



*Nurturing Success*

# BRYN THIS MONTH

The official newsletter for Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School

## Headteacher's message

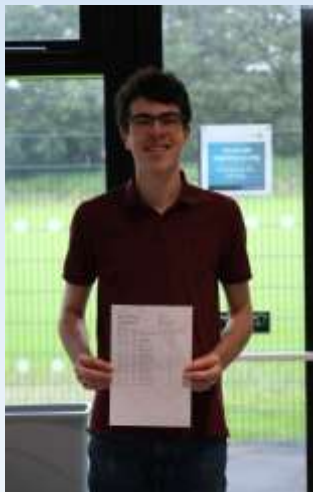
Welcome to our first edition of Bryn This Month for the academic year 2024-25.

We would like to extend an especially warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their parents; we look forward to meeting you personally during our Year 7 Induction Meetings.



Bryn This Month celebrates our students' many achievements and gives us the

opportunity to share special highlights. Our A Level results this year were very pleasing. We were thrilled to be able to share many happy moments on 15th August with students and their parents as the fruits of their hard work were finally realised. Special congratulations to Max Brown, our highest achiever in Year 13, who achieved five A\* and has secured a place at the University of Bath to study Physics.



was a joy to see so many of our students achieving beyond their expectations, including the students in our Communication Disorder Unit.



Congratulations to all our students and a huge 'thank you' to my excellent staff for working so hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for so many young people.



We look forward to capturing the best of our students' experiences throughout the coming year in Bryn This Month.



Best wishes

**Debra Baldock**

**Headteacher**

Our GCSE Results Day on 22nd August was equally uplifting. It





# BRYN MIS HYN

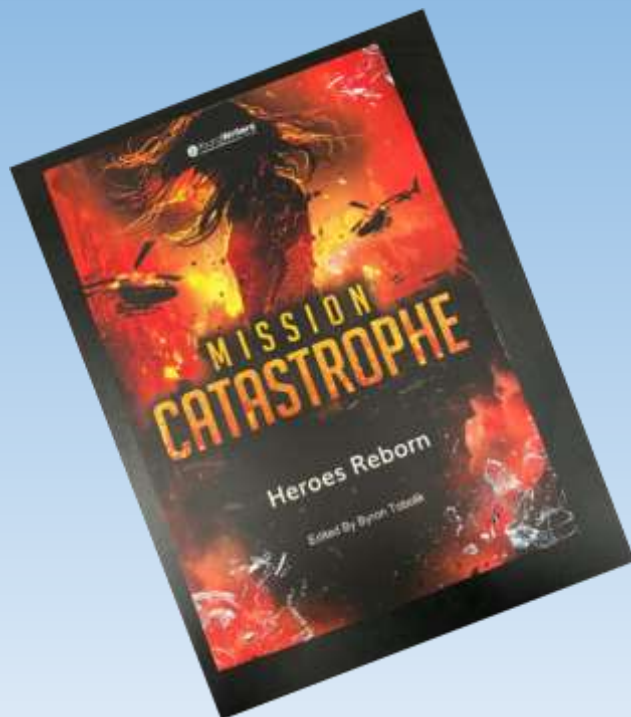
Cylchlythr Swyddogol Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Celynnog

## HQ Get Published

In the summer term, pupils from HQ entered a writing competition run by Young Writer's Association where they were tasked with writing a mini saga (very short story of up to 100 words) based on some sort of catastrophe. Their work was then submitted to the judging panel to see whether it would make it into the new book 'Mission Catastrophe – Heroes Reborn' which was to be released in the summer.

After an agonising wait, we received the fantastic news that seven of our pupils were chosen to be published in the collection. Each pupil received a certificate, and their parents were able to purchase a copy of the book too. Young Writers have also sent the school a copy of the book which we now proudly have on display in HQ.

A massive well done to: Ethan McMeeking (Yr 9), Cory John, Joshua Grinter, Lake Derrick (Yr 9), Jake Young (Yr 8), Kiera Evans (Yr 10) and Dylan Green (Yr 8).



