

22.03.24

Dear Parent / Guardian,

At the end of a very busy term, full of varied activities, may I take the opportunity to thank you all as parents and carers for your continued support of the school, for the benefit of all of our pupils, and I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Easter. I would like to inform you that we will be **re-opening on Monday the 8th of April for all pupils.**

Our pupils have, once again, excelled on the various County Eisteddfodau stages over the past few weeks resulting in a variety of memorable performances. Congratulations to everyone who competed and represented the school and best wishes to everyone involved in the 13 different items that have made it to this year's National Eisteddfod in Meifod.

We had a very enjoyable school Eisteddfod, full of humour, as well as two school poetry Charing ceremonies. Congratulations to Lola-Mai Reynolds-Berry from year 7 for winning the KS3 Chair and to Lottie Allen from year 8 for winning the English prize for KS3. It was great to see the standard of competition in the Bryn Tawe Charing competition for 2024, with Jonah Eccott winning the Chair and Jacob Elsey winning the English prize. Congratulations to everyone who competed so brilliantly.

In addition, there are a number of successes from the playing fields amongst which the year 8 rugby team retained the Swansea Schools rugby cup for the second year in succession. It was also wonderful to say bon voyage to year 10 and 11 pupils who have travelled to Dubai on a sports trip over Easter – we wish them all a safe and successful tour!

I would like to extend a special thank you to two members of staff who are leaving us at the end of this term. Many thanks and best wishes to Mr Steffan Davies, who joins Ysgol Maes-y-Gwendraeth, and also to Miss Gwen Shenton, who is changing careers and leaving us at the end of April. Thank you very much for their work and contribution to school life.

With a limited number of weeks before the external examinations, can I encourage you as parents and carers to **support your child to revise thoroughly** for the challenge of these exams, which is key for their confidence. Supporting learners to create revision schedules, encouraging them to persevere, supporting them emotionally, managing their leisure and screen time, and ensuring that they receive enough sleep and eating healthy will be important steps to allow your son or daughter to perform at their best over the coming months.

There are **revision strategies** support available in every TEAM for years 10-13 - go to the general TEAM of the year group and to the 'Files - General Review' section to find the resources. Different teachers will be running live revision sessions at school and virtual sessions for pupils sitting exams this year. Pupils are aware of these (timetable in Teams), and can I ask you to encourage them to attend these valuable opportunities. There are also revision resources available via the school website:

<https://www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk/parent-info.php#revision>

The **GCSE external examinations start on Thursday 09.05.24**, with the **A and AS levels starting on Monday 13.05.24**. Your child will have received their external examinations timetable today by hand and it will also be shared via your child's HWB e-mail and the personal email we hold for yourself. All pupils need to be available to **sit exams until the end of the examination period on the 26.06.24**.



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe
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www.bryntawe.swansea.sch.uk

Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



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Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

In addition, year 7-9 learners will be completing their Personalised Assessments (Reading and Numeracy) during the next term and we will be writing to you with details closer to the time, but in the meantime, see resources to support with preparation here: <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/reading-and-numeracy-assessments/personalised-assessments-information-for-parents-and-carers/>

- Year 9 between 15-19/04/24;
- Year 7 between the 22-26.04.24;
- Year 8 between the 29.04-03.05.24.

Thank you to **year 9 parents** for supporting your child with choosing their options for their GCSEs. We will share the final columns early at the start of next term. It is good to note that a high percentage of pupils are able to study their 3 chosen options, with everyone able to choose at least 2 out of their first 3 choices. We will be conducting option interviews with pupils who cannot study all options, as well as those who would benefit from considering the most suitable options for them, early in the Summer term. Of course, we will involve you our parents and carers in this important process. Completing this process will allow us to **start GCSEs with year 9 pupils immediately after Whitsun half term on Monday 6th June.**

Thank you once again to our parents who **ensure their child conforms to our expectations, which are key to standards of engagement, behaviour, effort and attitude towards pupils' learning.**

- **Uniform:** We undoubtedly see a consistent link between personal uniform expectations with the progress, behaviour and contribution of learners at school. If you are unsure about our uniform and appearance expectations, see the details [here](#) on our website.
- **Mobile phones:** Your child needs to be able to focus in lessons in order to learn effectively and therefore turning off phones provides a great opportunity to avoid any distractions to learning. The benefits to your child's well-being are also clear when they do not rely on the continuous notifications of their phone's various apps, allowing them to relax and enjoy a healthy school life with their friends. We urge you to insist they turn off their phones whilst at school - details of our phone policy are [here](#).
- **Equipment:** It is vital that all learners bring the necessary equipment and are 'ready to learn'. Please see [this link](#) for details.

Remember, we are very eager to support any pupil with uniform or equipment difficulties. Please contact Mrs Emma Howells (Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for the school community) (HowellsE32@hwbcymru.net), or the school's Business Manager, Mrs Eirian Leonard (LeonardE18@hwbcymru.net) should you require any further support.

If you have any further questions regarding the above, or any other matter relating to your child's education, please contact us at the school.

Sincerely,



Head

DaviesS456@hwbcymru.net



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