

January 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I would like to wish you all a Happy and Successful New Year! At the start of a new term I feel that it is a good opportunity to remind each other of some of our priorities and of the term's activities.

There will be a number of parents' evenings and important activities during the Spring term - see the list below:

Year	Activity	Date	Time
11	External exams	See <a href="#">this letter</a> for further details	
11	6th Form open evening to introduce the options available through the Bryn Tawe-Gwyr 6th Form Partnership	17.01.23	18:00 – 22:00
9	Progress Parents' Evening	31.01.23	16:00 - 18:30
10	Year 10 mock examinations	06-14.02.23	All day
11 and 13	Year and 'friendship group' photos	13.02.23	Morning
All	School 'Eisteddfod'	16.02.23	All day
All	INSET for staff	17.02.23	All day
All	Half term	20 – 24.02.23	
All	School 'Chairing Ceremony'	01.03.23	Morning
9	GCSE Options Evening	02.03.23	18:00 - 20:00
8	Progress Parents' Evening	13.03.23	16:00 – 18:30
9	Internal year group examinations	27-31.03.23	All day
7	Progress Parents' Evening	28.03.23	16:00 - 18:30
All	Easter holiday	03 - 14.04.23	

The school - home partnership is key to your child's success. I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support on the priorities below:

- **Attendance:** without a doubt, we know that good attendance is key to the success of any pupil. As a result, a high percentage of our pupils who have an excellent attendance record so far this year must be congratulated!

We also know that the attendance record of some pupils is a major concern e.g. attendance of 80% means missing a day a week, and is the equivalent to missing a whole unit of work in KS4 or 5! Naturally this will have a detrimental effect on a pupil's learning. All pupils who reach higher than the school target of 95% will give themselves the best chance to succeed. May I encourage you as parents and guardians to ensure that your child attends school every day!

- **Welshness:** the foundation of all pupils' success at Bryn Tawe is the use of the language formally in lessons, but equally as important, is the use outside of lessons. Your support and encouragement for them to use the language all the time at school will support us to ensure a



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Welsh ethos at school and give your child the best opportunity to develop their literacy skills and therefore improve their learning.

- **School uniform:** conforming to the expectations of the school uniform demonstrates a high level of respect and a pupils' serious committmet to their learning. It contributes to a sense of unity and belonging to the school. May I ask every parent to ensure that their child is in the correct uniform, every day, in order to promote a sense of belonging to Bryn Tawe.

Providing your child with a note to explain why they are not in the correct uniform on any day will be very helpful and avoid unnecessary calls home. Please remember, we are very ready to support families if there is any problem getting hold of school uniform – please contact Mrs Eirian Leonard ([LeonardE18@hwbcymru.net](mailto:LeonardE18@hwbcymru.net)) to discuss further. 'Bergoni' is the only official provider of the school uniform – [click here](#) for further information. I am aware that other providers sell Bryn Tawe uniform and include a 'hoodie'. Hoodies are no longer part of the school's official uniform - full details of the uniform is available [here](#) .

- **Use of mobile phones:** without a doubt, the change in the school's mobile phone policy, where no pupil in years 7-11 is allowed to use them during the school day, has proven to be a very positive step. This allows us to focus on learning in the classroom and also on the well-being of pupils so that they are not overly dependent on their phone on a daily basis. Details of the new policy are [here](#), and thank you for all your support as we continue to focus on the learning and well-being of all pupils.
- **Homework:** we appreciate all the support you can give your child in order to be able to complete homework promptly and to the best possible standard. Practising the skills taught in class will be a great help to all pupils to develop further in all subjects. Support is available to you as parents from your child's teachers - please get in touch if you have a concern; and we can also refer you to a number of useful apps and websites.

We look forward to welcoming **all pupils back on Monday the 9th of January** for another busy term of leraning. If you would like to discuss anything above, or if you would like to get in touch with suggestions to improve the provision at the school, please contact me.

Sincerely,

*Simon Davies*



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