

17/02/22

Dear Parent / Guardian,

At the end of an extremely busy half-term, I would like to thank you all as parents and guardians for your continued support to the school. I would like to share some important messages with you about the school's arrangements as we return after the holiday.

Please remember that we have an **INSET day for all staff on Friday the 18th of February**, which means that the school is closed for all pupils. As a result of the red weather warning over Swansea for tomorrow due to 'Storm Eunice', all school sites in Swansea have been instructed to close and move distance leaning. As the INSET was planned, we will continue with this arrangement for staff and therefore no formal distance learning. However, all pupils, but particularly exam age pupils, are actively encouraged to continue with their revision and preparation tomorrow and over the half term break for the upcoming exams series.

We will **return on Monday, 28th February with schools placed on alert level 'High'**. This means that we will maintain the measures we have in place (see the previous [Letter-to-parents-050122.pdf](#) (bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk) for further details) to reduce the risk of spreading the virus in school. These are essential in protecting the health of the whole school community, and are also of vital importance in reducing the risk of spreading the virus to a minimum as we approach the examination period. There are, however, two important changes to the guidance:

- **Pupils will not need to wear masks in classrooms** from Monday 28th February, but pupils will still need to wear masks in communal areas, such as corridors, halls and the canteen, as well as on school transport.
- **Pupils and staff will need to take 2 weekly LFT tests**, on Mondays and Thursdays, rather than the current 3 required. If you require further LFT tests as a family, please get in touch.

With the examination season fast approaching, we will share the final submission dates for non-exam assessments for years 11, 12 and 13 immediately after half-term. All learners will also receive a personalised timetable for their summer examinations, but in the meantime, the full timetable for the summer series is available via our website: [Examinations : Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe](#). Learners in years 11, 12 and 13 have responded very encouragingly to the mock examination period during this half-term, and we hope such experiences will act as effective preparation for the upcoming series of assessments.

Year 10 mock examinations have been arranged during the week commencing 07/03/22. A timetable will be issued to all parents and learners prior to half-term.

It will be pleasing to be able to celebrate **St David's Day** on the 1st of March upon our return to school. There will be a number of events during the day as we celebrate our patron saint, with an opportunity for our pupils and staff to wear red to school, in addition to witnessing this year's Charing of the Bard ceremony. Good luck to all competitors!

The dates of the **parents' evenings during the next half-term** are:

- Year 8 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 09/03/22
- GCSE options evening for year 9 - Wednesday 16/03/22



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe
Heol Gwrysydd, Penlan, Abertawe SA5 7BU
Ffôn 01792 560600

Ebost: SwyddfaBrynTawe5@hwbcymru.net
www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk

Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



- Year 7 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 29/03/22

Our school uniform is a source of pride with all learners who adhere to our dress code appearing very smartly on a daily basis. Many thanks for your continued support in maintaining these core standards. The need to discuss non-compliance in relation to these standards (albeit with a small minority of pupils) however still remains an all too frequent concern. We will contact individual parents in relation to non-compliance issues, but once again would reiterate the importance of adhering to the school's uniform policy.

Similarly, expectations for appearance and jewellery are absolutely clear and pupils are not allowed to wear piercings in their nose (or on any other part of the face). I would like to thank the school's student council and the governing body for leading on liaising with learners when such policies were implemented. Please see the detailed policy here: [Correspondence : Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe](#). We ask parents of learners who continue to challenge these expectations to support us as a school in ensuring that your child complies with these expectations.

Our expectations of the appearance of our pupils are key to creating a sense of unity within our school community, ensuring the principle of equality, and promoting a sense of belonging. Such standards also ensures the best impression of commitment to learning, and is a clear sign of respect for the success of Bryn Tawe as a school. **Thank you in advance to all parents in supporting these vitally important messages.**

There are already a host of activities planned for the rest of the year and I ask you to encourage your child to engage and participate in these wide-ranging extra-curricular opportunities in order to enrich their experience at Bryn Tawe.

As always, we are here to support our pupils and their families at all times, and if we can offer further help or support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Enjoy the half-term holiday.

Sincerely,





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