

26th April 2024

Bore da

This week many parents and carers will have received a letter regarding attendance at school. The letter focusses on attendance from the spring term and therefore this percentage may be different from that which you can see on Classcharts as this takes account of attendance for the full academic year.

It is important to stress that we are aware that for some pupils, there are very good reasons for absences (eg hospital stays and so on) and we recognise this. However, the decision was taken to send the letter to all parents and carers of pupils where attendance fell below a certain level which we would then think would have an impact on progress in learning.

Whilst, of course you may well think that the school is aware of the reasons for absences, it is important that we then all work together to help improve attendance but perhaps, more importantly, ensuring that any gaps in learning are caught up on going forward. We want to ensure that the necessary support is in place for all of our pupils.

Our assemblies this week have focused on the theme of **'resilience'** which is particularly relevant not only to our pupils who are preparing for examinations but indeed all our pupils.

Being resilient is often compared to being like an elastic band; where you can stretch when put under pressure and then return to your original shape/state afterwards. I think this is not strictly true as being resilient should mean when you find something that is challenging or difficult, you change something and continue in that way in the future; this makes you stronger and more able to deal with challenges as you move forward.

A key thing for our pupils to remember is that being resilient does not mean having to be on their own and without support. There are so many people at Brynteg that can offer this and it is important that pupils take up this offer. One of the brilliant quotes used in the assemblies with our year 10-13 pupils came from Thomas Edison (who incidentally took over 1,000 attempts before he found the right filament for his light bulb) is as follows:

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Cofion cynnes



Headteacher

19th April 2024

The best way to predict the future is to invent it. Alan Kay

Bore da

This week a team of our Year 12 pupils were involved in The Young Enterprise Regional Showcase. Along with teams representing many other schools in South Wales, they marketed their product - **Pocket Pals** - in front of the Young Enterprise executives and local business leaders. They are rightly proud of their product - a pocket sized fidget toy, sustainably made - which is already selling well with our younger pupils (all profits being ploughed back into the business). The team rose to each challenge with aplomb: they impressed the judges with their presentation skills, business acumen and vision and gave an engaging presentation in front of an audience consisting of business leaders, executives, teachers, pupils and members of the public.

They even managed quite a few sales on the day. In short, they did Brynteg School proud - another superb example of what our pupils can and do achieve. The team won two awards: 'Best Use of Technology' and the 'Company of the Year' - which is the top prize. It's an amazing effort. As a result the Team has made it through to the National finals in May. Congratulations to: Cleo, Jack, Sebastian, Georgia, James and Izaak.



Enterprise skills form an important part of our new curriculum model as we try to embody the vision of the Young Enterprise Charity in our work which is 'Every young person has the opportunity to learn the vital skills and enterprising mindset needed to earn and look after their money and make a positive contribution to their community'.

Too often, when considering Enterprise education, the link is made with high-profile entrepreneurs and, whilst it is important to recognise the success of these, it is about much more than this. Enterprise education doesn't provide answers but it:

- supports pupils to identify the right questions
- requires pupils to push boundaries
- encourages pupils to think creatively
- requires pupils to be confident enough in their own ability to take the risks necessary to succeed

It is important that our pupils are given the opportunity to take risks in their learning and equally as important they need to have the structures there to support them if they fail as reflecting on what went wrong and then making a success of this really is a sign of a good entrepreneur. The Young Enterprise programme and our new curriculum model certainly do provide pupils with the opportunities and support in order to develop these skills and form an important part of what we think all of our pupils should experience at Brynteg.

A huge congratulations to Mr Wagland and the enterprise team who really have demonstrated that, at Brynteg School, there are pupils who have the skills and determination to perform well even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Cofion cynnes



Headteacher

12th April 2024

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. Dr Suess

As our pupils return from what I hope was a relaxing Easter break, many of them will in the few weeks be undertaking practical exams in a number of subject areas and this is traditionally the sign that exam season is upon us.

As the Dr. Suess quote above suggests, if pupils invest time now in terms of revision, completing coursework, preparing for practical assessments and so on then they will be in complete control of the 'direction' they travel in. All pupils should now be spending some of their time revising as, after having been involved with so many pupils at this stage over the years, I know that it is those who do this work now who are always successful when they come to pick up their results in August. They all deserve to do well but in order to get what they deserve, they will need to commit to hard work now.

Whilst I emphasise the importance of hard work in the coming weeks, I would stress that this must not be at the expense of wellbeing. It is important for our pupils to realise that ensuring they focus on their own wellbeing is given equal importance to the revision they will need to undertake. There is lots of really helpful information available on this topic but I feel some of the best advice comes from the Mind website which can be found by clicking on the link below. I would urge pupils, parents and carers to spend some time looking at this.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/feelings-and-experiences/exam-stress/#TipsForCopingWithExamStress>

The image below highlights some of the strategies which pupils may wish to use in the coming months:



Of course, after working so hard our pupils will need the opportunity to let their hair down – and quite rightly so! Traditionally, summer proms have been held for pupils in years 11 and 13 and this year is no exception. We are aware of the fact that events such as these can be expensive – especially when you factor in the cost of the ticket, dresses, suits and so on.

We want all our pupils to feel that they can attend prom and this year a team of staff are setting up a **Pop-Up Prom Shop**. We are asking for donations of prom wear (dresses, suits, accessories, suit/dress bags, shoes, etc.) in good to excellent condition and will then ensure that pupils have access to these. We have approached a number of local businesses would like to thank **Skopes, Venetia Steele and Samantha K's Bridal and Occasion Wear** who have already made extremely generous donations

If you have anything you would like to donate then you can simply bring it along to the main reception area in school. You may well know of a local business who you think would like to support this important initiative and if so, please share the details of some of the members of staff who are working so hard on this. Their details are as follows:

Lauren.feeley@bryntegschool.bridgend.cymru
Megan.oaten@bryntegschool.bridgend.cymru
Zoe.fender@bryntegschool.bridgend.cymru

Good luck to ex-Brynteg pupil Christian Williams who is the trainer for Kitty's Light in the Grand National this Saturday. If successful, Kitty's Light will be the first Welsh-trained horse to win the national in over 120 years and so I am sure you will join with me in wishing Christian the best of luck from a proud school.

Finally, this week we welcomed a number of new/returning staff and one who has changed roles. Mark Lane joins us in our science team, Rhian Evans joins humanities, Andrea Stimpson returns to the ALN team after a period of secondment and Lloyd Evans is now our Year 10 Year Leader. Good luck to them all.

Thank you for your support.

Cofion cynnes



Headteacher