

Yn y Lwp!

(In the loop - Ysgol Cwm Brombil's New weekly bulletin)

Spring Term / TYMOR Y GWANWYN

Start / *Dechrau*: Monday 8 January 2024 / *Dydd Llun Ionawr 8 2024*
 Half Term : Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February /
Hanner Tymor: *Dydd Llun Chwefror 12 - Dydd Gwener Chwefror 16*
 End / *Diwedd*: Friday 22 March 2024 / *Dydd Gwener Mawrth 22 2024*

Upcoming events and activities:

Week Beginning -	Monday 19 th February 2024	Week 1
Monday	Yr11 GCSE Food & Nutrition Practical Examination	
Tuesday	Yr11 GCSE Food & Nutrition Practical Examination	
Wednesday		
Thursday	Valentines Disco (Yr 1 - 8)	
Friday	School Production Rehearsal Weekend	

Week Beginning -	Monday 26 th February 2024	Week 2
Monday	Senedd Visit for Children's Rights Charity	
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Year 8 Parents Evening - 15:25 - 18:30	
Thursday	Year 11 PPE Results	
Friday		



Extra Curricular Timetable

There are lots of lunchtime and after school activities to suit a variety of tastes. Please complete the transport form using the link below. Completing this form will confirm the pupils request for transport and will aid staff to allocate appropriate transport if it is required for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

[Click here for the transport form](#)

Day	Lunch Time	Room + Staff	After School	Room + Staff
Monday	Library (Yrs 9, 10, 11) Choir (Yrs 9, 10, 11) International Club (Yrs 9, 10, 11) Basketball (Yrs 7 & 8)	B15 – Miss Collins A3 – Miss Clarke C3 – Mrs Stead Sports Hall	Homework & Catch up Club Art Club Young Carers First Aid Club (all years) Netball (Yrs 7 & 8) Girls Football (Yrs 7 - 11)	Learning Centre B11 – Miss Parry-Jones B36 – Miss Leahy Medical room - Mrs Jerwood & Mrs Thomas Sports Hall 3G/Grass Pitch
Tuesday	Library (Yrs 7 & 8) MFL Club (Yrs 7 & 8) International Club Junior Safeguarding Board Chess Club	B15 – Miss Collins C5 – Mrs Laderval-Thomas C3 – Mrs Stead (Yrs 7 & 8 Week 2 Only / Yrs 9, 10, 11 Week 1 Only) C6 – Mrs Pereira-Thomas (Yrs 9, 10, 11) C29 – Mr McDaid (Yrs 9, 10, 11)	Homework & Catch up Club Strength & Conditioning (Yrs 7-11) Netball Hall (Yrs 9, 10, 11)	Learning Centre Back Gym/Multi-Gym Sports Hall
Wednesday	Library (Yrs 7 & 8 Week 2 Only) Criw Cymraeg (Yrs 7 & 8) Strength & Conditioning (Yrs 7-11)	B15 – Miss Collins C3 – Mrs Stead Back Gym	Homework & Catch up Club Badminton (Yrs 7 - 11) Drama & Music Club / School production Rehearsals Book Club (Yrs 7 ,8 & 9) Science Club (Yrs 7 & 8) Additional Maths GCSE (Yr11) Cross Country GCSE History Revision & Catch up GCSE Graphic Design Coursework Support	Learning Centre Sports Hall Drama Theatre – Miss Michael Library – Mrs Sherlock C9 – Miss Woodington C31 – Miss Curson Whole school grounds B21 – Mrs Sims (Yrs 9, 10, 11) B20 – Mr Hopkins (Yrs 9, 10, 11)
Thursday	Choir Criw Cymraeg PE/ Sport Catch up Revision	A3 – Miss Clarke (Y7, Y8) C3 – Mrs Stead (Week 2 Only / Y9, 10, 11) B29 – Miss Mackey & Miss Curran	Homework & Catch up Club Darts Club Debate Club Eco Club Male Choir Crochet Club Creative Writing Club Strength & Conditioning Maths Revision	Learning Centre C33 – Mr Davies B3 – Miss Harris (Week 2 Only) B25 – Mr Westrop A3 – Mr Murray B11 – Mrs Jones B30 - Miss Evans (Yrs 7 & 8) Back Gym/Multi-Gym (Yrs 9, 10, 11) C24 – Mrs James (Y11)
Friday	Belly Dancing Strength & Conditioning (Yrs 9, 10, 11)	C5 – Mrs Laderval-Thomas (Y7 & 8) Back Gym		

