Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 9th May 2022

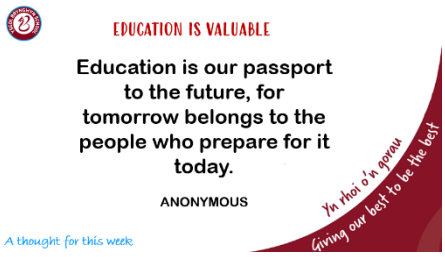
Latest News:

1. **Covid Mitigations Update**
2. **Summer Exams Results**
3. **Year 7 Point of Contact**

Key Dates:

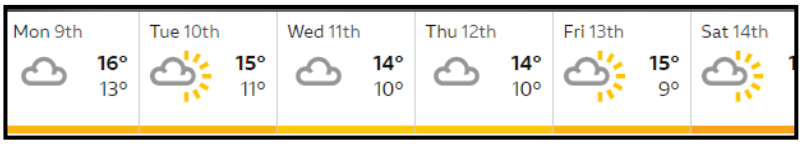
- **4th May:** Official start of GCSE Exam Period
- **9-26th May**: Years 7-9 National Tests
- **Wednesday 18th May:** INSET Day yrs 7-10 (Yr 11 attend exams)
- **Friday 27th May:** End of Half Term

Dear Parent/Carer,



We hope this update finds you and your families well as we move further into the Summer Term.

Furthermore, we hope all our learners have been able to enjoy the weekend safely, particularly with the fine weather which is predicted to continue throughout the coming week.



1. Covid Mitigations Update

As announced last week, Carmarthenshire schools are now operating at **Low** level mitigations.

The Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, has announced that COVID-19 measures for schools in Wales will be brought into line with guidance for businesses and other organisations.

The main messages are incorporated in the link below:

https://gov.wales/schools-covid-guidance-aligned-businesses-and-other-workplaces

As a reminder, Low Level Mitigations include the following:

a) **Reducing close interactions** - close interactions between learners and staff are reduced where possible.

b) **Physical distancing** - physical distancing is encouraged in indoor communal areas outside of the classroom, such as corridors.

c) **Use of face coverings by secondary aged learners, staff and visitors -** Face coverings are not routinely recommended, but may be worn by secondary aged learners and staff anywhere on the school site should they wish to do so.

Please note: Face coverings continue to be recommended on school transport.

The following core measures will also remain in place to protect learners and staff:

a) **Self Isolation** - All staff and learners are reminded to follow the Welsh Government guidance for self-isolation.

b) **Symptoms** - Staff and learners should not attend school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. If a staff member or learner becomes symptomatic, they should arrange a test as soon as possible, and should self-isolate until the outcome of the test.

c) **Handwashing and sanitising** - Regular handwashing, and respiratory etiquette (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it) are key interventions to prevent spread and manage cases, incidents & outbreaks.

d) **Ventilation** - Adequate ventilation by opening windows or adjusting ventilation systems are also still very important. We also have carbon dioxide monitors to monitor the quality of the air in classrooms.

e) **Cleaning** – All schools will maintain appropriate levels of cleaning in line with other communicable diseases. At Bryngwyn, we also continue our commitment to providing enhanced cleaning and housekeeping throughout the school day to keep our environment as safe as possible.

f) **Monitoring** - We will also continue to monitor positive cases, and request that we are still informed if a student or staff member is a contact of or suffering from COVID, so that we can continue to liaise with the Local Authority to monitor our local situation.

Our key mitigations are therefore now based around the key factors of:

Distance	**Handwashing**
Self-isolation	**Ventilation**

As we enter this latest phase of emerging from the pandemic, we would once again like to thank you for your support and patience in what continues to be a challenging and very busy time in schools. Your support is genuinely appreciated; working together as a community has been a great strength throughout the pandemic.

Please continue to monitor Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Topic | GOV.WALES and Newsroom (carmarthenshire.gov.uk) for the latest developments.

2. Summer Examinations Results Day

The WJEC have published the exams results day for GCSE will take place on **Thursday 25th August 2022.** At present we are hoping to run this face-to-face onsite.

Further details will follow. See below for important reminders regarding our Summer Exams.

3. Temporary Change to Year 7 Point of Contact.

Over the coming weeks, effective immediately, Mrs Cari Hartnell will be temporarily overseeing Year 7 pupils and tutors. Mrs Hartnell has worked closely with the team and Y7 pupils at various times this year and will provide continuity for learners during a period of staff absence.

If any parents need to contact the school regarding matters concerning Year 7 pupils, you can either contact Mrs Hartnell directly at Cari.Hartnell@bryngwyn.cymru or alternatively you can contact reception or enquiries (details below) and your query will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

By telephone 01554 750661 or

e mail enq@bryngwyn.cymru

General News Round-Up

- **INSET Day Wednesday 18th May** – Learners in Years 7 – 10 will have INSET day. Pupils in Year 11 will be sitting their GCSE exam followed by revision. School transport will be as normal.