## Read-Aloud Summer Challenge

During the summer holidays, pupils in Year 7 and 8 at Bryn Celynnog took part in a national reading challenge, competing against schools across the whole of the UK. This challenge involved pupils signing up and using a digital app to read their chosen books aloud. This competition not only got our wonderful pupils reading more but they were able to work on their vocabulary and pronunciation too.

Our pupils read diligently and consistently throughout the six weeks, showing commitment and drive to succeed. I am excited and privileged to announce that all their hard work has paid off, as Bryn Celynnog has been shortlisted as a National Finalist in the competition and we should know by mid-October whether we have won our regional category. This will give us the opportunity to attend an awards ceremony in London, along with other winning schools, hosted by TV's Claire Balding.

Watch this space for more exciting news...





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## University Challenge – Maths Success

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Thomas Hart, a former Y Pant Comprehensive student, who came to Bryn Celynnog as part of the sixth form consortium, represented the University of Warwick on University Challenge. Thomas studied A level Maths and Further Maths in Bryn Celynnog, gaining A\*s in both, before going on to the University of Warwick to study a degree in Mathematics, followed by a master's degree in Mathematics too.

Thomas was an exceptional student in lessons, who excelled in Maths. He was a pleasure to teach and we, as a Mathematics department, are proud to have played some part in his success. We wish Thomas, and the rest of his team, luck in the next round of University Challenge!



## Matilda the Musical



The Expressive Arts Faculty at Bryn Celynnog have had a fantastic start to the academic year. Miss M. Davies, Miss J. Ferguson and Miss A. Evans have started rehearsals for our school production, 'Matilda Jr!' which will take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 2025. All the pupils involved are working hard both at home, and in school to learn lines, lyrics and choreography. They are looking and sounding fantastic already! We are so excited to see the production come

together over the next few months.

There is an excellent offer of extracurricular opportunities available across the Expressive Arts this term. Music clubs are back and students are working hard to prepare for performances this Christmas. Year 7 Drama Club is full of keen young performers who are enjoying exploring characters in pantomime. Please check the extracurricular timetable and come along!

The faculty took 110 Year 8 students to visit Cardiff Museum on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The trip was a huge success. Thank you to Mrs E. Burke for organising and to the rest of the faculty for supporting.





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## It's A Chocolatey Business

In the summer term, the Business Department took a mixture of Year 9 and 10 Business students to Cadbury's World. Accompanying them was Mr Gardiner and a selection of HQ pupils.

It was a smooth bus ride up to Birmingham where we were greeted by chocolate from the start – no complaints there! We started the visit off with a tour about the History of Cadbury's World finishing with a ride on 'Cadbury's Chocolate Quest'. This involved zapping chocolate ingredients and was lots of fun, plenty of screams at the end when the pupils and teachers got squirted with water too! Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience which ended with a lovely trip to the shop to purchase some Cadbury's goodies. The next experience involved tasting melted chocolate with a variety of toppings – this was definitely one of the highlights for

next which was fantastic, it literally had everyone rocking in their interactive seats! The last chocolate session of the day involved pupils becoming chocolate chefs and being creative. The hardest part of this was resisting the temptation to actually eat the chocolate – the smell in the kitchen was divine.

We ended the day with a Business workshop. It was a fantastic session that gave pupils a wide range of information about the history of Cadbury's, the growth of the business and the wide range of products it sells. Pupils demonstrated fantastic and engaging attitudes throughout the day and their behaviour was commendable. Overall, it was a fantastic trip and we look forward to the next one next year!



everyone! Yum Yum!

Lunch was next which was outside by the park; safe to say all pupils made the most of the park and thoroughly enjoyed playing in it! The 4D experience was



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**R2L:** Where some of our most vulnerable pupils spend time during the school day.

Some of our R2L attenders are currently finding art very therapeutic and a great way to express themselves. Some of them have never attempted sketching at all, yet, were shocked to discover a hidden talent and the development of a new interest. These artistic and creative pieces are now being displayed in our R2L rooms.



Some of our artists have said:

*'With art we find expression, chat and friendship.'*

*'You can do anything!'*

This is fantastic, team. We can't wait to see even more fantastic creations being displayed!