School Uniform Expectations

All students are expected to wear school uniform throughout the school day. On days where the student has PE they can attend in PE kit. Below are uniform guidelines for both boys and girls:

All pupils Year 7 to 11

Blazer	Black school blazer.	Available from Bergoni. Blazers must be brought to school and worn every day.
Shirt	White shirt with collar.	Can be purchased from any retailer.
Trousers	Plain black tailored uniform style trousers.	Jean style, corduroys, skinny or casual trousers are not permitted.
Skirt *	Plain black school uniform style skirt.	*Skirts should be an appropriate length.
Tights	Plain black tights	Can be purchased from any retailer.
Shoes	Black shoes with black laces.	Available from any retailer. Black leather converse shoes are permitted. NO TRAINERS
Tie	School tie.	Available from Bergoni.
Jumper*	Black with badge and claret trim around the collar.	Available from Bergoni. *Jumpers are optional.
Shorts	Black tailored shorts.	Optional for the summer term.
Outdoor coat/Jacket	Coats should be black in colour.	Available from any retailer.
Socks (only if not wearing tights)	Ankle height, plain black or white.	Available from any retailer.

For further information regarding our uniform expectations please see our school website:

<https://ysgolcwmbrombil.npted.org/uniform.html>

Vaping/ e-cigarettes

Information regarding e-cigarettes / vaping

We want to bring to your attention the worrying trend amongst a few peoples in school. We are taking this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have and the negative affect it can have on a pupil's learning. This letter aims to:

- Inform you of the issue;
- Give you access to information and resources;
- Alert you to the consequences if your child vaping on school property

What is vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an e cigarette or electronic vaporiser (vape). The vapour that is inhaled usually contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and many other chemicals which are potentially harmful. Some vapes even contain cannabis oil! The liquids that are inhaled are often flavoured and can even smell fruity. Some vapes are marketed with sweet like names and come in attractive colours.

Health concerns

The aerosol from e-cigarettes can be damaging to a person's health, particularly the developing bodies of adolescents. It can contain harmful chemicals, including nicotine; ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs; flavourings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to lung disease; volatile organic compounds such as Benzene which is also found in car exhaust fumes and heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead which can build up to toxic levels in the body over time.

There has been a significant increase in underage vaping over the last couple of years.

Vaping is illegal to under 18's. Research shows that the adolescent brain is far more susceptible to addictive substances and this ultimately leads to an unnecessary and potentially harmful distraction from the child's learning.

Our first and foremost concern is pupil health and safety. Pupils who are using these devices are inhaling nicotine and other harmful chemicals thinking it is safe. Pupils purchasing and using these vapes, particularly those from the internet, risk inhaling higher levels of nicotine than cigarettes. Nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development in adolescents. There is also the risk of other illegal substances and even more dangerous substances in some of these vapes.

How the school has responded,

There has been a significant amount of publicity about the concerns with underage vaping. At Ysgol Cwm Brombil we have installed vape alarms as a deterrent in toilets around the school. These allow us to identify pupils that are vaping and impose consequences as well as provide support for what is, essentially, an addiction to nicotine.

Consequences for a child found vaping on school site and / or bringing a vape onto the school site.

Smoking (including the smoking of e-cigarettes / vapes) is against the law for young people under the age of 18, and, as our policy states, smoking is prohibited throughout the school premises. This includes school buses.

Pupils caught vaping will receive an afterschool detention in the first instance, an internal exclusion if they are caught a second time and a third time will result in an external exclusion from school.

The e-cigarette / vape will be confiscated and the child's parent / carer informed. The parent / carer may collect the e-cigarette / vape in the following week. Under no circumstance will they be returned to the child themselves. If the e-cigarette / vape is not collected within a week it will be safely disposed of.

