



Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr
Gorau byw cyd-fyw

4 September 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A warm welcome back at the start of a new school year, the fortieth in the school's history, and a special welcome to new parents and guardians.

External Exam Results 2024

Warmest congratulations to learners on their very good GCSE and A level results. We are very proud of their success and thank the staff for preparing them so thoroughly for the examinations.

GCSE 2024	%
5+ GCSE A*-A	22%
5+ GCSE A*-C	75%
5+ GCSEs A*-C including Welsh/English and Mathematics	65%
5+ GCSE A*-G	95%
A-levels 2024	
A*-A	34%
A*-C	81%
A*-E	98%

Learner Numbers

191 new learners were welcomed to Year 7 and 81 students returned to join the Sixth Form and the Gŵyr / Bryn Tawe Sixth Partnership. The present total school population therefore for 2024-25 is 1,139 learners.

Staff News

We warmly welcome new teachers to the school, namely Sara Horan (Head of International Languages), Carys Bryant (Head of Health and Social Care) and Rhys Evans (Teacher of Physical Education). In addition, Elina Rees joins us as a reading support officer, Nikolas Legakis as a science technician and Lowri Mair Davies as an officer to strengthen pupils' grasp of the Welsh Language. We wish them well. I would also wish to thank several staff who left us at the end of the last school year for their excellent service, and in particular Dai Long, Janette Davies and Sioned Parry. Mr Long was a teacher at the school for over 30 years and Mrs Davies for over 20 years. We wish them both a long and happy retirement. We also wish Mrs Parry all the best at her new school.

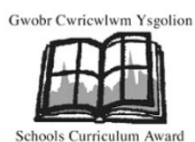
Parent/Guardian Collaboration

One of the great strengths of the school is the close and constructive relationship that exists between home and school, and it is a good to see that in each parental survey a very high percentage of parents confirm that they are happy with the school. We will work hard once again in 2024-25 to maintain this standard. If you have specific questions or queries about your child, you can contact the relevant Head of Year:

Pennaeth: Mr Jeffrey Connick BA

Stryd Talbot, Tre-gŵyr, Abertawe, SA4 3DB Ffôn: (01792) 872403 Ffacs: (01792) 874197

E-bost: ysgol.gyfun.gwyr@swansea-edunet.gov.uk | <https://www.yggwyr.org.uk>





BI 7-Angharad Stephens – 01792 977107- StephensA108@hwbcymru.net

BI 8- Lloyd Henry-01792 977108- HenryA12@hwbcymru.net

BI 9 - Sioned James –01792 977109 – JamesS252@hwbcymru.net

BI 10-Gwenallt Jones – 01792 977110 –JonesG1235@hwbcymru.net

BI 11 – Emyr Myers – 01792 977111 MyersE16@hwbcymru.net

BI12/13 -Annette Tilson – 01792 977113 - TilsonA1@hwbcymru.net

In addition, you can contact the Head of Years' learning and wellbeing officer, Siwan Davies, via School reception (01792 872403) who will also be able to assist you.

Cronfa Ysgol Wirfoddol (Voluntary School Fund)

As noted in my letter to parents/guardians at the start of the Easter term 2024, it is our intention from September 2024 to establish the *Cronfa Ysgol Wirfoddol* (Voluntary School Fund). I would therefore kindly ask you to consider voluntarily contributing £10 per term to this fund if you have a child at school, which is £30 a year (If you have a second child, we ask that you consider contributing £20 a year for that pupil, and if you have a third child, we ask for a contribution of £10 a year). You can pay through your *I Pay* school account. If you find such amounts unacceptable for whatever reason, any financial contribution would still be appreciated. The reason for establishing the fund is the challenging financial context the school faces with the inadequate funding obtained through the Local Education Authority and Welsh Government in the face of rising costs. If we are to continue to offer the rich curricular provision of high-quality teaching and learning on the school site and an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities-which contribute to the creation of learners who realise their potential and excellent citizens-additional sources of funding must be found. Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

School Equipment

Would you be so kind as to ensure that your child carries a pencil case to school which contains the necessary resources such as pens, pencils, rulers, highlighters, and rubbers. **There continues to be examples of several learners who don't possess writing pens in lessons which obviously caused problems.** Mathematics equipment is also necessary, which includes a scientific calculator, protractor, and compass.

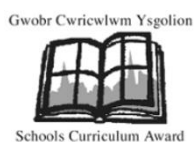
School Uniform and Property

Compliance with the official school uniform is important – black trousers or skirt (ideally not *joggers/leggings*), black shoes, black sweater with school badge or the new school *hoody* (**no other hoody is allowed**), blue polo shirt with school badge. Would you be so kind as to place names on school uniforms so that we can return lost property immediately to the owner. **I would truly be grateful if all parents were able to ensure that their children comply with our dress code.** School uniform will occasionally be monitored, and we will contact you if we feel aspects are unacceptable. In addition, learners should refrain from colouring their hair in an extreme fashion.

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Mobile Phones Policy

Learners are permitted, if they wish, to bring a mobile phone to school, based upon a survey of all school stakeholders. However, it should not be used during the day except in the canteen at lunch/break to check a food order. If a phone is used without permission, the phone will be taken from the learner by the teacher and held safely before being returned, usually before the end of the day. The mobile phone should not be used to take photographs on school premises on any account. We are acutely aware of the present national conversation about the possible negative effects of mobile phones on young people, and we will consult again as regards our policy with stakeholders if needed.

Attendance

95%+ is the target for everyone. Missing one day of school for no very good reason is needlessly disrupting your child's education. We ask for your support to ensure your child aims to be present every day from September to July. Parents/guardians should not arrange holidays during term time as there is a high probability that the child's absence would be deemed unauthorised. In addition, all learners are required to arrive promptly at school by 8.40am for registration. If a pupil arrives at school after 9.00am, that is after the end of the registration period, he/she will need to register late attendance in the school reception. Parents/guardians should also contact the school immediately to explain the reasons for a child's absence.

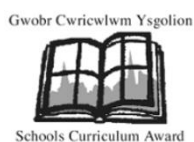
School Holidays and INSET Days for 2024-25

Below are details of the holidays and INSET days for the next academic year to help you with your planning.

Holidays 2024-25	
Half Term Break 1	Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024
Christmas Holidays	Monday 23 December 2024 - Friday 3 January 2025
Half Term Break 2	Monday 24 February - Friday 28 February 2025
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 April - Friday 25 April 2025
Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May 2025
Half Term Break 3	Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May 2025
Summer Holidays	School finishes on Friday, 18 July 2025

INSET Days 2024-25
INSET 1 Monday 2 September 2024
INSET 2 Monday 25 October 2024
INSET 3 Monday 3 March 2025
INSET 4 Tuesday 4 March 2025
INSET 5 Friday 4 July 2025
INSET 6 Monday 21 July 2025

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In Conclusion

It is hoped that the school year facing us will be a memorable one as we celebrate the school's fortieth anniversary. The year is characterised by several celebrations, the first of which will be our school show *Yn ôl i'r 80au* (*Back to the 80s*) which will be held at the Taliesin Theatre on Swansea University campus 6-8 November. More details about this show will be shared shortly. The school year will end with a celebratory

concert at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on 3 July 2025, and former pupil Elin Manahan Thomas, now a world-renowned singer, has already confirmed her availability to perform. I sincerely hope that you can join us in these celebrations. However, through all of this, I can assure you that our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of teaching and learning will continue in the best interests of all school learners. We look forward to working closely with you as parents and guardians during the year.

Yours sincerely,

Headmaster

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