



Right of the month: Article 3: All adults should make decisions in the best interest of children.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Stepping into the new term, we are filled with excitement and optimism for the opportunities that lie ahead for our pupils and school community.

This term, we are placing a clear focus on several key priorities across our school:

**Reading and Literacy:** Developing a love for reading remains at the heart of our curriculum. We will continue to encourage regular reading both in school and at home, as it is foundational to your child's success. Look out for our upcoming events and initiatives to celebrate and support reading.

**Attendance and punctuality:** Consistent attendance is crucial for every child's learning and progress. Our school takes a person-centred approach to improving our school attendance. By working together, we will ensure your child is present and ready to make the most of each day. If there are challenges in this area, we will provide the support needed for your family. Punctuality is an important skill for life. **Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time each day.** Our pastoral team will be supporting families this term to ensure your child is ready for learning at the start of the day and on time for lessons.

## Dates for your diary

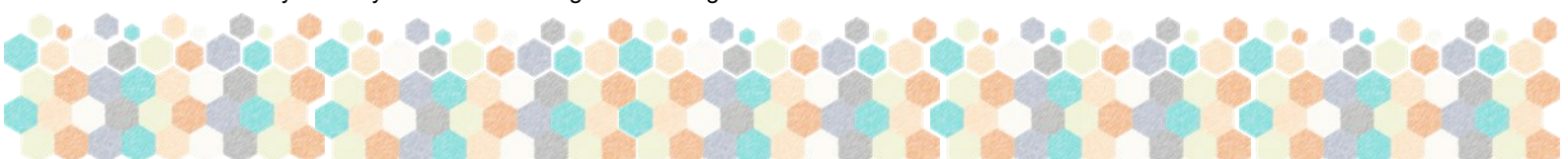
Date	What's happening?
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 interim report published
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 10 interim report published
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 options process starts
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Senedd 2 Meeting

Please find below the term dates for this academic year. The remaining INSET days are scheduled for Monday 7th April 2025 and Monday 21st July 2025.

Spring 2025	Monday, January 6 2025	Friday, February 21 2025
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday, February 24 2025</b>	<b>Friday, February 28 2025</b>
Spring 2025	Monday, March 3 2025	Friday, April 11 2025
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	<b>Monday, April 14 2025</b>	<b>Friday, April 25 2025</b>
Summer 2025	Monday, April 28 2025	Friday, May 23 2025
<b>Half term</b>	<b>Monday, May 26 2025</b>	<b>Friday, May 30 2025</b>
Summer 2025	Monday, June 2 2025	Monday, July 21 2025

## Parents' Evenings:

- ⇒ Thursday 13th February 2025: Year 9 Progress Evening (Core subjects)
- ⇒ Thursday 6th March 2025: Year 9 Options Evening
- ⇒ Thursday 27th March 2025: Year 11 Progress Evening
- ⇒ Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd April 2025: Activate (R—Year 3) & Advance (Year 4—6) Progress Meetings
- ⇒ Thursday 3rd April 2024: Year 8 Progress Evening
- ⇒ Thursday 1st May 2025: Year 10 Progress Evening
- ⇒ Thursday 8th May 2025: Year 7 Progress Evening





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## Catering Services

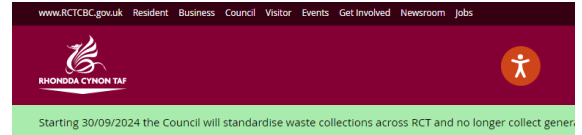
Please could the school ask that all pupils in Year 7 –11 have sufficient funds on their school dinner money account.

If you wish to make a payment the RCT website is:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/SchoolsandLearning/SchoolPayments/SchoolDinnerMoneyMakeaPayment.aspx>

All queries or questions regarding menus or accounts please contact the RCT service manager on:

[catering15.ysgolafonwen@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru](mailto:catering15.ysgolafonwen@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru).



## School Dinner Money - Make a Payment

You can pay for your child's school dinners online.

## Headteacher's Monthly Surgery

Our monthly Headteacher surgery will be held on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025** – starting at 3.30pm. If you would like an appointment to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to book an appointment on - 01443 841228.

