

20/11/20

Dear Parent / Guardian,

It has been a busy term so far at Bryn Tawe and the response of our pupils, your children, has been particularly pleasing within these challenging and unusual times. I would like to congratulate pupils in years 9-13 for their commitment to distance learning during the national fire break lockdown. Although learning this way is not as effective as being in class with their teachers, it is vitally important to ensure the continuity of learning during this time. A strong partnership between school and home is very important in this period to support our pupils, your children, to succeed by reaching their potential so that they can be the best possible versions of themselves.

Reading Skills

The initial lockdown period has inevitably had an impact on the lives of our pupils including their learning. Following analysis of recent reading tests for Key Stage 3 pupils, it is clearly evident that the extended period out of school has negatively impacted the reading skills of some of our pupils. By ensuring regular opportunities to read at home, in addition to our whole-school commitment to improving reading skills, we are confident that we can support our pupils' to fully access all reading materials within their curriculum. We ask you as parents to ensure that your child spends at least 10 minutes a day reading in both Welsh and English. For more support and further guidance, [click here](#).

Welshness

We take great pride in the response of a large number of our pupils in our recent campaign to increase and improve the use of the Welsh language at Bryn Tawe by rewarding their positive efforts. Like any skill, regular and consistent practice leads to significant improvements which have a very positive impact on your children's learning. Your support to encourage the use of Welsh in informal situations amongst their friends and with siblings is very important in helping to ensure your child's success at Bryn Tawe. Thank you for your support with this very important campaign. We will share some ideas through our website on how to support your child with Welsh, as well as discussing the advantages of bilingual education.

Parents' Evenings and Reports

Pupils in years 7-10 and year 12 will receive their usual interim report at the end of this term, while year 13 pupils will receive their full report. Due to Covid measures, it is not possible for us to hold parents' evenings as usual at present (and this is likely to continue for at least the Spring term). Please see our alternative provision here:

- Year 11 will receive a 'Parents' Evening Report' outlining your child's strengths and clear targets to improve their progress in their GCSEs. Should you feel that you would like to discuss any aspect of the report further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher(s).
- Year 12 and 13 will receive a telephone call on Thursday 9th December from your child's subject teachers to discuss your child's progress – their strengths and specific areas for improvement in their subjects.



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Pennaeth: Mr Simon Davies



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Christmas Service

We will not be holding our usual Christmas service this year, but many of the staff and pupils are in the process of preparing a series of performances so that we can celebrate Christmas virtually as a school community.

New Canteen Menu

If your child chooses to eat in the school canteen, I am sure that they have mentioned the new menu that is now available. Click [here](#) to view the new menu being served.

Personal Learning Equipment

Many of our pupils always ensure that they bring the necessary equipment to learn every day. Unfortunately, it has become more evident since half-term that more pupils are 'forgetting' equipment which is fundamental to their learning experiences. To ensure that the possibility of spreading the virus is reduced, we ask all parents to ensure that your child brings the necessary equipment to learn on a daily basis. We will not be able to share equipment with the pupils. Supporting your child to develop strong self-organisation skills by reminding them to prepare for the following school day is of the utmost importance. Many thanks for your continued support with this.

We continue to encourage pupils to bring their own devices to school to support their learning. If your child has borrowed a laptop from the school to support distance learning, can you return it so that we can use them in school to stimulate the learning of all pupils. If pupils are required to self-isolate, we will be able to provide your child with a laptop.

Thank you for your support once again in promoting important messages about adherence to Covid safety measures so that we can all work to ensure that Bryn Tawe is a covid-secure school.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues above in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,



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