

06.09.22

Dear parent/guardian,

It is a pleasure to welcome all learners and parents to the start of a new academic year. The partnership between the school and parents/guardians has played a key part in the school's successes, and I am keen to see this partnership continue to flourish as we move forward together. If there are any issue(s) you would like to discuss, or should you have any suggestion(s) to improve any aspect of school life, please remember that we are keen to hear from all stakeholders. We would welcome new volunteers to join our parents' voice forum, which meets on a half-termly basis in the school library. Please contact Mrs Emma Howells for further details via HowellsE32@hwbcymru.net or telephone the school. In the meantime, I would like to draw your attention to some important information as we embark upon a new academic year.

1. **External examination results:** Once again our GCSE and A-level results were a source of pride for all of us at Bryn Tawe with many learners excelling. We have established a strong tradition of academic success at the school, which is testament to the constant efforts of pupils and staff, success which would not be possible without the valuable support from you as parents/guardians. We wish all year 13 learners well for the future as they venture onto the next step of their careers at university, apprenticeships or in the world of work. We also wish all year 11 learners well for the future, and look forward to welcoming the majority back to our sixth form.

2. **Term and staff INSET dates:**

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Start	Monday 05.09.22	Monday 09.01.23	Monday 17.04.23
Half Term	31.10.22 – 04.11.22	20.02.23 – 24.02.23	29.05.23 – 02.06.23
Finish	Friday 23.12.22	Friday 31.03.23	Monday 24.07.23
INSET – The school will be closed to pupils on the following dates due to staff INSET: 05.09.22; 06.09.22; 09.12.22; 17.02.23; 24.07.23			

3. **Parent Evenings (we will share more detailed arrangements closer to the dates):**

Yr 7 Pastoral	26.09.22	Yr 10 Progress	12.12.22
Yr 7 Progress	28.03.23	Yr 11 Progress	24.11.22
Yr 8 Progress	13.03.23	Yr 11 Options 16+	17.01.23
Yr 9 Progress	31.01.23	Yr 12+13 Progress	06.12.22
Yr 9 Options	02.03.23	Yr 12 Pastoral and 13 Higher Education	21.09.22

4. **Staffing:** it is a pleasure to welcome the following staff to Bryn Tawe this year: Miss Eleri Williams to the Modern Languages department; Miss Amy Wright and Miss Molly Ubsdall to the Science department; Miss Josie Perkins to the Technology department; Mr Owen Llewelyn to the Mathematics department; Mrs Jill Davies to the English department; Mrs Bethan Thomas and Mr Jac Lewis as teaching assistants; Miss Delyth Evans as a Pastoral Support assistant and Miss Catrin Davies as a Literacy officer.

5. **Changes to our Mobile Phone Policy:** Overuse of mobile phones and the time pupils spend in front of screens remains a growing concern due to the potentially negative impact on pupils' learning and wellbeing. Mobile phones are distracting for many learners during the school day. It is vitally important that learners in school can fully focus on their learning during lessons and spend quality time socialising



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together in their free time. In light of this, and having consulted with our pupils, our parents' voice forum and school staff, we are going to **implement some important changes to our mobile phone policy at school**. Details of the new policy can be found on our website via [this link](#). Parental support in relation to these changes is vitally important and greatly appreciated. There are many studies into the negative effects of screen time on young people's mental health, wellbeing and brain development and we feel it is our duty to take these important steps in an effort to support the wellbeing and learning of all pupils.

6. SMHW – 'SatchelOne'

The use of the 'SatchelOne' App by parents and pupils is vital – it includes details of your child's homework, praise points and important messages. This year we have added negative/behaviour points into the App, to further improve our communication with our parents. If you or your child do not have access to the App, please ask your child's personal tutor for the login details.

7. Uniform and dress code: I would like to remind you of our expectations for the appearance and dress code of our pupils, which is a source of pride for us at Bryn Tawe. Our uniform policy can be found in full on our website via [this link](#). We require the support of all parents to ensure your child meets these expectations and would like to specifically draw attention to jewellery - pupils in years 7-11 are not permitted allowed to wear piercings in their nose. As previously communicated, second-hand uniform is available to collect from school - please contact us via the methods below to make arrangements for collection.

8. Data collection: it is important we ensure that we have the most up-to-date information for all of our learners. We therefore ask all parents to complete [this data collection form](#) (if you have not already done so). This information is vital as it provides us with all the necessary details we require to support the learning and wellbeing of our pupils. In addition, we promote pupils' experiences and achievements by sharing their successes with photographs on our website, the school's social media platforms and occasionally with the local press. We ask all parents to provide or withdraw consent in relation to using photographs of learners.

9. School equipment: Once again, a reminder to ensure that your child has the necessary equipment for everyday school learning, particularly stationery and Mathematics equipment. Once again, should you have any concerns in providing such resources, please contact us so we can support all learners.

10. Absence policy: We strongly urge all parents/guardians not to book family holidays during term time as such absences can have a negative impact on learners' education. Without prior permission, such absences would be considered unauthorized. Please see our [attendance policy here](#) for further information.

We look forward to welcoming learners in years 7 and the sixth form back to school on Wednesday, and all learners from Thursday onwards, as we aim once again for success here at Bryn Tawe.

Sincerely,





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