

# Ysgol Bryngwyn School

## Update for Parents, Carers and

## Learners – 5th December 2022



### Latest News:

1. **Year 10 Parents' Evening Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**
2. **Year 9 Options**
3. **Christmas Salvation Army Appeal**
4. **Christmas Carol Service 21<sup>st</sup> December**
5. **Saturday Clubs at Coleg Sir Garai**

### Key Dates:

- **7th December:** Year 10 Parents Evening  
ONSITE: Year 10 Interim Reports issued
- **12th December:** Year 11 Mocks begin
- **14<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Lunch
- **21<sup>st</sup> December:** Carol Service
- **22<sup>nd</sup> December:** End of Term- Bryngwyn's Got Talent
- **23<sup>rd</sup> December** - INSET day

### Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this update finds you and your families well as we embark on the festive month of December. It is hard to believe there are only three weeks before our Christmas break, but they are three very busy weeks with a host of exciting learning activities planned.

Once more we would like to thank you all for contributing to the wonderfully positive atmosphere around school. Pupils are enjoying their learning and engaging wholeheartedly in a range of extracurricular activities. It is also a pleasure to see so many cheery smiling faces coming into school on these cold mornings.

*A thought for this week*

### HELPING OTHERS

*We can't help everyone,  
but everyone can help  
someone.*

Ronald Reagan

*Yn rhoi o'n gorau  
Giving our best to be the best*

Mon 5th	Tue 6th	Wed 7th	Thu 8th	Fri 9th	Sat 10th
8° 4°	7° -1°	5° -1°	5° -3°	5° -1°	

The arrival of December has certainly brought colder temperatures by day, below the seasonal norm, as well as the possibility of cold night times and frosty mornings.

### 1. **Year 10 Parents' Evening Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 3.30 Onsite**

For parents with learners in Year 10, there will be a **face-to-face** Parents' Evening at the school from 3.30pm until 7.00pm. Letters have been sent home with pupils, and a copy is also available on the link below:

#### [Year 10 Parents' Evening Letter](#)

This is a very important time for learners in Year 10, and we are looking forward to being able to welcome parents on site for these meetings. We would appreciate keeping the appointments to five minutes to ensure all parents are able to speak to all of their children's teachers. If longer appointments are needed, please let us know by email on [eng@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:eng@bryngwyn.cymru) or by telephone on 01554 750 661 so that these can be arranged at a different time.

## 2. Year 9 Options

Learners in Year 9 have recently attended an options assembly last week and you may find your children will increasingly discuss subjects and career choices at home.



In KS4 (Year 10) there are several 'new' courses that pupils will not have studied previously. In order to help you and your children to have a clearer understanding of what these may include, pre-recorded video information will also be available to

both parents and pupils. Furthermore, some vocational courses will be available in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar. There is information available on your child's Google Classroom that you may like to watch together.

Learners will choose their final options by the end of January 2023 after receiving further information including an options booklet, information website and parents' evening. In order to allow learners to influence how the options blocks are created, we would like to first ask pupils to indicate what courses they are thinking about selecting. Parents of Year 9 learners have also received a reminder that **Preliminary Options Choices** are due before **12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**.

We are also supported by our Careers Advisor from Careers Wales. Her name is Mrs Marcia Evans and he is always keen to support parents and pupils through this process. There is also a great deal of further information on the Careers website which can be accessed at:

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/>

Or for further support and careers advice please call 0800 028 4844

## 3. Annual Christmas Salvation Army Appeal



For the 26th year running, we are very proud as a school to be involved in the Salvation Army Christmas Charity Appeal. Captain Karen Symonds from the Salvation Army joined us last Thursday and Friday and will be with us on Monday and Tuesday to officially launch our Christmas Toy Appeal at Bryngwyn. We hope all year groups will have enjoyed a fantastic assembly which really focused the pupils on Christmas as a time of giving.

Every year group is raising money to support other children at Christmas by undertaking a range of activities including a sponsored walk and a variety of corridor-based events. This year these events will take place during the week **of 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> December**. As always, your support is greatly appreciated as our contribution as a school makes a significant difference for a large number of children at Christmas in the Llanelli area. Cash donations will be collected and used to buy gifts for children or if you would prefer you can donate via ParentPay. For many families this Christmas will be one of the most difficult due to the ongoing economic issues we all face. In these difficult times even a small donation can make a huge difference and all donations will be gratefully received from those who are able to, but we also appreciate that you may be unable to contribute at this time. Your support is never taken for granted but hugely appreciated.

