



27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a very successful few months at Bryntirion. Our pupils have embraced every challenge and opportunity with enthusiasm, and none of this would be possible without your continued support.

This term has been rich with experiences that have broadened our pupils' horizons both within and beyond the classroom. While it's not possible to list them all, I'd like to share some of the key events and activities that have made this term particularly special.

In January, a group of Year 9 pupils attended the 'Seren Debate Camp' at Archbishop McGrath High School, an invaluable chance to enhance their debating skills in preparation for future competitions.

The Welsh Department led an exciting trip to Llangrannog, where 90 pupils immersed themselves in the Welsh language while enjoying a wide range of fun, physical activities.



Meanwhile, 62 pupils from across all year groups travelled to London with the Performing Arts Department.



Our talented Performing Arts pupils have been exceptionally busy this term. In addition to their spectacular 'Showcase' of songs from the shows earlier in the term, pupils from across the school took to the stage on the 19th and 20th March for our whole-school production of 'Disney's Newsies Jr.' The performances were outstanding, showcasing the remarkable talent, energy and professionalism of our pupils. I am certain that many of them are future stars of the West End. My heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Naomi Davies and her team, whose vision, dedication and hard work over many months made the production such a massive success.

Year 8 pupils benefitted from impactful sessions delivered by the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Emma Wools, and the charity *Mental Health Matters*, as part of their involvement in the 'First Give' social action for charity programme.

February saw our school community come together to celebrate 'Bryntirion Book Week', a vibrant week filled with assemblies, '*Drop Everything and Read*', book clubs, competitions, and inspiring workshops with visiting authors.





During half-term, 39 Year 11 pupils travelled to Poland with the Religious Studies Department. Their visit to Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau was deeply moving, offering important historical insights and a meaningful reflection on the human stories behind these sites.



On the 27<sup>th</sup> February, staff and pupils proudly wore 'Red for Velindre' to raise awareness in support of those affected by cancer. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised over £850 for Velindre Cancer Centre, an incredible effort that will make a meaningful difference to patients and families across Wales.

Sporting achievements have also been a highlight this term. For the first time, three of our school teams qualified for the national knock-out stages of the Welsh Schools FA Cup - an outstanding accomplishment. Our senior IV rugby team also reached



the quarter-finals of the Senior Schools Plate competition, narrowly missing out after a hard-fought match against Ysgol Maes-y-Gwendraeth. This week, our Year 10 U15 team beat Porthcawl Comprehensive School by 40 points to 29 in the Ospreys Bowl Final. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are extremely proud of the boys for their sterling effort. Our netball teams have also performed well this term with our

Year 8 girls winning the Bridgend Schools' District Tournament and Year 7 and 9 girls coming fourth. Again, we are extremely proud of the girls for representing the school so well.

This week, our learners from Year 7 and 8 Flint visited the Ospreys Inclusion 6 Nations Event in the Llandarcy House of Sport in Swansea and Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in 'House Games' where they competed in a variety of mixed 7-a-side team sports, including Football, Netball, Touch Rugby and Hockey to gain points for their houses. Through these activities, pupils developed their teamwork, communication and sportsmanship skills while building confidence and strengthening their sense of house pride.

As you receive this letter, 42 pupils from Years 8 and 9 are on their way to Alpendorf in Austria to enjoy a week of skiing, where they will develop their confidence on the slopes, learn new skills, experience a different culture and build strong friendships. We are grateful to Mr Mahoney for organising such an amazing adventure and to the staff who are accompanying pupils during their Easter break.

We continue to strengthen careers education at Bryntirion, and this term we welcomed several employers, including Valleys to Coast and British Airways, who delivered 'Future Fridays Careers Talks' to targeted Year 11 pupils. These sessions provided valuable insights into future pathways and opportunities beyond school.

A group of Year 12 pupils have been working diligently on their entry for this year's Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative competition. As part of their project to further develop our house system and annual Eisteddfod, they visited Pen-y-Fai Primary School, where they delivered an assembly to pupils in Years 3 and 6, as well as a workshop for Year 5. Meanwhile, a number of KS4 and KS5 pupils joined the Welsh Department on a trip to the semi-finals of 'Y Llais', the Welsh-language version of the TV show 'The Voice'. Together, these activities have helped to further promote the Welsh language and culture at Bryntirion and will hopefully support our aim of achieving the Gold Siarter Iaith Award in April.

Academically, pupils across the school have shown great resilience and determination. Year 7 and 8 pupils completed their National Reasoning and Reading Tests, while our Year 10 and 11 pupils undertook their mock GCSE examinations, an important part of their preparation for the summer exam series. Staff continue to support pupils through NEAs (Non-Examined Assessments) and coursework components, ensuring they are fully prepared for the challenges ahead.

As I reflect on the past two terms since rejoining Bryntirion last September, I am incredibly proud of what our pupils, staff, and community have achieved together. It has been deeply fulfilling to return to Bryntirion and to see first-hand the commitment, kindness, and ambition that define our 'Be Bryntirion' ethos.



Finally, I would like to emphasise the importance of good attendance as we move into the summer term. Attending school every day is one of the most significant factors in ensuring pupils make strong academic progress, build positive relationships and develop the confidence and skills they need for the future. Even a small number of absences can have a real impact on learning, wellbeing and outcomes. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting high attendance - it truly makes a difference, and together we can ensure that every pupil has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back for the summer term on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** (Week A), ready for more exciting opportunities and achievements. A reminder that pupils will be able to wear our summer uniform when they return – this includes plain black shorts and a white polo shirt (logo optional) if they so wish but leggings, hoodies and trainers are not permitted.

The successes of this term, and indeed the year so far, are a testament to the strong partnership between school and home. Thank you for your support – this plays a vital role in helping our pupils thrive. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break. Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely,



Mr D. Mead  
Headteacher

