



4 September 2025

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

At the start of a new school year, a warm welcome back to learners and their parents/guardians, and a special welcome to those who are new to 'Teulu Gŵyr' (the 'Gŵyr Family').

External Examination Results 2025

Huge congratulations to learners on their very good GCSE and A Level results. We thank the staff for preparing them so thoroughly for these important exams.

GCSE 2025	%
5+ GCSEs A*/A	21.1
5+ GCSEs A*-C	74.1
5+ GCSEs A*-C including Welsh/English and Maths	64.8
5+ GCSEs A*-G	95.7
A Level 2025	
A*-A	37.5
A*-C	86.8
A*-E	97.4

Learner Numbers

208 new learners were welcomed to Year 7 and 75 students returned to join the Sixth Form and the Gŵyr/Bryn Tawe Sixth Form Partnership. The current total of the school population for 2025-26 is therefore 1,136 learners.

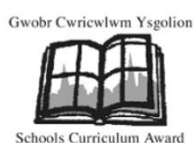
Staff News

We warmly welcome new teachers to the school, namely Ricky Morgan (Head of Design and Technology), Rebecca Bassett (English Teacher) and Elain Davies (Maternity International Languages Teacher). In addition, Garan Jenkins and Arun Templeton join as Learning Support Assistants. Anna Samuel, after a successful period as Head of the Welsh Department, has decided to step down from the position and has been replaced, for a year in the first place, by her deputy, Non Lewis. Laura Hughes will be promoted to serve in Ms Lewis's former position as Second in the Department. As we wish Ms Lewis and Ms Hughes well, we most sincerely thank Miss Samuel for her commendable

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work at the helm over the last few years.

Working with Parents/Guardians

If a problem arises that you would like to discuss, you should first contact your child's Head of Year:

Yr 7 – Emyr Myers – **01792 977107** MyersE16@hwbcymru.net

Yr 8-Angharad Stephens – **01792 977108**- StephensA108@hwbcymru.net

Yr 9- Lloyd Henry-**01792 977109**- HenryA12@hwbcymru.net

Yr10 - Sioned James –**01792 977110** – JamesS252@hwbcymru.net

Yr 11-Gwenallt Jones – **01792 977111** – JonesG1235@hwbcymru.net

Yrs 12/13 -Annette Tilson – **01792 977113** - TilsonA1@hwbcymru.net

You can also contact the Heads of Year learning and wellbeing officer, Siwan Davies, via the School reception (**01792 872403**) who will also be able to assist you.

However, you are kindly requested to avoid contacting Heads of Year by email in the evening, or any other member of school staff, unless it is an emergency. In addition, a response to an email enquiry should not be expected on the same day as all staff members do not have daily non-contact time to deal with administrative work. You will therefore receive an answer over the forthcoming days. **If you have a situation which you consider an emergency during the school day, you should telephone the school reception.**

I would also advise you to make an appointment if you want to discuss an issue with a member of staff face-to-face unless it is an emergency. If you arrive at the school site unannounced, there is a risk that it will not be possible to arrange for a member of staff to be available to meet you, and obviously we will not want you to feel that you have wasted your valuable time as a result.

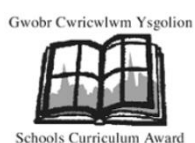
In addition, can all parents/guardians ensure that they are in contact with the school's digital communication system, *Classcharts*. This resource is used to share information with parents/guardians about learner behaviour, homework, informal/extra-curricular learning activities, headteacher's letters, to give just a few examples. It is a vital source of information for parents/guardians and not engaging with this resource can jeopardise your child's learning and wellbeing.

I thank you for your likely cooperation on these matters.

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School Equipment

Would you be so kind as to ensure that your child carries a pencil case to school daily which includes the necessary writing equipment such as a writing pen, pencil, rubber, highlighters and a ruler.

Incidents of learners attending lessons without a writing pen continue, causing unacceptable disruption. Mathematics equipment is also necessary, specifically a scientific calculator, a protractor, and a compass.