#### 4. Christmas Carol Concert – 21<sup>st</sup> December

We are delighted to once again be able to invite parents and friends of Bryngwyn to celebrate with us in our first on-site Christmas Carol Concert since before Covid. Everyone is welcome to join us for a festive fun-filled evening showcasing young musical talent from Bryngwyn's orchestra, choirs, drama group and soloists. The audience will also be able to participate by singing Christmas carols.

The Carol Concert will be held at Bryngwyn School on the evening of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December commencing at 6.30pm. All are welcome and it is free to attend. Refreshments will also be on sale. Festive dress is encouraged!

#### 5. Saturday Club at Coleg Sir Gar

Coleg Sir Gar offers a Saturday Club to our learners which is an excellent opportunity for pupils to find out more about the courses available and even an opportunity to engage in new subjects. Saturday Club is also a chance for pupils in years 9 – 11 to engage with the college to help with planning their own future career pathways and ensure a smooth transition at 16.

[https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/sat\\_club\\_all\\_mod\\_2022\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/sat_club_all_mod_2022_pdf.pdf)

### General News Round-Up

- **Christmas Lunch 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022** - Christmas lunch will be served in the dining area for all pupils on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. A vegetarian option will also be available. Please note that this will be the only menu on this day. If pupils do not wish to have a traditional dinner they may prefer to bring in a packed lunch. **Thank you.**



- **School crossing patrol** - Unfortunately we remain without a crossing patrol person. The Local Authority are hoping to recruit a new colleague and have readvertised the position (please see link below.) In the meantime, we request all our pupils to be vigilant in crossing the road on their way to and from school. If you, or someone you know may be interested in this employment, please see the link below:

<https://saas.zellis.com/carmarthenshirecountycouncil/wrl/pages/vacancy.jsf?latest=01010840>

- **Year 10 learn about homelessness** - A special thank you to the CRISIS team members who visited the school last week to speak to learners in Year 10 about the global issue of homelessness. Year 10 will certainly find this information useful when designing their “Raising Awareness” idea for the Global Citizenship Challenge.



- **Extra-Curricular PE Activities**

We are delighted to be able to offer a full range of extra-curricular sport activities during lunch times and after school.

This week we have:

- **Monday Lunch Time** – GCSE Badminton – Years 10 and 11
- **Tuesday 3pm to 4.00 pm** – Rugby – Years 7, 8 and 9; Netball – all year groups
- **Wednesday lunch time** – GCSE Badminton – Years 10 and 11
- **Wednesday 3pm to 4.00 pm** – Football – Years 7, 8 and 9; Hockey – all year groups
- **Thursday Lunch Time** – Mixed Touch Rugby – Year 9
- **Thursday 3pm to 4pm** – Badminton – Years 7, 8 and 9; Hockey – all year groups; GCSE Weightlifting – Years 10 and 11
- **Friday Lunch time** – Basketball Years 10 and 11



- **Extra-Curricular Music Activities**

This week we have:

	<b>Lunchtime 1.10 – 1.40 pm</b>	<b>After school 2.50 pm – 3.50 pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Double-Reed Workshop M2	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 7 Choir in M1	Theory Club in M1
<b>Wednesday</b>	Brass Group in M1  Wind Band in M2	Year 10 Band
<b>Thursday</b>	String Group in M2	Year 9 Band
<b>Friday</b>	Senior Choir in M2	

As a school, we would like to thank everyone who works so hard to make these opportunities happen, and especially our pupils who take part with such enthusiasm. ***Proud to be Bryngwyn!***

## Reminders of Important Information

### A is for attendance....

Positive Attendance remains a priority for all learners in Wales.



### Changes to attendance reporting

From **Monday 28th November 2022** we are transitioning to a new text service to report pupil absence. Rather than informing us by telephone, we now have a text message system that will enable you to send a message directly to the school attendance officer. We hope that this will provide a more convenient and efficient way to allow you to inform school of any absences for your child.

- To report your child's absence for the day please **text 07480 632 718** by 9.30am.
- Please ensure the text message contains:
  - **your child's name,**
  - **year group/registration class and**
  - **reason for the absence.**
- To ensure validity of the message, our systems will check the number of the phone that sent the text against the contact details we hold for your child.
- With this in mind it is essential that your contact details are regularly updated which can be done through our SIMs app or by contacting reception.
- To ensure a smooth transition between systems we will continue to monitor our telephone answering service in the short term.