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF VAPING



BRAIN

- Nicotine addiction
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Seizures
- Tremors
- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Confusion
- Attention problem
- Learning and mood disorders

EYES

- Irritation
- Blurry
- Vision

MOUTH

- Irritation
- Can cause gum disease

THROAT

- Sore throat

LUNGS

- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Permanent lung damage from diacetyl, a flavoring chemical, which scars tiny air sacs making airways thick and narrow

HEART

- Increased risk of heart attack and stroke
- Chest pain

STOMACH & INTESTINES

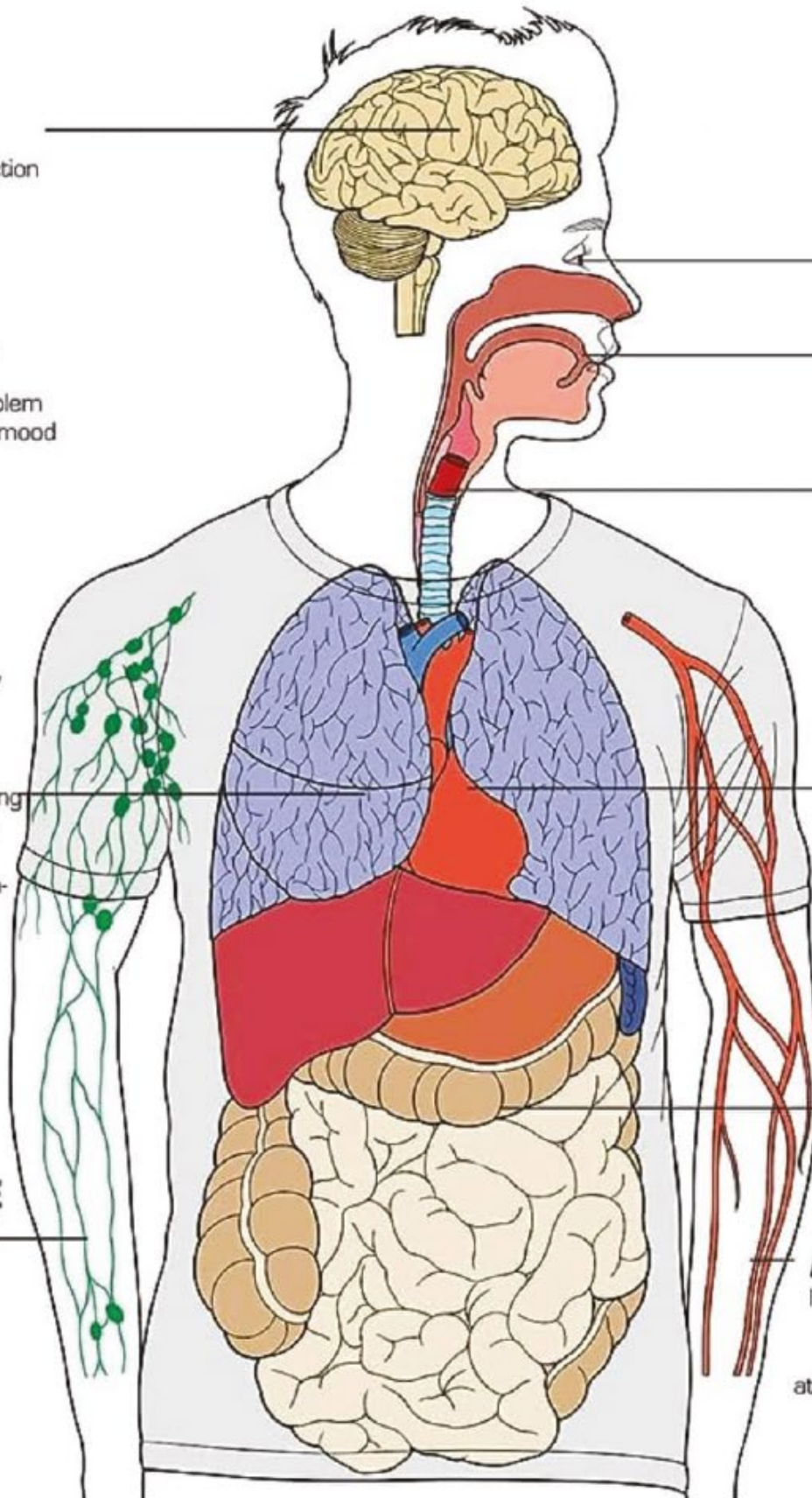
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain

IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Can harm your immune system increasing your risk of illnesses