School Uniform and Learner Property

Compliance with the official school uniform is important – plain black trousers or skirt (ideally not *joggers/leggings*), black shoes, black sweater with the school badge or school hoody (**no other hoody is allowed**), blue polo shirt with the school badge. Would you be so kind as to ensure that pupil names are written on school uniform so that we can return lost property immediately to the owner. **I would be really grateful if all parents/guardians could ensure that their children conform to uniform expectations.** The school uniform is monitored occasionally and we will contact you if we feel that aspects of the uniform are unacceptable. In addition, learners should not dye their hair in an extreme fashion.

Mobile Phone Policy

Learners will be given permission, if they wish, to bring a mobile phone to school as a result of recent consultation with all school stakeholders. **However, it should not be used during the day except in the canteen at lunchtime/break to check a food order.** If a phone is used without permission, the phone will be taken away from the learner by the teacher and stored safely before returning it, usually at the end of the day. The mobile phone should not be used to take photos on the school site on any occasion. We are acutely aware of the current national dialogue about the potential adverse impact of mobile phones on young people and will consult further with our stakeholders about our policy if necessary.

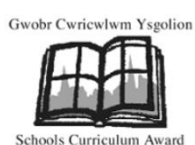
Attendance

We are particularly proud of our tradition of high learner attendance. The school attendance rate for 2024-2025 was 94%, which is excellent. In fact, Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr was the best secondary school in the County for attendance in 2024-25, and we are very proud of that. Every child must therefore aim for an attendance rate that is comfortably in the 90s%. Missing one day of school for no very good reason unnecessarily disrupts your child's education. Parents/guardians should not arrange holidays during school time because there would be a high probability of the child's absence being unauthorised. In addition, all learners are expected to arrive at school promptly by 8.40am for registration. If a pupil arrives after 9.00am, which is after the end of the registration period, they will need to register a late attendance at the school reception.

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The school should also be contacted immediately to explain your child's absence. **It is also important that parents/guardians immediately inform the office for the reason on the first day of a child's absence.**

Cronfa'r Ysgol (Voluntary School Fund)

The school has a voluntary fund. I therefore ask that you consider voluntarily contributing £10 per term to this fund if you have a child at school, which is £30 per annum (If you have a second child, we ask that you consider contributing £20 per annum for that pupil, and if you have a third child, we ask for a contribution of £10 per annum). You can pay through your *I Pay* school account. If you don't believe that you can contribute these amounts for whatever reason, any financial contribution would still be appreciated. The reason for establishing the fund is the challenging financial context faced by the school with the inadequate funding provided by the Local Education Authority and the 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 school grounds and a broad programme of extra-curricular activities—which contribute to the creation of learners who realise their potential and are excellent citizens—additional sources of funding must be found. Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

New Specialist Teaching Facility-Y Goleudy

I am pleased to inform you that the new Specialist Teaching Facility—or the *Goleudy (Lighthouse)* to give it its official name—is opening on the top floor of the Main Building in September. The facility has expanded to include 18 places available for learners with social communication problems and/or intensive learning difficulties. The facility includes:

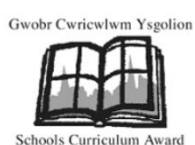
- Two new classrooms, designed to be flexible and stimulating learning spaces
- A sensory room, to provide a calm and supportive space for sensory management and emotional wellbeing
- An extra workroom, to be used for individual work or small group support
- An accessible lift, which will connect the main building to the new facility, ensuring full access for all

Staff and learners will finally have a well-deserved learning facility, and the County – which is primarily responsible for the provision – in conjunction with the school, has finally responded to one of the recommendations of the *Estyn* 2023 inspection report to provide an improved building.

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School Holidays and INSET Days for 2025-26

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

Holidays 2025-26	
Half Term Break 1	Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October 2025
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22 December 2025 - Friday 2 January 2026
Half Term Break 2	Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026
Easter Holidays	Monday 28 March - Friday 10 April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Half Term Break 3	Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2026
Summer Holidays	School ends on Friday, 17 July 2026

INSET Days 2025-26
INSET 1 Monday 1 September 2025
INSET 2 Tuesday 2 September 2025
INSET 3 Friday 24 October 2025
INSET 4 Friday 27 March 2026
INSET 5 Friday 19 June 2026
INSET 6 Monday 20 July 2026

Yours sincerely,

J. Connick

Jeffrey Connick (Headteacher)

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