

5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Changes to Curriculum Model

I am writing to advise you of the proposed changes to our curriculum model. Following an extensive consultation process it is felt that the current curriculum structure no longer sufficiently meets the needs of our learners. Currently students follow the Key Stage 3 programme of study in Years 7, 8 and 9. Students then follow the Key Stage 4 programme of study in which they prepare for GCSE or equivalent qualifications in Years 10 and 11.

The new curriculum model will condense the Key Stage 3 programme of study into a two year programme studied in Years 7 and 8. The Key Stage 4 programme would then commence in Year 9 and allow three years for completion. This decision has been reached following a rigorous and detailed consultation process.

We feel such a change has a number of key benefits for students in Bryntirion. Students will have access to a **broader curriculum** at Key Stage 4. Following the introduction of Welsh Baccalaureate, our students currently choose three option subjects. Increasing the length of Key Stage 4 to three years will allow students to follow **four option subjects**. An extra year will allow subjects to be **studied in greater depth** and provide greater scope for enrichment activities. **RAs** well as being more stimulating for students, this will also reduce the time pressure to complete courses which can cause added stress to students and staff. Reducing this pressure will **improve student well-being**, and more thorough preparation will lead to **better outcomes**. Another key facet is that students will be able to drop subjects they no longer wish to study and instead follow their chosen interests a year earlier.

A significant and rapidly increasing number of schools have already made this change. Bryntirion delegates have consulted and visited a sample of such schools and received extremely positive feedback. We firmly believe that this is in the best interests of our students and propose implementing this change in readiness for September 2019. Consequently I would like to invite you to an information session on the 15<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm in the Senior Hall in order to answer any questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely



Mr Jamie Beard  
Deputy Headteacher