ARTERIES

- Increases blood pressure and risk of heart attack and stroke



Attendance Information



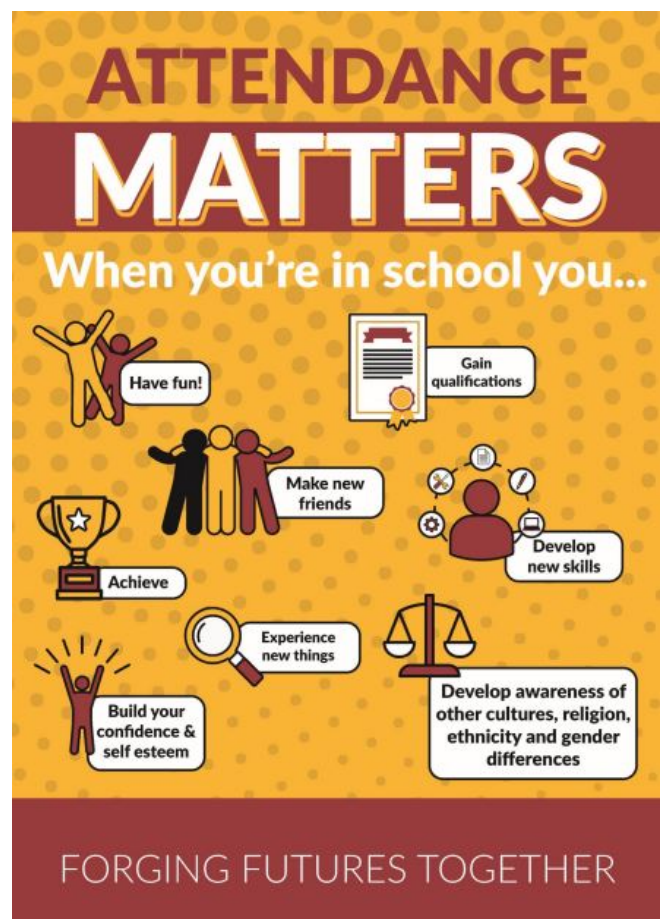
Our attendance target for all students is 100% and our **minimum expectation is 95%**. The infographic above shows the impact of days missed and minutes late can have on a child's learning.

For example:

- If a child is **late to school just 5 minutes** each day, throughout the year that equates to **3 days lost to learning (15 hours)**.
- Attendances of **97%** allows for one day of absence per half term and results in **30 hours lost to learning**.

Important Reminders:

1. Parents **MUST** contact school to report any absences on **01639 760110 before 8.30 am**.
2. Parents should contact the school **each day** that a pupil is not attending.
3. If the school are not notified, then **you will be contacted** by a member of the Attendance team to find out why your child is not in school.
4. If your child is not notified of the reason for the absence it will be recorded as **unauthorised absence**.
5. If there are three unauthorised absences in a row, the Safeguarding Lead and Education Welfare Officer will be made aware in order to ensure that your child is safe.
6. You will be required to produce medical evidence if you state that your child is ill for 3 or more consecutive days.
7. We will ask the school Healthcare Professional to contact you if there is an absence of more than 2 weeks.
8. Term time leave will only be granted by the headteacher on request.
9. Where possible, **all appointments should be made outside of the school day**.



Y Senedd:

Shwmae! We have been busy this term re-structuring our Senedd. We have elected a Mayor, Neve, a Junior Mayor, Erin, a Deputy Mayor Carys and a Deputy Junior Mayor, Alfie. We are all looking forward to working in our new roles. On February the 26th, we will be working collaboratively with Maesteg Comprehensive and The Children's Rights Charity on reducing the cost of school transportation. We will let you know how we get on..... Diolch.

Year 8 Options

A very successful options evening was held on Wednesday evening it was lovely to see so many year 8 pupils and their parents finding out about what lies in store over the next three years in different subjects. Pupils from years 9 and 10 did an excellent job of supporting the subject teachers and informing pupils and parents about the subjects.

Options online is open until 21st February for all Year 8 pupils to inform us of their choices of subjects. The Options booklet can be found at the following link.

<https://ysgolcwmbrombil.npted.org/options.html>

The most important things to remember are for pupils to select subjects they love and to keep their choices broad and balanced. Pupils are welcome to talk to staff and form tutors to help them make informed decisions.

Outstanding Year 7 Knowledge Organiser Challenges

Year 7s have been busy completing their Knowledge Organiser Challenges over the past few months and it has been fantastic to see pupils going above and beyond with their efforts. Here are a few photos of some of the outstanding challenges we received, well done to all!

