

January 2024

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, examinations and important activities during the Spring term - see the list below:

Year	Activity	Date	Time
11	6th Form open evening to introduce the options available through the Bryn Tawe-Gwyr 6th Form Partnership	11.01.24	18:00 – 22:00
12+13	6th Form Mock examinations	22-26.01.24	See timetable
10	Welsh GCSE Oral Examinations	22-26.01.24	See timetable
9	Progress Parents' Evening	29.01.24	16:30 - 19:00
11	GCSE Science Practical Examinations	29.01-02.02.24	Morning
10	Year 10 mock examinations	02-08.02.24	See timetable
All	INSET for staff (no school for pupils)	09.02.24	All day
All	Half term	12 – 16.02.24	
All	School Eisteddfod and 'Chairing Ceremony'	01.03.23	All day
9	GCSE Options Evening	29.02.24	18:00 - 20:00
11 and 13	Year and 'friendship group' photos	11.03.24	Morning
8	Progress Parents' Evening	11.03.24	16:30 – 19:00
9	Class tests	18-22.03.24	See timetable
All	Easter holiday	25.03 - 05.04.24	
7	Progress Parents' Evening	15.04.24	16:30 - 19:00
10+11	GCSE examsinations	09.05 – 25.06.24	See-timetable
12+13	AS and A Level examinations	13.05 – 26.06.24	See-timetable

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!



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe
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Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



- **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 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 commitment 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 to avoid unnecessary calls home as well as avoid any unnecessary conflict.**

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) 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. Like all policies, we need to re-visit and raise the profile regularly. **Details of the policy are [here](#), and ask that you remind your child of the policy before they return so that we can 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 8th of January** for another busy term of learning. 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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