## Year 11 Pupils

Thank you very much for your support in preparing your children for their mock examinations in December. On Thursday this week the school held a mock exam results day. The release of results was powerful to support the pupils moving forward. Please emphasise the messages that were given during the collection of these results:

- ◇ Every pupil should improve their mock examination grade by at least one grade before the summer
- ◇ If the pupils want to improve they need to talk to teachers about next steps
- ◇ Work ethic needs to be high to ensure that they are not disappointed in the Summer
- ◇ There are 15 teaching weeks before May and the start of the GCSE examinations, this is 75 teaching days.
- ◇ Daily attendance is extremely important and being an active participant in lessons.

Please contact Mrs C Morgan, Year 11 Progress Leader on 01443841228 or [courtney.morgan@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru](mailto:courtney.morgan@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru) if you have any questions following the release of the mock examination results or the Year 11 interim report including current grade and attitude to learning.

## Advance Swimming lessons

Advance Swimming lessons will start next week for an intensive period.

**From 13th January 2025 to 31st January 2025 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)**

9.15am - 10.15am – Mr G Medd (Year 6 Aur)

10.15 - 11.15am – Ms N Kafai (Year 5 Branz)

11.15am - 12.15pm - Mrs V Geach & Mr G Couldrick (Year 6 Arian & Platinwm)

1.15pm - 2.15pm – Mr K Webster (Year 5 Saffir)





## Attendance

Nursery	80%	Year 4	91%	Year 9	85%
Reception	87%	Year 5	89%	Year 10	84%
Year 1	93%	Year 6	90%	Year 11	85%
Year 2	88%	Year 7	88%		
Year 3	89%	Year 8	91%		

Congratulations to **Year 1** who have the highest attendance this week. The school expects every pupil to have at least 90% attendance to school. A high level of attendance to school supports high levels of attainment and wellbeing.

## Wellbeing Update

At the end of the last term, we said our farewells to Mrs M Purnell, our Designated Safeguarding Officer, who has now moved to her new school. Mr I Dwight will lead our dedicated Safeguarding Team at Ysgol Afon Wen.

**Who can I talk to?**

- Mrs K Gwyn** – Deputy Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mr Dwight**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Natale-Vaughan**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Safeguarding Leader
- Mrs O'Carroll**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Associate Assistant Headteacher
- SENIOR TEAM**  
Mrs C Crockett (HT)  
Mrs S Brewer (DHT)  
Mrs R Stephens (AHT)  
Mr J Cobb (AHT)
- Mrs Geach**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Progress Leader  
Y4-Y6
- Mrs Connor**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Associate Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Rowland**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Progress Leader  
N-Y3
- Safeguarding Link Governors**  
Mrs H Cook  
Mr C Gibbins

Below are the email addresses to use if you wish to contact the Progress Leader for the year group/phase. Please be

Activate Progress Leader (R—Yr 3), Mrs N Rowland	nicola.rowland@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru
Advance Progress Leader (Yr 4—Yr 6), Mrs V Geach	vicky.geach@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru
Year 7 Progress Leader, Miss L Burnett	laura.burnett@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru
Year 8 Progress Leader, Miss L Phillips	lara.phillips@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru
Year 9 Progress Leader, Miss H Boyce	hayley.boyce@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru
Year 10 Progress Leader, Miss M Jenkins	melissa.jenkins@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru
Year 11 Progress Leader, Mrs C Morgan	courtney.morgan@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru





## Celebration of Success

Congratulations to Jake Day has been chosen to represent RCT Schools FA Under 16Boys against Kent Schools in the quarter-final of the English Schools Inter County Cup on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



Congratulations to the following pupils who have been commended by their Progress leader or teachers. Well done!

<b>Nursery</b>	Euan Simpson Noah James-Kuras	<b>Year 4</b>	Ioan Strange Lucy Blakely	<b>Year 9</b>	Lillie-Grace McGuire Callum Hawkins
<b>Reception</b>	Thomas Pritchard Finley Davies	<b>Year 5</b>	Harrison Coles Nia Gibbins	<b>Year 10</b>	Connor Knight Imogen Roberts
<b>Year 1</b>	Alayah Llewellyn Thomas Blake	<b>Year 6</b>	Harley Webb, Phoebe Williams & Kielan Mac- kenzie	<b>Year 11</b>	Jake Day Gwen Warren
<b>Year 2</b>	Vaughan Hex Mylee Bluett	<b>Year 7</b>	Kai Jones Beissan Driai		
<b>Year 3</b>	Ellie Shoemark Oliver Munton	<b>Year 8</b>	Enoch Adelaja Myar Rickards		



*Pictured: Ffion receiving her prize from Linda Chipps from Counter Force Poetry.*

A huge well done to Ffion 9LFD) and Summer (10TNS) who won the Year 4-9 and Year 10-11 Festive Town Takeover Poetry Competition.