If you wish to discuss particular issues regarding your child please contact the relevant Head of Pupil Progress in the usual way (contact information can be found on the school website). We trust that this new system will prove convenient and we thank you for your continued support as we develop our systems.

### School Admissions / Transition

The Local Authority has contacted all parents of pupils in Year 6 with information regarding applying for secondary school. All applications to the school must be made directly to Carmarthenshire LA on their website below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-admissions-and-changing-schools/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-11-year-olds/#.YzLS7nbMI2w>



**SCHOOL PLACES**  
**Apply Online**  
You must apply for your child's school place

Deadline:

Nursery	- 31 July 2023
Primary	- 31 January 2023
Secondary	- 20 December 2022

sirgar.llyw.cymru  
carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor Sir Gâr  
Carmarthenshire  
County Council

Please note the closing date for applications to commence 2023-24 is **December 20<sup>th</sup> 2022**.

Schools and parents will be informed of the outcome on the National Offer Date of **1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**.

If you, or anyone you know, would like further information or a tour of the school, please contact us on [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru) or by telephone on 01554 750661.

### **Have Your Say on the new GCSE Qualifications**

Qualification Wales have launched their 'Have Your Say' on GCSEs consultation and is now open until **14 December**, and they want your help to shape the new qualifications in Wales. You can access the consultation below:

<https://haveyoursay.qualifications.wales/>

**Please take the time to look and respond to this important consultation that will shape the future of GCSE qualifications in Wales.**

### **Information from Careers Wales for Years 8 and 9**

Careers Wales have produced some important information to help learners as they begin to make their first choices leading to a future career path. Careers Wales work with pupils, parents and carers to provide information, advice and guidance that will help them to consider all of the options available. This will help pupils make informed choices about the career path that is right for them.



This is an important time for pupils in years 8 and 9 as they begin to take more control and responsibility for planning their future careers.

[Careers Wales](#) are here to support pupils, parents and carers during this time.

**How can Careers Wales help?**

**Careers Wales** can support you and your child in making the right decisions to help them achieve their career ambitions. This includes supporting them to:

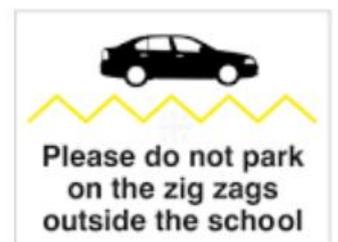
- [Choose which subjects, courses and qualifications](#) to study in years 10 and 11
- Understand more about [continuing in education](#);
- Use tools and resources like the [Buzz Quiz](#), [Career Match Quiz](#) and [CareersCraft](#) to generate ideas about jobs;
- Understand more about work-based learning and [apprenticeship opportunities](#);
- Find out more about the [world of work](#);
- Know how to [contact us](#) for more information, advice and support.

Head over to the new [parents section of our website](#) which explains more about our services, how we deliver them and how you can support your child at different stages of their career journey.

### Parking in the Community

As you know, the roads around the school can be very busy at the end of the day when learners are being collected and buses are leaving the school. As requested by the Local Authority, the gates are closed from 2.45pm to ensure no vehicles are moving in the school car park until pupils have vacated the area.

We appreciate your help in further ensuring pupil safety by not parking on the yellow zigzags on the road around the school and being mindful of local residents if parking on nearby streets. It is important that we don't park across drives and restrict the mobility of local residents.



For those who use the car park of Prince Phillip Hospital when collecting learners from school, we appreciate your help in parking sensitively so as to ensure the buses and ambulances that use the hospital have easy access to the roads, and that patients can park conveniently for their appointments.

**Your support is always appreciated.**

### Keeping Informed of Changes

During these times it remains fundamentally important we remain in contact. We will always do our best to keep parents informed of any changes as quickly as possible. **Please therefore check our text messages, SIMS Parent App, websites and social media pages on a very regular basis.** If you don't receive such updates or have changed your phone or contact details, please ensure we have up to date information by emailing us on [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru)

If you have any questions or would like a conversation about any aspect of learning or wellbeing please contact us on 01554 750661 between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or at [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru) as usual.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our school and wider community as well as your families and our learners. Please stay safe and well and we look forward to continuing to work together to provide the very best experiences for all our learners through the busy half term ahead.

Diolch,

**Mr Paul Jones**

**Head teacher**

**Telephone: 01554 750661**

**Email: [enq@bryngwyn.cymru](mailto:enq@bryngwyn.cymru)**

**Website: <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/>**

**Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bryngwynschool/>**

**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/bryngwynschool>