

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and Learners – 22nd May 2023



Latest News:

1. **Timetable changes from 5th June 2023**
2. **Year 11 Exams Update**
3. **Have Your Say on New GCSEs**
4. **A Message from Welsh Water**
5. **Accessing the School Site**

Key Dates:

- **GCSE Exams Underway** – please see individual timetables for dates
- **Friday 26th May** – Last day before the Half Term break
- **Monday 5th June** – All staff and students return to school.

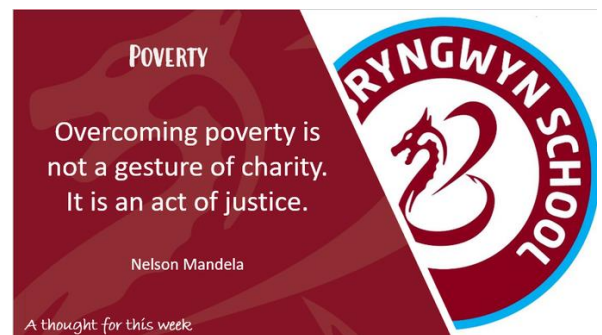


For all future events please visit our diary and planner at:
<https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Diary/>

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you and your families well and that our learners have had the chance to enjoy some of the lovely sunshine over the weekend. It certainly looks to continue fine and sunny for the remainder of the week.

Mon 22nd	Tue 23rd	Wed 24th	Thu 25th	Fri 26th	Sat 27th
20° 6°	18° 6°	19° 7°	20° 8°	20° 7°	19° 7°



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.

We begin this final week of the half term with this Monday as WEEK two on our timetables.

1. Timetable Changes From 5th June 2023

From June 5th, our Year 11 learners will no longer follow their formal lesson timetables; instead they will follow their exam timetables for the remainder of the exam period. This provides an excellent opportunity for our current Year 9 learners to begin their GCSE subjects which they will continue to study for the remainder of the Summer term. This opportunity provides a valuable taster of their option courses and the chance for students to be sure they have made the right choices. During this period pupils will be able to make option changes, if required, to ensure they embark on suitable courses in September 2023. Timetables will also change for learners in other year groups to ensure they continue to maximise their progress.



Pupils will receive their new timetables when they come back after May half-term. The first week back will be **week 1** on the timetable. Learners will not be expected to bring PE kit on their first day back. We hope that pupils will find this opportunity of great benefit to their learning, as it has proved in previous years.

2. Year 11 Exams Update

GCSE exams are now well underway and all learners involved should be very familiar with their timetables 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 well-being 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 unutilised 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 summers Exams!



As the Summer exams approach for Years 10 and 11, Welsh Government have coordinated 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/>

3. 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#msdyntrid=SQBC14ytT6N4sH03cSwbwDE9TA-vppPX1zHPEymyxo>

4. A message from Welsh Water

As the cost of living crisis continues, Welsh Water have asked us to make families aware that there are a number of ways 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 to use the designated parking places off the service road at side of school, which gives direct access into the main foyer/ reception of the school.



General News Round-Up

- **Lesotho Concert 2023** – All of us at Bryngwyn would like to say a massive **thank you** to everybody who attended the fundraising concert for our reciprocal visitors from Lesotho last Friday evening. A significant sum of money was raised, and a lovely evening of entertainment was enjoyed by all. In addition, a **special thank you to Tegan O'Brien for all her hard work which is hugely appreciated.**



- **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.



- **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	

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.

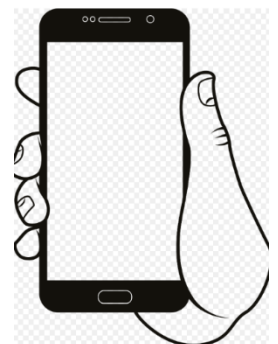


Our school uniform recycling drive is designed to support our work as part of the Eco Schools agenda as we aim to recycle and reuse wherever possible. We are also aware that many learners grow through their uniform items quickly and suppliers have recently faced delays in obtaining new stock. We would 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

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 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.

Diolch,

Mr Paul Jones

Head teacher

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

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