

SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | JANUARY
2025



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BRYN CELYNNOG
Comprehensive School
Nurturing Success



NEW BUILD OPENS

6TH FORM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

We were delighted to finally take possession of our fabulous new Sixth Form Centre on 6th November 2023.

Our new accommodation is everything that we dreamed of, and so much more! Our Sixth Form students now have a bespoke study area and catering facility, creating a wonderful environment in which to enjoy Sixth Form life. We feel very privileged.



NEW HEAD STUDENTS

ELIZABETH MEREDITH, YEAR 12

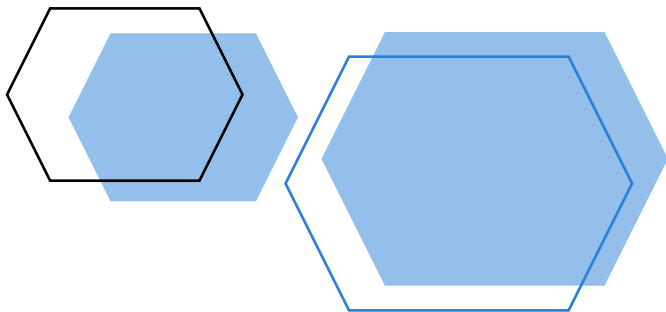
I've had the ambition to become head girl since the moment I entered year 7 and it's been a dream come true being able to represent my school. I've always been dedicated to helping the school throughout my entire school career, being a part of the mental health leaders and the student council. I'm a strong believer that we should listen to all students and their ideas about how we can make the school a better place for students to learn, thrive and develop.

DANIEL NICHOLAS, YEAR 12

Being Head Boy means so much to me. Bryn Celynnog has given so much to me these past 5 years. Now I can give something back to the school that has helped nurture and grow me not just as a student but as a whole person. I am eager to discover what 2025 will bring.

ELLA EVANS, YEAR 12

I am very proud to be one of Bryn Celynnog's head girls this year. To take on the role in such a well-respected school is beyond a privilege and I am so grateful for the trust placed upon me by staff and the support I've experienced from my peers already. I look forward to the opportunities I will experience this year and to leave my own positive mark on such a great school.



MEDICAL WORK OBSERVATION SCHEME

ROYAL GLAMORGAN HOSPITAL ■ HANNAH NEWLAND, YEAR 13

Sixth form has provided me with the opportunity to undertake a week of fantastic work experience. This experience allowed me to build a greater understanding of the career of medicine and the abilities of doctors within a hospital. I was fascinated by the range of tasks you could complete within one working day as well as seeing the variety of patients coming in and out of the hospital. The support the school has provided me with has allowed me to spend a morning within the A&E department, seeing multiple injuries ranging from simple to complicated. Furthermore, I gained necessary skills from my day course of Basic Life Support, phlebotomy and suturing. The school's support surrounding this week was phenomenal, providing me with many benefits especially when coming to apply for university and preparing for interviews.

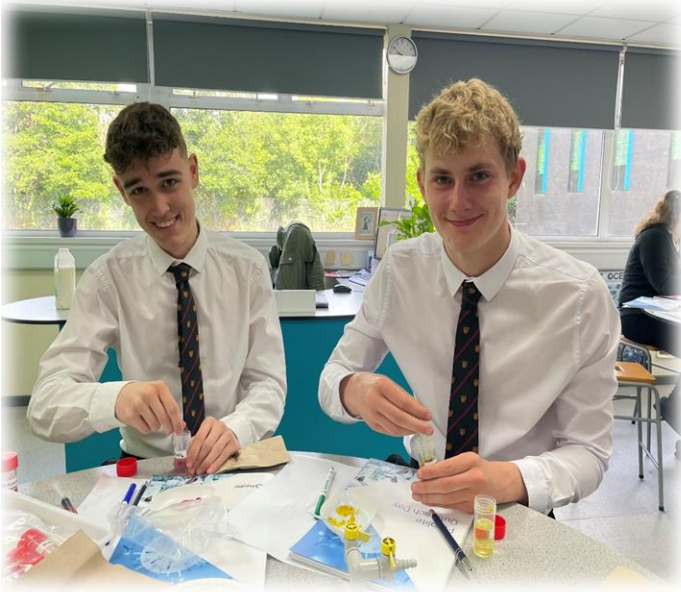


PUROLITE WORKSHOP

PENNY HAMLYM

Our Wales team visited local secondary school Bryn Celynnog to talk to students about Purolite, what we do and careers on offer. We were hosted by Frances Hockings and her A Level students and were given a very warm welcome. Each Purolite employee described their educational background and any changes they would make if they could go back. They discussed their job and the day to day activities it involves. We started at the beginning with R and D, moving to tech transfer and manufacture, followed by the applications team, digital marketing, events team, product management, database architect and finally our talent acquisition team. The day was interspersed with practical activities.