**SEBD: another locations for some of our vulnerable pupils.**

The staff in our Social, Emotional and Behavioural Department would like to congratulate their Year 11 pupils on passing their Maths GCSE. 'We are so proud of them for working so hard in the provision, attending their formal examinations in an unfamiliar area and having all their hard work pay off.'

Keep up the great work, girls!



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## Skills Challenge Certificate KS4

Successful completion of the Skills Challenge GCSE qualification along with other supporting qualifications can lead to achievement of the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

The primary aim of the Skills Challenge is to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in essential and employability skills:

The Skills Challenge Certificate provides opportunities for our students to become future citizens who are:

- Ambitious capable learners
- Enterprising creative contributors
- Ethically informed citizens
- Healthy confident individuals

The **Skills Challenge** is made up of the following components:

- Individual Project
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge

Year 10 are currently working on the Global Citizenship

Challenge; this component is worth 25% of the overall grade.

Working in pairs, our students have been researching different global issues or problems that we face today. They have been carrying out online research on the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace.

The first research task required them to identify one global issue that they felt passionate about before presenting research to their peers. Well done Year 10, we had some incredibly informative presentations.



## Sport at Bryn

### Welsh Road Relay Championships

Congratulations to Isabelle Kelland, Alesha Santos and Bethany Medina in Year 7 who won gold medals at the Welsh Road Relay Championships at Pembrey earlier this month. All 3 girls competed in the U13s Girls category against the best clubs in Wales and became Welsh Champions! Such an amazing achievement for the girls and we are so proud of their performances.



### Cymru U15 Football

During the summer break Ava Rees represented Cymru U15 football. This is a fantastic achievement which she has worked extremely hard for the opportunity.

She travelled out to Poland and played the following fixtures:  
Slovenia 4-1 (Win)  
Croatia 3-0 (Loss)  
Poland 4-3 (Loss)

Ava is a year early representing the U15 squad which makes the achievement even more impressive and got called up to the U16 squad this month! Unfortunately, she's sustained an injury in Poland so therefore no longer available for the next tour.



We are looking forward to what Ava will achieve in the coming years, she is not only a fantastic footballer but excels in rugby also.



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## Sports News Round Up September 2024

Year 7	
Netball	Y Pant 10 v 6 Bryn Celynnog
Football	Afon Taf 1 v 12 Bryn Celynnog
Rugby	Garth Olwg 17 v 34 Bryn Celynnog
Year 8	
Netball	Y Pant 12 v 7 Bryn Celynnog
Year 9	
Football	Plasmawr 4 v 1 Bryn Celynnog
Football	Bryn Celynnog 5 v 3 Garth Olwg
Rugby	Aberdare 10 v 55 Bryn Celynnog
Rugby	Garth Olwg 17 v 24 Bryn Celynnog
Year 10	
Football	Y Pant 3 v 6 Bryn Celynnog
Rugby	Garth Olwg 19 v 17 Bryn Celynnog
Senior Sports	
Football	Bryn Celynnog 3 v 3 Coleg Gwent
Football	(Bryn Celynnog win penalty shootout to proceed to 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of Welsh Schools Cup)
Rugby	Chepstow 55 v 5 Bryn Celynnog
Rugby	Bryn Celynnog 17 v 17 Bro Morganwg
District Representation	
Congratulations to the following students for getting in to the district and county squads.	
Glamorgan Valleys Netball U16 Squad	Chloe Wren, Leah Wren, Poppy Evans, Aimee Massey, Tilly Mertens and Imogen Hurley.
Glamorgan Valleys U14 Squad	Ruby James, Jessica Blowers, Oluchi Onejiukwa, Caitlin Gardiner, Halle Baker, Holly Smith and Katie Thomas.
Pontypridd Schools Rugby Union U16 Squad	Alex Ballinger, Ethan Serra, Evan Baker, Jac Davies, Luke Hibberd, Owen Lewis, Mason Prosser, Dylan Szalkowski and Jack Caudle

