



24.05.23

Dear parents/guardians,

As another half term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your usual co-operation and support for the work of the school, particularly with the absence of some members of staff and the unavailability of appropriate supply staff. I can assure you that we have tried hard to deal with the situation to maintain the education of learners.

External Examinations

A large number of the school's learners, from Years 10 through to 13, have already started their external examinations and the examination period will continue for these Years after half term. We particularly thank Year 11 and 13 learners for their contribution to school life during their time at Gŵyr as they officially finish school at the end of this half term. We look forward to saying a final formal farewell to the Year 13 students on Friday, June 23 in a special ceremony, after A-levels have finished for all. Also for your information, Year 10 internal examinations will commence on Thursday, 22 June.

New Mobile Phones Policy

It is a pleasure to report that the introduction of our new mobile phones policy, which restricts the use of mobile phones on the school site in order to support the learning and safety of the learners, is going well. Most learners comply, and only a few have had to stop bringing their phone to school for a period as a sanction because of at least three instances of refusing to co-operate.

Urdd National Eisteddfod, Carmarthenshire 2023

Best wishes to well over a hundred learners and staff who will be competing during the half term break at the Urdd National Eisteddfod held in Llandovery. Please come and support if possible. It will be lovely to see you.

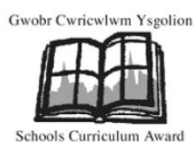
Change in Lunch Arrangements

After half term, all learners will have lunch at school between 12.30pm-1.30pm. This will be a change for Years 7-9 who were previously receiving their lunch later, at 1.30pm-2.20pm. Providing lunch at the same time for all will have a number of benefits e.g. facilitating informal lunchtime learning activities, enabling more staff to supervise the learners, allowing whole Departments to meet to discuss issues if they wish. We have discussed it thoroughly with canteen staff, and they

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believe that the school's learners can be fed during one lunchtime. **Of course, the use of the Food App to pre-order lunch is a great help to and saves on time and I would like to strongly press upon you the importance that all learners do this and avoid booking late during school hours.** In addition, because of the size of our site, we believe there is adequate space for learners to socialise and enjoy lunchtime together.

Year 9 start GCSE courses

Following confirmation of their option choices, Year 9 learners will begin a new timetable on Monday 12 June. They will therefore have the opportunity to embark on their GCSE options to ensure that they are happy with their choices. Should a problem arise, please email Mrs Rhian Churchill, Senior Teacher responsible for the option process at ChurchillR4@hwbcymru.net

Year 12 resumes lessons

Similar to Year 9 starting their GCSE courses on Monday 12 June, Year 12 students - following a series of AS examinations - will begin A level lessons on the same day. Lessons will continue for a period before students have the opportunity to receive guidance on processes such as UCAS and complete more work related to the Challenges of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

In conclusion, I would like to wish everyone a happy half term holiday and remind you that the school will reopen for all staff and learners on Monday, June 5.

Yours sincerely,

Headmaster

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