We really enjoyed our time at Bryn Celynnog; seeing the students' curiosity and excitement reminded us of the power of education and the limitless potential of the next generation.



MATHS

NUFFIELD PROGRAMME ■ FYNLAY DAVIES, YEAR 13

In the summer holidays, I undertook a 3 week long research placement in the University of Cardiff Maths Department. I created my own mathematical model describing defects in liquid crystal films and wrote up a lengthy thesis on the topic using LaTeX. I not only used the mathematics from A-level lessons, such as vectors and calculus – but learnt so much new abstract maths such as the ‘curl’ and ‘grad’ function in linear algebra, and how they’re applied to real world situations. This was a once in a lifetime experience: it showed me the career path I want to pursue, gave me more confidence in using mathematics, and interested me in more fields of mathematics than the A level specification covers. I would highly recommend a Nuffield research project to anyone; not only was it fun to participate in, but I find it beneficial right now in applying to university as it’s given me grounds to build super-curricular interests to discuss in my personal statement.

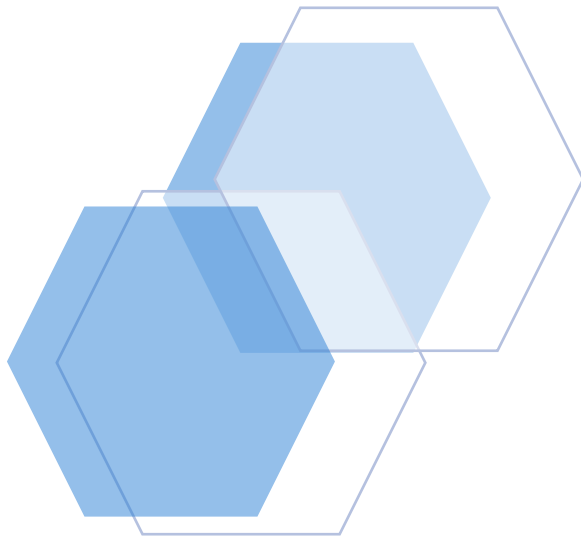


UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE SERVICES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES

This month, both Year 12 and Year 13 had the opportunity to visit the University of South Wales for a team building workshop linked to an area within the public service sector. This is to form part of their non-examination assessment for the Uniformed Protective Services Course. Pupils were fortunate enough to be invited to participate in a new style of workshops called ‘Hydra’. This new system involved pupils being put into teams and placed into technological suites. There pupils waited for the online scenario involving a crime and the police to take place via video links being sent. Once received pupils had to decide as a group how to respond. The whiteboard tables were a huge hit with the pupils and definitely helped in their responses by being able to visually think about possible strategies that the police could use. The day was a huge success with all pupils getting involved and thoroughly enjoying the new ‘Hydra’ experience.





SCIENCE IN HEALTH LIVE

HEATH HOSPITAL CARDIFF

Last spring, Year 12 Biology and Medical Science students from Bryn Celynnog attended the UK's biggest science event for sixth formers, Science in Health Live at the Heath Hospital. The event aims to provide students with an overview of the scientific research taking place at Cardiff University and how it is leading research into novel therapies to treat and cure diseases. We attend annually as students find it to be a positive experience and leave feeling inspired to consider a career path in healthcare and medicine.

The day involves a carousel of immersive activities. We started with a tour of several hospital research laboratories. In the microbiology laboratory, students observed various bacterial cultures and learnt how the distinct smells of the colonies can be used to classify them. In the tissue culture laboratory, students learnt about the use of stem cells to grow new tissue on scaffolds to aid healing. The microscopy laboratory housed powerful microscopes that can magnify images up to 100,000 times! Students were able to view diverse range of images of specimens taken using a Scanning Electron Microscope.

Throughout the day, students listened to short talks from scientists in the main lecture theatre, giving them a taste of university style lectures. One of the talks focused on neuroscience and how the different parts of the brain work together in creating experienced reality. Sixth formers loved listening to case studies including the most famous example of Phineas Gage, a construction worker who survived an accident in 1848 where his skull was pierced with a large iron rod. The changes in his personality after the accident allowed doctors to make discoveries about parts of the brain such as the function of the frontal lobes.

When not on a laboratory tour or listening to a talk, students had the opportunity to visit exhibitions and meet with various professionals showcasing different careers within science and the latest scientific research. One of our students was so inspired by the information given by the Medical Physics team, that it encouraged her to apply for a Medical Physics degree.

To finish the day, students had the opportunity to pose questions to an expert panel made up of medical students, PhD students and lecturers at Cardiff University. Prizes were also handed out to those who had taken part in an interactive quiz which had been running throughout the day. One of our students beat many other students there to win top prize! It's a fantastic day for our students and we are looking forward to visiting again this year.

