining controlled assessments. We also have a quiet space available for learners to revise in A1 from Monday – Thursday with access to computers and any resources they may need.

The timetable for revision is posted on learners' Google Classroom.

You can also find further help and guidance to support your child at home on our dedicated Key Stage 4 google site that can be reached at:

<https://sites.google.com/hwbcymru.net/ysgolbryngwynschool/home>



In addition, Bryngwyn staff have produced a Revision Support Guide to provide useful advice and guidance to support learners through this busy time. Within the guide there is also a link with helpful advice on dealing with stress and maintaining wellbeing throughout the exam process.

The guide can be accessed through the QR code or the link below:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Year-11-Revision-techniques-A-Parents-Survival-Gui/>

Special Consideration

Please see below the Exam Board's definition of special circumstances with the accompanying link from the WJEC. Special consideration is applied for after the exams have taken place and applications are made to the exam board on behalf of the pupils.

Candidates whose performance in an examination is affected by circumstances beyond their control (illness, bereavement etc.) may be entitled to Special Consideration. These procedures are common to all the General Qualification Awarding Bodies.

Special Consideration may be given to eligible candidates who are:

- *Present for an assessment/exam but are disadvantaged, due to unforeseen circumstances that are beyond their control.*
- *Absent from a time-tabled assessment due to illness or other acceptable reason – for uninvited specifications this applies to the terminal series (cash-in candidates) only.*

Further information is available in the JCQ document ['A guide to the Special Consideration process'](#).

We are all aware that circumstances in recent years have presented some challenges. In addition, if there are any specific considerations that need to be made in respect of medical or emotional issues that the school is not aware of, could parents please contact us as soon as possible. Furthermore, should any new scenarios emerge during or in the run up to exams, we will always provide support and any communication confidentially with the awarding body. It will also be helpful if you can forward any supporting documentation that may help your application, such as medical notes. These will always be treated in the strictest confidence.

If you need any information on examination arrangements please contact us on 01554 750661 or E mail on: enq@bryngwyn.cymru

Coleg Sir Gar Open Evening



There will be a final Open Evening scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 28th June, 2023**. Both parents and learners are encouraged to attend.

Further information can be obtained from: admissions@colegsirgar.ac.uk or 01554 748179.

Revision: Power Up your child's preparation for the Summer's exams!



As the Summer exams approach for Years 10 and 11, Welsh Government have co-ordinated a host of resources that have been brought together in their "Power Up" website for learners. These resources will help on everything associated with the Summer exams from exam technique and revision tips to guides on well-being and managing exam stress. You can find these resources below:

<https://www.gov.wales/power-up-wales#GCSE>

Qualifications Wales Learner Guide to Exams and Assessment



Qualifications Wales have published a guide to exams and assessments 2022-2023, to give learners the information they need about arrangements for their qualifications this year. It includes lots of helpful information, including:

- an overview of this year's arrangements
- key dates
- information on grading
- advance information
- links to helpful websites where learners can access revision tips, wellbeing guidance and other support

Please see the [Guide to Exams and Assessments](#) This may useful as learners continue to prepare for their exams and assessments.

There are also a variety of resources that can help with revision and independent learning approaches, in addition to our school-based resources including Google Classroom. **These may be useful and helpful to Years 10 and 11 over the early part of the Summer term in preparation for exams.**

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/>

2. New GCSEs – Have Your Say

Qualifications Wales would like to hear opinions from parents in relation to the changing GCSEs. This is an important opportunity to ensure exams meet the needs of our learners and all stakeholders. Please see the letter below for more information.



Dear colleague / Annwyl gydweithiwr

This summer, we're inviting learners, teachers, lecturers, parents, carers and anyone with an interest in this year's summer exams to complete our short survey on exams. We want to hear your views about exams this summer. The feedback we receive will help us monitor the qualification system in Wales.

Our survey is now open, you can have your say via the link below:

Link: <https://haveyoursay.qualifications.wales/have-your-say-on-summer-exams#msdynttrid=SQBC14ytT6N4sH03cSwbwDE9TA-vppPX1zHPEymyxo>



3. Lesotho visitors to Bryngwyn

Following a very successful visit of staff and pupils to Lesotho earlier this year, we are reciprocating the opportunity and will welcome staff and learners from Lesotho when they visit us in Wales in June 2023.

