



December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Christmas holiday after a busy term, I would like to thank staff, students, parents and governors for their support for Bryntirion. We are very grateful for your generous support and appreciate the partnership we have with you. This Autumn Term finishes for pupils on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.** The Spring Term begins for all pupils on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

In the final week of term, there are a number of festive events and celebratory events taking place at various times:

- The Carol Service will take place on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, in St Mary's Church, Nolton (opposite Riversdale Surgery), commencing at 7.00pm.
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Cake and Carols afternoon for grandparents & community 2.15 - 3.15
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - 7 & 8 Trip morning; all other year groups activity morning

### **A - INSET Days**

We have three further INSET days planned for 2025:

- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**
- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

### **B - January & Spring Term Mock Exams**

GCSE examinations will take place for many pupils in Year 11 after Christmas. All pupils are aware of these and have been given their individual timetables. The examination is as follows:

#### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – GCSE English Literature**

There will be mock exams for pupils in Years 10 & 11 in the w/c **March 3rd 2025**. Timetables for these examinations will be issued in January 2025.

### **C - Parents' Evenings**

I would like to thank parents of pupils in Years 10 to 13 for their attendance at parents' evenings this term. All other parents' evenings take place in 2025 as follows:

**Year 7 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**Year 8 – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**Year 9 – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

We will hold a further meeting in the week commencing **January 27<sup>th</sup> 2025** for parents of pupils in Year 11. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will meet with parents and pupils to discuss progress towards targets, and progression routes following Year 11. Meetings will be held in person at the school.

Our Sixth Form Options Evening will be held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**.

Year 9 Options evening will take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**.

## **D – Curriculum 2025**

We are currently preparing for the introduction of newly reformed GCSEs from September 2025. The new GCSEs cover a range of subjects at Level 1 and Level 2 of the [Welsh Government's Credit and Qualifications Framework](#), and support the six Areas of Learning and Experience as outlined in the new curriculum:

- expressive arts
- health and wellbeing
- humanities
- languages, literacy and communication
- mathematics and numeracy
- science and technology

The first wave of new GCSEs will be available in the following subjects:

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Business

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Core Cymraeg

GCSE Drama

GCSE English Language and Literature (Single and Double Award)

GCSE French

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)

GCSE Music

GCSE Religious Studies

All other subjects will continue with legacy qualifications in September 2025. There will be further changes in 2026 and 2027 when the Full Offer becomes available.

## **E - Winter weather**

As you are aware, all schools have been advised to prepare contingency plans should there be weather related issues. We will always try to remain open whenever possible, but this will be dependent on the availability of staff, site conditions and whether it is safe to do so

Any decision to close is taken following a carefully considered risk assessment. This is generally based on the availability of staff, the safety of the school site and the weather forecast. We will inform you of any closure by text/email and updates will be posted on the School and Council websites with as much notice as possible. Please ensure that you provide up to date contact details so that you are able receive important information.

Should we need to close during the school day as a consequence of adverse weather or for other unforeseen reasons, we will inform you by text and/or email. Please discuss with your children your instructions on where they should go in the event of a school closure during the school day (e.g. to go home to a neighbour or friend or relative).

## **F – Attendance and Punctuality**

I would like to thank parents for working with the school to ensure your child has excellent attendance. Parents will be aware that a high priority for all schools is to improve attendance. Whilst there has been a notable improvement, we are still some ways below pre-pandemic levels. You will receive a letter in January with information about your child's attendance. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure that it is as good as possible.

Regular attendance is fundamental to academic success. When students attend school consistently and on time, they build good habits, participate more actively in class, and develop a stronger sense of belonging with their peers and teachers. Equally, frequent absences or lateness can create gaps in learning, making it harder for your child to keep up with the curriculum and achieve their full potential.

We kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school every day, arrives on time, and is ready to engage with their studies. By working together, we can help foster a strong culture of responsibility and commitment to education. If there are any specific challenges you face that affect your child's attendance or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you and explore solutions to any concerns you might have.

Please be aware that the school will only authorise absence during term time in exceptional circumstances. Please complete a **leave of absence** form well in advance of any planned absence from school, setting out any such individually unique circumstances. These forms are available from Mrs Yeoman our Attendance Officer [admin@bryntirioncs.bridgend.cymru](mailto:admin@bryntirioncs.bridgend.cymru)

We have been focusing on improving punctuality to school and between lessons, so that learning can begin promptly. After Christmas, the 're-set' assemblies we hold with pupils will focus on 'Setting Goals' to encourage a positive and optimistic start to 2025.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year and look forward to seeing all our students return refreshed and ready for a new school term on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

Yours sincerely



R K Pawar - Headteacher

**Nadolig Llawen a Blyddyn Newydd da**

