

26/05/2023

Dear parent/carer,

As we head towards the Whitsun half term holiday I would like to update you on developments at the school and share with you some key dates.

GCSE Exam Whitsun revision.

Well done to years 10 and 11 who have started their GCSE examinations and are working hard to prepare for each exam. This is a reminder that we will be running a revision programme over the Whitsun holiday. Pupils have been issued with the programme and if you are a parent or carer of a pupil in years 10 or 11, please make every effort to ensure your child(ren) attend all of the revision classes that are relevant to them. The programme can also be found on our facebook pages or by following the link below.

https://ysgolbrogwaun.com/media/2165/ks4-may_june-revision-timetable.png

Year 8 Pupil Groups.

Parents of pupils in year 8 have received a letter recently outlining our intention to restructure the Year 8 tutor groups after the Whitsun holiday. Please contact the office if you haven't received this letter.

The changing of tutor groups will affect some, but not all pupils. There are a number of good reasons for doing this, which include:

- Ensuring pupils are grouped appropriately for the start of GCSE work which many subjects will begin to teach in September;
- Ensuring that pupils' linguistic progression in relation to Welsh language is supported appropriately;
- Making the groups more even in terms of pupil numbers;
- Establishing positive working dynamics within groups.

Please note that pupils already find themselves in different teaching groups for core subjects such as English, Welsh, Maths and Science. These will not be part of this re-grouping process and will remain largely unchanged.

Should you have any queries please contact Mrs Emma Bowen (Emma.bowen@ysgolbrogwaun.com) in the first instance.

Attendance.

It is important that your child attends school regularly throughout the year in order to gain the maximum benefit from the education provided. Pupils, in general, attend well and our GCSE outcomes reflect closely our good attendance rates. Our

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current whole-school attendance rate is nearly 92%, and although it is an improving picture, and we do compare well with other schools, this is still below pre-pandemic levels. We do recognise there is more work to do to target the frequent absenteeism of some pupils and we will continue to remind all parents/carers and their child(ren) of the importance of good attendance. Please support us in ensuring your child(ren) make every effort to attend school.

Equipment.

Unfortunately, we are finding that there is an increasing number of pupils who are not bringing equipment such as pens, pencils and rulers to school. Basic equipment such as this is absolutely necessary to ensure pupils can access and complete the set work and to ensure that they perform to the best of their abilities. We kindly ask that you check your child(ren) has the necessary equipment on a regular basis.

Key dates for the next half term.

Monday May 29th – Whitsun Half-term Week

Monday June 5th – Pupils return to school

Friday July 7th – Additional INSET day- no school for pupils

Friday 21st July- Last day of term

Following the Whitsun half-term, Year 9 will commence with their GCSE option timetable.

Finally, good luck to all of our pupils who are competing in the Urdd national Eisteddfod next week in Llandovery!

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a safe and enjoyable Whitsun.

Paul Edwards