Tiegan O' Brien in Year 11 has organised the attached concert at Furnace Rugby club on 19.05.23 at 7pm. The aim is to fundraise to give our visitors from Lesotho the best experience whilst visiting Wales.

As you can see, the evening promises to be filled with entertainment and many of our learners will also be taking part.

Tickets are £7 and are available on the door.

4. A message from Welsh Water

As the cost of living crisis continues, they have asked us to make families aware that they have a number of ways we may be able to help make bills more affordable. By switching to Welsh Water's HelpU tariff, customers could save up to £200 off their water bill. Find out more [here](#).

5. Accessing the school site

To try and help any parents or visitors with mobility/accessibility issues, please feel free use the designated parking places off the service road at the side of school, which gives direct access into the main foyer/reception of the school.



General News Round-Up

- **Summer Term Athletics** – As the Summer months approach we look forward to enjoying a full menu of athletics activities and competitions. The following inter-school competition dates are important for the diary:
 - 19th May - Llanelli Schools Athletics
 - 26th May NASUWT Athletics
 - 8th June - Dyfed Athletics



If anyone is interested in representing the school please see your PE teacher.



- **Football success** – Some of our Year 7 learners won the **Carmarthenshire JFL U12s Cup** in football on Saturday morning, playing for their Grassroots team Seaside AfC at Stebonheath Park. Max, Theo and Caiden played for Seaside Vs Evans & Williams to win 5-1 with Caiden and Theo both contributing to the score sheet. The boys continue to play for the league title next week. Rio and Archie in Year 8 helped their team to win the **Carmarthenshire League JFL U13s Cup Final** on Friday night, also at Stebonheath Park.
- **Kick Boxing European Championship** – Milo, Year 8 competed in the WUMA Kickboxing European Championships yesterday in Gloucester. He fought very advanced and experienced fighters to reach the final, eventually placing second after a very close round which could have gone either way. It's an amazing achievement to place second in the Europeans.



- **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 20 23	LUNCHTIME	AFTERSCHOOL
MON	GCSE BADMINTON (YEAR 10 AND 11)	
TUES		GCSE TRAMPOLINING (YR 10-11 - 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
Monday	Wizard of Oz rehearsals	Double- Reed Workshop M2	
Tuesday	Year 7 Choir in M1	Wizard of Oz rehearsals	
Wednesday		Little Big Band	Year 10 Band Theory Club in M1
Thursday		String Group in M2	Year 9 Band

Friday	Wizard of Oz rehearsals	Senior Choir in M2	
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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

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.

Healthy Attitudes to Mobile Phones in Class and Exams

As exam season approaches, we would like to support learners to understand the guidelines and procedures around using mobile phones. This is in line with our good practice to help everyone stay safe during exams and develop healthy attitudes towards using phones in general. As a reminder, our school policy is as follows:



- Phones should be in bags in lessons (not pockets) and will not be allowed out in a classroom or during lessons unless a member of staff requests phones be used as a learning tool.
- The **JCQ / WJEC Exams** policy is that all pupils sitting external exams ensure that their phones are not on their persons or indeed switched on during the exams. We employ independently appointed exam invigilators and any breach will result in serious consequences for pupils, such as the risk of having papers cancelled.

We have reminded learners of our school rules regarding the use of phones and their accessories (such as ear pods). We hope that this extra clarity will enable pupils to use their phones responsibly, but not in a way that distracts from their learning and indeed any examinations or assessments.

Equipped and Ready to Learn

We would like to thank you for your support in ensuring learners are reminded to bring all the equipment they need for their lessons that day. This becomes even more important with exams approaching. We would be grateful if you could remind pupils to check that they have everything they need. Key equipment includes PE kit and relevant stationary such as a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator etc.



Pupil planners are also an invaluable source of information and can be key in sharing communication between school and home. We would like to thank you for checking and signing planners on a weekly basis. Along with form tutor weekly checking, this is an important activity that helps learners to reflect on their progression and celebrate their awards each week.

Free School Meals

We have been informed that eligible households should have received direct payments in respect of Free School Meals over the Easter holidays.

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>

If you have any queries please use the contact details below. The team are there to help if any support is needed.

Email: FreeSchoolMeals@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or Telephone: 01267 234567 and ask for Free Meal Payments

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 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 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 Summer term ahead.

Diolch,

Mr Paul Jones

Head teacher

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Email: enq@bryngwyn.cymru

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