- **Attendance -** As we emerge from pandemic with considerably lower cases of Covid it is important that we return our focus on the importance of attendance, particularly with upcoming exams and revision sessions. You will already be aware over the years of the importance of our **"Three As"** and the very positive link between them:

Attendance ----------Attitude ----------Achievement

- **School Uniform -** We would like to convey our sincere thanks to parents and pupils for all your efforts to maintain high standards of uniform. Our pupils have responded brilliantly and are looking extremely smart in their full school uniform. As you know, these high standards are also reflected in engagement, effort and achievement in the wider variety of school activities. Once again thank you for the high standards that you continue to set, that makes Bryngwyn such a special and well-regarded school. Your support is never taken for granted but always appreciated. ***Proud to be Bryngwyn!***

- **Support for Parents -** Since the current times can be challenging for parents as well as pupils, we aim to provide as much support at school as we can and are in the process of collecting a variety of useful information. You will find some of these helpful resources on the NHS website: **https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/**

As ever, we remain available to support all of our community. If you would like to contact our parent support team, please don't hesitate to get in touch by either phone or email on **01554 750661 / Enq@bryngwyn.cymru**

- **Two Days of Rugby Sevens in the Sun** - Our first Llanelli School's 7s tournament was a great success seeing 200 pupils from Bryngwyn, Glan Y Mor and Coedcae compete in a very high standard of rugby 7s from boys' and girls' teams from all year groups.

A big congratulations to all players that participated. **Da iawn, pawb!**

- **Llanelli Schools Netball Tournament** – We have been proud to the netball tourrnament for all Llanelli schools here at Bryngwyn last Friday. All teams performed exceptionally well.

- **Llanelli Schools Athletics** – competitions will be taking place very soon. Learners have been working hard in PE lessons and after-school clubs and representatives will be selected following training after school on Wednesday.

- **County Football Trials:** Please see the below information regarding upcoming County football trials

  We are glad to announce dates for our trials for next season 2022/23. Please see the links below for registration for each phase:
  Foundation Phase - U6s to U9s (Players born between 01.09.2013 to 31.08.2018) 🖉 - https://forms.gle/ogooqJtQFkP5KW9Q9
  Youth Phase - U10s to U14s (Players born between 01.09.2008 to 31.08.2013) 🖉- https://forms.gle/46c8izVmvbbPQ2BUA
  Performance Phase - U15s & U16s (Players born between 01.09.2006 to 31.08.2008) 🖉 - https://forms.gle/7yMy94sJZbhBRpfW7
  Girls Phase - U9s to U16s (Girls born between 01.09.2006 to 31.08.2015) 🖉 - https://forms.gle/v7MHJmXq5qWmWgwj8
  #CarmSFA #Trials #22/23 #Football #Inspire #Develop #Represent #Honour

- **Music Rehearsals this week –** the following rehearsals will take place this week:

Monday	String Group Lunchtime
Tuesday	Junior Choir Lunchtime
Wednesday	Brass Group Lunchtime Theory Club Lunchtime Year 9 Band After School

Thursday	Wind Band Lunchtime Year 8 Band After School
Friday	Senior Choir Lunchtime

- **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:
    - **Tuesday Lunch Time -** 5X60 Basketball Years 7 & 8
    - **Tuesday 3pm to 4.15 pm – KS3 Health and Well-Being festivals.** Everyone welcome to come along and try football, rugby, netball, hockey, badminton, cycling, volleyball and benchball, athletics events and possibly more sports throughout the term.
    - **Wednesday 3pm to 4 pm –** Hockey – all year groups; Athletics all year groups (cricket to start next week)
    - **Thursday 3pm to 4pm –** GCSE revision;
    - **Friday Lunch time –** Basketball Years 9, 10 and 11

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 Further Important Information

Summer Examinations Update

The GCSE exams have now officially begun and we are here to help learners and their families to prepare as fully as possible. Our Special Exams Update, including the plans for the summer examinations, has been circulated and can be viewed at the link below. This information is very important for all learners entered for any GCSE exams this year. A further exams update will follow very soon.

https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/News/Exams-2022-Extra-Update-Letter/

Reminder: Contingency Date

A reminder that **Wednesday 29th June** is a contingency date set by awarding bodies, in case of sustained national or local disruption within the national exam timetable. **Candidates should remain available until Wednesday 29th June** should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency arrangements. As part of these plans, pupils will continue to undertake routine class-based assessments throughout their remaining curriculum time. These will help pupils not only as they prepare for exams but will also provide valuable evidence of achievement in the unlikely event it is needed due to absence in final GCSE exams.

