

08.09.22

Dear parent/guardian,

It has been a pleasure to welcome all learners back to school this week! The partnership between the school and parents/guardians has and will continue to play a key part in the school's success, 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 learners and staff, success which would not be possible without the valuable support from you as parents/guardians. We wish all of our past 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 our former year 11 learners well for the future, and it is pleasing to note that the majority who have returned to year 12 have already created a very positive impression.

2. **Key dates:**

Term and staff INSET dates:

Please see these dates on our website through the link below:

<https://www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk/calendar.php>

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

Please see these dates on our website through the link below:

<https://www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk/calendar.php#parents>

External Exam Dates Years 10, 11, 12 and 13:

External examinations will take place during the periods set out below. The attendance of pupils in years 10-13 during these periods and throughout the year is essential as non-examined assessments (NEA's e.g. coursework) are also carried out, which is key to your child's success.

November 2023 examinations	06.11.23 - 15.11.23
January 2024 examinations	10.1.24 - 25.1.24
Summer 2024 examinations	08.5.24 - 26.6.24

3. **Staffing:** it is a pleasure to welcome the following staff to Bryn Tawe this year:

Mrs Sarah Swanson and Miss Ailish Saer to the English department; Mr Chris Nettle as Head of Physics and Miss Ffion Evans to the Science department; Mrs Bethan Harkin as Head of Drama; Mrs Carys Bryant to the PE department; Mr Steffan Lloyd to the History and Humanities department; Mr Steffan Davies to the DT department; Miss Rebecca Bassett as a trainee teacher and teaching assistant and Mrs Sera Cairns as a teaching assistant in the Speech and Language Unit.

4. **Changes to our Mobile Phone Policy:**



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Pennaeth: Mr Simon Davies



The change to our mobile phone policy has been a success from last year. Despite this, the overuse of mobile phones and the time learners 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 together in their free time. Details of the policy can be found on our website via this link: [Bryn Tawe mobile phone policy](#). Parental support in relation to this 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 cognitive 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.

5. 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 behaviour points into the App, to further improve 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.**

6. 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: [Bryn Tawe school uniform policy](#). 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 Mrs Eirian Leonard (Leonard18@hwbcymru.net) to make arrangements for collection.

7. 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: <https://forms.office.com/e/OfXzxSan1M> (if you have not already done so this year). 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.

8. School equipment: Once again, a reminder to ensure that your child has the necessary equipment for everyday school learning, particularly stationery and Mathematics equipment. Please see the link for clarification: [Ready to learn](#). Once again, should you have any concerns in providing such resources, please contact us so we can support all learners.

9. 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: [Attendance policy](#) for further information. We look forward to a successful year once again at Bryn Tawe and to working with you all into the future!

Sincerely,

Simon Davies



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