



10 April 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we face the final term of the school year, I would like to draw your attention to some important issues.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Half Term Week will be **Monday 27 May until Friday 31 May**. The May bank holiday will be on **Monday 6 May**. **Friday 5 July** will be an *INSET* day and the school will not be open to learners on this day. The school year will finish for learners on **Friday 19 July**.

### CONGRATULATIONS

I would like to warmly congratulate individual, and recitation and musical groups who competed in the County Eisteddfod at the end of last term, under the guidance of school staff. Extremely high standards were reached. Special congratulations to the Senior Boys' Choir who won the Noel Davies Memorial Trophy and who will represent the West Glamorgan region at the National Eisteddfod in May. In addition, I would also like to note the school's Years 9 and 10 public speaking teams win in the *Seren* network competitions and the success of the school's rugby teams in reaching the finals and semi-finals of the Swansea Cup and the Welsh Cup. Congratulations are also in order for the school's first rugby team for winning the best school team prize at the City and County of Swansea's Sports Awards held in the Brangwyn Hall. In addition, the school has won first prize in the Welsh Secondary School's Renewable Energy Competition which is a considerable feat. Thanks to the outstanding dedication of pupils and staff.

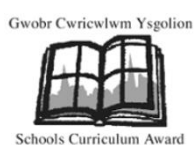
### EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 GCSE examinations will start on **Thursday 9 May** and Year 12 AS examinations (and some Year 13 students who have chosen to re-sit examinations) will start on **Monday 13 May**. **Lessons will continue for Year 11-13 learners until Friday 24 May**, and therefore, when learners do not have examinations, teachers will still hold lessons to support their exam preparations. The Yr. 10 and Yr. 13 examinations will not, for the most part, start until after Half Term. We wish all learners sitting examinations well over the coming months.

Headteacher: Mr Jeffrey Connick BA

Talbot Street, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DB Tel: (01792) 872403 Fax: (01792) 874197

Email: [ysgol.gyfun.gwyr@swansea-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:ysgol.gyfun.gwyr@swansea-edunet.gov.uk) | <https://www.yggwyr.org.uk>





## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate school uniform. **Plain black sweaters, black trousers/skirt and school polo shirt are expected. An inspection of school uniform will take place the week commencing April 15.**

## WASTE RECYCLING

Recycling waste has always been an important matter for school staff and learners, **but from 6 April, it is a legal obligation on all public bodies in Wales to recycle waste effectively.** Consequently, we have expanded our recycling provision all around the school and I therefore kindly ask you to remind your child/ren to comply with expectations. **However, no glass waste will be recyclable at the school.** Unfortunately, failure to comply with these government recycling rules could lead to financial penalties for the school and in the context of tight budgets, it is something that we wish to avoid. However, more important as regards conformity, is recycling for the benefit of the environment and long-term sustainability for us all. **Friday 12 April will be a non-uniform day with the expectation that pupils wear green and recycle as much waste as possible on the school site to focus on this good practice.**

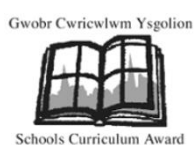
## ESTABLISHMENT OF *CRONFA YSGOL* (School Fund)

As I am sure you are aware, school budgets are under pressure. Due to the challenging national economic situation, the funding schools receive from Welsh Local Authorities and the Welsh Government is inadequate in the face of the rising cost of living. Unfortunately, despite careful management of this school's finances, Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr is unable to escape financial pressure. If we are to continue to offer the rich curricular provision of high-quality learning in the school and an extensive programme of extra-curricular experiences -which contribute to creating learners who realise their potential and become excellent citizens-we will have to seek additional sources of funding. That is therefore why we intend to establish **Cronfa'r Ysgol** (A voluntary school fund.) **I therefore kindly ask you to consider from September 2024 of 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 *Pay* school account. **The fund does not officially start until September 2024, however if you feel you can contribute a voluntary amount before then, we would be grateful.** I can assure you that the school is already looking at all avenues to save money without that directly affecting your children too much, but I fear that this in itself is not sufficient. Your voluntary contributions, if you feel able to make them, will be an extremely

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valuable and worthwhile contribution to ensuring continuity of a first-class education for your children. Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

In addition, if some of you are in a position to offer sponsorship in support of some of the school's sports teams or cultural activities, please would you contact the school.

### IN CONCLUSION

To conclude, I would like to thank you once again for your cooperation and likely support for the school's work to ensure that all learners reach their full potential, both academically and on a personal level. We therefore look forward to another successful final term in the history of Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr.

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey Connick, Headteacher**

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