



December 18th 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Christmas holiday after a busy term, I would like to thank staff, pupils, parents, carers and governors for their support for Bryntirion. We are very grateful for your generous support and appreciate the partnership we have with you.

It has been a very busy but enjoyable term with pupils benefitting from a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Many thanks to all pupils and staff who contributed to the many festive events this week, including the annual Christmas Carol Service at Nolton Church on Monday evening, the Carols and Cakes Celebration and our first ever Christmas Fair on Tuesday. Many thanks also to parents and carers who supported these community events.

A reminder that this Autumn Term finishes for pupils on **Friday 19th December at 3.00p.m** and the Spring Term begins for all pupils on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

I would also like to remind you of some of the other important activities and dates next term:

A - INSET Days

We have three further INSET days planned for 2026:

Monday 23rd March

Friday 22nd May

Monday 20th 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 examinations are as follows:

Wednesday 7th January – GCSE English Literature Unit 1 resit

Monday 12th January – Hospitality and Catering (33 pupils)

Monday 2nd February – GCSE Science Unit 7; GCSE Biology and Physics Unit 3

In addition to the examinations above, all Year 11 pupils will be involved in important Science practical examinations during the last week of January and the first week of February, so it is extremely important that pupils are not absent from school during this period. Year 10 and 11 pupils will also be undertaking NEAs (Non-Examined Assessments) in other subjects during the spring term so good attendance throughout the term is essential. Details and dates of all NEAs were distributed early in the autumn term.

The mock exams for pupils in Years 10 & 11 will commence on **23rd February 2026** for two weeks. Timetables for these examinations will be issued in January 2026.



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 2026 as follows:

Year 7 – Thursday 12th March

Year 8 – Thursday 5th February

Year 9 – Thursday 26th February

We will hold a further meeting in the week commencing **January 26th 2026** for parents/carers of pupils in Year 11. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will meet with parents/carers and pupils to discuss progress towards targets, and progression routes following Year 11.

Our 6th Form options evening will be held on **Thursday 12th February**. All meetings will be held in person at the school. Year 9 Options evening will take place on **Thursday 26th March**.

D – Curriculum Update

Year 10 pupils are currently studying the newly reformed 'Wave 1' GCSEs which were introduced in September 2025 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 are continuing with legacy qualifications until further changes in 2026 and 2027 when the full National 14–16 Qualifications offer is implemented. In addition to the 'Wave 1' subjects listed above, Year 9 pupils will be offered further 'Wave 2' qualifications when they enter Year 10 in September 2026. Further details on the courses on offer will be provided in the Year 9 Options Evening on **Thursday 26th March 2026**.

E - Winter Weather

As you may be aware, all schools are required 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, Punctuality and Uniform

I would like to thank parents and carers for working with the school to ensure your child has excellent attendance. Parents/carers will be aware that a high priority for all schools is to improve attendance. Whilst there was a notable improvement early in the term, like other schools in the area, our attendance at the end of term was badly affected by the virulent flu virus meaning our attendance is still some way 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 his/her 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** well in advance of any planned holiday, setting out any such individually unique circumstances. These forms are available on the school website/letters to parents or from Miss Kayleigh Gully, our Attendance Officer at admin@bryntirioncs.bridgend.cymru

We have been focusing on improving punctuality to school and between lessons, so that learning can begin promptly. We have also promoted high standards of uniform and we are most grateful for your support in ensuring that your child turns up to school looking smart and wearing the correct school uniform. After Christmas, the 're-set' assemblies we hold with pupils will focus on 'Setting Goals' to encourage a positive and optimistic start to 2026.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year and look forward to seeing all our pupils return refreshed and ready for a new school term on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

Yours sincerely



DTD Mead – Headteacher