If you would like to contact us at Bryn This Week please email [jeremy.stock@bryncelynnog.org.uk](mailto:jeremy.stock@bryncelynnog.org.uk)



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## Autumn Term 2024—Afterschool Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Homework Club</b> All year groups After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Dr Barden / Mrs Sturcbecher Library</p>	<p><b>Homework Club</b> All year groups After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Dr Barden / Mrs Sturcbecher Library</p>	<p><b>Homework Club</b> All year groups After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Dr Barden Library</p>	<p><b>War Hammer</b> All year groups After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Mr D Clifford Maths block</p>	<p><b>Homework Club</b> All year groups After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Mrs Sturcbecher Library</p>
<p><b>Youth Club</b> All year groups 5.45pm to 8pm YEPS Youth Wing</p>	<p><b>Netball</b> Years 7 &amp; 8 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Miss B Dyke / Mrs S Bell Sports Hall</p>	<p><b>DnD Club</b> All year groups After school: 3:00pm to 4:00pm Miss Atkinson H10</p>	<p><b>Homework Club</b> All year groups After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Dr Barden / Mrs Sturcbecher Library</p>	
<p><b>Girls Rugby</b> Years 7 - 9 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mrs C Balfry / Mr G Howells Meet under the canopy</p>	<p><b>Football</b> Years 8 &amp; 9 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr J Waters Meet under the canopy</p>	<p><b>Gaming Club</b> All year groups Afterschool: 3:00pm to 4:30pm YEPS Youth Wing</p>	<p><b>DT 'Catch up' sessions</b> Year 11 After school: 3.00pm to 4.00pm Mr J Williams T3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting fixtures often take place after school which will be a priority over scheduled clubs. Updates will appear on X or Microsoft Teams and further updates are posted on @BrynCelynnogPE</li> <li>• Facebook page available 'Friend of Bryn'</li> <li>• If there are any queries, please speak to the member of staff that is running the activity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rugby</b> Years 9 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr S Mines Meet under the canopy</p>		<p><b>Football</b> Years 7 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr S Mines Meet under the canopy</p>	<p><b>Girls Football</b> Years 7 -10 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr G Freeman Meet under the canopy</p>	
<p><b>Netball</b> Years 9 &amp; 10 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Miss B Dyke / Mrs S Bell Sports Hall</p>		<p><b>Girls Football</b> Years 7 -10 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr L Varrall Meet under the canopy</p>	<p><b>Rugby</b> Years 7 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr J Stock Meet under the canopy</p>	
<p><b>Rugby</b> Years 10 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr G Howells Meet under the canopy</p>		<p><b>Senior Netball</b> After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Miss B Dyke / Mrs S Bell Sports Hall</p>	<p><b>Girls Rugby</b> Years 10 After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mrs C Balfry / Mr G Howells Meet under the canopy</p>	<p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>Matilda Rehearsal Schedule will be sent out on the Teams group with updates weekly.</p>
		<p><b>Senior Rugby</b> After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mr J Stock Meet under the canopy</p>	<p><b>Senior Girls Rugby</b> After school: 3.00 pm to 4.00pm Mrs C Balfry / Mr G Howells Meet under the canopy</p>	