GCSE Revision

The range of after school activities to support learners is as follows:

Furthermore, revision resources are available on both the WJEC and Bryngwyn School websites on the links below:

After school **study** support sessions time **2:50- 3:50pm**				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Product Design	Tourism	Maths	Textiles	Textiles
	Product Design	Product Design	Health, Social care	Health, Social care
	English Language	Science	Science	French
	Textiles	Geography	ICT	
	Health, Social care	History - Content	History - Exam Technique	
	RS	Computer Science	PE theory revision	
	Sociology			
Independent Study Area (A1)	Independent Study Area (A1)	Independent Study Area (A1)	Independent Study Area (A1)	

- http://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Pupils/Revision-Guide/
- https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-tips/

Parents and pupils in year 10 and 11 may wish to keep abreast with GCSE exams at the WJEC website:

- https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/2022-everything-you-need-toknow/

GCSE Special Considerations

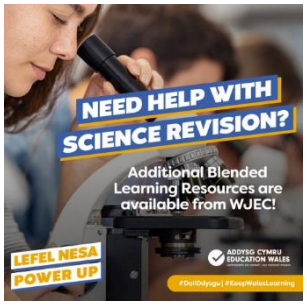
On occasion, events outside pupils' control can have an impact on their ability to study or prepare for exams. As this might have an impact on their final performance, we are sometimes able to ask the exam board to take such circumstances into consideration before final grades are issued.

If you feel your son/daughter's study or exam preparation might have been affected in any way beyond that of other learners, please let us know by emailing exams@bryngwyn.cymru or eng@bryngwyn.cymru

"Power Up" - Support for Learners

There are also resources from Welsh Government aimed at pupils in Years 10 and 11 that can help with studies and wellbeing at this demanding time. Please follow the link below for more information:

https://gov.wales/power-up-wales



During the exam period we operate a special e-mail address for parents and learners. If you have any queries around exams or need to communicate with us on examination matters please email on:

Exams@bryngwyn.cymru

Welsh Government National Tests Years 7-9

As mentioned previously, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will sit National Tests this term in Literacy and Numeracy. The assessments will be integrated into normal teaching and learning in maths, English and across the curriculum and the tests will be completed online.

The Mathematics Procedural and Reasoning online tests will be undertaken in lesson time between **May 9th - May 20th 2022**. The Maths department will also lead revision using numeracy homework activities on Google Classroom, past papers in lessons and a practice assessment using IT.

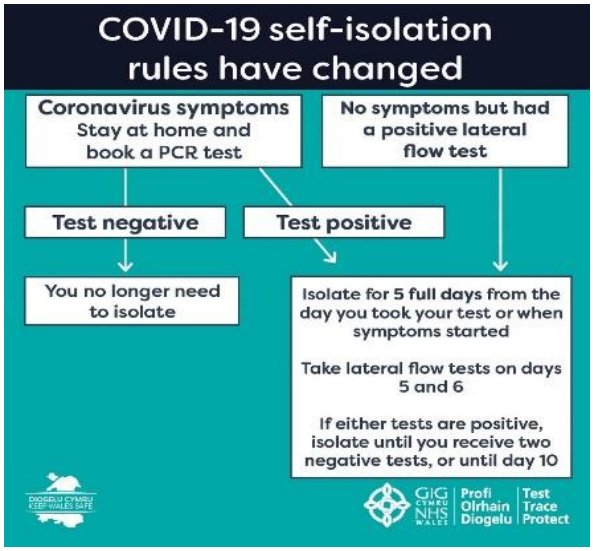
The Literacy Tests will take place from the week beginning **16th May** onwards.

These assessments are only one aspect of a wide range of different assessments that take place throughout the year and should not cause undue pressure. They are intended to inform teaching and learning so that we can best help our learners to progress.

Self-Isolation and Testing

Routine Lateral Flow Testing has now ended for schools and should only be taken by someone who has any of the classic symptoms: new or persistent cough, high temperature, change or loss to sense of smell and/or taste. Tests can be requested on the Welsh Government website or in pharmacies.

Anyone with symptoms should still isolate and take a LFT test.



The guidance for schools remains the same in terms of isolation: anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate for at least **five full days**. The first full day of isolation is the day after the onset of symptoms or the day after a positive test.

- **Before** exiting self-isolation, a person should take **two** lateral flow device (LFD) tests 24 hours apart to check they are not still infectious.
- The first lateral flow test should be taken on DAY FIVE of isolation.
- They should **remain in isolation** until they have had **two consecutive negative** LFT results **24 hours apart**.
- The earliest a person will be able to leave isolation would be on DAY SIX.

For all the latest up-to-date information on the operation of schools during the pandemic including guidance on testing and contact tracing, face coverings and vaccinations please visit the following websites:

- **Welsh Government website**
- **Carmarthenshire LA Newsroom**

- **Carmarthenshire Frequently Asked Questions (also includes information on school meals and transport)**

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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Email: enq@bryngwyn.cymru

Website:
https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/bryngwynschool/

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/bryngwynschool