

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 16th January 2023



Latest News:

1. Freedom Fortnight Year 7 – Courage
2. Year 11 GCSE Preparation
3. Uniform

Key Dates:

- **Monday 16th January – Friday 27th January:** Year 7 Freedom Fortnight
- **Wednesday 25th January:** Year 9 Options Evening for parents and pupils
- **Friday 27th January to Sunday 29th:** Llangrannog trip
- **Monday 30th January:** Start of Year 9 Exams
- **Thursday 2nd February:** Year 11 Parents' Evening
- **Friday 17th February:** INSET Day – Staff only
- **Wednesday 1st March:** School Eisteddfod
- **Thursday 2nd March:** Whole School Prize Evening



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 well after the first week of the new term, and that you have been able to spend some enjoyable time with your families.

We enjoyed a busy week here at Bryngwyn at the start of the year with some exciting learning activities, with more to come again as we start the week ahead.

The weather for the week ahead sees a shift to more normal conditions for January rather than the mild and wet weather we have recently experienced.



A more northerly air flow will bring about drier but colder weather with some quite cool breezes.



BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Let us be good stewards of the earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them.

Kofi Anan

A thought for this week

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



1 Year 7 Freedom Fortnight - COURAGE

Over the next two weeks, learners in Year 7 will be embarking on an exciting learning activity across the curriculum to explore the concept of **courage**. This will involve working collaboratively to practice a range of skills while learning about and developing our own courage.



We are looking forward to exploring this theme more deeply within our six Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and hope our learners will enjoy becoming even more courageous. We are excited to share the learning outcomes with parents in the forthcoming Year 7 Parents' Evening later this term.

A letter was sent out to parents of learners in Year 7 last week with further information. A link to the letter appears below.

https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Freedom_Fortnight_2023_Courage.pdf

We would appreciate if you could take time to discuss the idea of courage with your child and talk about the activities they have particularly enjoyed. We always welcome any feedback you might have about this learning experience.

2 for GCSE Assessments – Important Information for Year 11

a) Science GCSE Practical Assessments from 16th January



Over the next fortnight, Year 11 pupils will be completing important GCSE practical assessments in science. These assessments will be included as part of the final GCSE grade. Attendance is essential in order for learners to be able to achieve their potential, both for the practical and written assessments and important preparation work that will take place in science lessons over the next two weeks.

b) English Speaking and Listening Assessments – February 1st onwards

The English GCSE Speaking and Listening Group Discussion assessments will take place during early February. Once again, these marks will contribute to the overall GCSE grade. English lessons prior to the assessments will be dedicated to preparing for the group discussion which will be based on topics provided by the exam board. Attendance at all these preparatory lessons will be of utmost importance.

c) Mathematics GCSE Early Entry Results Preparation

Year 11 Learners sitting the intermediate tier for Mathematics sat their GCSE papers during November as an early entry exam. The results were issued last week. The Maths Department are very pleased with the hard work learners have undertaken. Well done to everyone involved.

d) Year 11 Motivation Day Friday, 27th January

Learners in Year 11 will be attending a specific day dedicated to revision strategies and motivational approaches to help prepare for the busy months ahead while learners ready themselves to sit the external GCSE exams. The day will be held at Coleg Sir Gar. Further information will follow.

3 Uniform

We would like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support in helping us ensure we maintain excellent standards of uniform for all our learners. We especially appreciate these efforts as the weather turns colder.



As a reminder or in case anyone is in any doubt, our school uniform is published on our new school website (see link below):

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/School-Uniform/>

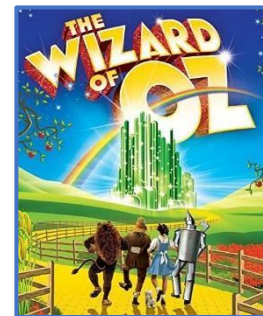
It is also very helpful if pupils' names are written inside uniform, especially inside coats while the weather is currently cold and wet. This is of huge importance for items such as coats which can be easily left behind or mislaid.

A grant is available for school uniform and equipment for families who are eligible. Please see the link below for more information:

<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/School-Uniform-and-Equipment-Grant/>

4. Bryngwyn School Production 2023!

We are delighted to be able to announce that this summer our talented students will once again be producing and delivering a school production to remember – The Wizard of Oz! It is planned to take place on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th of July 2023.



Auditions for key roles will be taking place shortly and there are a variety of ways pupils can take part, from performing on stage to helping with lighting, staging, costume, and every important element of putting on a largescale production. We would encourage anyone interested to speak to staff, especially in our music and drama departments.

We would like to wish everyone involved the best of luck in their preparations. Watch this space for how to order your tickets!

General News Round-Up



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

- **Llangrannog Trip 27th January:** the Welsh department are preparing with excitement for the forthcoming trip to Llangrannog. A second letter and important information for parents of those pupils going to Llangrannog was sent out this week. Pupils also attended an important meeting. Anyone who did not attend should see Miss Watson in F6. **Diolch**





- **Carmarthenshire County Swimming Success:** A huge well done to Ffion Philpot, Year 8, who competed at the Nofio Sir Gar annual invitational swimming meet this week in Carmarthen Leisure Centre. With over 300 swimmers competing from clubs across South Wales, it was a busy weekend full of fast races. Ffion is now the Carmarthenshire County Champion in her age category. *Da iawn, Ffion!*

- **Youth Speaks! Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition:** Bryngwyn hosted the annual Youth Speaks public competition last week. We are very proud of the success of our excellent debate team of Daisy, Freddie and Isabelle. Daisy also came away with the highly acclaimed accolade of Best Chairperson. *Ardderchog!*



- **Les Misérables Trip:** Musicians from Bryngwyn's orchestra, bands and choir visited Wales' Millenium Centre last week to see a performance of the well-known show, Les Misérables. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed and staff involved commented on the excellent conduct of all pupils. *Well done everyone!*

- **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 to move 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. 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.

Reminders of Important Information

Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who returned their preliminary options choices last term. Over the coming weeks, learners will be supported to make their final choices by selecting from options blocks.



There will also be an options booklet, information online and a parents' Options Evening on **Wednesday 25th January onsite at Bryngwyn School.**



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.

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/>

Specific support from Careers Wales on selecting subject options is also available on the link below:

[Help your child make career decisions | Careers Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

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



A is for attendance....

Positive Attendance remains a priority for all learners in Wales.

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.*

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.

[Coleg Sir Gâr - Saturday Clubs \(colegsirgar.ac.uk\)](http://colegsirgar.ac.uk)

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 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 through the busy half term ahead.

Diolch,

Mr Paul Jones

Head teacher

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