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## Autumn Term 2024 - Lunch Time Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Well-being Suite</b> Available for quiet time. Referral needed by SMT/HOY</p>	<p><b>Well-being Suite</b> Available for quiet time. Referral needed by SMT/HOY</p>	<p><b>Well-being Suite</b> Available for quiet time. Referral needed by SMT/HOY</p>	<p><b>Well-being Suite</b> Available for quiet time. Referral needed by SMT/HOY</p>	<p><b>Well-being Suite</b> Available for quiet time. Referral needed by SMT/HOY</p>
<p><b>Debate/Public-speaking Club</b> All year groups Lunch Time Mrs Llewellyn E6</p>	<p><b>YEPS Lunch Club</b> Selected students Year 7 Lunch time YEPS Youth Wing</p>	<p><b>YEPS Lunch Club</b> All year groups Lunch Time YEPS Youth Wing</p>	<p><b>Brass &amp; Wind Band String Group</b> All year groups having lessons Lunch Time Miss Davies / Miss Evans T6</p>	<p><b>YEPS Lunch Club</b> Selected students Lunch Time YEPS Youth Wing</p>
<p><b>Guitar Club</b> All year groups Lunch Time Miss Davies T6</p>	<p><b>Games Club</b> Key Stage 3 Lunch Time Miss C Wright Well-being Suite</p>	<p><b>Keyboard Club</b> All year groups Lunch Time Miss Davies T6</p>	<p><b>Games Club</b> Key Stage 3 Lunch Time Miss C Wright Well-being Suite</p>	<p><b>Band &amp; Ukulele Group</b> All year groups Lunch Time Miss Davies / Miss Evans T6</p>
	<p><b>Choir</b> All year groups Lunch Time Miss Davies / Miss Evans T6</p>	<p><b>Bryn Writers: Creative Writing Club</b> All year groups Lunch time Mrs Williams E8</p>		<p><b>Young Carers Lunch Club</b> Selected students Lunch Time Mrs P Harrison Wellbeing Suite</p>
		<p><b>Spanish Club</b> Year 7 and 8 Lunch Time Miss Burns L1</p>		<p><b>Year 7 'Showstoppers' Drama Club</b> Year 7 Lunch Time Miss Evans T11</p>

**Well-being Drop in sessions**  
All year groups welcome  
Every Lunch Time  
Mrs T Thomas / School Council  
H11





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 Office 365



All pupils at Bryn Celynnog have access to the latest Microsoft Office applications as well as other cloud-based services. Microsoft Office 365 is your Office in the cloud! It will allow you to create, collaborate, edit, communicate and save school work as well as homework on your online space.

You will be able to access work on a range of devices, including PCs, laptops, tablets and smart phones. Microsoft 365 can be accessed at home, in school or on the go, provided you have an internet connection. Students can access their 365 account with their school email via the link on the Bryn Celynnog Home page. [Login Web Page](#)



All students have been invited to a Microsoft Team for each of their subject areas. Teams is used primarily as a communication channel but will also house learning resources and allow teachers to set assignments and homework.



**Forms you can use to answer your homework quizzes and receive instant feedback. Develop surveys and quizzes of your own and share with your peers and teachers.**

Student email format:  
**username@bryncelynnog.org.uk**

Password is the same as the password used to access the school network.

For help accessing your 365 account please select the link [O365 Help](#)

Or contact Mrs K Stock at [Kate.stock@bryncelynnog.org.uk](mailto:Kate.stock@bryncelynnog.org.uk) if you have any further queries regarding Office 365.

Parental consent is required for students to access and use 365 applications.

Please do not forget to complete, sign and hand in a consent form to your form tutor or Mrs Stock.



# BRYN MIS HYN

Cylchlythr Swyddogol Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Celynnog



## ClassCharts

### Pupil Accounts

Pupils have been given access to their own account, which they will be able to log into via a computer/mobile phone app or by speaking with their Form Tutor.

Once a pupil has logged into their account they will be able to see their behaviour points and have access to the Reward Store, where they can purchase rewards online with the positive points they have collected.

### Rewards Store

Rewards are an acknowledgement of pupils' hard work and effort both in the classroom and around the school. There is a constant expectation that all pupils will be praised and rewarded. Pupils will be notified when they receive positive points by their classroom teacher and can monitor their score via the ClassCharts website or App. Positive points also link directly to the Rewards Store in ClassCharts. Pupils can purchase their chosen item from the app and collect it in school. The current list of available items is listed in the Rewards Store.

### Parent Account

Every child has a unique access code, please use this code to create an account by going to the website below:

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

or alternatively you can search your app there to download the ClassCharts app free of charge. Once on the ClassCharts website/app we advise that you listen to the short tutorial to assist you in logging in. If you have more than one child at Bryn Celynnog you can use the plus sign in the top right hand corner with the additional access codes you have received.

If you have any queries please contact Ms Williams on

[kathryn.williams@bryncelynnog.org.uk](mailto:kathryn.williams@bryncelynnog.org.uk)