The competition was run by Counter Force, and entries were received from across Pontypridd and surrounding communities. Counter Force Poetry judges noted:

*"The winning entries were chosen by multiple judges. The judges chose the winning entries because it was felt that they embodied the spirit of*

*Christmas in their writing and created feelings of warmth, nostalgia, and really showed the joy of Christmas magic through their words. Well done and thank you!"*

We are immensely proud of all who entered the competition. And a big congratulations to the two winners!





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## Extra Curriculum Clubs

Activate and Advance Pupils Extra curriculum clubs will start on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Pupils in years 5-6, who have previously signed up will roll over to the next block of clubs. Football, Netball and Choir will continue alongside cooking for Year 6. There will be new opportunities for Years 2-4. We will send out more information next week about these clubs and how parents can enrol their child.

Extra curricular sporting clubs information will also follow.

## Year 4 Collection at 3.05pm

Thank you to all Year 4 parents/carers for trialling the new collection point at 3.05pm. The feedback received is that whilst you enjoy the space for collection and easier access to the teacher, that the distance around the building is significant!

From Monday 13th January the Year 4 teachers will bring the pupils up to the pupil entrance (at the corner of the Secondary building) so that parents do not need to walk as far.

Please still head "around" the building and the pupils and teachers will be there to meet you.

## 12 days of Christmas success

Thank you to all parents and carers who supported the raffle whilst enjoying the Christmas concerts. The school raised £395 which will be used to provide prizes and incentives for many more events and activities across the school. We look forward to sharing with you the information about pupils who have received them.



The following pupils received a £10 voucher to spend over Christmas for their positive attendance during the 12 days leading up to Christmas. Well done to the following pupils:

Year 7— Jacob Evans, Lydia Mason-Cann and Luka Hicks

Year 8— Zion Matthew, Caitlin Jones & Jacob Williams

Year 9— Sesandi Wickramasinghe Mudiyansele, Alfey Shorland, Ryley Bengough, Oliver Hughes, Mia Webb & Lilly Gardner

Year 10—Sophie Shankland, Khalid Olatunbi & Keeli Fletcher-Slocombe

Year 11— Joni Usar, Caleb Edwards & Auomidele Osiberu

## Attendance /Absence

Please could you ensure that you log any pupil absence on class charts by using the report absence button or alternatively telephoning the school on 01443 841228 and using the extension for the attendance team.

Thank you very much for your support.





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## Year 11 Post-16 information letter



Nurturing Success

Ysgol Gyfun  
**BRYN CELYNNOG**  
Comprehensive School

Penycoedcae Road  
Beddau  
Pontypridd  
Rhondda Cynon  
Taff  
CF38 2AE

Telephone: 01443 203411 • Fax: 01443 219619 • Headteacher's Fax: 01443 219629 • Email: [school@bryncelynnog.org.uk](mailto:school@bryncelynnog.org.uk)  
Headteacher: Ms. Debra Baldock, B.A., N.P.Q.H.  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. Chris Davies, B.Eng.

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Year 11 Parent / Carer

### **BRYN CELYNNOG SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT 6.00pm**

We are holding our Sixth Form Information Evening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.00pm at Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School.

The aim of the evening is to provide you with an overview of the courses available at post-16 and to provide you with information on life in the Sixth Form, including the many opportunities open to our Sixth Form students.

The evening will start in the main canteen, so please park in the main car park at the front of the school. We will then escort you to the new block so that you can see our fabulous new Sixth Form study facilities.

There will be five 10-minute subject talks based on the option columns in the Sixth Form brochure (available on the night). You can choose whether you attend all five sessions or just two or three, depending on the interests of your son/daughter. All the subject talks will be based in the new block.

Current Sixth Form students will be available throughout the evening in the study area to provide a student's perspective on the courses that we offer.

You will not be expected to make any decisions regarding the courses that your son/daughter hopes to study in the Sixth Form on the evening itself; we always wait until the GCSE results are issued before we ask you to make final choices. However, we will ask your son/daughter to make provisional choices before Easter so that we can begin to assess class sizes and staffing requirements for September. We will send you an online form to capture this information.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Baldock  
Headteacher