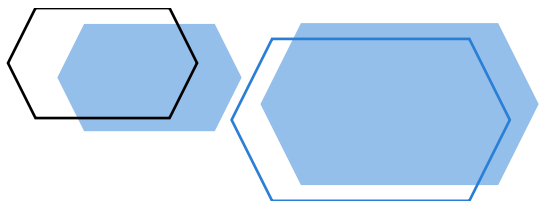


SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER ■ ALFIE LEWIS, YEAR 13

Being the Senior Football captain this year has been nothing short of a pleasure. At this current moment in January, we find ourselves undefeated and fighting for 3 major competitions. One of these includes the Colleges Cup. Our success all started with a win against a major college in Coleg Gwent where we became the first Bryn Celynnog team to win against a college side. This good energy continued as we now find ourselves competing in the Welsh and RCT cup in the major rounds. We are hoping to reclaim the RCT cup trophy which we won 2 years prior. So, what can you expect in the future from the Senior football team?

In 2026 there are plans to visit one of the most prestigious clubs in Europe in Bayern Munich, which without a doubt will be an unforgettable experience for both teachers and students. This will be our first football trip abroad and will no doubt become a continuous occurrence year on year for the boys. The teachers have shown their care and passion for the sporting side of the school as they push to achieve Bryn Celynnog becoming a Football Centre in our local community. This will include greater investment into the football experience at Bryn Celynnog and an incredible opportunity to enhance the sporting experience for pupils.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS

GOLF ■ RHYS KING, YEAR 13

"The Junior European Open is widely regarded as the toughest test in junior golf across Europe". - Nick Dougherty. The tournament championship week finals were played in Spain over 5 rounds during November 2024. This year's tournament consisted of the largest field ever, with 163 of the best junior golfers across Europe, made up of 22 different nationalities, who all earned their spot by qualifying in regional and national events. Every competitor played 4 rounds of golf, following the 4th round the top 30 players entered the fifth and final round, otherwise known as "the cut". After a very competitive week I was immensely proud to make the cut and have the opportunity to play on the finals day, finishing 23rd overall. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School and all of the teachers for their continued and unwavering support that they offer me to achieve my dreams.

CHARITY

SIXTH FORM FUNDRAISING EVENTS

For our first charity event we decided to raise money for the NSPCC Christmas appeal. The NSPCC is important to us as a head team as and a school; the NSPCC is the national society for the prevention of cruelty to children, therefore to us the NSPCC felt like the perfect charity to kickstart our fundraising path.

For our charity event we held a multitude of stalls with different activities continuing throughout break and lunch to expand the event and allow the whole school to help towards raising the money. Our stalls included glitter tattoos and “guess the name of the snowman”, in which pupils could win the teddy by guessing its correct name. We then had a bake sale and a raffle stall with a handmade Christmas hamper as the prize; raffle tickets were sold continuously to not only students but also staff throughout the day. Furthermore, we had a choice of non-uniform as students could choose between festive non-uniform such as Christmas jumpers or like many of our head team pupils - pyjamas.

Overall our first fundraising event was a huge success. We raised £788.64 for the NSPCC. For our first event as head team we truly felt enjoyment out of raising money and giving back, as well as building our bond as a team for future events and a growing relationship with the student body around us.





BRYN CELYNNOG

Comprehensive School

Nurturing Success

Sixth Form Open Evening 2025

Thursday, 16th January, 6pm – 8pm

Bryn Celynnog Sixth Form is open to any student who will benefit from the education and opportunities we offer.

All students will be offered guidance on the range of opportunities available to them upon enrolment.

We work closely with Y Pant to form a Sixth Form consortium to offer a broad range of opportunities and experiences. This will give you more choice to follow a curriculum which suits your goals.

We pride ourselves on our long tradition of academic excellence.

We offer a range of A Levels and Level 3 courses:

English Literature	Photography
Music	Sociology
Media Studies	French
Food and Nutrition	Spanish
Maths	Health and Social Care
Further Maths	Sport
Computer science	Double Sport
IT	PE
Biology	Law
Chemistry	Criminology
Physics	Psychology
Medical Science	Business Studies
Geography	History
DT	Art
Drama and Theatre	Welsh
Uniform Protected Services	

At Bryn Celynnog we are very proud of the nurture that we provide each and every student.

This care and guidance is shown during every moment of your sixth form experience, this includes:

- Support through your subject teachers to ensure that your academic potential is achieved
- Individualised advice during the UCAS application process allowing you to make the most informed choices.
- Personal statement clinics will ensure that you have the greatest chance of securing your place at the university of your choice.
- Access to Seren Hub. If you have the aspiration and aptitude to attend a prestigious University, Bryn Celynnog has a strong and well established relationship with Seren Hub.
- Care and support even after you receive your results. A dedicated team of staff will be supporting you to secure the correct placement if your plans change.



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