Art challenge - Poppy
French challenge- Rhyd
Spanish challenge- Alfie



Year 7 Knowledge Organiser Celebration Assembly

Friday morning, we celebrated the fantastic effort that so many Year 7s put into completing their Knowledge Organiser Challenges since September. We have seen some outstanding challenges and are very proud of all the effort and enthusiasm pupils have shown. Pupils were awarded Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum certificates and badges, depending on how many stamps they achieved. A huge well done to all pupils involved!



Scribblers Review

On Wednesday 7th February, Miss Evans took 25 Year 9 and 10 pupils to Swansea University for the Hay Festival Scribblers Tour.

Pupils had the opportunity to participate in workshops and interactive events to build stories, ask questions and express themselves through the power of writing. This year author and founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, Laura Bates and author and former celebrity journalist, Benjamin Dean worked with the pupils, on and off the stage, to encourage creative conversations.

In Laura's workshop, she discussed the power of storytelling, brave writing and how to change a narrative. Pupils explored ways to flip the script, from rewriting sexist headlines to creating female Arthurian knights, with powerful and sometimes hilarious results and thought more deeply about the question: what if changing the story could change the world?

Benjamin delivered a creative writing workshop to exploring celebrity life and how to survive it! He has interviewed a host of glitzy celebrities such as Beyonce, Little Mix and Ryan Reynolds!

Both pupils and teachers alike had a wonderful day and we are looking forward to the release of the line-up for the Hay Festival this May! Here are some reviews of the day from our pupils:

"I really enjoyed the Hay festival at Swansea University. I think it educated a lot of students who are interested in creative writing and books in general, and overall English. My favourite part of the event was when the authors spoke about their journey with writing and publishing books and we have newspaper activities to do during the session which was more enjoyable." (Nasreen)

"I found the trip to be very fun and interesting. I enjoyed hearing about each of the authors' stories and how Laura Bates used her books to create change in the world. I found Benjamin Dean's workshop quite useful as he showed how to create a story and it was enjoyable making our own. I liked how interactive the workshops were. It was a nice trip." (Nuha)

"I really enjoyed visiting the scribblers tour in Swansea University this week. My favourite part of the day was listening to Laura Bates talking about how sexism is still a very big issue in the world today and I also enjoyed the creative writing workshop, because it was fun to see how a small idea can become a whole story. I really recommend visiting the scribblers tour because it will help you learn new skills and it will teach you how to express yourself when writing. I would love to visit the scribblers tour again." (Gwen)

Dydd Miwsig Cymru

On the last Friday of term, we celebrated Dydd Miwsig Cymru – Welsh music day. The Welsh department introduced Welsh music throughout the day introducing popular Welsh bands to the pupils. The Criw Cymraeg promoted the event with the following video.

<https://youtu.be/gmlmaAF1EK0>



Term dates for 2023-24

Autumn Term, half term 1 2023-24	
Monday 4 th September 2023	Year 7 & 11 attend school
Tuesday 5 th September 2023	Years 8,9 & 10 attend school
Friday 27 th October 2023	Last Day of half term 1
Half Term holiday - Monday 30 th October 2023 – Friday 3 rd November 2023	
Autumn Term, half term 2 2023-24	
Monday 6 th November 2023	Term starts
Friday 1 st December 2023	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Monday 4 th December 2023	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Friday 22 nd December 2023	Last Day of half term 2
Christmas Holiday – Monday 25 th December 2023 – Friday 5 th January 2024	
Spring Term, half term 3 2023-24	
Monday 8 th January 2024	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Tuesday 9 th January 2024	Half term 3 Starts for all pupils
Friday 9 th February 2024	Last Day of half term 3
Half Term holiday - Monday 12 th February 2024 – Friday 16 th February 2024	
Spring Term, half term 4 2023-24	
Monday 19 th February 2024	Term 4 Starts
Thursday 21 st 2024	Last Day of half term 4 for pupils
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Easter holiday - Monday 25 th March 2024 - Friday 5 th April 2024	
Summer Term, half term 5 2023-24	
Monday 8 th April 2024	Term 5 Starts
Monday 6 th May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 th May 2024	Last Day of half term 5
Half Term - Monday 27 th May 2024 - Friday 31 st May 2024	
Summer Term Half term 6 2023-24	
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Half term 6 Starts
Friday 21 st June 2024	Staff INSET (Training) Day
Friday 19 th July 2024	Last Day of half term 6 & End of school Year

